

July 4, 2010  
Bulletin # 27

## Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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

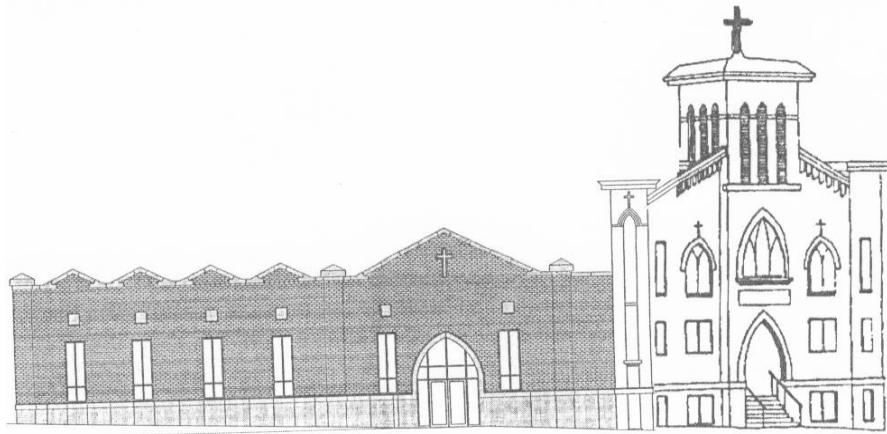
E-Mail: ololwv@comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

**Fr. Bakhos Chidiac Pastor**

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July: Happy Independence Day



### 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m. & 1<sup>st</sup> 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



- \***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: 2Cor 3:1-6 and Lk 10:1-7*

In Luke's gospel, the mission of the seventy-two disciples has a twofold meaning. On the one hand it indicates that the announcing of the kingdom of God was not confined to the twelve apostles: in the Acts we find other missionaries continuing the mission of the seventy-two. On the other hand, for the Jews of Jesus' time the number itself represented the sum of the pagan nations, believed to be seventy-two. It is not a chance happening then that Jesus, several times in his journey to Jerusalem, announces the future salvation of the pagans.

So we see the seventy-two disciples sent out to conquer the world, they having no hesitations. Here we feel something of the conquering dynamism of the preaching of Christianity under the influence of the Pentecostal word. It is as if the most stable element in that Christianity was the order not to stand still, but always to advance. 'Go further on'! a pope replied to a missionary bishop who asked him how he should develop his diocese. The Church is still only that part of humankind where Christ has begun to find himself at home: there remain all the others who must yet be gained for him.

The end of the apostolic ministry does not consist in personal success as a preacher but in preparing men for their personal meeting with Christ. The missionary is only Christ's precursor: he works for him, he urges men to receive him, and he it is whom he must let shine through all he does. This is a task of prime importance for which God needs men but which nonetheless he directs. This is why prayer is so closely linked with missionary activity, for in the latter there is a 'beyond' which is God's own acting, transcending and raising the apostolate. To pray is to call on that infinitely great 'power that God has exercised for us believers' (Eph 1:19), it is to bore into the depths of humanity in order to make Christ spring forth.

## ***Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July***

### **Tomb of the Unknown**

How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.

Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not? He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face, and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

How often are the guards changed? Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

What are the physical traits of the guard limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30."

Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin. The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror. The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

I don't know if you saw this in the news but it really impressed me.

Funny, our US Senate/House took 2 days off as they couldn't work because of the expected storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported tonight that, because of the dangers from Hurricane Isabelle approaching Washington DC, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!"

Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

## *Mass Intentions*

**This WEEKEND, July 3-4: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

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

**At 4:00 p.m.:**

Freddie Oser (on his Anniversary) by his sister Debbie Huffman

John J. Thomas (on his Anniversary) by Rex & Rita Strawn

**Sunday, July 4th 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

--Dale Seidler Sr., by his wife Nettie & Family

### **Weekday Masses**

**Monday, July 5:** No Mass. Fr. Bakhos is attending Maronite clergy convention

**Tuesday, July 6:** No Mass. Fr. Bakhos is attending Maronite clergy convention

**Wednesday, July 7:** No Mass. Fr. Bakhos is attending Maronite clergy convention

**Thursday, July 8:** No Mass. Fr. Bakhos is attending Maronite clergy convention

**Friday, July 9 at 9:00 a.m.:**

Sam Elias by Jerry & Doris Ciofari

Michael Joseph by Lou & Charlotte Khourey and Family

**This WEEKEND, July 10-11: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Saturday, July 10 at 4:00 p.m.:**

Michael (Mick) Sieber by Mary Rose Kukula

Edith June Fahey by Mary Rose Kukula

**Sunday, July 11th at 10:30 a.m.:**

40-Day Mass for Sam Elias by the Family

Michael Joseph by Cecilia John

## *Our Lady of Lebanon Calendar of Parish Events*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Mon.-Wed., July 12-14	<b>Mahrajan Baking Days</b> – <i>starting daily at 9:00 a.m.</i>
Monday, July 19 to 24	<b>MYO Workshop in Latrobe, Pennsylvania</b> – <i>see information at <a href="http://www.maroniteyouth.com">www.maroniteyouth.com</a></i>
Sunday, July 25	<b>Women's Society 50/50 Monthly Raffle</b> – <i>following Mass</i>
Sunday, August 1	<b>Mahrajan Raffle – Early Bird Drawing</b> – <i>from all entries received by Saturday, July 31</i>
Sunday, August 15	<b>Feast of the Assumption &amp; Mahrajan</b> – <i>at Oglebay Park</i>
Sunday, October 3	<b>Fall Spaghetti Dinner</b>

## ***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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Set-up Day</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Booking Is:</b>
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 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	<b>tentative</b>

## ***Heat System Fundraising to Replace Old Church Furnace***

H.E. Newman Company did remove the old boiler. Gary Weisner power washed and is insulating that room for fire protection. The final installation of the new boiler will take place in the coming weeks. The whole project of heating and cooling the church and the rectory is \$32,850.00. We raised \$30,346.00 so far. We are short \$2,504.00 to finish this project. 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 on three levels: Diamond, Gold and Silver. If you would like to raise your level of donation or make a donation in any amount toward this project, please call Fr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688.

*New donations after June 27, 2010: A Friend (\$25), Jim & Sue Bruback (\$50),*

## ***No Daily Mass*** (from Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, until Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>)

There will be no daily mass at our church from Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, until Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Bakhos will attend the NAM Convention with the Maronite clergy. Mass will resume on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

## ***Mahrajan Baking Days Scheduled*** (Monday, July 12 thru 14, starting daily at 9:00 a.m.)

Please plan to join the Women's Society to bake the various pastries which will be sold this year at our Mahrajan. Baking will begin Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:00 a.m. and will continue as needed through Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to join us with their talented hands for this work and camaraderie.

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

Our next 50/50 Raffle drawing will take place in the Cedar Hall after Mass on **Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**, 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, Lou & Charlotte Khourey,*

--**Gold Level (\$50 to \$99):** Esther Khoury, Cecilia Ammar, Chamse Rahi,

--**Silver Level (up to \$49):** Bob & Fran Saseen, Suzanne Crall, Rita Ann Castle,

**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; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 32” Plasma TV** (donated by Drs. Rajai & Nahla Khoury, Dr. & Mrs. Adel Frenn and Drs. MaryAnn Cater & Rob Vawter); **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate** redeemable at **Nicky’s Garden Center; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Olympus 12 mega pixels Digital Camera** (donated anonymously); **5<sup>th</sup> Prize: beautiful hand-appliquéd, floral-patterned Quilt** (donated anonymously). A very BIG “Thank You” goes to Gold, Khourey & Turak for generously sponsoring our Mahrajan raffle tickets.

**Table Reservations:**

**Under Tents:** #1Kay Garvey, #2Michael David, #3George Lewis, #4Tom Carroll, #5Don Ruch Jr., #6Dr. Adel Frenn, #7Sandra Dusick, #8Chamse Rahi, #9Dr. Rajai Khoury, #10Dr. Nabel AlKhouri, #11the Prizinski Family, #12DorothyFenton, #13Angela Nagem, #14Dianna Vargo, #15&16Youssef Chahine (2), #17Coram Family, #18John Shiben, #19Mary Stees, #20Ray Palotay,

**Open-Air:** #1&2Kathleen Ackerman (2), #3&4Peggy Palmer (2), #5Fred Shia, #6Emily Vince, #7Jim George, #8Rita George, #9Eva Powell, #10George Taylor, #11Tom Brock, #12Lou Thomas, #13Lucille Gibbons, #14Duffy-Fadoul, #15&16&17Edward Bowman Sr. (3), #18Donna Wasemann, #19Mary Palmer Gioia, #20Carrie Carey, #21Joe Gonot,

**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 lkh@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.

Chairpersons are asked to begin contacting those who will be working for your booth at the Mahrajan. As soon as you have a list of workers, please give Lou Khourey a copy of their names and times they will work and also give copies to Fr. Bakhos and Charlotte for the office and computer.

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

***Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List***

**Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers:**

Pearl Shutler (mother of Janet), Louis Coury (brother of Lucille Gibbons),

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

Eileen Foster and her mom Barb Sobota, Dorothy Kupchak, Mary Law Thomas, William Calvert (cousin of Jim & Sue Brubach), Miah Downs, Tim Wrixon, Don Stoflinsky, Sylvia Long, Patty Billick, Charles and Donald Gibbons (sons of Lucille), 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***

July 5:	Bill Committee	July 15:	Denny Albaugh
July 9:	Jerry Saseen	July 16:	Bob Kupchak, Payton Wilson
July 11:	Kenny DeMuth, Justin Wilson	July 17:	Lucille Coury-Gibbons
July 14:	Chloe Imer		

## What's New?

### **Cellular Phone OFF Inside the Church (courtesy)**

--I want to thank our wonderful parishioners for using their common sense and for respecting the feeling of those who are praying by shutting their cellular phone before entering the church. It is an act of courtesy - used currently in all public places within the USA- not to bother those who don't like to listen to your conversation or to the ringing sound of your cellular phone. Thanks again for being aware that people complain when uncomfortable. I know that you are very important as well as those who call you, but please keep your cellular phone OFF inside the church and help others to continue their prayer. --Fr. Bakhos

### **Many Thanks**

--To Gary Weisner for preparing the boiler room with insulation and new electrical fixtures. Excellent and well done job. God bless you Gary.

-- To Mrs. Chamse Rahi for donating 40 lbs of Rice and 2 bottles of lemon juice to be used in the Mahrajan.

### **Poor Box**

Please consider sharing your blessings with the brothers and sisters of Christ. Some are in dire need some are not, but God alone knows what's in each one's heart. The Poor Box is located at the rear of the church near the Holy Water Font. Half of the money from that box is deposited in our "Parish Families Assistance Fund" and the other half is given to the nun at the Catholic Charity on 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Wheeling to be used for the poor and homeless. May your good deeds toward the brothers and sisters of Christ shine in the kingdom of God.

### **Your Church Support Last Week**

921	Collection
49	Candles
258	Utilities
855	Mahrajan (Ad Book)
455	Mahrajan (Tables)
1065	Mahrajan (Raffles)
75	Fundraising (New Church High-Efficiency Heat System)
\$3,678.00	Total Deposits. <i>May God reward you many fold</i>

### **Funny Quotes**

--To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funnybone.

--You can't deny laughter. When it comes, it plops down in your favorite chair and stays as long as it wants.

--If there's one thing I know, it's that God does love a good joke.

--Oxymoron Definition: A rhetorical figure in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined.

EXAMPLE: Removing the Ten Commandments from the courthouse while

making people in court swear to "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God." ... while your hand is on the Bible!

--Question: If you could live forever, would you and why? Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever," (Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest.)

--"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life," (Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for a federal antismoking campaign.)

--"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body,"

(Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward.)

--"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country," (Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC.)

## ***Maronites! Who Are They?***

***Maronites = Catholics of the East; Latins = Catholics of the West. We are all Catholics.  
Antioch, Roots of the Maronites (5)***

In a position that would take Antioch's traditional emphasis on Christ's humanity to an extreme, Paul taught that there was no preexistent Son, that God's Word was inseparably part of the divine essence. Jesus, he said, was a man born in time from Mary and divinely inspired to a unique degree, more so than even the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. Thus, Paul "destroyed" the Trinity and disallowed Christ's divine nature. In the same source, Paul is reported to have preached with drama and flair, to which his congregation responded in like manner, "clapping their hands and waving their handkerchiefs." He reformed the use of hymns, rejecting "new" compositions for the Psalms and canticles of the Bible, and cultivated a women's choir. It is difficult to sort out what was genuinely problematic about Paul's flamboyant liturgical style. In some respects he seems to have followed practices that would endure in the Syrian churches east of Antioch for a long time. For example, women's choirs, and their particular responsibility for chanting the Psalms and sacred hymns, characterized the church of Edessa and others from at least the mid-fourth century on. While Paul of Samosata was one of Antioch's most notorious heretics, the problems he represented both theologically and liturgically were in keeping with Antiochene traditions that emphasized the importance of Christ's humanity and placed profound emphasis on the details of liturgical expression.

By 313 the emperor Constantine had succeeded in granting Christianity legal status in the Roman Empire. Over the course of the fourth century Christianity would move with remarkable speed from being a small, often persecuted and generally despised religion in the empire to its triumph as the state religion under the emperor Theodosius I (379-95 C.E.). Because of its apostolic legacy of leadership in the eastern church, its fame as a center for theological activity, and its continual tradition of renowned martyrs, Antioch held a place of indisputable honor during this era of triumph. At the Council of Nicaea, in 325, Antioch was ranked with Rome and Alexandria as an episcopal see of exceptional authority in the church. At the Council of Constantinople, in 381, the imperial city of Constantinople itself was added to this list, and during the councils of the fifth century Jerusalem, too, would gain its place. Thus the sees of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem gained their ranks of honor as the pentarchy of the Great Church.

### **Christian Antioch: A City and Its People:**

In the fourth through sixth centuries Christian Antioch was a city of turbulent greatness. At times rival bishops claimed its episcopal throne. Its theological school rose during the fourth century to singular prominence, in competition only with the school of Alexandria, leading to one of the great theological crises of the ancient church: the Christological debates of the fifth century. Holy men and women of Antioch's regions made the cult of saints a living treasure of the city, adding to the famed devotional cults of its earlier martyrs, whose popularity continued to grow. Its martyrs and saints alone made Antioch a center of pilgrimage traffic.

--(To be continued)

## ***Reflections: Isn't it Strange?***

Isn't it strange how a 20 dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games, but they do whatever is possible to sit at the last row in Church?

Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?

Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share it with others, but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?

Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question the words in the Bible?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven, but they don't want to believe, do, or say anything to get there?

Isn't it strange how we send jokes in e-mails and they are forwarded right away, but when we are going to send messages about God, we think about it twice before we share it with others?

## **Question & Answer**

**Question #3 "Who is God?" Jan Rio P., 14**

A. God is our Creator, our Redeemer and our Sanctifier. God is the Blessed Trinity -three distinct Persons Who share the same Divine nature. God is an eternal family. God is love.

## **Story: Precious Lord**

### **'THE BIRTH OF THE SONG PRECIOUS LORD'**

Back in 1932, I was 32 years old and a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago 's Southside. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis, where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go.

Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child. But a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. I kissed Nettie good-bye, clattered downstairs to our Model A and, in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66.

However, outside the city, I discovered that in my anxiety at leaving, I had forgotten my music case. I wheeled around and headed back. I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling! Me to stay. But eager to get on my way, and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my music. The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram.

I ripped open the envelope. Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED. People were happily singing and clapping around me, but I could hardly keep from crying; I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was 'Nettie is dead. Nettie is dead.' When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart. For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him any more or write gospel songs.

I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon I went to St. Louis. Something kept telling me to stay with Nettie. Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him that day, I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died. From that moment on I vowed to listen more closely to Him. But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially a friend, Professor Fry, who seemed to know what I needed. On the following Saturday evening he took me up to Malone's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows. I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys. Something happened to me then. I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God. I found myself playing a melody, once into my head they just seemed to fall into place:

*I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, a 2nd when we are most open to His restoring power. And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home. -Tommy Dorsey*

Did you know that Tommy Dorsey wrote this song? I surely didn't. What a wonderful story of how God CAN heal the brokenhearted!

## *Wisdom: What is an American?*

What is an American?

The following was said to be written by a dentist in Australia.

An American "You probably missed it in the rush of news last week, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American. So I just thought I would write to let them know what an American is, so they would know when they found one.

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan. An American may also be a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses. An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each man and woman to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet Army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan. The best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best athletes.

Americans welcome the best, but they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers in the morning of September 11, earning a better life for their families. (I've been told that the people in the Towers were from at least 30, and maybe many more, other countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.)

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the history of the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself.

Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

So look around you. You may find more Americans in your land than you thought were there. One day they will rise up and overthrow the old, ignorant, tired tyrants that trouble too many lands. Then those lands, too, will join the community of free and prosperous nations. And America will welcome them!

## *Joke (6)*

### *Selfishness*

An old woman died and was taken to the Judgment Seat by the angels. While examining her records however, the Judge could not find a single act of charity performed by her except for a carrot she had once given to a starving beggar.

Such, however, is the power of a single deed of love that it was decreed that she be taken up to heaven on the strength of that carrot. The carrot was brought to court and given to her. The moment she caught hold of it, it began to rise as if pulled by some invisible string lifting her up towards the sky.

A beggar appeared. He clutched on to the hem of her garment and was lifted along with her; a third person caught hold of the beggar's foot and was lifted too. Soon there was a long line of persons being lifted up

to heaven by that carrot. And, strange as it may seem. The woman did not feel the weight of all those people who held on to her; in fact, since she was looking heavenward, she did not see them. Higher and higher they rose until they were almost near the heavenly gates. That is when the woman looked back to catch a last glimpse of the earth and saw this whole train of people behind her.

She was indignant! She gave an imperious wave of her hand and shouted, "Off! Off, all of you! This carrot is mine!"

In making her imperious gesture she let go of the carrot for a moment -and down she fell with the entire train.

## ***Love***

The little daughter of an engineer was killed by a neighbor's dog. The cruel loss turned the community against the dog's owner and drove the father almost insane. At first it shattered his faith. Shortly afterward the region was stricken with famine conditions. The engineer took some of his meager supply of seed corn and planted it in the field of the neighbor whose dog had slain his little daughter.

Here is the love of enemy Jesus talked about. Nothing sentimental or philanthropic about it. Just the Grace of God can come and reward even those who have been shoved to the outermost port of great sorrow.

## ***Prayer***

When Brother Bruno was at prayer one night he was disturbed by the croaking of a bullfrog. All his attempts to disregard the sound were unsuccessful so he shouted from his window, "Quiet ! I'm at my prayer."

Now brother Bruno was a saint so his command was instantly obeyed. Every living creature held its voice so as to create a silence that would be favorable to prayer.

But now another sound intruded on Bruno's worship, an inner voice that said, "Maybe God is as pleased with the croaking of that frog as with the chanting of your psalms."

"What can please the ears of God in the croak of a frog?" was Bruno's scornful rejoinder. But the voice refused to give up: "Why would you think God invented the sound?"

Bruno decided to find out why. He leaned out of his window and gave the order, "Sing!" The bullfrog's measured croaking filled the air to the ludicrous accompaniment of all the frogs in the vicinity. And as Bruno attended to the sound, their voices ceased to jar for he discovered that, if he stopped resisting them, they actually enriched the silence of the night.

With that discovery Bruno's heart became harmonious with the universe and, for the first time in his life he understood what it means to pray.

## ***Surreal Changes***

How many surrealists does it take to change a lightbulb?

It takes two: one to hold the giraffe and the other one to fill the bathtub with brightly colored tools.

## ***Tell me this won't happen to us!***

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the year, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, 'Now don't get mad at me ... I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is. Her friend glared at her for at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, 'How soon do you need to know?'

## ***Tell me this won't happen to us!***

A senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, 'Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!' 'Heck,' said Herman, 'It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!'