

September 13, 2009
Bulletin # 37

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)

Exaltation of the Holy Cross



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
 - *Confession: 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: Exaltation of the Cross

Readings: 1Cor 1:18-25 & Jn 12:20-32

The True Cross

Many aspects of the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helena (c. 250-330) are, technically speaking, unverifiable, but historians are able to vouch for key elements of the story.

Helena was indeed the mother of the Emperor Constantine, the first emperor to give the Church the full protection of Roman law. And in 326 she did undertake a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where her gifts helped to finance the construction of several major churches, including that of the Holy Sepulcher.

History is less clear on details of the recovery of the True Cross, although the story as told here is the one that has persisted for many generations. At any rate, St. Helena did report finding the True Cross and ensured that relics were sent to Constantinople and Rome while others were left in Jerusalem. In dealing with this matter over the centuries, many Catholics have been content to let faith supply those answers that history cannot.

With his edict having restored peace to the Church, Constantine wanted to give further glory to the Lord by building a magnificent church in Jerusalem. Accordingly his mother, Helena, undertook a journey to the Holy Land in 326—even though she was nearing the age of eighty at the time. She had a number of things she hoped to accomplish, none more important than the discovery of the True Cross of Jesus.

Helena found that no marker indicated its final resting place, nor was there any traditional understanding—even among the city’s Christians—as to where it might be. In fact, it lay beneath a pile of rubble, deliberately placed there by pagans to hide the site of Jesus’ tomb. Atop the rubble, adding to the concealment, stood a temple to Venus. Nearby was a statue of Jupiter, on the very spot where the Savior had risen from the dead.

Helena consulted many of those she met in Jerusalem, ultimately discovering that in Jesus’ time it was the custom to bury next to the victim those instruments that might have been used in his execution. Thus, she reasoned, if she could find the sepulcher she would find the Cross as well. She set about having the statues destroyed, the temple torn down, the rubble removed—and finally, at a great depth, came upon the tomb itself. Nearby was a breathtaking discovery: three crosses, three nails, and even the sign that had been affixed atop Jesus’ Cross!

One of the three crosses had to be that of the Lord, but which one? Bishop Macanus thought he might have a way to find out. A well-known woman of the city was extremely ill; why not bring the three crosses to her side? If one of the three brought about her cure that would surely be the Cross on which Jesus had died. And that is just what happened: two crosses were pressed to the woman and produced no effect at all, but the third Cross—the *True Cross*—resulted in an immediate and complete recovery. Overjoyed, Helena built a church on the spot, installing the Cross there with great veneration. Later she carried part of it to her son, then at Constantinople, and still later took another piece to Rome. It was enshrined in the church that she built, Holy Cross in Jerusalem and remains there to this day.

The sign that had been atop the Cross of Jesus—the one that had mockingly described him as “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”—was also taken to Rome, hidden away in a lead box until its rediscovery in 1492. Many chips were removed from the original True Cross over the years, to be given to devout persons, and yet the Cross itself never grew smaller—a wonder attested to by St. Cyril of Jerusalem twenty-five years later.

And the three nails? “One the Empress Helena placed in the crown of Constantine; another she made into a bit for his horse; the third she threw into a whirlpool in the Adriatic—and immediately the sea was calm.”

Prayers: Make Me Instrument

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

--St. Francis

Mass Intentions

THIS WEEKEND, September 12-13: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Saturday, September 12 at 4:00 p.m.:

Allen "Sam" Banker by Eva Lee Powell
Adib & Sadie Chidiac (parents) & Mona Chidiac (sister) by Fr. Bakhos

Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m.:

Dale Seidler Sr., by his wife Nettie & Family
Nabiha & Habib Khourey by Virginia Khourey Bryan

Weekday Masses

Monday, September 14: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday, September 15: No Mass. Pastor's Day Off

Wednesday, September 16 at Noon:

Lou Elias by his daughter Debbie Kull & Family
Martha Ruggiero by Edmund Sargus

Thursday, September 17 at Noon:

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions
Mary Piko by Lottie & Rich Elwartoski

Friday, September 18: : No Mass. Pastor's vacation day

NEXT WEEKEND, September 19-20: 1st Sunday of the Holy Cross

Saturday, September 19 at 4:00 p.m.:

Ronald Canestraro by his wife Charlotte Canestraro & Family
Martha Ruggiero by Frances & Michael Zeno

Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m.:

Mary K. Ferris by her husband Tom & daughter Denise
Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

Donate to the Church Maintenance Fund

Help with the Endowment Fund to Keep Our Church Open and Active (Total Raised: \$1,365.00)

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 (\$690),*

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, September 13	Women's Society (Special Menu Meeting) – <i>after 10:30 a.m. Mass</i>
Monday, September 14	Cedar Club Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – <i>in our church Basement Hall</i>
Thursday, September 17	First Communion – <i>from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.</i> Arabic Language Classes – <i>from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.</i>
Thursday, September 24	Confirmation – <i>from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.</i> Bible Study – <i>from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.</i>
Sunday, September 27	Women's Society Meeting & 50/50 Raffle Drawing – <i>after 10:30 a.m. Mass</i>
Sunday, October 4	Spaghetti Dinner – <i>11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</i>
Sunday, October 4	Women's Society Gift Basket Drawing – <i>at Spaghetti Dinner</i>
Fri., Oct. 31,-Fri., Nov. 6	Week of All Souls Masses
Sunday, November 29	Parish Christmas Party – <i>5:30 to 9:30 p.m. – see note below</i>



Other Church Events

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.

First Communion & Arabic Classes (Thursday, September 17th)

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: First Communion (??)

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: Arabic Language (Lou, Emmalena & Louie Khourey, Kim Gibbons, Dalton Haas, Linda Duffy, Luane Frazier, Thomasina Geimer, Mike Linton, Carol Dougherty, Ted Olinski, ??)

Confirmation & Bible Study Classes (Thursday, September 24th)

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Confirmation (??)

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: Bible Study, (Nikki Popovich, Mike Linton, and ??)

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. Training day and time will be decided when 6 or more candidates have expressed interest.

Dance Troupe students: *Emmalena & Louie Khourey, ??*

Women's Society Monthly 50/50 Raffle (after Mass: Sunday, September 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 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 August 50/50 winner of \$80.00: Latif Thomas (PA).

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 & 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.

Women's Society Gift Basket Raffle (Drawing: Sunday, October 4)

The Women's Society's next Gift Basket Raffle – held on Sunday, October 4th, at the Spaghetti Dinner. It will featuring many items to help you create your own "Kitchen Magic." This 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 and more.*

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.

Winner of the August basket was Mary Custer. Congratulations.

Commemoration of All Souls (November 2nd)

Please Remember Your Parents & Beloved Ones during the Week of All Souls: *All Masses from Saturday, October 31st until Friday, November 6th, 2009, will be offered for the repose of their souls.* Forgotten souls are those parents and grandparents whose un-grateful children and grandchildren chose not to offer at least a yearly Mass for the repose of their souls. The church is reminding you to bring happiness to the souls of your parents who carried you in their arms and loved you unconditionally. Please complete the attached Form.

All Masses will be offered for the Repose of the Souls of:

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

Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL)

Deceased of the Chidiac Family by Fr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Deceased of the Habib & Nabiha Khourey Family by Virginia Khourey Bryan

Deceased of the Khourey & Howard Families by Lou & Charlotte Khourey, Emmalena & Louie

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 upcoming bulletins.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently In Your Prayers:

Joe Gonot, Edith Fahey, Frank Lish, Millie Hoskinson, 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 & Pat (brother & mother of Dr. Rob Vawter)

Happy Birthday

September 13:	Aaron Olinski
September 15:	Ted Olinski
September 17:	Bill Bang III
September 21:	Abraham George, Joseph Schultz
September 22:	John Jay Thomas
September 24:	Luane Frazier
September 25:	Mary Rose Kukula, Natalie Committee
September 27:	Chester Kloss
September 30:	Michaeline Custer

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,013	Collection
44	Candles
35	Utilities
180	Parking
100	Donation to Church in Memory of Martha Ruggiero
100	Donation to Church
250	Reimbursement
111	Donations to Poor Families of the Church
62	Mahrajan (Food Sales after Mahrajan)
500	Mahrajan (Vendor's Space Rental)
\$2,395	Total. May God reward you many fold

What's New?

Many Thanks

--To the children of Martha Ruggiero and her friend Lucille Gibbons for donating \$100 to the church in her memory. Martha will be remembered in our prayers for a long time. May her soul rest in heaven with the saints.

Lamb Shish Kebab and Other Mahrajan Food for Sale

If you would like to purchase some Mahrajan food items, which are frozen, and at the same time help our church recover the expense for this item, please ask Fr. after Mass or call the church office at 304-233-1688. 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; **Wheat** (#1 fine and #2 medium): \$3.50 pkg. of 2 lb.

Around Us

Spaghetti Dinner (Wednesday, September 16th)

Where: St. Alphonsus Church in St. Al's Parish Center
When: Wednesday, September 16, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Cost: \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 12. Eat in or Take-out available.

Whose Cuisine Will Reign Supreme? (Saturday, September 26th, at 6:30 p.m.)

What: Steel Chef VI sponsored by the Wheeling Symphony Auxiliary pits Mike Pickens (Belmont Hills Country Club chef) against David Wohlfeil (Metropolitan Citi Grill). Enjoy light refreshments, door prizes and cash bar
When: Begins at Saturday, September 26th, at 6:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00 each
Contact: Wheeling Symphony Office at 304-232-6191 or 800-395-9241 for tickets or more information

Shopping and a Show in New York City (October 9th to 11th)

What: Join Wheeling Symphony Auxiliary members on a Bus Trip to NYC to eat, drink and shop 'til-you-drop or take in a Broadway Show
When: Bus leaves the First State Capitol building 10 p.m. Friday, October 9th, arrives NYC about 7 a.m. Saturday, October 10th; returns to Wheeling about 6 a.m. Sunday morning, October 11th
Cost: \$99 person covers bus trip, snacks and drinks. Make reservations now. Payment due ASAP ("Jersey Boys" 2 p.m. show tickets available for our group for additional \$106 discount price)
Contact: Barbara Knutsen at 304-215-0522; 304-242-3133 or email: barbaraknutsen@hotmail.com

Boatsie's Stockings for Soldiers (Due by Monday, November 16th)

What: Make a donation or make or buy a Christmas Stocking; list items and their value; fill stocking with items and slip stitch top or secure to prevent items from spilling out
When: Stockings or donations are due by Monday, November 16 (See flyer at entrance to church)

Reflection: What Is Success?

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty; To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;
This is to have succeeded. -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Maronites = Catholics of the East

Lebanese Christians Martyrs

- St. Agualina of Biblos, Martyr (293):** Was born in Biblos and was baptized by the bishop of the city, she loved Jesus from all her heart. The governor of the city asked her to renounce Jesus but she refused. He tortured her to death by cutting her head. She was twelve years old.
- St. Christina of Tyre, Martyr (c.300):** It is evident that Christianity is deeply rooted in Lebanon. The Lebanese were generous in their martyrdom to protect the seed planted and nurtured by Christ and His disciples.
- St. Barbara:** Her place of birth was disputed among Baalbek, Nicodeme, or Beirut. Because of her beauty her father who lived in Baalbek, imprisoned her in a castle to force her to adore a pagan statue. Through the teaching of the Christian teacher Valentine she converted to Christianity. She died a martyr for her belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior in 235 A.D.
- St. Kyrillus:** He was deacon in Baalbek during the Empire Constantine 362. Pagans attacked some monasteries, deacons, & sisters. Later, they took Kyrillus and martyred him.

Maronite Saints

- St. Ephrem:** Deacon and Doctor Poet, teacher, orator, and defender of the faith, Ephrem is the only Syriac ever to be proclaimed a doctor of the church. He was born in Nisibe, Mesopotamia and was baptized as a young man. He had a prolific pen and his writings best illumine his holiness. His works reflect his insight and knowledge of the scriptures. He wrote hymns against the heresies of his day. Ephrem became one of the first to introduce song into the church's public worship as a means of instruction for the faithful. His many hymns earned him the title "harp of the Holy Spirit." He preferred a simple, austere life, living in a small cave overlooking the city of Edessa. It was there he died around 373. May his prayers bless us all.
- St. Maron:** Of his life Theodoret of Cyrrihus wrote, "Embracing the open-air life he repaired to a hill-top formerly honored by the impious." He cured not only infirmities of the body but applied suitable treatment to souls as well, healing this man's greed and that man's anger, to this man supplying teaching in self-control and to that providing lessons in justice. Applying this mode of cultivation he produced many plants of philosophy, and it was he who planted for God the garden that now flourishes in the region of Cyrrihus.
- Sts. Coura & Marana, Disciples of St. Maron:** Bishop Theodore of Cyrrihus wrote: I think it is useful to treat also of women who have contended no less if not more a heroic life of men. Marana and Coura acquired a small place in front town, and entering within it, walled up the door with clay and stones. They defeated all the others in the contests of endurance. They wore iron, and carried such a weight that Coura, with her weaker body, was bent down to the ground and was quite unable to straighten her body. They wore mantles so big as to trail along behind. They emulated Moses in his fasting three times the same length of time without food. In this mode of life they completed forty-two years.
- St. Abraham:** The hermit from Cyrrihus is credited for preaching Christianity in the distant Lebanese heartland of the ancient Lebanese creed. The village he started in was Afqa. St. Abraham wanted to purify those people of the impurity of bodies and souls regardless of the attending dangers.
- St. Marina,** Nun of Qannubine was born in northern Lebanon. After the death of her mother she became a monk along with her father. She was known as brother Marinus. After a missionary retreat she was accused of bearing a baby. She didn't reveal her identity. She continued to care for the child until her death.
- St. Charbel Joseph Makhoul:** He was born in 1828 at Beqa-Kafra, Lebanon. His peasant family lived a strong faith, was attentive to the Divine Liturgy, and had a great devotion to the Mother of God. At the age of twenty-three, Charbel left his loving and closely knit family to enter the Lebanese-Maronite Monastery; he later was ordained in 1859. Charbel had a reputation for his austerity, penances,

obedience, and chastity. At times, Charbel was gifted with levitations during prayer, and he had great devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament. In all things, Charbel maintained perfect serenity. He was beatified in 1965 by Pope Paul VI and canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1977.

St. Rafka (1832-1914): In the nineteenth century the Christians of Lebanon, especially the Maronites, underwent terrible persecutions by the Turkish and the Druze. Sister Rafqa El- Rayes from Himlaya lived during this troubled period. She always had good health. But on the first Sunday of October, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, praying before the Blessed Sacrament, she said to God, "My Lord why do you stay away from me and why do you abandon me? You do not send me any sickness. Have you forgotten me?" That night, at bedtime, she got a frightful headache, which began her long Calvary and led her to her blindness, paralysis, and death. She carried her long and painful cross with love for the Master – Jesus Christ." St Rafka canonized a saint in Roma 2001.

St. Ni'matullah E1-Hardini: Born in 1808 in northern Lebanon. In 1828, he entered the Maronite Lebanese Order. He was ordained in 1833 and became a great teacher. His deep spirituality and virtues were the cause of several miracles. He had the charisma of prophecy and hence became known as a "man of vision." He is known as "The Saint of Kfifan," after the many miracles that occurred at the monastery where he stayed. He was joined with the Creator in 1858. Pope John Paul II beatified him on May 10, 1998, and canonized him in May 2004.

Future Saints

Duwayhi: Estefan Duwayhi born in 1630 in Ehdn. He is known as "Pillar of the Maronite Church," "The Glory of Lebanon and Maronites," "The father of the Maronite History." Duwayhi was ordained in 1658. He built 27 churches and many monasteries, ordained 14 bishops and many priests. He protected the Maronite Church from Latinization gave her the proper and distinguished identity, was instrumental in the foundation of the Lebanese Order and in the conversion to Catholic Faith of the Melkite Patriarch and established of the 1st Syrian Catholic Patriarch.

Padre Yaacoub: He lived sainthood, following the footstep of his spiritual father, St. Francis of Assisi, and rose as a hero on all fronts of Charity, facing physical as well as moral miseries, totally dedicating his time, health, energy, literary talent, and pastoral dynamism, to relieve, heal, and uplift bodies and souls. In order to perpetuate his works, he founded the Franciscan Sisters of the Cross Congregation of Lebanon.

General Superior Abbot Moubarak Hage: Born in 1779 in Biskinta, joined the Maronite Lebanese Order in 1495. He was ordained in 1815. He was famous for his virtues and was a role model for Holiness and purity. His miracles varied from healing the crippled, blind to raining the death.

Story: Dart Test

A young lady named Sally, relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by her teacher, Dr. Smith who was known for his elaborate object lessons.

One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day.

On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's friend drew a picture of who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats. As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target. Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall.

Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus. A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced.

Dr. Smith said only these words... "In as much as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me" (Matthew 25:40).

No other words were necessary; the tears filled eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ. <http://www.smileycentral.com/?partner=ZSzeb025>

Joke (558)

Self-Made the Easy Way

- If you want to write your own ticket, then print it yourself.
- If you want to make a name for yourself, then change the one you have.
- If you want a place in the sun, then don't forget your sunscreen.

Acting Like Orphans

Some people who say "Our Father" on Sunday go around the rest of the week acting like orphans.

Hypocrisy Defined

Hypocrite defined: One who complains about the sex and violence in the videos he watches.

False Impressions

I arrived in Toronto at ten in the morning for a meeting with two of my colleagues. We were to meet in the home of my associate's parents.

As I approached the home, I saw my colleague's car parked on the street, so I pulled into the driveway. As I grabbed my briefcase and started walking toward the house, an older gentleman came out of the house and warmly greeted me. I didn't recognize him, but I thought, "That's okay; I've only been here once before."

I entered the house, where I was introduced to the man's wife. We chatted briefly and the gentleman began to tell me the problem he was having with the dishwasher. I found it all fascinating. Then I was asked, "Would you like to see the electrical panel?"

"Sure, why not?" was my reply. (I thought it might be on the way to my meeting.)

We walked down to the basement where the electrical panel was pointed out. "Do you see the problem?" I was asked.

"No, not really," I responded.

"Look, see where it's burned out," my gracious host pointed out.

"Yes, I see it," I said enthusiastically.

"What do you recommend?" he asked.

"I'm not sure," I said naively.

"Should I replace the panel?" he continued.

"Well, how old is it?" I inquired. I was informed that it was about twenty-five years old, so I ventured to say that it might not be a bad idea.

At this point, I sensed something was not quite right. So I blurted out, "Would you mind telling me your name?" When he responded, I told him I was very embarrassed that I was in the wrong house. Then I told him the name of the people I was looking for.

"Oh, they live across the street," he said with a smile.

"That will be seventy-five dollars," I said sheepishly as I left for my meeting in the house across the road.