



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

2nd Sunday Of Pentecost Holy Trinity Sunday

June 2020



Index

Page

Church Events	1
Trinity Sunday	2
Pope Francis News	3
Maronite & Roman News	4
Holy Trinity Explained	5
Fr. McGivney Sainthood	6
Miracles of Saint Sharbel	7
Sister Claire Crocketts	8
Youth Ministry News	9
Filipino News	10
Love Offering Appeal	11
Holy Mass Intentions	12

10325 RANCHO
DESTINO RD
LAS VEGAS NV 89183

PHONE: 702-616-6902

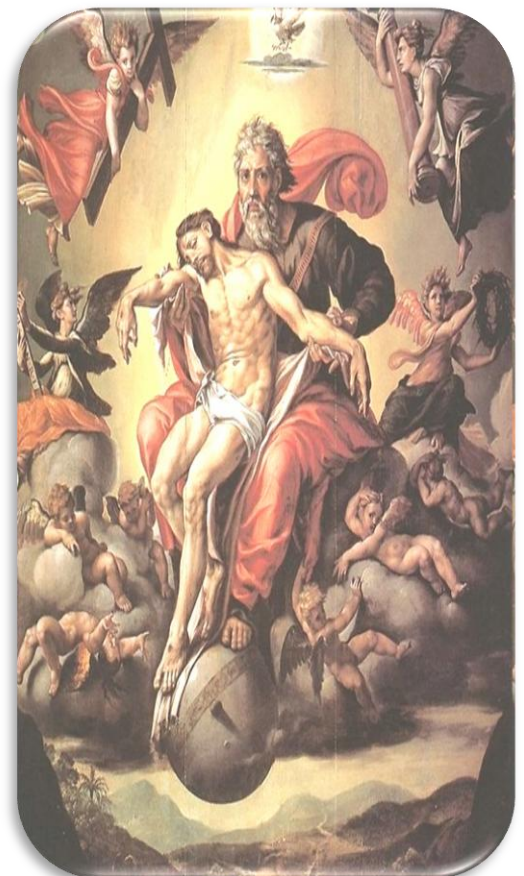
FAX: 702-616-4032.

stsharbel.lv@gmail.com

www.stsharbel

lasvegas.org

Glory be to the Father
Who sent His Son
for our sake;
adoration to the Son
Who, by His Crucifixion,
Redeemed us;
thanksgiving to
the Holy Spirit,
through Whom the mystery
of our salvation
was brought to fullness.
Blessed is God Who,
in His love, gave us life.
To Him be glory for ever. Amen.



Maronite Liturgy St. Sharbel's final prayer

2ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Today is the feast of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity is the center of our faith, and when we hear the names of the blessed Trinity, we spontaneously think about God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the names of the Divine Persons. The Father is the Creator of the universe. He sent His only Son, to save us. We call Him "ABBA". The Son is: the Redeemer, who redeems us from sins. He gave us His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Mediator, the Counsellor, the giver of life who we believe, and in whose name we are baptized and confirmed.

**"O Father who
sought me
O Son who
bought me
O Holy Spirit
who taught me."
*Celtic Prayer***



READING:
2 Corinthians
13:11-13

GOSPEL:
Matthew
28:16-29

*"Go therefore
and make disciples
of all nations,
baptizing them
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit..."*

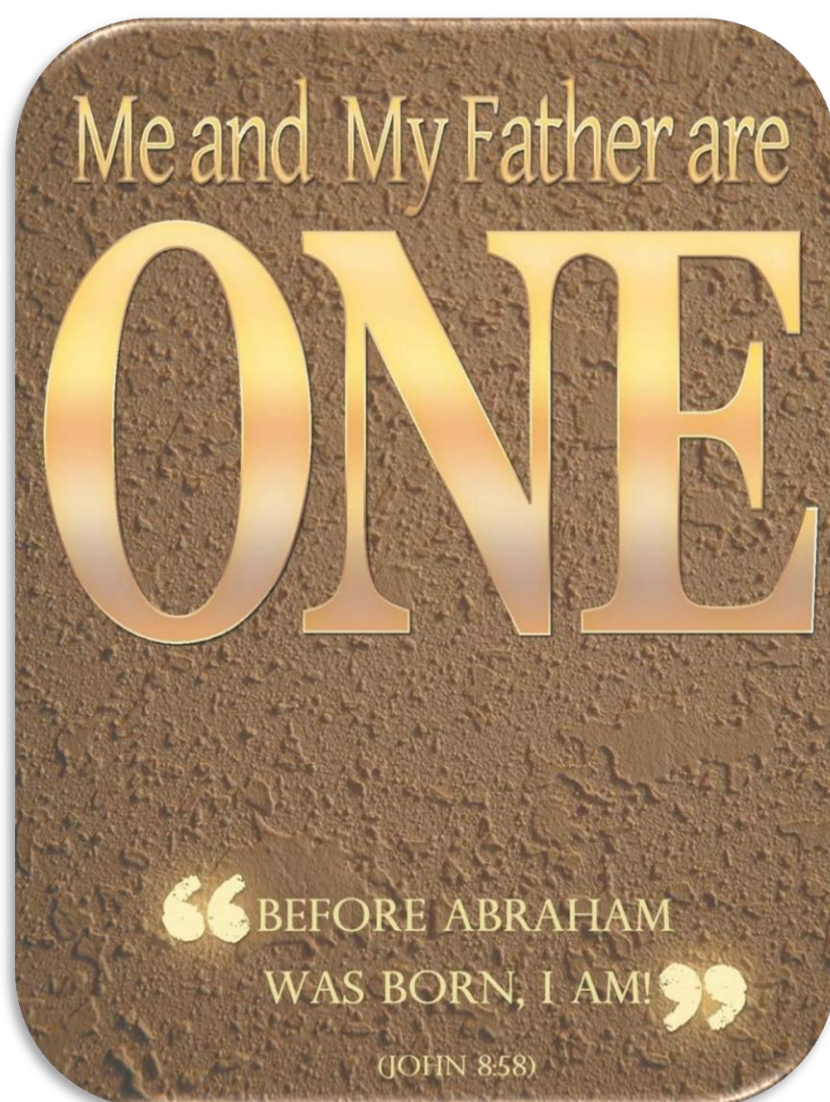
(Matthew 28:19-20)



"I am with you all the days." Yes, Christ God and Lord, is with the Church in the painful and fruitful experiences that she goes through. Remember always the presence of the Holy Trinity. When we make the sign of the Cross, we cross ourselves using those names, because we are God's children, a part of God's family, and we share God's life. We say, "In the name of the Father": and we touch our foreheads, indicating that we are speaking of ourselves. "In the name of the Son" and we touch our chest. "In the name of the Holy Spirit": and we cross ourselves from one shoulder to the other. This sign follows us from our baptism to our death. It is a sign for all occasions. We make the sign of the cross before travelling, or eating, or before exams, when we need God's help and strength in our lives and before entering and leaving in His Church.

GLORY TO THE TRINITY, THE UNDIVIDED UNITY!

Although most of our liturgical worship is addressed to the Blessed Trinity, today we are invited to honor the Tri-Personal God in a very special manner. Our limited intelligence is unable to fathom exhaustively this fundamental mystery of one God in three Persons. Nor can our frail hearts adequately reciprocate His love. There is always so much more we should know about the Trinity; so much more we should do for love of this one God in three Persons. The biggest challenge, however, is to reproduce in ourselves and in our relationships the love, harmony, and unity that exist in and among the three Divine Persons. Let this be the special grace we implore for ourselves and all those dear to us as we offer this Eucharist to the Father, through Jesus, the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit.



OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS ANNOUNCES SPECIAL YEAR OF LAUDATO SI'

Introduces Special Prayer for all the Faithful

Pope Francis on May 24, 2020, marked the fifth anniversary of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, his call for the care of the earth and the poor. He also announced a special Year of *Laudato Si'*, which will run through May 24, 2021.

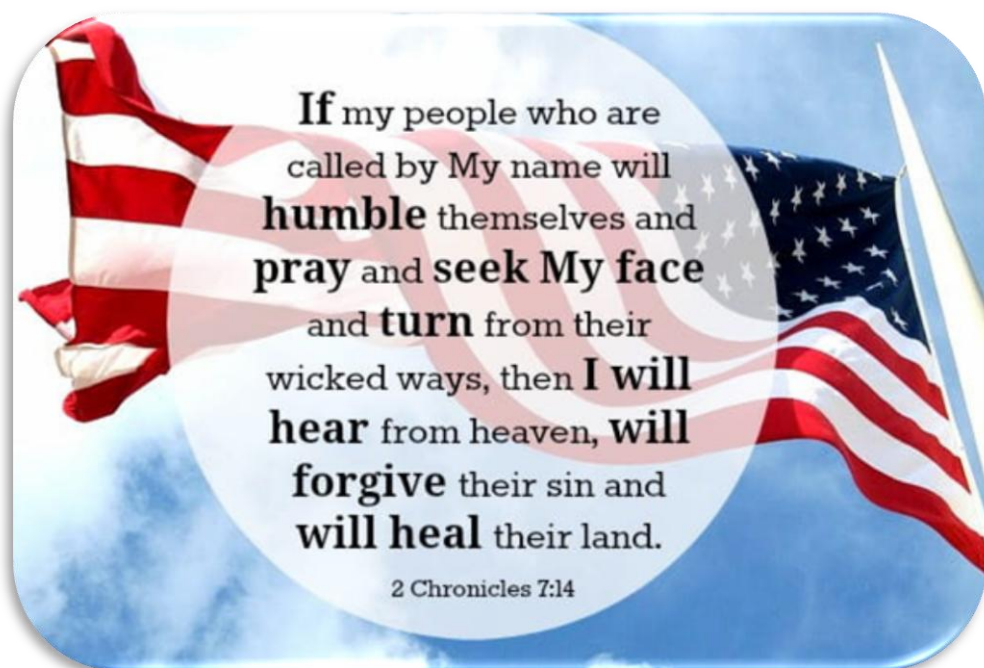
His remarks came after praying the Regina Caeli from the Library of the Apostolic Vatican Palace. He also introduced a new prayer to celebrate the anniversary and called on the faithful around the world to pray it.

“And today also is the fifth anniversary of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, with which we sought to call attention to the cry of the Earth and of the poor,” the Pope said. “Thanks to the initiative of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development, the “*Laudato Si'* Week, which we just celebrated, will blossom in a special anniversary Year of *Laudato Si'*, a special Year to reflect on the Encyclical, from May 24 of this year to May 24 of next year.

“I invite all persons of goodwill to adhere to it, to take care of our common home and our more fragile brothers and sisters. The prayer dedicated to this Year is published on the site. It will be good to pray it.”

Prayer for the Special Year of the Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*

Loving God, Creator of Heaven, of earth and of all that they contain. Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we can be part of Creation, your gift. Be present to the needy in these difficult times, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic. Make us courageous in embracing the changes geared to the search for the common good. Now more than ever, may we be able to feel that we are all interconnected and interdependent. Make sure that we succeed in listening and responding to the cry of the earth and to the cry of the poor. May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world. We pray to You through Christ Our Lord, under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians. Amen.



BISHOP GEORGE LEO THOMAS' STATEMENT ON THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

I join the growing chorus of U.S. Catholic Bishops speaking in one voice as we express our deep sadness over the heartbreaking death of Mr. George Floyd. We urgently pray for the cessation of the violence and destruction which has so sullied the memory of a man who lost his life under tragic and unnecessary circumstances.

We are broken-hearted, sickened, and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our eyes. The senseless taking of life defies the fundamental principles of justice and respect for human life. We must recognize the fact that all lives are sacred. As Catholics, it is not enough to relegate our concern to only thoughts and prayers. Our Church, at every level, must speak out unequivocally and work against the sin of racism.

As the U.S. Bishops stated in their recent pastoral letter against racism, "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," people of good will must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. The Bishops of the United States consistently hold that, "It is not a secret that... attacks on human life have severely affected people of color, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, targeted for abortion, have less access to healthcare, have the greatest numbers on death row, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives when facing serious illness. As Bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue" (p. 30).

We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy. We support peaceful, non-violent protests and stand in support of those understandably outraged. We pray for comfort for all grieving families and friends. We applaud the majority of law enforcement officers who follow lawful protocols and demonstrate appropriate restraint, often in the face of threats, and we express our profound sorrow to the families of law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

As we approach the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, we plead for the strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. "With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this wellspring of strength and courage must move us to act. Consequently, we all need to take responsibility for correcting the injustices of racism and healing the harms it has caused" ("Open Wide our Hearts," p. 23). We challenge everyone, especially those from different cultural backgrounds, to come together peacefully to work toward a society where justice, peace, and charity may be shared by children of the same Creator.

Asking God's abundant blessings upon our Diocese, City, State, and Nation, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Bishop George Leo Thomas

Bishop of Las Vegas

Bishop Gregory J. Mansour, who heads the Eparchy of St. Maron in Brooklyn, New York, is pretty sure he came down with symptoms of COVID-19 from helping a man who had fallen and was coughing on a Brooklyn street.

"I have no regrets whatsoever even while I was suffering," he said on an April 29 segment of Current News, part of NET TV, the cable network of the Dioceses of Brooklyn.

The bishop, who is 64, and who has served in the Brooklyn Eparchy since 2004, said people were yelling at him to stay away from the coughing man who was later picked up by an ambulance.

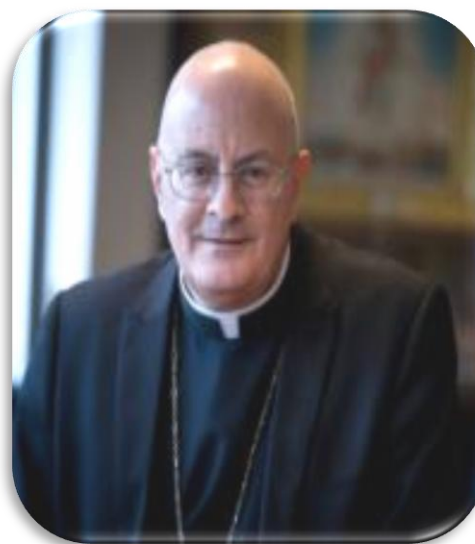
When asked if he would still help in a similar situation now, he said he would, noting that the person was "really in bad shape and everyone was just standing around. I was not even thinking of anything; it was just natural instinct."

A week later, in late March, the bishop said he developed symptoms of COVID-19 and was sick for a few weeks. In late April he said had a test that showed that he had had COVID but he now has the antibodies, giving him, as he put it: "something of a defense, so I can go forward now."

Bishop Mansour said living with the virus gave him a "better sense of communion" with his fellow priests and with others. "We have so many people going through this, suffering and some deaths."

The numbers of COVID patients and deaths have been high in New York. On May 1, the state's health department reported 164,505 COVID-19 cases, with more than 13,000 deaths and 5,231 probable deaths. In Brooklyn, there have been 43,621 reported cases of COVID-19.

OUR MARONITE BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR SAYS HE LEARNED A LOT FROM HIS COVID-19 EXPERIENCE



Maronite Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of Brooklyn, N.Y., is seen at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops building in Washington Dec. 16, 2016. Bishop Mansour says he has learned a lot while recovering from the coronavirus.

The bishop said his experience with the virus also taught him some spiritual lessons.

"When you're by yourself, you really take the time to sincerely look at your relationship with God and your own behavior, your own thoughts and emotional life and to align it more closer to God's will," he told the Catholic news show.

He also said he was "very grateful to have gone through" the experience and particularly thankful to all those on the front line: first responders, doctors, nurses, retail workers and pharmacists for "laying down their lives for others."

THE HOLY TRINITY EXPLAINED EASY



You and I live in a three-dimensional world. All physical objects have a certain height, width, and depth. One person can look like someone else, or behave like someone else, or even sound like someone else. But a person cannot actually be the same as another person. They are distinct individuals.

God, however, lives without the limitations of a three-dimensional universe. He is spirit. And he is infinitely more complex than we are.

That is why Jesus the Son can be different from the Father. And, yet the same.

The Bible clearly speaks of: God the Son, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit. But emphasizes that there is only ONE God.

If we were to use math, it would not be, $1+1+1=3$. It would be $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. God is a triune God.

Thus the term: "Tri" meaning three, and "Unity" meaning one, Tri+Unity = Trinity. It is a way of acknowledging what the Bible reveals to us about God, that God is yet three "Persons" who have the same essence of deity. Some have tried to give human illustrations for the Trinity, such as H₂O being water, ice and steam (all different forms, but all are H₂O). Another illustration is an egg having a shell, egg yolk and egg white, but this egg illustration shows that there would be "parts" to God, which isn't the case.

God the Son (Jesus) is fully, completely God. God the Father is fully, completely God. And God the Holy Spirit is fully, completely God. Yet there is only one God. In our world, with our limited human experience, it's tough to understand the Trinity. But from the beginning we see God this way in Scripture. Notice the plural pronouns "us" and "our" in Genesis 1:26 -- Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Though not a complete list, here is some other Scripture that shows God is one, in Trinity:

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!" (Deut. 6:4)

"I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God." (Isa. 45:5)

There is no God but one. (1Cor. 8:4)

And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matt. 3:16-17)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

Jesus said: "I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

"He who has seen Me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)

"He who beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me." (John 12:45)

If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. (Rom. 8:9)

Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 1:20)

And the angel answered and said to her [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

Jesus speaking to His disciples] "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you." ... "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him." (John 14:16-17, 23)



One Holy Father,
One Holy Son,
One Holy Spirit.

Blessed be the name
of the Lord

for He is One in Heaven
& on Earth.

To God be Glory Forever

Maronite Liturgy

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOUNDER FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY MOVES CLOSER TO SAINTHOOD

His Recognized Miracle Involves an Unborn Child in US Who in 2015 Was Healed in Utero of a Life-threatening Condition.

Knights of Columbus Founder Father Michael McGivney is moving closer to sainthood.

The Vatican announced this in their bulletin today, following the Pope's approval of promulgated decrees recognizing heroic virtues and miracles of different individuals, in a recent audience with Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, Prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Venerable Fr. McGivney, a Connecticut priest who launched an international lay movement, served his flock during the pandemic of 1890, before himself becoming ill and dying of pneumonia.

The Pontiff approved the decree promulgated recognizing a miracle attributed to McGivney's intercession. The pope's action means that Father McGivney can be declared "Blessed," the step just prior to sainthood.

In order for him to be a canonized saint, an additional miracle attributed to Father McGivney's intercession will be required.

In 1882, McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus.

Today, the Knights of Columbus is one of the largest Catholic organizations in the world with 2 million members in North and Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe.

The miracle recognized as coming through Father McGivney's intercession involved an unborn child in the United States who in 2015 was healed in utero of a life-threatening condition after prayers by his family to Father McGivney, reported a press release from the Knights.

Soon, a date will be set for the beatification Mass, which will take place in Connecticut. It will include the reading of an apostolic letter from the Holy Father and the bestowing of the title "Blessed" on Father McGivney.

Pope Francis, earlier this year, addressed the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors.

Francis praised the organization for having been faithful "to the vision of your founder, Venerable Michael McGivney, who was inspired by the principles of Christian charity and fraternity to assist those most in need."

"Father McGivney," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said, "has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action," said. "He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the Church."

"Today," he continued, "his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s.

"Father McGivney also remains an important role model for parish priests around the world and left us a transformative legacy of effective cooperation between the laity and clergy," he concluded.

Born of Irish immigrant parents in 1852 in Waterbury, Connecticut, Father McGivney was a central figure in the dramatic growth of the Church in the United States in the late 19th century. Ordained in Baltimore in 1877, he ministered to a heavily Irish-American and immigrant community in the then-Diocese of Hartford. At a time of anti-Catholic sentiment, he worked tirelessly to keep his flock close to the faith in part by finding practical solutions to their many problems – spiritual and temporal alike. With a group of the leading Catholic men of New Haven, he founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 at St. Mary's Church to provide spiritual support for Catholic men and financial resources for families that had suffered the loss of their breadwinner.

The fledgling group soon became a major force in the areas of evangelization, charity, racial integration, and the defense of religious freedom.

Father McGivney spent his entire priesthood in parish ministry and died of pneumonia on August 14, 1890—two days after his 38th birthday – after falling ill amid a pandemic.

Recent scientific evidence indicates that that pandemic – like the current one – may have been caused by a coronavirus.

Known by his contemporaries for his devotion to the faith and his embodiment of the characteristics of the "Good Samaritan," his cause for sainthood was opened in the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1997.

St. John Paul II – who was pope at that time – lauded Father McGivney's principles, stating in 2003, "In fidelity to the vision of Father McGivney, may you continue to seek new ways of being a leaven of the Gospel in the world and a spiritual force for the renewal of the Church in holiness, unity and truth."

In March 2008, he was declared a Venerable Servant of God by Pope Benedict XVI, who during his visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral cited the "remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, the Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus."

Christian and Elie el-Chartouny

After buying them a new car, their mother took them to participate in the holy mass in Abidjan for it was Saint Charbel's Day, in May 8. However, Christian and Elie refused to go into church and decided to go for a round. Their mother knelt in front of the Saint's photo asking him to protect them so that they come back safe. At about 11:30 p.m., she heard them when they came back home so she could sleep. When she woke up in the morning, she found them on the balcony, still awake, then they called her. When she got out, she saw the new car damaged. They told her that they were driving too fast and their car deviated and hit an electrical post, 10 km away from home.

If you have been blessed and healed by St. Sharbel and experienced his miracles, report them at the Church Office.

ST. SHARBEL MIRACLES

At that moment, an old monk showed up, but they didn't see his face, he got close to the car and pulled it away from the post. He tied it to a cord and pulled it extremely fast, crossing these 10 km in two minutes. He stopped the car in front of their house, he removed the cord and disappeared.

The mother thanked Saint Charbel for saving her sons. She came on May 8, 2011 to the convent and got this miracle registered.

For more about St. Sharbel, visit www.saintcharbel-annaya.com

Healing in St. Sharbel Las Vegas: Brandon Velasquez-Ling

Brandon was about 8 months old when he climbed out of his crib and bumped his head. From the fall, He got a bump that covered 1/4 of his head. Naturally, My family and I were worried and took him to an urgent care clinic nearby our house. The doctor examined Brandon and had some x-rays done. Thank God the doctor stated there were no fractures. A few days later, the bump didn't seem to get any better and decided to take him back to the doctor to reexamine him. The doctor had Brandon get x-rays again.

Later that day, we visited my mother, Cristina Velasquez. She placed the oil from St. Sharbel on Brandons head. The next day, To my surprise the bump on baby Brandon's head went down tremendously!! We placed the oil again and said a prayer to our dear St. Sharbel and miraculously the bump was completely gone the next day. I am definitely a true believer in miracles and so blessed.

FOLLOWERS ATTRIBUTE MIRACLES TO DERRY NUN SISTER CLARE CROCKETT'S INTERCESSION

FOLLOWERS of a Derry nun who was killed in an earthquake in Ecuador have claimed a number of miracles have been attributed to her intercession.

Sr Clare Crockett (33), originally from the Brandywell area, was killed in 2016 when an earthquake destroyed a school where she was teaching children.

The nun's life and death has attracted world-wide attention due to her distinctly non-religious background. As a young woman, Sr Clare admitted her sole ambition was to become a famous actor.

However, her life changed when she attended a retreat by accident in 2000, eventually leading her to life as a nun with the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother order.

A larger than life personality, Sr Clare announced her intention to enter the convent life "with a beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other".

Since her death, her order has released a film about her life while her grave at Derry city cemetery has become a place of pilgrimage.

A prayer group has also been established by her sisters, Shauna Gill and Megan Nicell. It has now been claimed that a number of miracles are being attributed to Sr Clare's intercession.

Mrs Gill said a young boy in the US who was life-support recovered after a priest asked the Derry nun to intercede. The nun's intercession is also credited for the birth of twins to a couple who were infertile.

Mrs Gill said Sr Clare would "love" the idea of calls for her to be made a saint.

Followers of Derry nun, Sister Clare Crockett believe her intercession is responsible for a number of miracles.



"She went from only ever wanting to be famous and live a life of luxury to giving everything up. But she made the right choice," she said.

Feast of Saints Peter & Paul June 29

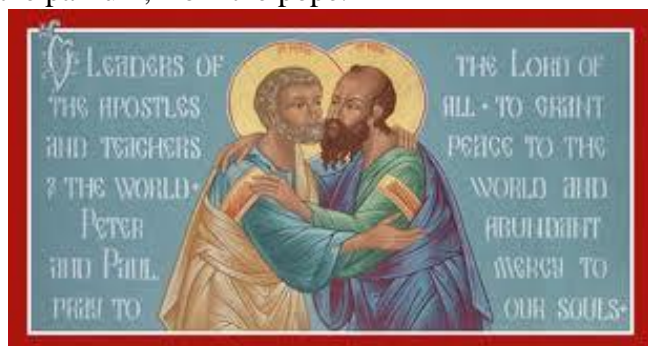
The **Feast of Saints Peter and Paul**, or the **Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul**, is a liturgical feast in honour of the martyrdom in Rome of the apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul, which is observed on 29 June. The celebration is of ancient origin, the date selected being the anniversary either of their death or of the translation of their relics.

In the Roman Catholic Church

In the Roman Catholic calendar of saints, it is celebrated as a solemnity. In the General Roman Calendar of 1962, it is a first-class feast. It is a holy day of obligation in the universal Church.

In England and Wales the feast is observed as a holy day of obligation while in the United States and Canada, it is not. In Malta it is a public holiday and in Maltese known as *L-Imnarja*.

This is the day of the liturgical year on which those newly created metropolitan archbishops receive the primary symbol of their office, the pallium, from the pope.



In Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches

For Eastern Orthodox and some Eastern Catholic Christians this feast also marks the end of the Apostles' Fast (which began on the Monday following All Saints' Sunday, i.e., the second Monday after Pentecost). It is considered a day of recommended attendance, whereon one should attend the All-Night Vigil (or at least Vespers) on the eve, and the Divine Liturgy on the morning of the feast (there are, however, no "Days of Obligation" in the Eastern Church). For those who follow the traditional Julian Calendar, 29 June falls on the Gregorian Calendar date of 12 July.

In the Russian Orthodox tradition, Macarius of Unzha's Miracle of the Moose is said to have occurred during the Apostles' Fast and the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul that followed it.

Ecumenical importance

In recent decades, this feast, along with that of Saint Andrew, has been of importance to the modern ecumenical movement as an occasion on which the pope and the Patriarch of Constantinople have officiated at services designed to bring their two churches closer to intercommunion. This was especially the case during the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, as reflected in his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*.

Among Doukhobors

Although the Doukhobors do not venerate saints *per se*, the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul has traditionally been a day of celebration for them. Since 1895, it has acquired a new significance as a commemoration of the *Burning of the Arms*, the Doukhobors' destruction of their weapons, as a symbol of their refusal to participate in government-sponsored killing. It is celebrated now by their descendants as simply "Peters Day", sometimes referred to as the *Doukhobor Peace Day*.

Saint Sharbel Youth Ministry News

ITALIAN TEEN WHO DIED IN 2009 DECLARED 'VENERABLE' BY POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis Wednesday advanced the sainthood causes of five men and women, including an Italian teenager who died of a brain tumor in 2009, declaring them "venerable."

After a May 5 meeting with Cardinal Angelo Becciu, the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the pope approved the heroic virtue of Italian priests Francesco Caruso (1879-1951) and Carmelo De Palma (1876-1961), as well as the Spanish Redemptorist priest Francisco Barrecheguren Montagut (1881-1957).

Before becoming a priest, Barrecheguren Montagut was married (he was later widowed) and had a daughter, Maria de la Concepción Barrecheguren García (1905-1927), who was also declared venerable by the pope May 6.

The fifth sainthood cause to move a step toward canonization was that of Italian teenager Matteo Farina, who lived from 1990 to 2009.

Farina grew up in a strong Christian family in the southern Italian town of Brindisi. He was very close to his sister, Erika.

The parish where he received the sacraments was under the care of Capuchin friars, from whom he gained a devotion to St. Francis and St. Padre Pio.

The postulator of Farina's cause for sainthood said that from a young age Farina had the desire to learn new things, always undertaking his activities with diligence, whether it was school or sports or his passion for music.

Starting at eight years old, he would receive the sacrament of reconciliation often. He was also devoted to the Word of God. At nine years old, he read the entire Gospel of St. Matthew as a Lenten practice. Farina also prayed the rosary every day.

When he was nine years old, he had a dream in which he heard St. Padre Pio tell him that if he understood that "who is without sin is happy," he must help others to understand this, "so that we can all go together, happy, to the kingdom of heaven."

From that point onward, Farina felt a strong desire to evangelize, especially among his peers, which he did politely and without presumption.

He once wrote about this desire, saying "I hope to succeed in my mission to 'infiltrate' among young people, speaking to them about God (illuminated by God himself); I observe those around me, to enter among them as silent as a virus and infect them with an incurable disease, Love!"

In September 2003, a month before his 13th birthday, Farina began to have symptoms of what would later be diagnosed as a brain tumor. As he was undergoing medical tests, he began to keep a journal. He called the experience of the bad headaches and pain "one of those adventures that change your life and that of others. It helps you to be stronger and to grow, above all in faith."

Over the next six years, Farina would experience several brain operations and undergo chemotherapy and other treatments for the tumor.

His love for Mary strengthened during this time and he consecrated himself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In between hospitalizations, he continued to live the ordinary life of a teenager: he attended school, hung out with his friends, formed a band, and fell in love with a girl.

He later called the chaste relationship he had with Serena during his last two years of life "the most beautiful gift" the Lord could give him.

When he was 15, he reflected on friendship, saying "I would like to be able to integrate with my peers without being forced to imitate them in mistakes. I would like to feel more involved in the group, without having to renounce my Christian principles. It's difficult. Difficult but not impossible."

Eventually, the teenager's condition worsened and after a third surgery he became paralyzed in his left arm and leg. He would often repeat that "we must live every day as if it were the last, but not in the sadness of death, but rather in the joy of being ready to meet the Lord!"

Farina died surrounded by his friends and family on April 24, 2009.

Francesca Consolini, the postulator of Farina's cause, wrote on a website dedicated to the young venerable that in him emerged "a deep inner commitment oriented toward purifying his heart from every sin" and he experienced this spirituality "not with heaviness, effort or pessimism; indeed, from his words there emerges constant trust in God, a tenacious, determined and serene gaze turned to the future..."

Farina often thought about the faith and the "difficulty of going against the current." Concerned about a lack of good faith education for young people, he undertook this task among his own peers.

He once wrote in his journal: "When you feel that you can't do it, when the world falls on you, when every choice is a critical decision, when every action is a failure ... and you would like to throw everything away, when intense work reduces you to the limit of strength ... take time to take care of your soul, love God with your whole being and reflect his love for others."



Matteo Farina (1990-2009)



FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS



HE IS SET TO BECOME THE 3RD SAINT FROM THE PHILIPPINES: MEET TEOFILO CAMOMOT

Though an archbishop his health required he return to ministry as a parish priest; he embraced this mission with love

Teofilo (the name means “Lover of God”) Camomot was born on March 3, 1914, in Talisay, Cebu, which is located in the center of the Philippines. He was the third child of Luis Camomot and Angela Bastida, who would eventually have eight children together. Teofilo was baptized the day after his birth and received his Confirmation one year later, on March 4, 1915.

Teofilo grew up in an environment supervised by gentle, loving, and religious parents. He was liked by almost everyone who met him, and his kind and caring manner left an impression on people. Upon finishing elementary school, Teofilo decided he wanted to work on his father’s farm. He also chose to attend school to become an agriculturist.

But his mom was sure this was not his calling. She recognized something spiritual within her son and wanted him to nurture it. He showed a natural and empathetic love and compassion toward the poor and downtrodden, and she thought he might consider religious life. He was frequently gathering food and rice to give to those in need.

Her prayers and the fact that Teofilo’s older brother was already a priest helped direct Teofilo to the seminary. The young man entered the Seminary of San Carlos in Cebu in 1932. **He was ordained to the priesthood on December 14, 1941, one week after the attack on Pearl Harbor.** Because of the outbreak of the war, he had to celebrate his first Mass at home instead of in his parish.

Father Camomot was assigned to St. Teresa Parish in Talisay, Cebu, in 1943. He lived very simply, only using the basics to get by. His austerity was an example for all the parishioners, and so were his actions. Each day, before celebrating Mass, he would visit the sick, and in addition to giving them Holy Communion, would tend to their personal needs the best he could. They all came to love the young priest.

Father Camomot served at St. Teresa’s Parish for 12 years. Then, on March 25, 1955, things changed dramatically for Father Camomot. He was appointed the Titular Bishop of Clisma and the Auxiliary Bishop of Jaro, Iloilo. He was consecrated bishop on May 29, 1955. Even though he was now a bishop, he still continued visiting the sick and feeding the poor. His humility was an example for all in his diocese.

He was a favorite wherever he went. His caring ways and loving heart drew many to him. People wanted to be near him. They could feel the spirituality that surrounded him. One of his close friends, Msgr. Jose B. Buenaflor of La Paz, Iloilo, said, “*He was a saintly man – devoted to prayer, to meditation, to conversion. [He was] a serious person, even while mingling with other priests... He was very charitable... Every time the poor went to him, he gave with all his heart...*”

In 1959, Bishop Camomot was sent to the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro as the coadjutor archbishop. It was during this time that he expanded evangelization capabilities by forming communities dedicated to evangelizing. He founded the Pauline Faith Defenders and the Carmelite Tertiaries of the Blessed Eucharist. These would be the forerunners of the Daughters of Saint Teresa.

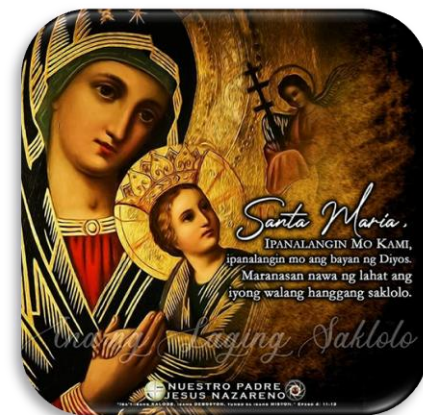
Archbishop Camomot participated in the Second Vatican Council, attending four different sessions from 1962 through 1965. The archbishop had suffered from kidney problems and in 1968 had to have surgery. His recovery time required him to resign as the coadjutor archbishop, and he was sent back to Cebu in 1970. Julio Cardinal Rosales assigned him back to his hometown of Carcar, Cebu, as a parish priest (he was still an archbishop) where, once again, his humility, generosity, and love for those less fortunate shined through. He saw the face of Christ in everyone.

Wherever Archbishop Teofilo Camomot had gone during his life, he touched the hearts and souls of all who came in contact with him. He possessed the spiritual gifts of healing, reading hearts, and some even say they witnessed acts of bilocation.

Sadly, on September 27, 1988, while returning home, he was killed in a vehicular accident. He was 74 years old.

He has been declared a “Servant of God” and his cause for sainthood is with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Servant of God Teofilo Camomot, pray for us.



OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS NAMES CARDINAL ANTONIO TAGLE AMONG TOP-RANKING CARDINALS

Pope Francis on Friday has elevated Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle to the order of “cardinal bishops”, the highest rank within the College of Cardinals.

Tagle and Cardinal Beniamino Stella are the newest members of the group, joining the ranks of 12 others who are mostly from the Latin rite and three cardinal patriarchs from the Oriental Churches.

The College of Cardinals has three ranks: cardinal deacons, cardinal priests, and cardinal bishops.

Cardinal bishops hold jurisdiction over a church in a suburb of Rome, while working in departments of the Roman Curia, the central administration of the church.

Cardinal deacons, often called “the pope’s cabinet”, are mostly curial officials, while cardinal priests are those working in dioceses all over the world.

It is also from the ranks of cardinal bishops that the Dean of College of Cardinals is elected. The dean presides at the conclave in the case of “sede vacante”, a period when there is no pope.

The dean also represents the Holy See during the sede vacante, and asks the pope-elect if he accepts the role.

There are customarily six cardinal bishops from the Latin Church until Pope Francis broke the tradition and appointed more of them.

The new additions to the group were deemed necessary as one of its members, Maronite Patriarch Bechara Rai, turned 80, the retirement age for cardinals, last February. Six other members had been over the age of 80, making them ineligible to enter a conclave.

The former Manila archbishop left the Philippines in February to assume his post as prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, a powerful Vatican office overseeing the church’s vast mission territories.



Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

Also known as “Propaganda Fidei,” its prefect is also known as the “red pope” because of its considerable power in the Roman Curia and the appointment of bishops in mission lands.

Since his elevation as cardinal, he was also given the church of St. Felix of Cantalice in the Centocelle as his “titular church”.

Cardinal Tagle’s new appointment was made on May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Incidentally, he was appointed to the top Vatican post last Dec. 8, 2019, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.



**To Keep a Lamp Burning we have
to Keep Putting Oil in it. M. Theresa**



April 6, 2020

Dear St. Sharbel Family

In these trying times, we pray for your safety and good health. As you know, many individuals, businesses, and organizations have been suffering from the economic impact of the corona-virus pandemic.

Our beloved Church has been hit especially hard, since our congregation has been unable to attend Church Services for some time now.

We know how devoted you are to our Church, as a place of prayer and worship and a center of Our life in Jesus name, and would greatly appreciate your help in these difficult times.

If you can spare any donations we would be most grateful. We want to ensure that your Church will be able to serve your spiritual needs, as the heart of the Our community and a place to turn to in difficult times.

If you wish to contribute, kindly fill out the attached AUTO PAY form and on the 5th of every month, we could withdraw the amount you indicate on there from your checking account. If you could afford at least \$2 or more a day to cover our monthly expenses and to cover for Live Stream cost of \$10,000 for equipment and installation.

We prefer auto pay to insure income to the Church, the only thing you would need to do is fill out the attached form (Please write legible) and email it to us. If you already contribute and would like to increase your amount please let us know. Church email is stsharbel.lv@gmail.com

I would like to wish you Blessings, Protection and God's favor in the Passion week and Easter season. Remember that you are always in my prayers daily.

SEE YOU SOON! Live Stream on Facebook "St Sharbel Catholic Church" or
You Tube [youtube.com/channel/UCMTONUYwmuSWgdh8szajbGA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMTONUYwmuSWgdh8szajbGA)

Yours in Christ
Pastor Nadim Abou Zeid

WEEKEND**HOLY MASS INTENTIONS****DAILY 8AM****Saturday 4:30pm****June 6**Healing-Anjelica Clare
+Rolande Daquist**Sunday 9:30 am****June 7**Healing-Shay Mikalonis
(LVPD)+Ann Elizabeth Danks
+Julio Novero (1yr)**Sunday 11:30 am**Birth of New Child for
Mike & Desi Hanache**PRAY**
FOR THE SICK**MONDAY June 8**

•Addison Hanache

TUESDAY June 9

+Frank Silva

WEDNESDAY June 10

Faithful Departed

THURSDAY June 11

All Officers of the Law

FRIDAY June 12

Unborn Babies

*Personal Injury
Law Firm**Donald P. Paradiso,
Esq.
Trial Attorney***Ladah Law Building****Phone 702.252.0055****517 South 3rd St.****Fax 702.248.0055****Las Vegas, NV 89101****donald@ladahlaw.com****Our Lady
of Guadalupe***Our Lady of Guadalupe, grant to our homes the
grace of loving and respecting life in its
beginnings, with the same love with which you
conceived in your womb.**Protect our families, so that they may always be
united, and bless the upbringing of our Children.
Teach us to go continually to Jesus and, if we fall,
help us to rise again, to return to Him, by means
of the confession of our faults and sins in the
Sacrament of Penance, which gives peace to the
soul.**We beg you grant us a great love
for all the Holy Sacraments.**Amen*