

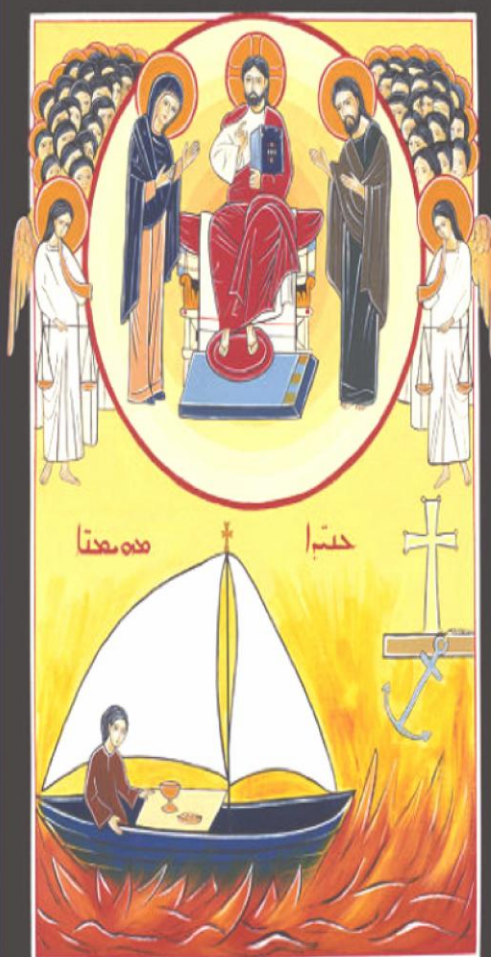


Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

Sunday of the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

February 2021

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Maronite icon depicting the journey of a departed soul to Paradise

"I received your Baptism & Spirit, Body & Blood."

SUNDAY OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
(Maronite Catholic Calendar)

"Fire, wind & floods will not touch me."

Our Services HOLY MASSES
DAILY: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m. Eng.
SATURDAY VIGIL:
 4:30 p.m. English
SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. English
 & 11:30 AM Arabic/Aramaic/English
1st Sunday : 4:30pm
 Rosario y la Misa en Español
2nd Sunday: 4:30 pm
 Tagalog Mass
1st SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. & 11:30am
Youth Mass

Jesus

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Saturday & Sunday

all Masses are first come first serve.
250 people in the main Church



SUNDAY OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

READING:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31



***"I have heard a voice from heaven, saying:
Blessed are those who die in the Lord." Revelation 14:13***

Today our Maronite Church commemorates all the faithful Christians who have departed this life in the faith. This feast in the Syriac Antiochene Church is equivalent to the Feast of all Souls in the Latin Rite.

We ask our Lord Jesus Christ to welcome all our deceased brothers and sisters who have been nourished by His Body and Blood into His Kingdom of Light. Not knowing the state of perfection they have achieved in their lives, we commend them to the mercy of God with hope and good expectations. It is a Christian obligation for us to help our brothers and sisters through our prayers and offering of the Divine Mysteries of their salvation. Although they have not yet reached the joy of the righteous and the just, they are called to ultimately enter the Kingdom of Light and peace. Our intercession can bring them nearer to the day of eternal happiness.

We should pray in a special way for those who have been near us, our relatives, friends and benefactors who have died. At the same times we should pray for the deceased members of our parish and for all the departed who have no one to pray for them. We commend the faithful departed to the Lord that by His Cross He may lead them into the eternal wedding feast, and newly arrived in God's kingdom that they may intercede before Him on our behalf.

LET US PRAY: Lord, may Your Cross save those in Your Holy Church who have died, that they may escape from darkness to Your light and be clothed in wedding garments. Spare them torments and grant them dwelling places in Your peace; console those who have been affected by their loss and enfold in Your mercy all the living. We will join them in glorifying You, now and forever. Amen.

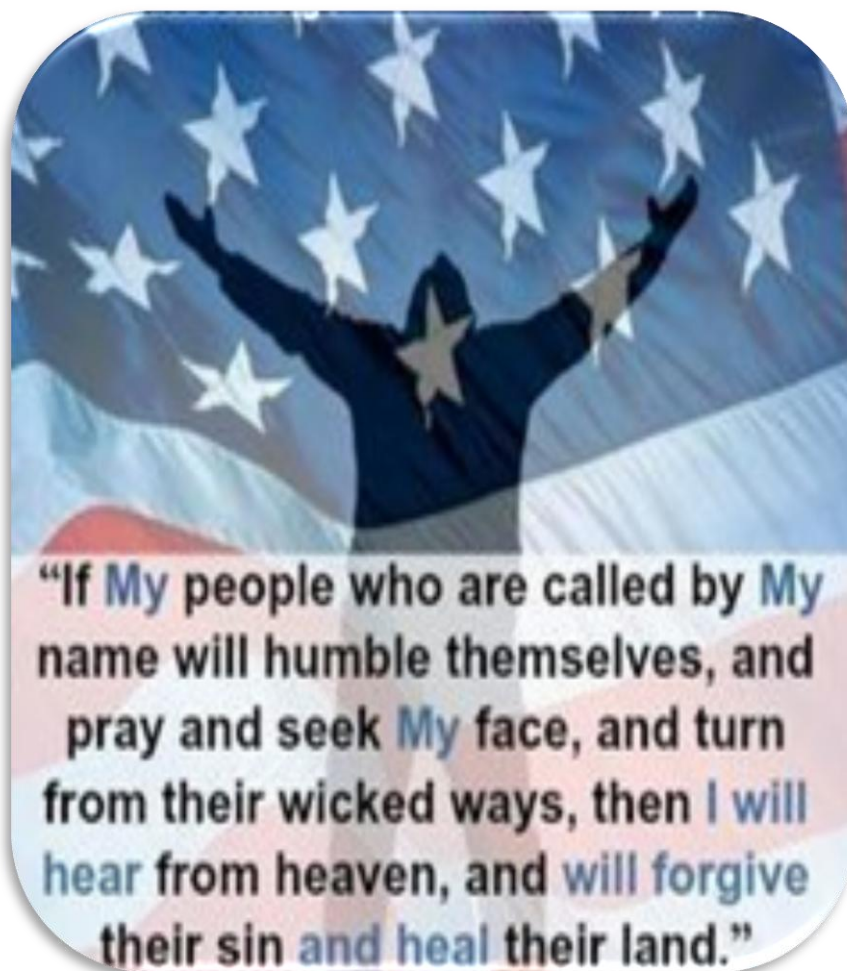
Rev. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

God Is Close to the Brokenhearted

In a world full of suffering and illnesses, Jesus was the most powerful "total Healer." His presence brought hope and salvation to all the afflicted, even as it meant defeat for the Evil One.

The "healing journey," which began on the trail of the proclamation of the Gospel two thousand years ago, continues today in the whole world.

Christ, the compassionate Healer, continues His mission through the Church and all the people of goodwill who care for the sick and the afflicted. Wherever human beings do their best to relieve the pains of their neighbor, Christ is present and active in them as instruments of his healing love.



OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS ADDS MEMORIALS OF 6 SAINTS TO ROMAN CALENDAR

Pope Francis inserts four new liturgical Memorials into the Roman Calendar: Martha, Mary, and Lazarus will be celebrated together, while Gregory of Narek, John of Avila, and Hildegard of Bingen will have their own optional memorials.

The Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments released two decrees, approved by Pope Francis, on Tuesday.

One inscribed the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus into the Roman Calendar on 29 July.

This means all liturgical books around the world will be updated with the prayers and texts proper to these three companions of Jesus.

Three-fold witness to Jesus

The decree says Pope Francis made the decision to add this liturgical memorial based on “the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to Him attentively, and in believing that He is the resurrection and the life.”

“In the household of Bethany,” it reads, “the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that He loved them. Martha generously offered Him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to His words, and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the One who humiliated death.”

Identity of Mary

Tuesday’s decree also makes note of the “traditional uncertainty in the Latin Church” over the identity of Mary.

It says recent studies have resolved the question, identifying her as the sister of Martha and Lazarus, “as attested by the current Roman Martyrology”.

Doctors of Church

In a separate decree, Pope Francis inscribed three Optional Memorials in the Roman Calendar for three Doctors of the Church.

- *Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church, on 27 February;*

- *Saint John De Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church, on 10 May;*

- *Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church, on 17 September.*

Holiness and wisdom

The decree says “the combination of holiness with knowledge in the experience of the mystery of Jesus Christ is inextricably linked to the mystery of the Church.”

It adds that this link of holiness and wisdom is especially visible in those who have been given the title “Doctor of the Church”.

The decree states that these three Saints were added to the Roman Calendar because they each have something unique to offer the Church.

“The wisdom that characterizes these men and women is not solely theirs,” it reads, “since by becoming disciples of divine Wisdom they have themselves become teachers of wisdom for the entire ecclesial community.”

OUR MARONITE PATRIARCH CARDINAL BECHARA EL RAI URGES POLITICIANS TO FIND CONSENSUS AND AVERT LEBANON’S COLLAPSE

Lebanon’s leading Catholic churchman is again urging the country’s political leaders to “overcome the logic of partisan interests” and form a government of “truly independent specialists with a national conscience” to rescue the nation from “a total collapse”.

Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Bechara Rai of Lebanon, made the appeal against the political deadlock that is preventing the formation of a new government. “Shirking responsibility for the failure of the government does not help. The solution is not without risks and all these risks represent nothing in the face of the hypothesis of a total collapse,” that the nation is facing, he said at a Mass on Sunday at the headquarters of the Maronite Church in Bkerke, some 22 km north-east of the capital, Beirut.

Nation at ransom

According to the 80-year old head of the Maronite Church, an agreement is possible between President Michel Aoun and three-time Prime Minister Saad Hariri, if both are able to ignore “the pressure,” go beyond “the logic of the division of quotas and portfolios,” and act “in the interest of Lebanon.” He lamented that a “cautious optimism” of the possibility of the formation of the government that was in the air ahead of Christmas seems to have vanished and the country today is again “at the starting point.”

The tiny Mediterranean nation of 6 million population has been without a fully-functioning government since the resignation of the cabinet in the wake of the devastating Beirut port explosion on 4 August that killed nearly 200 people, injured some 5000 more, and destroyed large parts of the capital.

Financial crisis, poverty

Even before the pandemic, Lebanon had been facing an unprecedented economic and financial crisis – the worst since the 1975-1990 civil war. The economic situation triggered by rampant corruption by politicians has pushed tens of thousands of people into poverty and triggered large anti-government protests. The Lebanese pound has lost more than two-thirds of its value against the dollar on the black market, leading prices to skyrocket.

In mid-October, President Aoun tasked Hariri with putting together a new cabinet. But the parties remain at odds over portfolios as the World Bank warns that poverty will likely engulf more than half the population in 2021, and central bank reserves dwindle.

"Towards total collapse and bankruptcy"

Earlier, on New Year’s Day, Cardinal Rai severely criticized politicians saying it was a “shame” to start the year without a new head of the government. In his homily at a Mass at the Patriarchate, he described politicians as “pawns on the chessboard of the Middle East and of the great powers.” He said nobody “has the right to block the formation of the government to settle accounts or interests, immediate and future.” More than two months and ten days have passed since Hariri has been entrusted with the task of forming a new government. Meanwhile, Cardinal noted, Lebanon “is rapidly heading towards total collapse and bankruptcy.”

**350 +410
Pray for Us*

Saint Maron

*Feast Day
February 9*

Saint Maron was born in the fourth century in Cyrrhus, a small town near Antioch. He is the Father of the Maronite Catholic Church. We have three available sources regarding St Maron's Life. The first and most detailed source is from his biographer, Theodoret of Cyrrhus, who wrote "A history of the Monks of Syria" in the fifth century. The second is from St John Chrysostom, the "Golden Mouth". The third is the Maronite Liturgy, passed down for generations.

Maron was a priest who later became a hermit, living in a mountain of Taurus near Antioch. Maron embraced a life of solitude in the north of Aleppo. Maron lived on the top of Mount Nabo, near Antioch. He lived in the open air, exposed to the rain, wind, storms and many more of nature. He is known for converting a pagan temple into a Church and converting the pagans and teaching them about prayer. Maron drew many people to him who sought to not only live like him but desired to seek his advice on spiritual matters. He also drew people who came to witness his miracles of healing the sick. Maron spent most of his time in prayer and detached from the physical and material world. He would often spend the whole night standing in prayer and also practiced other penances and fasted for weeks. Maron was passionate about spreading the message of the Lord and preached it to all he met and he also sought to cure physical conditions that people were suffering from. Maron was also zealous about the healing of 'lost souls' whether Christian or not.

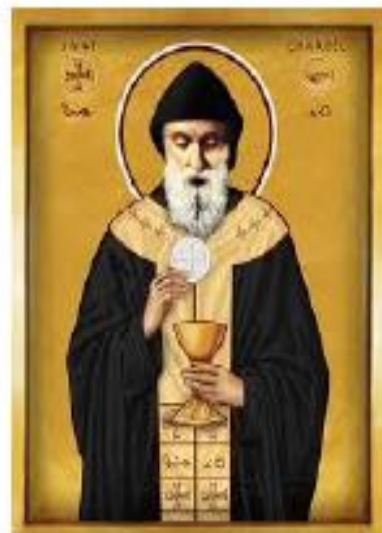
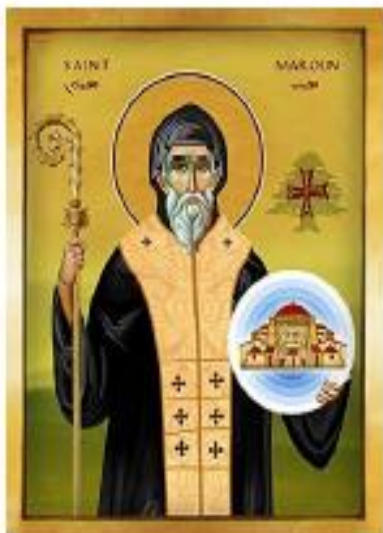
Saint Maron began in the mountains of Syria and his ministry spread to Lebanon. Today there are Maronites all over the world, including Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, America, France, Australia and many more countries. His disciples continued his mission after his death, a monastery was built in 452AD which they named Beit Maron, his followers were called Maronites.

In the sixth century more than 350 Maronite Monks were martyred. The first Patriarch was elected in 685AD, St John Maron was affirmed by Pope Sergius I, who highlighted that the Maronite Church was in Communion with Rome.

In 938 Beit Maron was destroyed and the Patriarch fled to the Mountains of Lebanon. Persecution in Syria, resulted in many Maronites migrating from Syria to the mountains of Lebanon. The Maronite Church flourished in the mountains of Lebanon. In 1440 the Maronite Patriarch moved to Wadi Qannoubine, a valley in Lebanon where they could escape persecution.

Under Ottoman rule, many Maronite villages, monasteries and churches destroyed and by 1915 the war had many Maronites migrating out of the Middle East. Today the Maronite Church is spread around the world, this has allowed it to grow and blossom. Today, many Maronites are not necessarily Middle Eastern. Saint Maron's influence has spread to many other cultures and it is important that as Maronites we preserve our uniqueness, but invite others to share in it. We must not preserve it only for the Lebanese people as Maron sought to bring everyone to Christ.

We pray that like Saint Maron, we are inviting and welcoming, showing the love of Christ to all so that they may be inspired by Him and also seek to be Christ like. (from LivingMaronite.com)



ASH MONDAY (Eastern)

The Season of Great Lent is a time to fast in order to be able to regain our vision which has been distorted by our inordinate desires, personal sins, bad habits, etc... It is a time to regain sight: to see the face of our Lord and the needs of our neighbors. It is like a trip on a boat from one side to another side, from old life to new life, from death to life, from dark to light.

On Ash Monday, the Maronites in Lebanon and the whole world gathered at churches and received the sign of the cross with ashes on their forehead. When the priest makes the sign of the cross on your forehead, he says, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return".

ASH WEDNESDAY (Western)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Why we receive the ashes

Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told, "remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return."

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

The Ashes

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

SEASON OF THE GREAT LENT

Fasting to Feasting

Lent is a time for fasting but also a season for joyous feasting! During Lent, the Church calls on us to fast from certain things and feast on others.

For example:

Fast from judging others..

.feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from emphasis on differences...

feast on the unity of life.



Fast from apparent darkness... feast on the reality of light.

Fast from thoughts of illness... feast on God's healing power.

Fast from words that pollute..

feast on phrases that purify.



Fast from discontent... feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger...

feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism...

feast on optimism.

Fast from worry...

feast on divine order.

Fast from complaining...

feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives... feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures...

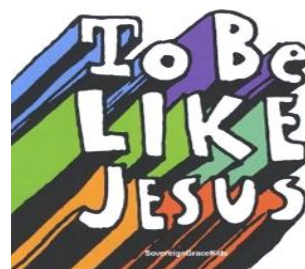
feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility...

feast on nonresistance.

Fast from bitterness...

feast on forgiveness.



Fast from self concern...

feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety...

feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragement...

feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress...

feast on truths that uplift.

Fast from lethargy...

feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from suspicion...

feast on truth.

Fast from thoughts that weaken...

feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow...

feast on sunlight of serenity.

Fast from idle gossip...

feast on purposeful silence.



Happy New Year! We thank God for the hidden blessings in a chaotic 2020, and together, we look forward to a hope filled 2021 for you and your loved ones.

While we still are unable to meet in person due to the pandemic, we will continue to host our events virtually for the time being.

It is with great excitement that we announce that the Eparchial Maronite Youth Organization Team will be hosting our **2021 Regional Retreat virtually**, through ZOOM. Rather than host separate regional retreats, we will instead hold one eparchial retreat with all of our regions.

Here are some important points to note regarding the retreat:

Theme: To Be Honest: Let Your Truth Be Told

Dates: February 26, 2021 8-10PM EST and
February 27, 2021 7-10PM EST

Cost: Free!

Open to all youth ages 12-18, pastors, and advisors in the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Registration will be opening **TODAY, January 12, 2021**

at www.maroniteyouth.org.

We ask that all registration is completed by **February 23, 2021**.

Please note that youth are unable to register themselves.

They must have a parent fill out the registration form for them.

Please make sure the pastor is aware of any youth registering, as they will receive a final list of all registrants.

You can direct any registration questions or issues to office@maroniteyouth.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to welcoming you and your youth to the 2021 Eparchial Virtual Regional Retreat!

In Christ,

The National Maronite Youth Organization

EPARCHY OF OLOL VIRTUAL MYO REGIONAL RETREAT

TO BE HONEST

Let Your Truth Be Told

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2021: 8-10PM
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2021: 7-10PM
All Times are In EST

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.MARONITEYOUTH.ORG




Maronite Youth Organization



Let today be the
day you give up
who you've been
for you who can
become.

Blessed

Ash Monday

February 15

8 am & 6 pm

Ash Wednesday

February 17

8 am & 6 pm



Station of the Cross
every Friday
starting February 19
until March 26
6 pm in Arabic
7 pm in English

Beautiful Faces & Places



Congratulation to Laila & Ben Arreola on the baptism their son & daughter, Kobe & Lhian in January



Congratulation to Elie & Maria Kallab on the baptism of their daughter Rhea in January



Food Distributions was held on January 27 at St. Sharbel Church was a success. 325 boxes was given to the Community & Parishioners in this time of need.



Thanks to the Culinary Union for Their generosity.



LENT: 40 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

Marhaba (مرحبا)! Last Wednesday, February 13, millions of Christians around the world marched around with a large black cross (صليب) on their foreheads. What is recognized as Ash Wednesday in Western societies is called Ash Monday or Clean Monday (إثنين الرماد) in Levantine societies, where millions celebrated the same symbolic tradition on Monday February 11 – two days earlier. This tradition marks the beginning of the Lent Season (زمن الصوم) for Christians (المسيحيين). It is a period of intense fasting (صوم) and prayer (صلاة) to God for 40 days prior to Easter (عيد الفصح) which falls on March 31 this year. Yet, Orthodox Churches (الكنائس) in the Levant follow the Julian calendar (التقويم) and their Lent Season begins on March 31 and their Easter on May 5. This tradition of fasting and prayer is found in other Abrahamic religions, like Islam, and specifically during Ramadan (شهر رمضان), where devout Muslims also fast and abstain from many types of food as a spiritual and physical sacrifice to God/Allah.

I have added some pictures and a video that features an old Maronite hymn in Aramaic called 'Son Who Fasted' (يا ابن الله). This hymn is very popular during the first couple of weeks of Lent.

The emphasis on 40 days (أربعين يوماً) of prayer and fasting has roots in both Jewish (يهودية) and Christian symbolic traditions and scriptures. Forty is a special number in both Jewish and Christian sacred texts. On one hand, the Jewish people journeyed for 40 years on their way to the 'Promised Land' (أرض الموعد). On the other hand and in Christian scriptures, Jesus spent 40 days fasting and praying in the desert (الصحراء) before he began his public ministry. To resuscitate and remember how Jesus spent his 40 days, many Christians try to emulate his practices and use this 40 day period as a time of spiritual and physical preparation (تحضير) – (نفسى وروحي) which undoubtedly is Christianity's most important feast.

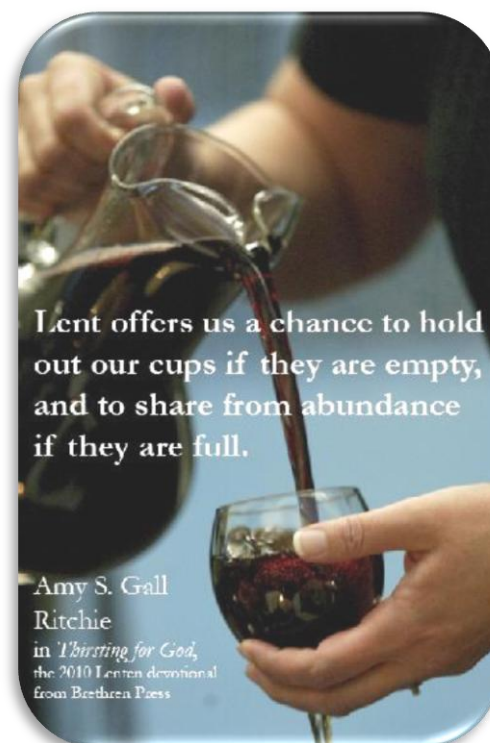
In Lebanon, many followers of the Maronite (كنائس مارونية) and Roman/Greek Catholic Churches, in line with Easter Christian traditions, commonly abstain (إمتناع) from eating meat during Lent Season. The search for meat alternatives during Lent has probably led the Copts (الأقباط) in Egypt to invent the popular falafel (فلافل) as a dish, as they frequently claim. Some conservative worshipers even abstain from all animal products, including eggs and dairy, and others might opt for solely eating fish (سمك) during Lent. In Lebanon for example, many well-known restaurants and American franchises like Burger King or McDonalds introduce the fish burger for a discounted price. During this period, many Christians tend to prepare a variety of vegetarian dishes, like Pumpkin Kibbe (كبة لقطين) and Green Beans in oil (لوبية بالزيت) or the various chick pea dishes. (In the near future I will share a new vegetarian recipe, stay tuned to check it and try it!)

Some historians trace back the tradition of marking a black cross on the foreheads of Christians to the beginning of the 8th century CE. The significance of using ashes on



Ash Monday /Wednesday is two-fold. First and foremost, it serves as a reminder of our mortality. For instance in Christian Maronite traditions in Lebanon and the Diaspora, as the minister lay the ashes and make the symbol of the cross on the forehead he says: "Remember Man/Woman that you are dust and unto dust you shall return." (لَا تَكُ تُرَابٌ وَآلَى تُرَابٍ) (تَعُودُ)

This saying compels Christians to reflect on their life and remember that they might need to repent (توبة) and change some of their habits and practices. In other Levantine Christian traditions, the meaning usually entails a message of deep remorse that calls for a better spiritual life with God through going to church more and reading the Bible (الكتاب المقدس) more frequently. In other Christian Levantine traditions, Ash Monday is a day that many Christians find as a way to draw closer to God and thus rejuvenating their spiritual relationship with God through intense prayer, fasting and devotion.





Filipino News



PHILIPPINE DOMINICANS ELECT NEW HEAD

Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz was elected new prior provincial of the Philippine Province of the Order of Preachers, also known as Dominicans.

The election of the priest, who turned 57 today, came during their 12th Provincial Chapter in Nasugbu, Batangas on Sunday.

Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner, the master general of the worldwide religious order founded by St. Dominic de Guzman, confirmed his election on Jan. 18.

With his acceptance, Fr. Dela Cruz will lead the Dominican community for the next four years.

He replaced Fr. Napoleon Sipalay, who ended his term after serving the post since October 2016.

As prior provincial, Fr. Dela Cruz will also serve as the Chair of the University of Sto. Tomas' Board of Trustees.

Born in Manila, he entered the Dominican pre-novitiate in 1980 and was vested with the habit of the Order in 1983. He made his simple profession in 1984 and his solemn profession in 1987.

Fr. Dela Cruz took his philosophy at the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies, and theology at the UST.

He was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop Camilo Gregorio, who was then bishop of the Bacolod diocese in October 1992.



Fr. Filemon Dela Cruz, Jr., the new Prior Provincial of the Philippine Province of the Order of Preachers.

PHOTO FROM UST

In 2006, he finished his Master degree in theology from the UST. Among his previous ministries were Master of Students in 1992-1996; Master of Novices in 1996-2000; Promoter of the Dominican Clerical Fraternity in 2012-2014; Provincial Councilor in 2012-2016; and Socius of the Prior Provincial in 2014-2016.

He also served in many ministries in the UST from 2001 to 2017 and was superior of the Dominican community of the Rumah Santo Tomas in Surabaya, Indonesia, from 2017 to 2020.

Prior to his election, he was a newly assigned priest to the House of Saint Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs in Navotas City.

CONTROVERSY OVER SITE OF CELEBRATION OF PHILIPPINES' FIRST CATHOLIC MASS RESOLVED

Historians have finally resolved the controversy over the site of the celebration of the first Mass in the Philippines months before the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the country.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines said it has adopted a report submitted by a panel of scholars who reviewed the supposed site of the celebration of the 1521 Easter Sunday Mass.

In a statement released on Aug. 19, the commission declared that the celebration of the Holy Eucharist was held on *the Island of Limasawa in the present province of Southern Leyte in the central Philippines.*

Where and when was the first Mass in the Philippines? Limasawa

The island, about 10 kilometers long from north to south, is believed to be where the first Mass on Philippine soil took place on March 31, 1521, celebrated by Father Pedro de Valderrama.

The priest came with Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan who was looking for the land of spices.

The government body said the panel of experts was convened in response to requests from various institutions, including the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, in anticipation of the observance of the quincentennial of the arrival of Christianity in the country.

Monsignor Oscar Cadayona of the Diocese of Maasin, which includes the island of Limasawa, welcomed the government pronouncement.

"We are so happy that our proofs of the veracity of our claims that our Limasawa is really the site were not dismantled by those who supported other sites," said the priest.

"It really inspires us, the bishop, clergy, and the lay faithful to work hard to promote the site as a sacred place of encounter between God and man," he added.

Monsignor Cadayona said the people of the diocese are "optimistic" that Filipinos "will rally behind us as we build structures there as concrete signs of gratitude to the Almighty for the gift of faith received in Limasawa."

He called on the faithful "to do what we can" to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival of the Catholic faith in the Philippines. "Let us not allow this fear of the pandemic dim the light of faith we received in Limasawa," said the priest.

Local historian Rolando Borrinaga, who has been doing research on the site of the first Mass, expressed joy over the announcement.

"My research and advocacy for a western Limasawa site of the 1521 Easter Sunday Mass took 12 years to get recognized," he said.

Rene Escalante, chairman of the National Historical Commission and executive director of the National Quincentennial Committee, said scholars revisited the issue surrounding the site of the 1521 Easter Sunday Mass as part of its mandate to resolve historical controversies.

He cited Antonio Pigafetta, the chronicler of the expedition led by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who wrote that the first Mass happened on March 31, 1521, in a place identified as "Mazaua."

Escalante said the issue as to the exact location of the first Catholic Mass was earlier resolved by studies done by experts in the past who ruled that the site of the first Mass was on Limasawa Island.

In 2018, however, the National Historical Commission received requests to reexamine the earlier pronouncements made by historians.

"These requests were made in the light of some claims that there were new primary sources and evidences that surfaced recently which were not taken into consideration by the previous panels," said Escalante in his report.

He said the commission also saw the necessity of reopening a new inquiry because of the forthcoming commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the country.

MIRACLE OF SAINT SHARBEL: EMILIA BOU DIB

The Monastery of Saints Peter & Paul where Saint Sharbel celebrates Mass everyday

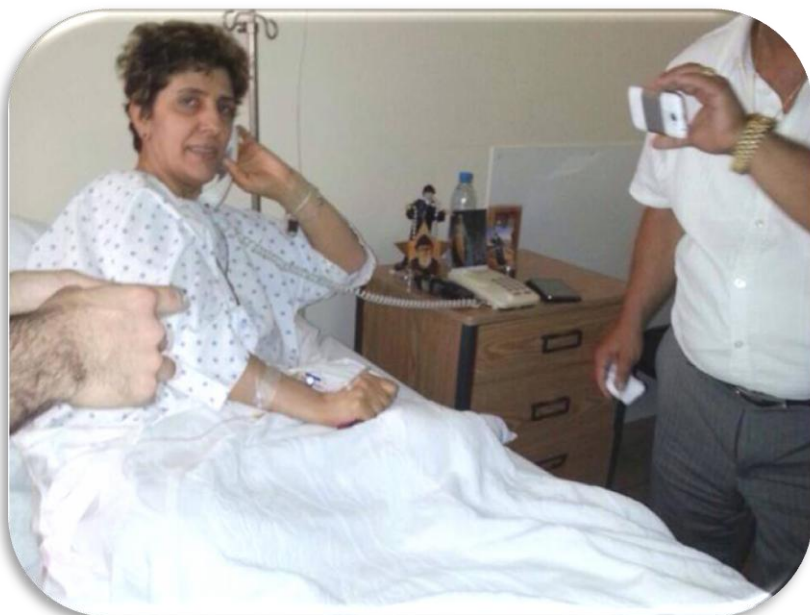
After suffering from a disease in her neck and back, Emilia had reached the point of not being able to get up without someone's help. The doctor decided to do surgery to prevent a total paralysis. She implored Saint Charbel to heal her because she lived alone and had no one to take care of her. One night, she got up to go to the bathroom, and there was no electricity, she looked for the cane that she always left near the bed, but did not find it. She used the lighter to help her get to the bathroom. It happened three times in a row, and in the morning she rose from her bed, perfectly cured; the cane was under the foot of the bed that she couldn't even lift. When she was sure of her recovery, she went to the monastery with her medical record and registered her healing on 4/11/2012.

SAINT CHARBEL'S MODERN-DAY MIRACLE

"A hermit of Mount Lebanon is enrolled in the number of the blessed... a new eminent member of monastic sanctity has by his example and his intercession enriched the entire Christian people ... may he make us understand, in a world largely fascinated by wealth and comfort, the paramount value of poverty, penance and asceticism, to liberate the soul in its ascent to God," enough said by Pope Paul VI about Saint Charbel.

MTV website has learned that a patient who works in St-Joseph Hospital has been diagnosed with cancer in the late stage and she is now nearing death.

The patient reportedly had a vision of the saint and left oil fingerprints as his own portrait on her white sheet.



Reports say that she is now cured and she is undergoing necessary medical tests to approve her healing.

Although the woman insisted on keeping the incident a secret, but the news spread swiftly and believers started to pour into the patient's room either to pray and obtain blessings from oozing oil or to take photos.

The sudden healing of the woman without medical intervention requires medical and church procedures in order to approve the St. Charbel's new miracle to be added later to the great number of miracles which have been already attributed to him since his death.



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HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**WEEKEND****DAILY 8AM****Saturday 4:30pm****Feb 6****+Imelda Buendia****+Armando Dijamco****+Dwight Kruckas****Sunday 9:30 am****Feb 7****+Dwight Kruckas****+Virgilia Carlos****Sunday 11:30 am****Departed Families in
the Community****5 pm Misa en Español****Fieles Defuntos****PRAY
FOR THE SICK****MONDAY Feb 8****+Dwight Kruckas****TUESDAY Feb 9****+Dwight Kruckas****+Leonardo Velasko (40days)****WEDNESDAY Feb 10****+Dwight Kruckas****+Christopher Rody****THURSDAY Feb 11****+Dwight Kruckas****+Berta T Giron****FRIDAY Feb 12****+Dwight Kruckas****El Grupo Guadalupano**

de la Iglesia de San Charbel Te invita a que asistas a la
Misa y El Rosario que se celebran el primer domingo cada
mes comenzado,

DIA: Domingo 7 de Febrero**HORA: Rosario 4:30pm Misa****DONDE: Iglesia Catolica de San Charbel****10325 Rancho Destino Rd,****Las Vegas, NV 89183**

Despues de la Misa te invitamos a que nos acompañes a una pequeña
recepccion donde compartiremos: café, postres, y bocadillos con todos los
asistentes. Si tienes alguna duda communicate con:

Oficina de la Iglesia 702-616-6902