

February 25, 2007

Bulletin # 8

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: OLOLchurch@Verizon.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Rev. Bakhos Chidiac (Pastor)

Evelyn Ghaphery (Organist)

Charlotte Khourey & Thomasina Geimer (Secretaries)

Cleansing of the Leper

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.** But 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 & Sunday of the month after Communion
- *Miraculous Medal Novena: Every 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- *Reconciliation: Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment
- *Baptism: Kindly phone the Pastor as soon as the baby is born. Godparents must be Catholics.
- *Marriage: Kindly phone the Pastor at least six months in advance for Marriage Preparation
- *Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the pastor any time at (304) 233-1688
- *Parish Council: Lou Khourey 277-3230, Linda Duffy 242-6853, Tom George 336-7142, P.J. Lenz 242-5606 and Carol Dougherty (740) 782-0146
- *Choir Members: Rita Thomas Strawn, Jim Dellget, Shirley George, Allison Duffy, George Thomas, Ted Olinski
† † † † † † † † †
- *Please support Our Lady of Lebanon Church by patronizing our Advertisers
- *Bulletin Announcements: Submit all Bulletin Information to Fr. Bakhos. Deadline: Every Tuesday by Noon
- *Remember the Church in your Last Will – Her prayers will accompany you to heaven
- *New Parishioners: We welcome you with great joy & invite you to be officially listed as one of our parishioners
- *If you support the Church and need a Bulletin mailed to you, please call the Rectory
- *Parking: Saturday & Sunday—all spaces for parishioners; Monday through Friday—park ONLY in the 2 ALLEY spaces

Gospel Reflection: Cleansing of the Leper

Readings: Rom 6:12-23 & Mk 1:35-45

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by the bacillus *lepræ*, characterized by the formation of growths in the skin, mucous membranes, peripheral nerves, bones, and internal viscera, producing various deformities and mutilations of the human body, and usually terminating in death.

Lepers were subjected to most stringent regulations. They were excluded from the church by a funeral Mass and a symbolic burial. In every important community asylums were erected for the unfortunate victims. Lepers had to wear a special garb, and carry "a wooden clapper to give warning of their approach. They were forbidden to enter inns, churches, mills, or bake houses, to touch healthy persons or eat with them, to wash in the streams, or to walk in narrow footpaths". Owing to strict legislation, leprosy gradually disappeared, so that at the close of the seventeenth century it had become rare except in some few localities.

In the United States, the majority of cases occur in Louisiana and California, while from many other States cases are occasionally reported, notably from New York, Ohio Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Missouri, the Carolinas and Texas. In Louisiana leprosy has been gaining foothold since 1758, when the Acadians introduced it.

At the beginning of the 20th century, and according to the statistics furnished by delegates to the second international conference on leprosy, there were approximately 200,000 cases of the disease throughout the world: India, it is stated, coming first with 97,340 cases; the United States contributing 146 cases, and the Panama Canal Zone the minimum of 7 cases. The average course of leprosy is about eight years and death is the ordinary conclusion of every case, which may come from the exhaustive effects of the disease.

So far leprosy has baffled all the efforts of medical science ... it being admitted that the disease is both contagious and preventable, there seems to be no doubt that means of public protection should be provided... Of all the states of the Union, Louisiana supports the leper-home at Carville where some seventy patients are housed under the care of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

The global prevalence of the disease has fallen by 90% since 1985 with over 12 million patients cured worldwide since that date. Moreover, the gross disabilities which were such a feature of the disease for millennia, are now becoming a thing of the past, with early detection and treatment. Leprosaria and the physical separation of patients from their families are completely unnecessary.

Family Lenten Observance

Lent is meant as a time of spiritual preparation for the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. It is observed as a time of penance and prayer. During the 40 days of Lent, except on Sundays, it is recommended for all Catholics to fast. This is reminiscent of the 40 days of our Lord's unbroken fast. Lent concludes with the celebration of Holy Week. This week precedes the feast of Easter, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with Holy Saturday. The liturgy of the week commemorates the apprehension, suffering, and death of Christ. Lent is a time for special spiritual concentration, an intense life of the faith.

(Pope John Paul II)

Celebration of the Holy Mysteries

This Weekend: February 24-25: "Cleansing of the Leper"

Saturday, February 24, at 4:00 p.m.:

Special Intention

Mary Demsko (2nd Anniversary) by her daughter Rosemary Cormish

Sunday, February 25, at 10:30 a.m.:

Adib Chidiac and his daughter Mona by Cecilia Ammar

Helen Fielding by her husband Don (FL) and Special Intention

Weekday Masses

Monday, February 26: No Mass

Tuesday, February 27: No Mass

Wednesday, February 28, at Noon:

Theresa Gubash (St. Paul, MN) by Fr. Bakhos & Larry Josephs

Helen Fielding by her husband Don (FL) and Special Intention

Thursday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m.:

Adib Chidiac and his daughter Mona by the Solberg's family (MN)

Janet Alexander (St. Paul, MN) by Peter & Mary Solberg (MN)

Friday during Lent, March 2:

6:10 pm: Rosary & Litany

6:30 pm: Mass

Adib Chidiac and his daughter Mona by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)

Janet Alexander (St. Paul, MN) by Christina Solberg (MN)

7:00 pm: Stations of the Cross

7:30 pm: Spiritual Reflection (Speaker Sr. Constance Dodd of the Catholic Charity Center, Wheeling)

7:45 pm: Benediction of the Cross

8:00 pm: Light dinner prepared by the Women Society Members: Carol, Sandra, Kay, Julia, Charlotte

Next Weekend: March 3-4: "Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman"

Saturday, March 3, at 4:00 p.m.:

Armand Long (on his 1st Anniversary) by Sylvia Long

Ronald Canestraro by Joe & Jo Ann Kramer

Sunday, March 4, at 10:30 a.m.:

Living and Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery family and the David Abraham Ghaphery family by the Ghaphery family.

Tom Jalad (on his 2nd Anniversary) by his wife Anna Jalad

Building Project Income for February 2007

Total donations toward the Building Fund received in January 2007: \$1,115.00

The actual ground breaking will take place in the spring of 2007. Day and time will be announced and published in our bulletin. All active parishioners and benefactors are invited to share in the memorable photo that will be taken prior to this event, kept in the church archives, sent to the local newspaper and sent to the *Maronite Voice*. Please prepare your shovels and we will spray them in gold.

From the breaking of the ground until the project is completed (hopefully between Thanksgiving and Christmas) a daily prayer will be raised to God and the Blessed Mother to enable us to afford their house.

Donations towards the Building Project during February 2007:

Donations Received	Gem Level Requested	Donor's Name & Date
\$100	Cedar Book	Steve & Margaret Schlog (Memorial) by Bob & Fran Saseen (2.3.2007)
\$50	Cedar book	Robert Oser (2.3.2007)
\$50	Cedar Book	Sr. Jeanne Vidonic and her mother Millie (2.7.2007)
\$815	Topaz	Frances Linton (Memorial) (by 2.13.2007)

\$101		Women Society Raffle (2.11.2007)
\$1,000	Sapphire	Robert & Mary Thomas (Albany, Ohio) (2.20.2007)
\$400	Foundation	Altmeyer Funeral Home (2.21.2007)
\$65	Sapphire	Mike & Nicole Breit (NC) (2.21.2007)

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 25	50/50 February Building Fund Raffle Drawing <i>after Mass</i>
Sunday, March 18	St. Maron Dinner
Sunday, March 25	"Think Spring" Gift Basket Raffle Drawing <i>after Mass</i>
Sunday, March 25	50/50 March Building Fund Raffle Drawing <i>after Mass</i>
Sunday, April 1	Easter Flower Donation Deadline
Sunday, April 15	2007 Diocesan Appeal Donation Due
Sunday, May 6	First Communion & Confirmation celebration
Sunday, May 13	Mother's Day
Sunday, May 20	Spaghetti Dinner

Monthly 50/50 Building Fund Raffle (Drawings: Sun., Feb. 25 & March 25)

The Women's Society is sponsoring the Monthly 50/50 Building Fund Raffle. The drawing—from entries received from the **white February tickets provided at the back of the church**— will take place in the Social Hall following Mass on **Sunday, February 25**. The drawing— from entries received from the **purple March tickets provided in the weekly church bulletins**— will take place in the Social Hall following Mass on **Sunday, March 25**. Proceeds will benefit the Building Fund. Raffle Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

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.*

For more information or additional tickets, contact the church office at (304) 233-1688 or call: Mary Lish (740) 695-9452. Your generosity and cooperation will enhance our Church.

Congratulations to Rita Thomas Strawn who won the January 50/50 prize and donated a portion of it back to the church.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Sat. & Sun. March 3-4)

St. John Vianni noticed an old man who used to sit at the back of the church. He thought that he wanted to steal something from the church. He asked him about what he is doing and what he is thinking about. He replied, "I look on my dear Lord Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament and he looks at me." For us Christians, the Eucharistic Lord is the center of our life.

Lenten Light Dinners Need 6 Generous Host Families

Following the 6:30 p.m. Mass every Friday during Lent, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. followed with Spiritual Reflections and the Benediction of the Cross.

We need six generous families – each willing to host a light meal to be served in the parish hall at 8:00 p.m. following the Friday prayers. (All desserts each Friday will be provided by the Cedar Club.)

Please schedule yourself for one of these evenings. Thanks for your hospitality.

2 nd Family: Friday, March 2	Spiritual Reflection: Sr. Constance Dodd (Catholic Charity Center, Wheeling) Light dinner: Women Society Members: Carol, Sandra, Kay, Julia, Charlotte
3 rd Family: Friday, March 9	Spiritual Reflection: Dr. Rajai Khoury Light dinner: George & Mary Thomas

4 th Family: Friday, March 16	Spiritual Reflection: Dr. Rob Vawter Light dinner prepared by Dr. Cater & Dr. Vawter
5 th Family: Friday, March 23	Spiritual Reflection: Dr. MaryAnn Cater Light dinner prepared by Dr. Cater & Dr. Vawter
6 th Family: Friday, March 30	Spiritual Reflection: ? Light dinner: Charlotte Khourey, Julia Tappe, Tommi Geimer & others

Women's Society Novena (Sunday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m.)

Every second Sunday of the month, the Women Society, adorned with the Medal of the Blessed Mother, will gather faithfully at 10:00 a.m. to lead the Rosary, the Litany, and the Novena of the Miraculous Medal. Their prayers will be offered for their own intentions, their family members, the sick parishioners, and special intentions. Medals worn for the Mass may be picked up at the rear of the Church and should be returned at the end of the Mass. Please join our Ladies in prayer.

St. Maron Lebanese Dinner (Sunday, March 18th, 11:30-5:30 p.m.)

Mark your calendar with the date for our St. Maron Lebanese Dinner. Help is needed in many areas to make this Dinner a success. Please schedule yourself by calling the church office at 233-1688.

Menu: *baked kibbee, stuffed grape leaves, luban, lubee, chicken & rice, hummus, salad, pita bread, dessert and beverage*

Tickets: Adults – \$13.00 each if purchased by Sunday, March 11th
(Adults – \$15.00 each **if Paid After Sunday March 11th**)

Children under 12 – \$7.00 each

A Bake Sale will be held featuring homemade pastries and other baked goods.

Take out will be available. Tickets sold in Advance only. For Tickets call 233-1688.

Basket Raffle Scheduled (Drawing: Sunday, March 25)

Yellow colored tickets for the “**Think Spring**” Gift Basket Raffle are available now at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 at the church entrance or from Women's Society members and will also be published in our weekly Bulletins. The drawing will take place following Mass on **Sunday, March 25**.

The beautiful "Think Spring" Gift Basket actually consists of two baskets – a picnic basket with tablecloth, plates & Napkins, and another basket filled with: Riunite Lambrusco, wine goblets, BBQ tongs, grill scraper, Lindsey Gardens vanilla tea, 10 packs of flower seeds, decorative birdhouse, hummingbird feeder, citronella candle, garden gloves, various garden tools, kneeling pad, watering can, seeding pots and several flower pots.

The gift basket raffle is sponsored by the Women's Society in its effort to raise funds for our Building Fund. Mary Kukula won our February "Sweetheart" basket.

The ladies have been most generous with their donations of items and baskets to be used for this purpose. They also welcome your donations towards this goal. Please consider donating items for a basket. *Examples: Baskets in good condition, grocery or movie gift certificates, soups, crackers, ladle, herbs, soup beans, matching bowls, salsa, jars of olives, jar of peppers, good coffee, mugs, cookie and muffin mix, cake mixes, herbal and regular tea, potholders, kitchen towels, measuring spoons, mixing spoons.* Your help is appreciated.

Easter Flowers (Deadline, Sunday, April 1st)

We are accepting donations for the purchase of Easter flowers in memory of your loved ones through Sunday, April 1st. Include your donation of \$20 in an envelope with your name, and the names to be listed "In Memory of..." Make your check payable to: **LOLOL Church** – Memo: *Easter Flowers*, and mail to the church or deposit in the offering basket.

These Lilies were donated in Memory of:

- \$20 Deceased members of the Khourey and Howard Families, by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie
- \$20 Robby Hunter and Ralph Shipley by Phillip & Thomasina Geimer
- \$20 George & Rose Fadoul by the family
- \$20 Deceased members of Abdo H. and Mary Zaid Ferris by Tom & Denise Ferris
- \$20 Mary K. Ferris by Tom & Denise Ferris
- \$20 Deceased members of the Shibben and McFarland Families by John & Deanna Shibben

Spaghetti Dinner at Our Church (Sunday, May 20th) ***Refresh Your Lebanese Vocabulary***

<i>Parts of the Body</i>	
Skin: Jeld	Cold: Ra-Sheh
Stomach: Kirsh	Constipation: Ke-Tam
Thumb: Es-Beh	Cancer: Sa-Ra-Tan
Tongue: Le-San	Diarrhea: Es-Hal
Tooth: Sin	Fever: Hem-Ma

Is Anyone Sick?

Please remember those hospitalized recently in your prayers:

Ed Shia, John John, Jim Fahey, John Vawter (brother of Dr. Rob Vawter), Martha Ruggiero

Also please pray for:

Joe Linton, Betty Shia, Alice (Thomas) Holmes, Peg Emmerth, Jennie Bedway, Mary Shipley, Philip Ruggiero, Shipley Shipley, Catherine (Geary) Simon, Leona Albaugh, Manell Brice (Arlington), Rose Mary Bris-Roybal (Albuquerque)

Your Church Support Last Week

\$932	Collection
\$105	Diocesan Appeal
\$52	Votive Candles
\$5	Utilities
\$20	Parking
\$100	Donation to Church
\$95	Donations to Building Fund
\$60	Easter Flowers
\$3	Refunds
\$1,372	Total. May the Blessed Mother reward you manifold!

What's New?

Diocesan Appeal 2007

The Diocesan Appeal is at the same time a free will donation and a Christian duty. It is about extending our hand and help our bishop to cover the many expenses needed to run our Diocese. The first and most important task of the bishop is to pay the tuitions of our new seminarians who will be ordained to replace our current pastors when they die. This is the key of our continuation, if we don't help in preparing the future priests, how can we keep the doors of the churches opened? Besides this task the bishop has to pay secretaries to run his office and keep the diocese in good order and also he has to help the new missions in USA and the mother church in Lebanon. God blessed us with many gifts, let us share part of it for the glory of God and the enhancement of our Church.

We are asking every family to donate their Easter Obligation of \$35 so that we can pay our share toward our diocese. May God reward you many folds.

Many Thanks to those who fulfilled their 2007 Easter Obligation

Fr. Bakhos Chidiac, Patricia A. Smith, George & Jean Weisner, Bill & Carol Dougherty, Mark & Barb McLaughlin, Dr. Maryann Cater & Dr. Rob Vawter, Rex & Rita Strawn,

Choir Members Needed

We need at least 10 choir members to praise and glorify the Lord during Mass. If you have the gift of singing, please call Fr. Bakhos who will start choir practice soon.

2 NAM Delegates Needed

Our parish needs two delegates to represent it in the National Apostolate of the Maronite Convention this year in Richmond, VA, July 25th to 29th. If you have time to travel, please contact Fr. Bakhos at 233-1688.

Around Us

Spaghetti Dinner (Sunday, April 15th, from noon to 5 p.m.)

Where: Catholic Neighborhood Center, 125 – 18th Street; Cost: Adult \$6.00; Child \$3.00
Fr. Bakhos will be serving meals there from 1-2 p.m.

St. Vincent De Paul Seeks Donations

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul Store is in need of usable donations of all kind: Of particular need is complete beds, dressers, refrigerators/ranges, tables & chairs, miscellaneous household items and, of course, monetary donations. Please call (304) 232-4230 if you need our truck to be sent to pick up items or items can be dropped off from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Family Service Volunteers Needed

If you have time, consider volunteering to deliver meals to homebound senior citizens within the Wheeling area Monday-Friday. Routes are approximately from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. To Volunteer call Lori Rice, Nutrition Program Coordinator at (304) 232-6730

Ohio County Public Library Outreach Service Program

The new Outreach Services program at the Ohio County Public Library offers free home delivery of library materials, including books, audio books, videos, DVD's and compact discs to homebound persons. Anyone in your congregation who is either temporarily or permanently homebound and who does not have someone to pick up library materials for them is eligible for home delivery service.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving this free service, please contact Julia Bachmann, the Outreach Services Specialist at the Ohio County Public Library by calling 233-0244.

Fish Fry (Every Friday during Lent)

Where: Ukrainian Church at 42nd & Jacob Street; Time: 11:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; Info: Call 232-1777
Menu: Fish sandwich, French fries, macaroni & cheese, soup, cabbage & noodles, ...

Easter Reflection: Crystal Tears

"JESUS WEPT" Crystal Tears

Crystal tears fall from his face when He looks upon the earth.
For what he sees breaks His heart, we live in abject dearth.
He died on the Cross so all could see, the glories He created for you and me.
But if we do not believe He died for us, then He cries, and cries for us.
The crystal tears roll down his cheeks, they drop on heaven's floor.
He died and rose again for us, He is the one and only door.
Into the presence of the Father, the Ruler of all, on high.
It is the name of Jesus alone, that gets us to Him nigh.
Oh, friend, please look to Jesus, He died upon the Cross.
And rose again the third day, so we would not be lost.
When we believe in Jesus, as the Risen Son of the Living God,
Our future is sealed in heaven, and the golden streets we shall trod.
The crystal tears flow down His cheeks,
because of His great, magnificent love,
He wants us all to live with Him, in the heaven He created above.

Wisdom: Time is eternal

Every moment comes to you pregnant with a divine purpose, time being so precious that God deals it out only second by second. Once it leaves your hands and your power to do with it as you please, it plunges into eternity, to remain forever what you made of it.

Bishop Fulton Sheen

Reflections: Friendship

I wrote your name on a piece of paper but by accident I threw it away.
I wrote your name on my hand but it washed away.
I wrote your name in the sand but the waves washed it away.
I wrote your name in my heart and forever it will stay.

Famous Quotes: Appetite

He who cheats his appetite avoids debt. (Chinese proverb)
A stomach that is seldom empty despises common food. (Horace)
Seek an appetite by hard toil. (Horace)
Always rise from the table with an appetite, and you will never sit down without one.
(William Penn)
The one thing bigger than my stomach is my appetite.

Reflections: Why Go to Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!
Why Go To Church? A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote,

"and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them.. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.

It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher! : "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead

today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Reflections: Friendship

You're...

My friend,

My companion,

Through good times and bad,

My friend,

My buddy,

Through happy and sad,

Beside me you stand,

Beside me you walk,

You're there to listen,

You're there to talk,

With happiness,

With smiles,

With pain and tears,

I know you'll be there, throughout the years!

You are a good friend to me and I am grateful to you.

Great People from Lebanon

(Salloum Mokarzel)

Through his superb journalist endeavors, he bridged the information gap between Lebanon and America in the early half of the 20th Century. He was the messenger of the Lebanese emigrants to America conveying truthfully and interpreting brilliantly the news to his own countrymen in America as well as to his distant brothers in Lebanon.

This was the eminent journalist, Salloum Mokarzel, who joined loyally with his elder brother, Naoum, to devote their lives to achieve for Lebanon total independence from Ottoman Turkey. By their combined

journalistic efforts they succeeded in producing the most outstanding and influential Arabic language newspaper in America.

Salloum Anthony Mokarzel was born in 1883 in the mountain village of Freike, Lebanon. He came with his mother to the United States, first in 1890, and then in 1898 to visit his elder brother Naoum in Philadelphia. After he arrived in 1898, he worked at a variety of jobs, including an Americanizing experience as a barker at the 1898 Chicago World's Fair, which was attended by many other Lebanese participating as merchants or entertainers at the fair.

After this sojourn in Chicago, Salloum returned to Beirut, where he completed his studies at St. Joseph's Jesuit University. He returned to the United States in 1900 and began working with his brother Naoum on the Arabic newspaper *Al-Hoda (The Guidance)*, which soon after moved its headquarters to New York City. Shortly thereafter, Salloum married Helen Kalil, and they became parents to five daughters - Rose, Mary, Alice, Yemna and Lila. Two of the daughters were literary-minded and joined Salloum in the family journalistic enterprises. Mary, after her father's death in 1952, served as managing editor of *Al-Hoda* and the *Lebanese American Journal*, and wrote the full story of *Al-Hoda* in 1968. Alice, who had a flair for poetry, contributed several beautiful poems to her father's literary journal "The Syrian World."

In 1925 Salloum sent his family back to Lebanon for a two-year stay so that his daughters could learn the Arabic language and culture.

In 1926 Salloum founded his masterpiece, "The Syrian World," an English language literary monthly, which he continued until 1932, when the Great Depression forced it to suspend publication.

"The Syrian World" was an elegant literary journal in English aimed at serving the children of the Arabic-speaking immigrants in America, helping them in the Americanization process, giving them a sense of identity and worth, and instilling pride in their heritage.

The galaxy of stellar contributors to the journal included Khahil Gibran, Mikhail Naimy, Ameen Rihani, Elia Madi, and William Catzeflis, all members of the Pen League writers' group; also Philip Hitti, the eminent Near East historian, and of course, Salloum Mokarzel himself, who wrote all the Editorial Comments and news summaries, chose the tales and selections from Arabic literature, wrote many of the book reviews, and the series on Famous Cities and Famous Lovers, old country folk festivals, and the essay series entitled "The Sage of Washington Street."

Salloum was responsible for adapting the Mergenthaler Linotype machine to the Arabic language requirements of "Al-Hoda." In 1929 he introduced linotype to the publishing houses of Arabic-speaking countries of the Middle East by representing Mergenthaler there, and thus stimulated the growth of Arabic language journalism throughout the world. While Salloum always considered himself American first and foremost, he never lost his love for his homeland, Lebanon. In 1948, at *Al-Hoda's* 50th anniversary celebration, he received the Order of the Cedars award from the Lebanese government. Later he received the French Legion of Honor award for fostering the friendliest of relations between Lebanon and the French Republic. Salloum died in 1952 after being hospitalized for throat cancer. In 1955 his remains were taken to Beirut and then interred with his brother Naoum in a tomb at Freike, Lebanon.

Salloum Mokarzel will always be remembered for his unceasing striving for journalistic excellence, excellence that produced the most influential and technologically advanced Arabic language newspaper in America, that joined the hands of Lebanese in America to the hands of their distant brothers in Lebanon, and that voiced the strongest patriotic support for Lebanon's independence from the despotic Ottoman Empire.

Story: The Pilot

Years ago, I was enthralled as I listened to a pastor who for several years had faithfully served the church. His executive responsibilities had taken him all over this country. As he concluded his message, he told of one of the most frightening yet thought-provoking experiences of his life.

He had been on a long flight from one place to another. The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on Fasten your seat belts. Then, after a while, a calm voice said,

"We shall not be serving the beverages at this time as we are expecting a little turbulence. Please be sure your seat belt is fastened."

As he looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice of the announcer said, "We are so sorry that we are unable to serve the meal at this time. The turbulence is still ahead of us."

Then the storm broke. The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightning lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was like a cork tossed around on a celestial ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if it were about to crash.

The pastor confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him. He said, "As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed ominous and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm. Then, I suddenly saw a little girl. Apparently the storm meant nothing to her! She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on her seat; she was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm and orderly.

Sometimes she closed her eyes, then she would read again; then she would straighten her legs, but worry and fear were not in her world.

When the plane was being buffeted by the terrible storm, when it lurched this way and that, as it rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid. The minister could hardly believe his eyes. It was not surprising therefore, that when the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, our pastor lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time. Having commented about the storm and behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid.

The child replied, "Cause my Daddy's the pilot, and he's taking me home."

There are many kinds of storms that buffet us. Physical, mental, financial, domestic, and many other storms can easily and quickly darken our skies and throw our plane spinning out of control. We have all known such times, and let us be honest and confess, it is much easier to be at rest when our feet are on the ground than when we are being tossed about a darkened sky.

Just remember: Our Father is the Pilot. He is in control and taking us home!

Reflections: Put Aside All Anxious Thoughts

Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow.

The same everlasting Father, who cares for you today, will take care of you tomorrow and everyday.

Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

--St. Francis de Sales)

Famous Quotes: Alarm Clocks

--The only thing worse than hearing the alarm clock in the morning is not hearing it.

--Some men have alarm clocks; I have my wife's elbow.

A Time to Laugh (429)

Humor in Uniform

I was dishing out chow to the Marines at Cherry Point, North Carolina, when an irate gunnery sergeant slammed his tray on the counter and pointed to a cooked grasshopper sitting on top of his spinach.

"Look at that!" he barked.

Motioning to the other Marines waiting in line, my boss, the mess sergeant, leaned over.

"Keep it down, Sarge," he whispered, "or else they'll all want one."

The dean of admissions at Bates College in Maine reads through reams of applications from nervous high school seniors, some maybe a little more nervous than others. Here are a few.

“If there is a single word to describe me, that word would have to be ‘perfectionist.’”

“I was abducted into the National Honor Society.”

“I function well as an individual and a group.”

“Mathematics has hung like a stork around my neck.”

Unlike many other professionals, my parents, both mathematics professors can't seem to leave their work in the classroom. Recently I witnessed the following conversation.

Mom: Has my midsection gotten larger?

Dad: Yes.

Mom: Since exactly when?

Dad: I don't know. It's a continuous function. But it became statistically significant about six months ago.

A very pregnant woman made her way to our nurses station in the labor-and-delivery ward. Her mind understandably elsewhere, she explained, “I'm here to be seduced.”

My co-worker smiled and said, “I think you already have been.”

I was helping a friend of mine with his roadside farm stand when a man stopped by and asked how much the eggs were.

“Sixty cents for the small, 70 cents for the medium, 90 cents for the large and 30 cents for the cracked ones,” I answered.

“All right,” he said.

“Crack me a dozen of the large ones.”

When a car blew past a stop sign at a busy intersection, my uncle, a Mississippi state trooper, gave chase and pulled the driver over.

“Didn't you see that stop sign back there?” my uncle asked.

“Yeah, I saw it,” admitted the driver. “The problem is, I didn't see you.”

The Best Way to Pray

A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. The priest said, “Kneeling is the best way to pray.”

“No,” said the minister. “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.”

“You're both wrong,” the guru said. “The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor.”

The repairman could contain himself no longer. “Hey, fellas,” he interrupted. “The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole.”