

June 20, 2010
Bulletin # 25

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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

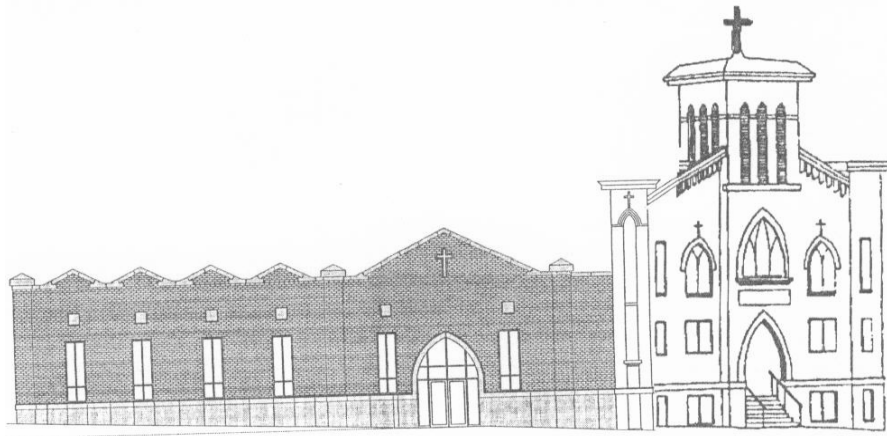
E-Mail: ololwv@comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Fr. Bakhos Chidiac Pastor

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

5th 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 10:00 a.m.]
- ***Weekday Masses:** Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 9:00 a.m. [Rosary & Litany start at 8:40 a.m.]
- ***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** 1st Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m. & 1st Sunday after 10:30 a.m. Mass
- ***Confession:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment
- ***Baptism:** Please phone the Pastor as soon as a baby is born; at least one Godparents must be Catholic
- ***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 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, Carol Dougherty 740-782-0146, Rita Strawn 304-547-1692,
Mike Linton 304-242-6969
- ***Choir Members:** Rita 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

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- ***Bulletin Announcements:** Submit all Bulletin Information by Tuesday Noon every week.
- ***New Parishioners:** We welcome you with great joy and invite you to be officially listed as one of our parishioners
- ***Cedar Hall Rental Fees:** Call the Church Office **304-233-1688**
- ***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday, parishioners may park in both lots; Monday-Friday, park ONLY in the 3 ALLEY spaces
- *Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament – Her prayers will accompany you to heaven
- *Please support Our Lady of Lebanon Church by patronizing our Benefactors and Advertisers
- *If you support the Church and need a Bulletin mailed to you, please call the church office

Gospel Reflection

Readings: Phil 3:7-14 and Mt 10:1-7

Jesus said: **“As you go, proclaim the good news, the kingdom of heaven has come near.”**

This is the commission: we are to proclaim that “the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As we go about our everyday tasks, we proclaim this even more by who we are and what we do than by what we say. We spend some time sitting with the Lord in the Gospels each day because we are disciples of the Master, the Lord Jesus, our God. The kingdom of heaven is that near. And when we hear the Word and act on it, we bring the kingdom into all the places we go. Through us, the kingdom of heaven has an opportunity to touch intimately the lives of many who might otherwise never be touched by it at all. Sometimes words are called for, and are called forth from us. But usually this happens only after a person has sensed that the kingdom of heaven has drawn near and experienced the love of God in the love in us.

Jesus has said that the kingdom of heaven is within. If it is truly within us, it will shine out through kindly eyes, it will be felt through helpful hands, and it will be heard in words of kindness, encouragement and affirmation. Beginning at home with our own family, we are meant to be sacraments of the presence of the kingdom of God, a kingdom of love, joy, peace, kindness, long-suffering, and profound respect for others.

Mass Intentions

This WEEKEND and the following weekdays, June 19-25: Father’s Day Masses

A Prayer for Fathers

Lord, I pray today for my own father and for all fathers, both living and deceased. You know the love I feel for my father since you shared that same love with Your foster father Joseph.

For fathers who have been called from this life, I pray that You have welcomed them into the peace of Your kingdom. Reward them into the care they shared with their families.

For fathers still living, as they grow older, comfort them and protect them from loneliness and discouragement.

For fathers still raising children, give them the patience, understanding, and love they need. Place them under the care of Saint Joseph, Your foster father, and the patron saint of all families.

From Saturday, June 19th, to Friday, June 25th, all Masses will be offered for the following:

Special Memorials this week:

On Sunday, June 20th: Mariam Joseph (on her Anniversary) by her children & grandchildren

On Thursday & Friday, June 24th & 25th:

--Helen Fielding (on her 5th Anniversary) by her husband Don (FL)

--Arthur Long (on his Anniversary) by his wife Sylvia Long

Special Memorials on Father’s Day:

We remember in our prayers this week all those who shed their blood to defend the freedom of our beloved country, especially the members of our church whose names are written in our hearts and on the memorial stone at the entrance of the church.

5 Masses for the Repose of the Souls of Our Deceased Fathers & Grandfathers

George Toweel & Anthony George by Fr. Gary

Deceased Fathers & Grandfathers of the Chidiac Family by Fr. Bakhos

Habib Khourey, Nassif Nader & Louis H. Khourey, Sr., by Lou & Charlotte & Emmalena & Louie

Charles “Pud” Howard, Bruce Cody Riggs & Franklin Howard by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie

Joseph Saseen & Elmer Blust by Joe & Susie Saseen

Joseph J. John, John W. Keegan, John J. John, Louis J. John by the Louis John Family

Tim & Gus Shia by the Family

John F. Kukula by daughter Cathy Gerhart & Son John M. Kukula

Steve Schlog & Shakery Saseen by Bob & Fran Saseen

Constantine Shia & Thomas Shia & Donald Vince by their children

Frank Gray & Abraham George by Jim & Shirley George

Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard

John Jacobs (grandfather) & John Dusick (father) by Sandra Dusick

Our fathers & grandfathers by Bill & Carol Dougherty

Joseph P. Duffy & George T. Fadoul by Earl, Linda & Allison Duffy

Anthony Condelli & Joseph Long by Sylvia Long

Abdo Habita Ferris by Thomas A. Ferris

Robert L. Rose by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt & Family

George Elias by Joe Elias

August (Augie) Montalbano by Nikki & Joe Popovich

George Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich

Pete Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter

Paul Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter

Herbert Hunrath by his daughter Dixie Hunrath

Louis Zauhar by his daughter Patricia Smith

Joseph Duffy & George Fadoul by Earl, Linda & Allison Duffy

Sam Elias by Fr. Bakhos & all parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church

Deceased fathers and grandfathers & uncles of the Cornish & Demsko Families by Rosemary Cornish

Andrew Demsko by Rosemary Cornish

Lawrence J. Shalvey by Peggy & Nancy Shalvey

William Coss by his grandson Denny Magruder & Family

Earl Magruder and Harry Voitle by the Magruder Family

Eskey Yost & James Garvey Sr. by Kay Garvey

Nimon Joseph (father), Joseph George & Maroon Habeb (grandfathers) by Joseph, Weisner & Goodson Families

Albert Weisner (father), George Weisner & Andres Bishop (grandfathers) & Oscar Schmeichel (uncle) by the Weisner Family

Barkett Coury, Larry Gibbons & Joseph Aowad by Lucille Coury Gibbons & Family

Mike Sobota by his wife Barb and his Children and grandchildren

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|--|
| 5 Masses for Good Health & a Long, Happy Life of Our <u>Living</u> Fathers & Grandfathers |
|--|

Dolour George by Fr. Gary

Louis H. Khourey, Jr., by his children Emmalena & Louie & wife Charlotte

Joseph J. John, II, Louis J. John, II, Al Zambito, Edward Beabout & Joe Harrell by the Louis John Family

Adel Frenn, Elias Frenn & Jim Thomas by Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn

Bob Saseen by his wife & sons

Jim George Sr. & Jim George Jr. & Donnie Musilli Jr. by Shirley George

Joe Linton by his children Steve and Mike Linton

Thomas A. Ferris by his daughter Denise Ferris

Don Fielding (FL) by his friend

Joe Popovich by Nikki Popovich

P.J. Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich

Denny Magruder by his wife & Family

Charles, Donald, Ronald & Robert Gibbons & Philip Ruggiero by Lucille Gibbons

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| Next WEEKEND, June 26-27: 6th Sunday after Pentecost |
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Saturday, June 26 at 4:00 p.m.:

Joseph & Rosaline Saseen by Dr. Joe & Susie Saseen

Cathy Sharp Howard (on her Anniversary) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt & Family

Sunday, June 27 at 10:30 a.m.:

Sam Elias by Lori Mahely (FL)

Rita DiNicola by Anna Jalad

Our Lady of Lebanon Calendar of Parish Events

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sat. to Fri., June 19 to 25 | Week of Father's Day Masses |
| Monday, July 5 to 11 | Nam Convention & Clergy Conference in Birmingham, Alabama |
| Monday, July 19 to 24 | MYO Workshop in Latrobe, Pennsylvania –see information at www.maroniteyouth.com |
| Sunday, July 25 | Women's Society 50/50 Monthly Raffle – following Mass |
| Sunday, August 1 | Mahrajan Raffle – Early Bird Drawing – from all entries received by Saturday, July 31 |
| Sunday, August 15 | Feast of the Assumption & Mahrajan – at Oglebay Park |
| Sunday, October 3 | Fall Spaghetti Dinner |

Cedar Hall Rental Calendar

Our Cedar Hall is reserved by individuals for events on the following dates and some individuals may have requested to come the day before the event to set up for it:

| Date | Set-up Day | Event | Booking Is: |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Sunday, July 11 | Same Day: Sunday, July 11 | Baby Shower | confirmed |
| Saturday, July 31 | Friday, July 30 | Wedding Reception | confirmed |
| Saturday, August 7 | Friday, August 6 | Wedding Reception | confirmed |
| Saturday, August 21 | Same Day: Saturday, August 21 | Wedding Reception | confirmed |
| Sunday, October 10 | <i>undecided</i> | Wedding Reception | confirmed |
| Saturday, October 16 | <i>undecided</i> | 50 th Anniversary | tentative |

Heat System Fundraising to Replace Old Church Furnace

H.E. Newman Company did remove the old boiler. Gary Weisner power washed and insulated that room for fire protection. The final installation of the new boiler will take place in the coming weeks. We are short \$4,000 to finish this project that costs \$22,500. We need your help and donations to finish this job. A plaque will be installed in the church to commemorate all the donors toward this project. Special appreciation goes to those making donations since April 11th: **Schenk Charitable Trust** (\$10,000), **Debbie & Freddie Shia** (\$100), **Jean & George Weisner**(\$200), **The Cedar Club** (\$230), **Bob Kupchak** (\$100), **Rose Vargo** (\$100), **George & Patty Fahey In Memory of Edith June Fahey** (\$110), **Nettie Seidler** (\$500), **Dr. Joe & Susie Saseen & Dr. Robert & Rosemary (Saseen) Wanker In Memory of Our Mother & Father Joseph & Rosaline Saseen**(\$1,000), **more Anonymous donors** (\$150), **George Lewis** (\$115), **Peggy Justice** (\$55), **Phillip & Thomasina Geimer** (\$100), **Jerry & Marge Saseen** (\$200), **Richard & Mary Ryncarz** (\$100), **Anonymous Couple** (\$2,000),

Flowers for the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June (Sundays in June through the 27th)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sunday, June 20 | Don Fielding (FL) in Memory of his beloved wife Helen on her 5 th Anniversary |
| Sunday, June 27 | In Thanksgiving from Mary Kukula & Family |

Women's Society Bi-Monthly 50/50 Raffle (Sunday, July 25, after Mass)

Our next 50/50 Raffle drawing will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, July 25th**, from ticket entries received during **June and July**. Complete and return ticket stubs from those placed at the church entrance or printed in the Weekly Church Bulletins. Congratulations to Peggy Justice who won the April/May prize of \$55 and graciously donated it to the New Heat System. May the Blessed Mother grant her a long and healthy life.

Mahrajan (Sunday, August 15, at Oglebay Park)

Souvenir Ad Book: Remember to send in your payment and Green “Mahrajan Souvenir Book Form” as soon as possible so that your Memorial or Business Ad will be included in this year booklet. Mahrajan Donations in any amount will be appreciated and will contribute to the success of our Mahrajan. You may request that your donation be used to sponsor the singer for \$1,000; the Dance Troupe for \$500; be a Booth Sponsor for \$250 or other Donations will be recognized at the levels listed below. Thanks to the following individuals who have made donations toward our event:

--**Diamond Level (\$100-249):** *John & Dee Shiben, Dr. Rajai & Nahla Khoury, Dr. Adel & Dianne Frenn, Dr. MaryAnn Cater & Dr. Rob Vawter,*

--**Gold Level (\$50 to \$99):** *Esther Khoury*

--**Silver Level (up to \$49):** *Bob & Fran Saseen,*

Raffle Tickets: This year, during the Mahrajan at Oglebay Park, in addition to having a chance to win the \$100 Early Bird Prize on Sunday, August 1, from all entries received by Saturday, July 31, your Raffle Tickets will also give you the chance to win one of the following prizes:

Grand Prize: \$1,000 Cash; 2nd Prize: 32” Plasma TV (donated by Drs. Rajai & Nahla Khoury, Dr. & Mrs. Adel Frenn and Drs. MaryAnn Cater & Rob Vawter); **3rd Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate** redeemable at **Nicky’s Garden Center; 4th Prize: Olympus 12 mega pixels Digital Camera** (donated anonymously); **5th Prize: beautiful hand-appliquéd, floral-patterned Quilt** (donated anonymously).

Table Reservations:

Under Tents: *Kay Garvey, Michael David, George Lewis, Tom Carroll, Don Ruch Jr., Dr. Adel Frenn, Sandra Dusick, Chamse Rahi, Dr. Rajai Khoury, Dr. Nabil AlKhouri,*

Open-Air: *Kathleen Ackerman (2), Peggy Palmer (2), Fred Shia, Emily Vince, Jim George, Rita George, Eva Powell, George Taylor,*

Attention last year’s Booth Chairpersons (listed below): Please contact Mahrajan Chairman Lou Khourey to confirm your willingness to continue in the same capacity for our 2010 Mahrajan via e-mail at lhk@gkt.com with your contact information (phone, address, etc.) to expedite communications. If you cannot e-mail, please phone him at home in the evenings at 304-277-3230.

| Booth | Chairperson(s) | Booth | Chairperson(s) |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Grape Leaves | Carol Dougherty | Ticket Trailer | Charlotte Khourey |
| Shwarma & Falafel | Adel & Diane Frenn with Pitaland Employees and Don & Roberta Henning | Raffles/Culture | Culture: Bassam Deeb <u>Raffle Sales:</u> Gary Dietz & Kim Gibbons |
| Children’s Food | Peggy Justice & Ann Lee Bauduin | Pop & Water | Mike Linton |
| Children’s Activities | Christine Faulkner | Beer | Barry Carter |
| Food Lines | P.J. Lenz & Al Depto | Instant Bingo | Millet Fadoul |
| Inside Site 1 Kitchen | Linda Duffy | Hi-Lo | Mickey Duffy |
| Pastry & Coffee | Kathleen George | Cashiers | Randy Weisner |
| Grill & Shish Kebab | Tom John | Table Reservations | Janet Shutler |
| Souvenirs | Nikki Popovich | Booth Break-Down | (on Sunday Evening) ??? |

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers:

John Ritts, Dorothy Kupchak, Virginia Porchiran, Mary Law Thomas, Pearl Shutler (mother of Janet), Louis Coury (brother of Lucille Gibbons),

Also Please Pray for Those Who Asked Us to Pray for Them:

William Calvert (cousin of Jim & Sue Brubach), Miah Downs, Tim Wrixon, Don Stoflinsky, Sylvia Long, Patty Billick, Donald Gibbons (son of Lucille), Eileen Foster and her mom Barb Sobota, Andy Kaminski, Frank Lish, Josephine Joseph, Theresa Snedeker, Dolores Palotay, Bob Dougherty (brother of Bill), Rosella Saseen, Laura Wellman, Virginia Khourey Bryan (aunt of Lou Khourey in Toledo, OH), Manell Brice (Arlington, VA), Rose Mary Bris-Roybal (Albuquerque, NM), Pat & John Vawter (mother & brother of Dr. Rob Vawter)

Happy Birthday

June 20: Nick Ghaphery, Jr.
 June 22: Michael Carl
 June 23: Laura Wellman, Mary Beth Weisner, Dave Laughlin
 June 27: Fred Shia, Lindsay Lenz, Peggy Justice, Seth George
 June 29: Phyllis Lewandowski

What's New?

Many Thanks...

--to all the volunteers who put together the mailing list about the Mahrajan Raffle tickets and newsletter last Saturday: Kim Gibbons, Fran & Bobby Saseen, Mike Linton, Nancy Joseph, Judy Bedway, Jill Magers, Mary & George Thomas, Mary Stees, Rose Vargo, Emily Vince, Louie & Charlotte Khourey, Kay Garvey, Julia Tappe, Sandra Dusick, Linda & Mickey Duffy, Nini Miller, Michelle Busick, Suzie Fadoul and also to anyone I may have forgotten. Thanks for your time. Job Well Done!

Natalie Committee to Volunteer in Uganda for a Year

Natalie Committee –daughter of Bill and Tricia John Committee- a long time parishioner, will be serving as a volunteer in Uganda for a year through a Christian organization called ChildVoice International. She will be teaching business development skills to young, war-affected women. Please consider supporting her in this journey and keep her in your prayers. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Natalie at: 304-280-9304. For more information, pick up information at the entrance to the church or visit the websites: www.cildvoiceintl.org or www.ugandahope.blogspot.com or www.voices-rising.com.

Your Church Support Last Week

| | |
|---------|--|
| \$1,015 | Collection |
| 400 | Hall Rental |
| 1,300 | Mahrajan (Ad Book) |
| 125 | Mahrajan (Tables) |
| 20 | Donation to Church |
| 495 | Donation to Church (Memorial Sam Elias) |
| 2,100 | Fundraising (New Church High-Efficiency Heat System) |
| \$5,455 | Total Deposits. <i>May God reward you many fold</i> |

A Prayer For you

"I wish for you... Comfort on difficult days, Rainbows to follow the clouds,
 Laughter to kiss your lips, Sunsets to warm your heart, Gentle hugs when spirits sag,
 Friendships to brighten your being, Beauty for your eyes to see, Confidence for when you doubt,
 Faith so that you can believe, Courage to know yourself, Patience to accept the truth,
 And love to complete your life. God Bless you!

I asked the Lord to bless you To guide you and protect you As you go along your way....

His love is always with you His promises are true No matter what the tribulation

You know He will see us through So when the road you're traveling on Seems difficult at best

Give your problems to the Lord And God will do the rest.

Around Us

Who: Ohio Valley Peace Sponsors Speaker Art Gish

When: at Noon, Tuesday, June 22, at Ohio County Public Library; at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Chapline Street Wheeling

Info: Call John Rockwell, 740-926-1701; or jonda99@gmail.com

Spirituality: Power of Prayer (1)

Few consolations are greater than the knowledge that we are bound up in a great cooperation of prayers and sacrifices. The Communion of Saints is the great discovery of those who, as adults, find the fullness of faith. They discover that for years there have been dozens, in some instances hundreds, of souls praying especially for them, storming heaven with the plea that a little act of humility by the convert might open a crack in his armor to let in God's grace and truth. Every soul in the world has a price tag on it, and since many cannot or will not pay the price themselves, others must do it for them. There is probably no other way to account for the conversion of some souls than the fact that in this world, as in the next, their parents, relatives, or friends interceded to God and won for them the prize of everlasting life.

Why are there monasteries and convents? Why do so many young souls leave the lights and glamour of the world for the shades and shadows of the Cross where saints are made? The modern world so little understands their mission that, as soon as a newspaperman hears of a handsome young woman entering a cloister, he telephones the parents to ask, "Was she disappointed in love?" The answer, of course, is, "Yes, with the love of the world. She has fallen in love with God." These hidden dynamos of prayer, the cloistered men and women, are doing more for our country than all its politicians, its labor leaders, its army and navy put together; they are atoning for sins of us all. They are averting the just wrath of God, repairing the broken fences of those who sin and pray not, rebel and atone not. As ten just men would have saved Sodom and Gomorra, so ten just saints can save a nation now. But so long as a citizenry is more impressed by what its cabinet does than by its chosen souls who are doing penance, the rebirth of the nation has not yet begun. The cloistered are the purest of patriots. They have not become less interested in the world since leaving it; indeed, they have become more interested in the world than ever before. But they are not concerned with whether it will buy and sell more; they are –and desperately care– whether it will be more virtuous and love God more. --Bishop Sheen.

Question & Answer

Question #1: "**Is there really a God?**" **Stephen C., 15**

Yes. God is the ultimate reality. He is actually holding all things in existence. If God stopped doing so, we would cease to exist but He would continue to exist. We know God exists through revelation (Scripture and Sacred Tradition) and our own intellects (reflecting on the world God made). In the Bible, God reveals: "I Am, Who Am" (Ex. 3:14) and "I am the Alpha and the Omega," (Rev. 1:8) which means He is the beginning and end of all things. Lastly, God has some harsh words for those who deny He exists: "The fool says in his heart that there is no God." (Psalm 14:1).

Wisdom: God Speaking

The man whispered, "*God, speak to me.*" And a meadowlark sang. But the man did not hear. So the man yelled "*God, speak to me.*" And the thunder and lightning rolled across the sky. But the man did not listen. The man looked around and said, "*God, let me see you.*" And a star shined brightly. But the man did not see. And, the man shouted, "*God, show me a miracle.*" And a life was born. But the man did not notice. So, the man cried out in despair, "*Touch me, God, and let me know you are here.*" Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man. But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on. [This is a great reminder that God is always around us in the little and simple things that we take for granted.]

Reflections: Do Not Be Afraid

Do not be afraid that you are not good enough,

for God has created each one of us with a piece of his goodness within us.

Do not be afraid that you do not have enough to give, all God asks is that do what you can with what you have.

Do not be afraid that you are not successful enough, for God measures the hearts, not the results.

Do not be afraid that you are not loud enough in your praise or demonstrative in your religion,

for God is praised most fully in the quiet, loving kindness we extend to one another.

Do not be afraid that you lack the courage or generosity to be a saint,

for God gives us the grace to make miracles happen in the most ordinary of circumstances.

Do not be afraid that you are not loving enough, for God loves enough for all of us.

Maronites! Who Are They?

***Maronites = Catholics of the East; Latins = Catholics of the West. We are all Catholics.
Antioch, Roots of the Maronites (3)***

Ignatius's perspective that his office as bishop of Antioch granted him a spiritual authority in the wider church was repeatedly affirmed in subsequent generations, as bishops of Antioch continued to be cited or consulted by provincial churches of the East. When the church of Edessa (today the town of Urfa in southeastern Turkey) sought to prove apostolic continuity for its episcopal tradition, it was its early connection with the bishop Serapion of Antioch, himself consecrated by Zephyrinus of Rome, that it cited. By Serapion's consecration around the year 200 of its bishop Palut, the church of Edessa was thus linked indisputably to the Petrine episcopacy. In Eusebius of Caesarea's monumental *Ecclesiastical History*, composed early in the fourth century, the bishops of Antioch are listed alone with those of Rome and Alexandria for each era.

A paragon of cosmopolitan splendor, Antioch continued to draw Christian intellectuals and charismatic leaders, just as it had drawn the first apostles. The famed agnostic teachers Basilides and Cerdo, with their dualistic doctrine that the flesh is incapable of salvation because inherently evil, taught there in the second century. The city also attracted Tatian, the pupil of Justin Martyr, whose views would take a sharp turn from those of his teacher toward an encratite, or extreme ascetic, understanding of Christianity. Tatian attempted a solution to the apparent dilemma of reconciling the different gospels by producing a work known as the *Diatessaron* (literally, "out of four") or the Gospel Harmony.

This was a version of the New Testament in which he wove the four gospels into a single narrative, deleting contradictions and differences in the accounts and adding an asceticizing flavor to overall narrative. In the East, and especially in the regions around and beyond Antioch, Tatian's *Diatessaron* remained the most commonly used form of the gospels until the authoritative Syriac version of the canonical New Testament, the *Peshitta*, gradually replaced it over the course of the fifth century. But Antioch did not draw only the traveling teachers of heterodoxy. When the empress Julia Mammea was staying in Antioch in the mid-third century, she sent an armed guard to bring the famed scholar-theologian Origen of Alexandria to confer with her there on exalted matters.

Brilliant leaders or great teachers do not operate in a vacuum. Antioch was also a city where Christianity flourished in a popular sense. During the second century the legend of Saint Thecla, companion of the apostle Paul, began to circulate throughout the Roman Empire, and

Antioch was again upheld as a place of central importance for Christianity's growth. Thecla's story is one of the great adventure tales of the early church, and one that reminds us of the important roles women often played in the spread of Christian teaching. The narrative appears as a section in a larger apocryphal work, the *Acts of Paul*.

Thecla, a young virgin in the city of Iconium and betrothed to be married, was converted to Christianity when the apostle Paul passed through her city preaching the new religion. Abandoning her family and narrowly escaping execution, Thecla followed Paul to Antioch, where her new faith brought her into violent and spectacular collision with the government.

(To be continued)

Story: The Circus

"That best portion of a good man's life, his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me. There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. You could tell they didn't have a lot of money. Their clothes were not expensive, but they were clean. The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, elephants and other acts they would see that night. One could sense they had never been to the circus before. It promised to be a highlight of their young lives.

The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You're my knight in shining armor." He was smiling and basking in pride, looking at her as if to reply, "You got that right." --William Wordsworth

The ticket lady asked the father how many tickets he wanted. He proudly responded, "I want eight children's tickets and two adult tickets so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady quoted the price.

The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. The father leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again quoted the price. The man didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was going on, my dad put his hand into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill and dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father reached down, picked up the bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man knew what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking, embarrassing situation. He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied, "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. We didn't go to the circus that night, but we didn't go without.

Joke (5)

Religion

An atheist fell off a cliff. As he tumbled downward he caught hold of the branch of a small tree. There he hung between heaven above and the rocks a thousand feet below, knowing he wasn't going to be able to hold on much longer.

Then an idea came to him, "God!" he shouted with all his might. Silence! No one responded.

"God!" he shouted again. "If you exist, save me and I promise I shall believe in You and teach others to believe." Silence again!

Then he almost let go of the branch in shock as he heard a Mighty Voice booming across the canyon. "That's what they all say when they are in trouble."

"No, God, No!" he shouted out, more hopeful now. "I am not like the others. Why, I have already begun to believe, don't You see, having heard Your voice for myself. Now all you have to do is save me and I shall proclaim Your name to the ends of the earth."

"Very well," said the Voice. "I shall save you. Let go of that branch." "Let go of the branch?" yelled the distraught man. "Do you think I'm crazy?"

Grace

A woman dreamt she walked into a brand new shop in the marketplace and, to her surprise, found God behind the counter.

"What do you sell here?" she asked.

"Everything your heart desires," said God.

Hardly daring to believe what she was hearing, the woman decided to ask for the best things a human being could wish for. "I want peace of mind and love and happiness and wisdom and freedom from fear," she said. Then as an after thought, she added, "not just for me. For everyone on earth."

God smiled, "I think you've got Me wrong, my dear," He said. "We don't sell fruits here. Only seeds."

Truth

A huge man was preparing to leave the tavern at ten.

"Why so early?" asked the barman. "Because of the wife."

"So you too are scared of your wife! Are you a man or a mouse?"

"Of one thing I am absolutely sure: I am not a mouse. Because my wife is afraid of mice."