

August 30, 2009
Bulletin # 35

Our Lady of Lebanon Church

(Maronite Catholic Rite)

Faith ☩ Family ☩ Friends

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714

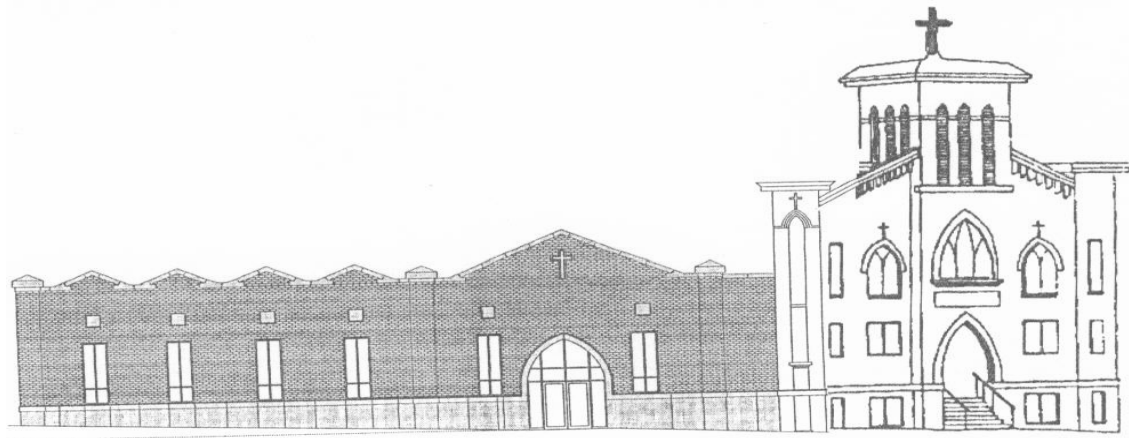
E-Mail: ololwv@Comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Rev. Bakhos Chidiac (Pastor)

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

14th Sunday of Pentecost



Schedule of Divine Liturgies

- *Weekend Masses: Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. [Rosary & Litany start at 10:10 a.m.]
 - *Weekday Masses: **At Noon.** Please refer to the Mass schedule on page 3 of this bulletin for Mass times and changes due to special events. Thank you for your cooperation.
 - *Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: Every 1st Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m. & 1st Sunday after Communion
 - *Reconciliation: Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment
 - *Baptism: Kindly phone the Pastor as soon as the baby is born. Godparents must be Catholics.
 - *Weddings: Please make arrangements at least six months in advance before any other plans are made.
 - *Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the pastor any time at 304-233-1688
 - *Parish Council: Lou Khourey 304-277-3230, Linda Duffy 304-242-6853, Tom George 304-336-7142, P.J. Lenz 304-242-5606 and Carol Dougherty 740-782-0146
 - *Choir Members: Rita Thomas Strawn, Shirley George, Allison Duffy, George Thomas, Ted Olinski, Earl Duffy, Lou Khourey, Robert Vawter, Jody & Abbie Seabright, Tracey Dierkes
 - *Altar Boys: Louie Khourey & Dalton Haas
 - *Cedar Club: Linda Duffy, President 304-242-6853
 - *Women's Society: Sandra Dusick, President 304-232-7395
- ☩ ☩ ☩ ☩ ☩ ☩ ☩
- *Remember the Church in your Last Will – Her prayers will accompany you to heaven
 - *Please support Our Lady of Lebanon Church by patronizing our Advertisers
 - *If you support the Church and need a Bulletin mailed to you, please call the Rectory
 - ***Bulletin Announcements:** Submit all Bulletin Information to Fr. Bakhos. Deadline is: Every Tuesday by Noon
 - ***New Parishioners:** We welcome you with great joy and invite you to be officially listed as one of our parishioners
 - ***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday – both parking lots are for parishioners; Monday through Friday – park ONLY in the 3 ALLEY spaces

Gospel Reflection: 14th Sunday of Pentecost

Readings: 1Thes 2:1-13 & Lk 10:38-42

Ronald KNOX wrote, "For myself, I have never doubted the doctrine of the Assumption since I heard it preached forty-four years ago in an Anglican church over at Plymouth. You see, we get it all wrong about body and soul, simply because our minds are dominated by matter. We think it the most natural thing in the world that soul and body should be separated after death; that the body should remain on earth and the soul go to Heaven, once it is purged and assoiled. But it is not a natural thing at all; soul and body were made for one another, and the temporary divorce between them is something out of the way, something extraordinary, occasioned by the Fall. In Our Blessed Lady, not born under the scar of that defeat, human nature was perfectly integrated; body and soul belonged to one another, as one day, please God, yours and mine will. . . . one ship has rounded the headland, one destiny is achieved, one human perfection exists and as we watch it, we see God clearer, see God greater, through this masterpiece of His dealings with mankind."

Reflection: What Is Love

Love is . . . Being happy for the other person when they are happy, Being sad for the person when they are sad, Being together in good times, And being together in bad times.

LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

Love is . . . Being honest with yourself at all times, Being honest with the other person at all times, Telling, listening, respecting the truth, And never pretending.

LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF REALITY.

Love is . . . An understanding so complete that you feel as if you are a part of the other person, Accepting the other person just the way they are, And not trying to change them to be something else.

LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF UNITY.

Love is . . . The freedom to pursue your own desires while sharing your experiences with the other person, The growth of one individual alongside of and together with the growth of another individual.

LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF SUCCESS.

Love is . . . The excitement of planning things together, The excitement of doing things together.

LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF THE FUTURE.

Love is . . . The fury of the storm, The calm in the rainbow.

LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF PASSION.

Love is . . . Giving and taking in a daily situation, Being patient with each other's needs and desires.

LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF SHARING.

Love is . . . Knowing that the other person will always be with you regardless of what happens, Missing the other person when they are away but remaining near in heart at all times.

LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF SECURITY. LOVE IS . . . THE SOURCE OF LIFE!

Prayers: Perseverance

When all the world is looming dark, and things seem not so clear;

When shadows seem to hover round, Lord may I persevere.

When it seems everything's been tried, and there's no way to go;

Just let me keep remembering, sometimes the journey's slow.

I may just need to stop and rest, along the path I trod;

A time to try to understand, and have my talk with God.

As I gain new strength to carry on, without a doubt or fear;

Somehow I know things will be right, and so, I persevere.

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, August 29-30: 14th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, August 29 At 4:00 p.m.:

Roger Henning by Jim & Sue Brubach

Lou Elias (on his Birthday) by his daughter Debbie Kull & Family

Sunday, August 30 at 10:30 a.m.:

Adib & Sadie Chidiac & their daughter Mona by Fr. Bakhos

Intentions of my parishioners by Fr. Bakhos

Weekday Masses

Monday, August 31: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, September 1: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, September 2 at Noon:

Nimnoom Ghaphery (on her Anniversary) by the Ghaphery Family

Intentions and good health of the Ryncarz Family (Shadyside)

Thursday, September 3 at Noon:

Deceased members of the Chidiac Family by Fr. Bakhos

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Friday, September 4 at Noon:

David Abraham Ghaphery by the Ghaphery Family

Intentions and good health of the Ryncarz Family (Shadyside)

NEXT WEEKEND, September 5-6: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday, September 5: *(Mass will be preceded by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)*

At 3:30 p.m.: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

At 4:00 p.m.:

John F. Kukula (on his Anniversary) by his wife Mary Rose Kukula

Special Intention

Sunday, September 6 at 10:30 a.m.: *(Mass will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)*

Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham

Ghaphery Family by the Ghaphery Family

Martha Ruggiero by Fr. Bakhos

Donate to the Church Maintenance Fund

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active (Total Raised: \$1,189.00)

Please donate toward the Endowment Fund CD account that is meant exclusively for our church maintenance for the years to come. Only the yearly interest will be withdrawn and spent to pay for church utilities and general maintenance. All benefactors will be enrolled in the daily Mass offering. Please put into writing in your will the following wording:

(I, , hereby give, devise and bequeath the sum of \$..... (or specify described real or personal property) to the Church of Our Lady of Lebanon, a non-profit organization located at 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003, Phone (304) 233-1688. I want my donation to be deposited in the Endowment Fund account designated to maintain and support the church. I also wish to be enrolled as benefactor in the daily Mass intentions.)

We thank each of the following individuals for their generous contribution to this Endowment Fund. They will be remembered in every Mass: *Bill & Mary Stees (\$200), Tom Ferris (\$275), Sylvia Long (\$100), Catherine Arthur (Memorial) (\$100), Women's Society total Fundraising (\$514),*

Donate to Our Parish Families Assistance Fund

A special account called “**Parish Families Assistance Fund**” had been opened to help exclusively the families of our parish who are in dire need. You can make a donation to the church earmarked toward the “Poor of the Parish” or drop your donation in the Poor Box located at the back of the church. The Poor Box money located at the back of the church will be divided between the poor of our parish and the “Poor of Wheeling” through cooperative effort with the 18th Street Catholic Neighborhood Charity center. All donations are tax exempt. May God reward those who share their blessings with the brothers and sisters of the Lord.

Our Lady of Lebanon Community Calendar

Date	Event
Sunday, August 30	Women’s Society Meeting – after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday, August 30	Women’s Society Gift Basket & 50/50 Raffle Drawing – after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Monday, September 14	Cedar Club Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – in our church Basement Hall
Wed or Thur, Sept 16 or 17	Bible Study <u>or</u> First Communion <u>or</u> Confirmation Classes – Call Fr. for info
Wed or Thur, Sept 16 or 17	Arabic Language Classes – Call Fr. to register and for information & times
Sunday, September 27	Women’s Society 50/50 Monthly Raffle Drawing – after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday, October 4	Spaghetti Dinner – 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 29	Parish Christmas Party – 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. – see note below
Future 4 Mahrajan Dates	August 15, 2010; August 14, 2011; August 12, 2012; August 11, 2013



Other Church Events

Women’s Society Meeting (Sunday, August 30, after Mass)

Plan to join the Women's Society for their first meeting this fall which is scheduled for Sunday, August 30th, after Mass. We will make plans for this fall’s events.

Women’s Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (after Mass: Sundays, Aug. 30 & Sept. 27)

The Women’s Society continues to sponsor the Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Proceeds now will benefit the maintenance of our church through the “Endowment Fund.”

The drawing from entries received **for the August 50/50 Raffle Tickets**, which are provided at the church entrance, will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, August 30**.

The drawing from entries received **for the September 50/50 Raffle Tickets**, which will be provided at the church entrance and in the weekly Church Bulletins, will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, September 27**.

Please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. All raffle tickets are now printed on white paper only. Buy or sell the tickets, and return the completed stubs as soon as possible in the collection or mail to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Please write as “Memo: 50/50 Raffle.”

For more information or additional tickets, contact the church office at (304) 233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you manifold and we ask for your continued support. Congratulations to the July 50/50 winner of \$54: Anthony Lallone of Wellsburg (ticket was purchased by Mary Lish).

Women’s Society Gift Basket Raffle (Drawings: Sundays, August 30 & October 4)

The Women’s Society’s current Gift Basket being raffled this Sunday, August 30th, consists of a “Gardner’s” theme and was donated by Fr. Bakhos. It contains: *a gift certificate from Klug’s Greenhouse, a watering hose extender attachment, a frog statue, a bear statue, 2 gardening books, 2 sets of gardening gloves, a bulb planter, shears, a kneeling pad, a note pad, a garden marker and various other items.*

The Women's Society's next Gift Basket Raffle – held on Sunday, October 4th, at the Spaghetti Dinner, will featuring many items to help you create your own “Kitchen Magic.” The “Kitchen Magic” Gift Basket contains: *a beautiful, idea-filled “Bake Sale” Cookbook, Chef Mate mini food processor, tri-color pasta, a grater, pasta sauce, kitchen shears, a spoon rest, soup mix, a bread platter, wooden spoons, spatula, measuring cups, kitchen towels, stainless steel tongs, an ice cream scoop, and a bottle of Sangria.*

The Gift Basket Raffle proceeds benefit the maintenance of our church through the “Endowment Fund.” **Won't you take a chance ... or two ... or eighteen!** Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 **or triple your chances of winning by sending in 18 ticket stubs (3 sheets of tickets) at one time for only \$10.00.**

All Gift Basket and 50/50 Raffle Tickets are now printed on white paper in the bulletins so please check the ticket sheets carefully to be sure you are completing the correct ticket stubs. Buy or sell the tickets, and return the completed stubs as soon as possible in the weekly collection (with Gift Basket Raffle noted on the front of the envelope) or write Gift Basket Raffle on the “Memo” line of your check when you mail it to: Our Lady of Lebanon Church, 2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Tickets are available now at the church entrance and in our weekly Bulletins or call Kay at 304-232-0492.

Cedar Club News (Meeting: Monday, September 14th, at 7:00 p.m.)

The Cedar Club meetings will resume on Monday, September 14th, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the old Basement Hall. Our mission is to organize and provide family fun-filled events that foster a spirit of fellowship and friendship within the parish community. We welcome new members (both male and female) to join us as we start planning the activities schedule for the upcoming year. Refreshments will be served.

Officers are: President – Linda Duffy; Vice President – Luane Frazier; Secretary – Shirley George; Treasurer – Nini Miller; Special Events Coordinators – Nini Miller and Danielle Lavoie; The Cedar Club Newsletter Editor – Susan John.

Bible Study; 1st Communion; Confirmation Classes (September 16th or 17th)

Fr. Bakhos will give the following classes this Fall: Bible Study (adults); First Communion (over 7 years old), and Confirmation (over 13 years old). Classes will take places weekly on either Wednesdays or Thursday evenings starting September 16th or 17th to accommodate the majority of those who can attend. Please call Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to register.

Bible Study candidates: Nikki Popovich,

1st Communion Students: ??

Confirmation Students: ??

Arabic Language Classes (September 16th or 17th)

Upon request, Fr. Bakhos will give spoken Arabic language classes weekly to those who are interested on either Wednesday or Thursday evenings every week starting on September 16th or 17th to accommodate the majority of those who can attend. Please call Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to register.

Arabic Language Students: Kim Gibbons, Dalton Haas, Emmalena & Louie Khourey,

Vacation Days of Fr. Bakhos

Friday, September 18th. No Mass. One day vacation.

Friday, September 25th. No Mass. One day vacation.

Lebanese Folklore Dance Troupe “Dabke” Classes Forming

Our Lady of Lebanon Church is willing to establish a Lebanese Folkloric Dance Troupe under the guidance of trainer, Natalie Committee. The troupe will be able to perform at our 2010 Mahrajan and at local events in the greater Wheeling area. Fr. Bakhos is willing to order a traditional folkloric costume from Lebanon for each age. Please register first by calling Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688. The day and time will be decided when 6 or more have expressed interest.

Dance Troupe candidates: ??

Fall Spaghetti Dinner (Sunday, October 4th, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Save Sunday, October 4, on your calendar so you can come to enjoy the Fall Spaghetti Dinner at our beautiful Cedar Hall. Chairperson Tom George and our parishioners invite you and your friends to come and enjoy our food and hospitality. Help our Church make this our best Spaghetti Dinner yet! Invite your friends, co-workers and neighbors to attend. **Please note that this fall the dinner will end at 5:00 p.m.**

Parish Council has decided that because of the current economic situation, our church is not in a position to lose by preparing too much food for an uncertain number of people attending the dinner. We encourage you to buy your tickets in advance and help us to have a more accurate count of meals for which we will place our food orders and prepare food. Therefore, prices are as follows:

\$7.00 Adults; \$4.00 Children (under 12) for Advance Tickets Sales – if PAID by September 30th

\$8.00 Adults; \$5.00 Children (under 12) for Late Ticket Sales – if PAID October 1st thru 4th

(Late ticket sales includes ALL at-the-door payments)

To purchase tickets in advance, contact one of our parishioners or mail your payment and ticket(s) request to the church. Only a limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

Menu: spaghetti & meatballs or marinara sauce, salad, roll, dessert & choice of coffee, ice tea or lemonade.

Advance Ticket Sales by Parishioners: If you are able & willing to help sell tickets to make our dinner a success, please pick up a packet of tickets from our Church office. **Unsold tickets & payments must be returned by–Sunday, September 27.**

Baked Goods Needed for Sale: Parishioners are being asked to help make our **Baked Goods Sale** – held simultaneously with the dinner – a huge success. Please make and donate an item – cookies, cake, pie, fudge, Lebanese specialty, etc.

Desserts Needed for Eat-In Dinners: Parishioners are being asked to also bake and donate a dessert for use at the dinner so that we may offer a variety of choices to go with the meal (*take-out desserts are already arranged*). **Drop off of Baked Goods and Eat-In Desserts:** Saturday, October 3th, before 4:00 p.m. Mass or Sunday, October 4th, after 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Party (Sunday, November 29th, from 5:30 until 9:30 p.m.)

Singer George Suhon is booked to entertain our parishioners on Sunday, November 29th, from 5:30 until 9:30 p.m. in the Cedar Hall. Read more details in coming bulletins.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:

Sandra Dusick, Frank Lish, Millie Hoskinson, Mary Piko, Pat McNeil (FL) niece of Kay Garvey

Also please pray for those who asked us to pray for them:

Rosella Saseen, Barb Sobota, Laura Wellman, Virginia Khourey Bryan (aunt of Lou Khourey in Toledo, OH), Richard & Mary Ryncarz (Shadyside, OH), Manell Brice (Arlington, VA), Rose Mary Bris-Roybal (Albuquerque, NM), John Vawter & his mom (brother & mother of Dr. Rob Vawter)

Happy Birthday

August 31:	Joseph Simon
September 1:	Janet Wilson
September 4:	Kitty Ackermann
September 5:	Sam Zinn
September 8:	Carol Dougherty
September 9:	Gary Weisner, Barb Sobota, Patrick Stees
September 10:	Christopher R. George

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,174	Collection
61	Candles
5	Utilities
180	Parking
12	Fundraising
1,248	Reimbursement
150	Donations to Church
150	Donation to Women Society
100	Donation to Church in Memory of Martha Ruggiero
163	Mahrajan (food sales after Mahrajan)
100	Donation to the Poor Families of the Parish
\$3,343	Total. May God reward you many fold

What's New?

Parish Condolences: Martha Ruggiero

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Wheeling, offer their heartfelt sympathy to the **Ruggiero** family on the loss of their beloved **Martha** who passed away in Wheeling, **last week**. Martha will be missed by her wonderful family and by her best friend our parishioner Lucille Gibbons. Fr. Bakhos celebrated the Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Lebanon Church on Monday, August 24th, at 11:00 a.m. The choir of the church served the funeral Mass and the Women's Society served the Mercy Meal at the Cedar Hall after the interment. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to His handmaid **Martha** and we extend the parish's condolences to *her* Family in their time of sorrow.

Lamb Shish Kebab and Other Mahrajan Food for Sale

Shish Kebab is available for sale at **\$17 for a package of 5 skewers** – each with 1/3 pound of delicious, tender Lamb. The Shish Kebab was prepared onto skewers a couple weeks before the Mahrajan and immediately frozen. It was never thawed at the festival. If you would like to purchase some and at the same time help our church recover the expense for this food item, please ask Fr. after Mass or call the church office at 304-233-1688. Other items available for sale include: **Shish Kebab**: \$17 pkg. of 5 skewers; **Cabbage Rolls** (extra lg.): \$8.00 pkg. of 6 **or** \$15.00 a dozen; **Spinach Pies**: \$2.00 each **or** \$7.00 pkg. of 4; **Zattar Bread**: \$1.50 pkg. of 2; **Pita Bread**: \$3.00 pkg. of 10 lg.; **Wheat** (#1 fine and #2 medium): \$3.50 pkg. of 2 lb.

Please Sponsor Me

--Our restrooms need two automatic hand dryers to cut on the cost of expensive rolls of paper towels. Every restroom will have one paper towel dispenser and one electric automatic, hands-free dryer. Each hand dryer costs: \$250 installed. If you can be generous enough to sponsor one or both, please call Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Thank you.

Many Thanks

--To Mrs. Sylvia Long who sponsored the \$607 freezer. It is very highly appreciated. May God bless you Sylvia and rest the soul of your husband Arthur and your son Mark and grant you good health and long life.

--To Mike Linton for sponsoring the \$350 new sprayer to rinse pots and dishes in the sink of the new kitchen. May God rest the soul of Sue and Frances Linton and bless you Mike many folds.

--to Judy Bedway for donating the chocolate chip cookies this past weekend so parishioners could enjoy this special treat with their coffee last Sunday after Mass.

Mom's Pork Chop & Chicken dinner (Sun. Sep.6)

Where: Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Ukrainian Catholic Church, 4136 Jacob Street,

What: Mom's Pork Chop and Chicken Dinner - Cost: \$7.00 Adults & \$3.50 children.

When: Sunday, September 6, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Carry out available. Info. 304-232-1777

Reflection: I am thankful

FOR THE WIFE WHO SAYS IT'S HOT DOGS TONIGHT, BECAUSE SHE IS HOME WITH ME, AND NOT OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

FOR THE HUSBAND WHO IS ON THE SOFA BEING A COUCH POTATO, BECAUSE HE IS HOME WITH ME AND NOT OUT AT THE BARS.

FOR THE TEENAGER WHO IS COMPLAINING ABOUT DOING DISHES BECAUSE IT MEANS SHE IS AT HOME, NOT ON THE STREETS.

FOR THE TAXES I PAY BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM EMPLOYED.

FOR THE MESS TO CLEAN AFTER A PARTY BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS.

FOR THE CLOTHES THAT FIT A LITTLE TOO SNUG BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT.

FOR MY SHADOW THAT WATCHES ME WORK BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM OUT IN THE SUNSHINE

FOR A LAWN THAT NEEDS MOWING, WINDOWS THAT NEED CLEANING, AND GUTTERS THAT NEED FIXING BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE A HOME .

FOR ALL THE COMPLAINING I HEAR ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT MEANS WE HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

FOR THE PARKING SPOT I FIND AT THE FAR END OF THE PARKING LOT BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM CAPABLE OF WALKING AND I HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH TRANSPORTATION .

FOR MY HUGE HEATING BILL BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM WARM.

FOR THE LADY BEHIND ME IN CHURCH WHO SINGS OFF KEY BECAUSE IT MEANS I CAN HEAR.

FOR THE PILE OF LAUNDRY AND IRONING BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE CLOTHES TO WEAR.

FOR WEARINESS AND ACHING MUSCLES AT THE END OF THE DAY BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE BEEN CAPABLE OF WORKING HARD.

FOR THE ALARM THAT GOES OFF IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM ALIVE.

AND FINALLY, FOR TOO MUCH E-MAIL BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE THINKING OF ME.

Maronites = Catholics of the East

Lebanese in the USA

The Lebanese have always been a nation of traders and travelers. From the time of their ancient ancestors, the sea-faring, trade-pursuing Phoenicians, as early as 1200 B.C. and for several centuries thereafter, they were the outstanding traders and colonizers of the ancient world. Lebanese were the first to develop the science of navigation and sailed boldly and widely over uncharted waters looking for rare raw materials like tin, copper, silver, gold, or shellfish for extracting their famous purple dyes. Or they traveled far to market their skillfully-wrought metal wares or their artistic products of glass, wood, ivory or textiles. Along their extensive trade routes throughout the Mediterranean they established numerous naval stations and trading posts, including colonies in Egypt, Asia Minor, Cyprus, Rhodes, Crete, Malta, Sicily, Southern Italy, Sardinia, North Africa and Spain.

Even during the long Greco-Roman period from the Fourth Century B.C. to the Fifth Century AD, Lebanese continued to travel and trade and carry on their widespread overseas mercantile activity. In almost every community of any size in the vast expanse of the Roman Empire, there were sizeable colonies of prosperous Phoenician merchants. Phoenician communities have been found by archaeologists and scholars in Italy at Rome, Ostia, Naples, Putcoli (Puzzuoli), Misenum, Ravenna, Trieste and Aquileia; in Sicily at Messina and Syracuse; in Spain at Cordova and Malaga; in Greece at Piraeus, in the Aegean islands, in Macedonia, and Dalmatia; at outposts of the Empire like Cologne (Colonia) in Germany, at York in Britain, and along the Danube in Dacia and Pannonia.

Following the collapse of the Crusades around 1300 A.D., the Muslim Mamluk dynasty that took control in the Near East, sought to punish the Lebanese for providing material and military aid to the Crusaders. The harsh and punitive policy of the Mamluks drove as many as 80,000 Christian Lebanese out of Lebanon to the island of Cyprus, where by 1340 A.D. so many were settled that a bishopric was established. Today, the descendants of these early Lebanese settlers are still inhabitants of Cyprus, their numbers further swelled by the arrival of new refugees from the recent civil strife and disorder in Lebanon.

The greatest exodus of Lebanese came under the long persecution and oppression of the Ottoman Turks, who kept an iron hand on Lebanon for more than 400 years, from 1516 to 1919. The first great wave of emigration from Lebanon was occasioned by a series of shocking massacres of Christians in 1860, perpetrated by the Druze sect in connivance, it has been alleged, with the ruling Turks. The emigrants, mostly Christians, fled to Egypt where the government, influenced by the French and British, was more tolerant of religious minorities. By 1900 more than 30,000 Lebanese Christians were settled in Egypt, mostly as tradesmen in the large cities of Alexandria and Cairo.

In addition to religious and political reasons for emigrating from Lebanon, many Lebanese left the country in the past century to improve their economic status. The rapid growth of the population concentrated in a small region of limited natural resources forced many Lebanese to look to other lands to escape economic poverty and to find better opportunities to earn a livelihood.

While during the two decades after 1860 the earliest emigrants focused on Egypt, from the 1880's on up to the First World War, the emigrants converged on America, West Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Those coming to America converged in particular on the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, Brazil and Argentina.

The bulk of the emigrants during this period were from economically impoverished Mount Lebanon, which was largely mountainous and ill-suited for agriculture, and where there was a very high birth rate and practically no industry. By 1914 more than 100,000 Lebanese, one-fourth of Mount Lebanon's population, left for overseas homes. By 1920 the number of Lebanese immigrants exceeded 100,000 in the United States and another 100,000 were settled in Brazil. Today about one and a half million Lebanese Americans are settled in the United States, most of them thoroughly assimilated second-third-and-fourth-generation descendants of Lebanese who came here between 1880 and 1930.

Since World War II emigration from Lebanon has continued, though at a slower pace, and involving mainly small numbers of students and professionals. Students sent to the United States for training have not

returned to Lebanon but simply remained in the United States after graduation to take advantage of the better employment opportunities available here. Many professional, technical and kindred workers have entered the United States under the provisions of the professional-preference clause in the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. This immigration wave actually began in 1948 but it accelerated considerably after the Arab defeat in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War.

Other more recent Lebanese immigrants to the United States include those displaced by the continuing civil strife in Lebanon. This new group of immigrants from Lebanon comprises predominantly urban dwellers, better educated, more literate and with higher occupational skills than were the early peasant immigrants of pre-World War I vintage who came, for the most part, from Mount Lebanon.

It will be recalled that during the Ottoman rule in the Near East under the enlightened policies of the Lebanese emirs, Western missionary activity was encouraged in Lebanon. The first American missionaries arrived in Lebanon in the 1820's and established numerous schools that promoted basic education and raised considerably the literacy level of Lebanese. The missionary schools taught not only English and Arabic but also spread much information about America, its free institutions, its history, its great leaders and its opportunities for schooling, jobs and a better life.

The American University of Beirut today is an outstanding example of the excellent educational institutions that resulted from the endeavors of the early American missionaries in Lebanon. For more than a hundred years the American University has attracted students from all over the Arab world and its numerous graduates have gone out into the entire Middle East and contributed immeasurably to modern Arab life and thought. Many university students have been Americans, particularly Americans of Lebanese descent, who after graduating, returned to the United States to pursue graduate education and enter careers in business, teaching and the professions.

Further stimulation of Lebanese interest in and immigration to the United States came in the last quarter of the 19th Century when Lebanese merchants and businessmen attended and participated in three American world expositions - the Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago and the St. Louis Exposition of 1904. At these expositions Lebanese businessmen displayed their highly prized Oriental goods and wares, while dancers and acrobats performed to the delight of American spectators. While some of these merchants and entertainers remained in the United States after the expositions, others returned to their homeland and spread exaggerated stories about the lucrative mercantile and job opportunities to be found in America. These enthusiastic accounts which Lebanese heard about America, coupled with the high-pressure promotion of travel by enterprising steamship agents and native money lenders, set in motion a succession of emigration waves that continued without abatement from 1880 to 1915.

The Lebanese exodus was primarily from the impoverished Mount Lebanon region, where there was a surplus population and meager agricultural and industrial resources to meet the area's job needs. To the mountain villagers of Lebanon, living in chronic rural poverty and always fearful of religious persecution or political oppression under the repressive policies of their Ottoman rulers, the stories about the freedoms enjoyed in America and the many opportunities for a better economic life there, constituted a powerful stimulus to emigrate to the United States.

In the earliest period of migration, prior to 1900, the bulk of the pioneer immigrants were young adventuresome single males from the small villages of Mount Lebanon. As these young men reported their successes in letters to their families and relatives and sent money back home to prove their progress, or returned home in person to visit, and demonstrated their success by the new clothes they wore or the money they jingled in their pockets, they excited to a high fervor other potential emigrants and set off new waves of migration to America.

The adventurous bachelors who came in the first wave of immigration generally returned home to find brides and returned to America in a second wave of immigration comprised of many married men and their families. The reported success of the immigrant married men with families in settling and prospering in America, encouraged other entire families from Mount Lebanon to migrate to the United States.

By 1900 about 5,000 Christian Lebanese had migrated from Mount Lebanon and settled in the United States, the majority in the Northeast. By 1910 the numbers of immigrants had increased to more than 50,000.

By 1915, when World War I stopped the flow of immigration to a trickle, the numbers had increased to more than 85,000. By 1920 the number of Lebanese immigrants in the United States exceeded 100,000. Of the approximately one and a half million Lebanese Americans in the United States today, while a small number have continued to migrate here from the 1920's to the present, the vast majority of present-day Lebanese Americans are thoroughly assimilated second-, third-, and fourth-generation descendants of the pioneer Lebanese who came here in the period prior to World War I.

Story: I'm OK, Mom and Dad

When I returned home from the funeral of a church member, my grown daughter, Jenny, asked me about the service. I had been very moved by a story the priest told about a dragonfly, so I shared it with Jen.

A group of water bugs was talking one day about how they saw other water bugs climb up a lily pad and disappear from sight. They wondered where the other bugs could have gone. They promised one another that if one of them ever went up the lily pad and disappeared, it would come back and tell the others where it had gone.

About a week later one of the water bugs climbed up the lily pad and emerged on the other side. As it sat there, it transformed into a dragonfly. Its body took on an iridescent sheen, and four beautiful wings sprouted from its back. The dragonfly flapped its wings and took off in flight, doing loops and spins through the sunlit sky. In the midst of its joyful flight, it remembered the promise it had made to return and tell the other bugs where it had gone. So the dragonfly swooped down to the surface of the water and tried to reenter the water, but try as it would, it could not return.

The dragonfly said to itself, 'Well, I tried to keep my promise, but even if I did return, the others wouldn't recognize me in my new glorious body. I guess they will just have to wait until they climb the lily pad to find out where I have gone and what I have become.'

When I had finished relating the short story, my daughter said, with tears running down her cheeks, "Mom, that's really beautiful!" I agreed, and we talked for a while about it.

Two days later, early Sunday morning, Jenny came into my room, waking me to say good-bye before leaving for work at a resort on Lake Okoboji. I hugged and kissed her and told her I would see her that night when I joined her for a week's vacation at the lake. I asked her if she had eaten breakfast and if she was wide awake, as we had been out late the night before. I knew she was tired. "Yes, Mom, I'll see you later!"

Several hours later, our worst nightmare began. Jenny had been involved in a head-on collision and was flown to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Thoughts crowded in on me: 'Why hadn't I fixed her breakfast? Did I tell her I loved her? If I'd kept her with me a few minutes longer, would things have turned out differently? Why hadn't I hugged her a little longer? Why hadn't I kept her home with me that summer instead of letting her work at the lake? Why? Why? Why?'

We flew to Sioux Falls and arrived at noon. Our Jen was hurt mortally, and at ten o'clock that night, she died.

If God had given me a choice, I would have traded places with her in a second. Jenny had so much to give this world. She was so bright, beautiful and loving.

On Friday of that week, my husband and I drove to the lake to see family, and we stopped to see where the accident had occurred. I don't remember a lot, but I know I was hysterical trying to figure out what had happened and why. Leaving the scene of the accident, I asked my husband to take me to a greenhouse, as I needed to be around beautiful flowers. I just couldn't face anyone yet.

Walking to the back of the hothouse, I heard the fluttering of wings as if a bird or hummingbird was hitting the top of the roof. I was looking at a beautiful rose when a beautiful, large dragonfly landed within arm's length of me. I stood there looking at this lovely creature, and I cried. My husband walked in. I looked at him and said, "Jenny is telling us that she's okay." We stood and looked at the lovely dragonfly for a long time, and as we walked out of the hothouse, the dragonfly remained on the rose.

A couple of weeks later, my husband came running into the house telling me to come outside quickly. When I walked out our door, I could not believe what I saw. There were hundreds of dragonflies flying in front of our house and between ours and the neighbor's. I have never seen that many dragonflies at once in town, and

the strangest thing about it was that they were only by our house.

There is no way these two experiences were just coincidences. They were more than that. They were messages from Jen.

Each time I see a dragonfly, beautiful memories of my daughter kiss my grieving heart.

Joke (556)

The Economy Is so Bad ...

- 1- CEO's are now playing miniature golf.
- 2- Women are marrying for love.
- 3- Hot Wheels & Matchbox stocks are trading higher than GM.
- 4- McDonalds is selling the 1/4 ounce.
- 5- Parents in Beverly Hills are firing their nannies & learning their children's names.
- 6- A truckload of Americans got caught sneaking into Mexico.
- 7- The most highly-paid job is now jury duty.
- 8- Dick Cheney took his stockbroker hunting.
- 9- People in Africa are donating money to Americans.
- 10- Mothers in Ethiopia are telling their kids, "Finish what's on your plate, do you know kids are starving in the US?"
- 11- Motel Six won't leave the light on.
- 12- The Mafia is laying off judges.
- 13- And finally... Congress says they are looking into this Bernard Madoff scandal. Hey, great! ... The guy who made \$50 billion disappear is being investigated by people who made \$750 billion disappear.

Answering Service at the Mental Institute

"Hello, and welcome to the mental health hotline.

If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly.

If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2 for you.

If you have multiple personalities, press 3, 4, 5, and 6.

If you are paranoid, we know who you are and what you want. Stay on the line so we can trace your call.

If you are delusional, press 7 and your call will be transferred to the mother ship.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a small voice will tell you which number to press.

If you are manic depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press, no one will answer.

If you have a nervous disorder, please fidget with the hash key until someone comes on the line.

If you are dyslexic, press 6969696969.

If you have amnesia, press 8 and state your name, address, phone number, date of birth, social security number, and your mother's maiden name.

If you have post-traumatic-stress disorder, slowly and carefully press 000.

If you have bipolar disorder, please leave a message after the beep, or before the beep, or after the beep. Please wait for the beep.

If you have short-term memory loss, press 9. If you have short term memory loss, press 9. If you have short term memory loss, press 9. If you have short term memory loss, press 9.

If you have low self esteem, please hang up. All our operators are too busy to talk to you."

Burglary

A man went to the Police Station wishing to speak with the burglar who had broken into his house the night before. "You'll get your chance in court," said the Desk Sergeant.

"No, No, No!" said the man. "I want to know how he got into the house without waking my wife. I've been trying to do that for years!"