

Family Club Memo



May - June 2007

Dear Family & Friends

Greetings! We send our best regards to each and every one of you and your dear family.

It is with pleasure that we announce the launch of our monthly Family Club newsletter specifically designed for the Maronite and Lebanese Family and Community of South Africa containing brief articles of the exciting events involving our South African Lebanese families which occurred in the previous month.

The Lebanese Family Club was founded in 2004 to preserve and unify the spirit of the Lebanese Family in South Africa under the shadow of the Cedar Tree which is beautiful and eternal. Our mission is to preserve our Lebanese Family by encouraging the gathering of families and friends; in educating our children on Lebanese ethics of our tradition, history and language and to live and share Lebanese hospitality and welcome.

We ask you to provide us with your emails so that we can share and grow our communication, faith and tradition. Just send "Subscribe" to info@lebanesefamilyclub.co.za.

Long live our family.



FR. NADIM ABOU ZEID

SUPERIOR OF THE MARONITE CATHOLIC
MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA



LEBANESE FAMILY

CLUB DETAILS

*DEDICATED TO PRESERVING
OUR LEBANESE HERITAGE
THROUGH*

- *FAMILY DAYS*
- *FAMILY TREES*
- *FAMILY BOOKS*
- *FAMILY WEBSITES*

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8:30-4:30, Mon - Fri

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ence Centre, Cnr. Western
Service & Mt Lebanon Rd,
Woodmead.*

Postal Address:

*PO Box 76043,
Wendywood, 2144*

Our Lady's May Festival



FIRST-GRADE
LEBANESE

CUISINE IMPORTS

Assorted Pastas
R6

Tahina
R40

Halawat
R40

Fava Beans
R8

Jams
R8

Syrups
R30

Flower Water
R20

Dried Fruits & Nuts
R5 - R10

1kg Burghal
R20

1kg Lentils
R20

Zaarta
R25

OPEN MON-FRI, 8:30-4:30



Solemn Mass



Portuguesa Lebanesa

27TH of May - a day of festivities in honour of our families at Our Lady of Lebanon, Mulbarton (held annually on May's last Sunday). After celebrating our faith at 10:00 AM Mass with General Superior Rev. Fr Kalil, two thousand people then enjoyed and shared the finest Lebanese foods and entertainments, from delicious shwarmas and kibbe to bellydancers, from the best children's rides to the spectacular fireworks display, the day was one of warmth, laughter and friendship.



Entertainers in the making



Meeting friends & family



Making friends

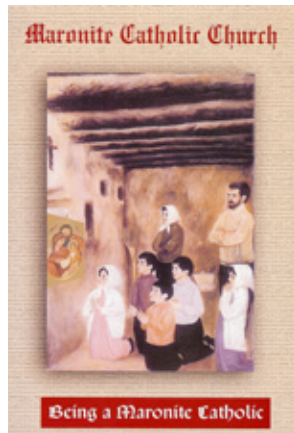
Thanksgiving Masses

15TH of June - to celebrate the success of our annual May Festival a Thanksgiving Mass was held at Our Lady of Lebanon. This Mass was well attended by all who assisted at the Festival and in true Lebanese style, after Mass, everyone joined together for a meal and great company in the banqueting hall. The mood and enthusiasm was fantastic, with many new and exciting suggestions for our future Festivals. This just goes to show the wonderful commitment and support from our parishioners.

Well done and thank you to all those who attended and assisted at the Festival.

20TH of June - a Mass was celebrated in thanksgiving for another successful term of Catechism at our Lady of Lebanon.

We thank our teachers and parents for their support and dedication in teaching our children about our religion, tradition and values. Catechism reopens on 18 July 2007.



"After 13 years of priesthood and ministry serving this community and sharing in the life of our parishioners, I would like now in this booklet, to share with you some of what I have learnt and experienced, and in the process, continue to discover more with you as we travel this journey of faith together.

In imitation of the Holy Family, our Maronite Family is called to be a community of purpose, vision and commitment, doing all things for Jesus, with Jesus and close to Jesus, Mary and Joseph."

FR. NADIM ABOU ZEID
SUPERIOR OF THE MARONITE CATHOLIC
MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA

R 50

LCA Meeting



R 135



R 250



R 100



R 280



The Bowling Club



Our LCA members vote

3RD of June - a historical event occurred with the members of the Lebanese Christian Association (LCA) being invited to a general meeting to vote on whether to transfer ownership of Cedar Park, owned by the LCA and recently rescued from its huge debt, to the Maronite Church. All 145 voters voted in favour. Fr Nadim, Superior of the Maronite Mission, thanked the trustees for their efforts in saving Cedar Park and said, "We are one people and everyone is invited to share our faith. Today we have witnessed a Maronite Marriage of the Church and the Club and there will be no divorce! So support your club and celebrate your family events with us here."



The LCA Trustees: John Shalala, Treasurer; Michell Ansara; Mike Rohana, Cedar Bowlers; Budwa Abrosie, Vice Chairman of LCA; Errol Richa, Chairman of LCA; Fr Nadim Abou Zeid, Superior of MCC; Raymond Abrosie; Alec Leicher.

Golf Day



Our golfers relax at the award ceremony after an enjoyable tournament hosted for a worthy cause.

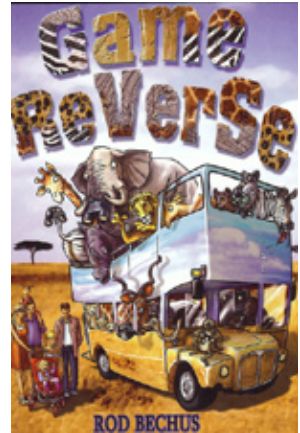
12TH of June - a fund raising Golf Tournament was held at Randpark, Golf Club in support of Saint Charbel Helping Hand, a charity which focuses on helping the poor and needy of our community with food and life's necessities. Due to the generous contribution of the sponsors and ninety participants, the day was hugely successful, challenging and enjoyable. Congratulations to all the golfers for their champion spirit.



Errol Richa, Chairman of Our Lady of Cedars



Dougie Abbot, Errol Richa & Fr Nadim



Ever wondered what animals are thinking?

This hilarious book was inspired by the answer to that question and written by a game-watching enthusiast.

Game Reverse is a book that an entire family can enjoy, from grandfather to grandchild.

It is humorous and light with interesting facts.

R 100

Mr & Mrs Abou Zeid's 50th



FAMILY CLUB DESIGNS

MAKE YOUR
FAMILY EVENTS
UNFORGETTABLE
BY DESIGNING
PERSONALISED

- **Cards**
- **Invitations**
- **Posters**
- **Bonbons**
- **Certificates**
- **CD Covers**
- **DVD presentations**
- **& Books**

The Family Club can assist you with a variety of ideas & designs.

For more info:

Tel:
011 804 7566

Fax:
086 666 5412

Email:
lebfamilyclub@webmail.co.za
info@lebanesefamilyclub.co.za



12TH of July - sending many good wishes to Father Nadim's parents, Sleiman and Mirriam Abou Zeid on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. As a congregation we thank them for the gift of their son and his life's dedication to the Church and our

community. As we all know, Fr Nadim is passionate about the preservation of our Lebanese families and family values, and we credit such devotion to his own upbringing.

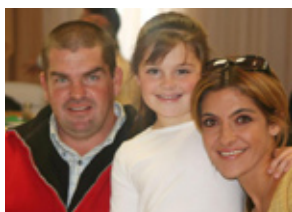
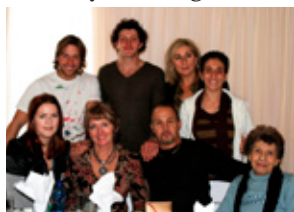


Fathers Day Lunch

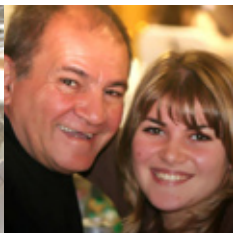


17TH of June - a Father's Day Lunch was held at the Cana Banqueting Facility in the south, it was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The scrumptious buffet lunch was delicious and set the tone for the rest of the afternoon. Families were brought together and old friends united. Make sure you don't miss out and join us next year.

Watch Cana banqueting space for our next few fabulous functions coming up. Buffet Brunch Sunday 15 July 2007, Lebanese Haffle Saturday 25 August 2007 and a Kiddies Carnival on Sunday 19 August 2007.



Cana Banqueting goes the extra mile for our dads.



DEDICATED TO:

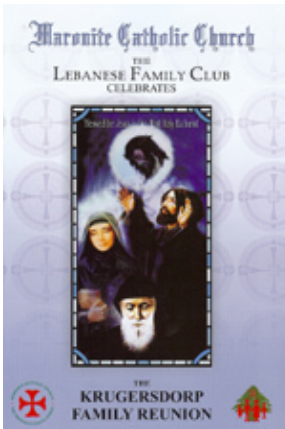
☛ *First and foremost our Heavenly Father, our Maker and Creator – The Perfect Father in every way through whom all things have been made possible through His incomprehensible love and sacrifice.*

☛ *Our own fathers and grandfathers whom we have been blessed with, and who have given us the greatest gift ever... Our faith.*

☛ *Those fathers who are often forgotten and taken for granted – our priests, who by their endless patience and love brings our faith to fruition by their dedication and example.*

R 50

Krugersdorp Reunion



Our Elderly members receive Blessings & Honorary Certificates

*KRUGERSDORP
FAMILY REUNION*
ABIET, CHEKETRI,
CHIDRAWI, DIAB, ESSEY,
FAHRY, GOSSAYN, JOSEPH,
KARAM, KHOURY, LOUTFIE,
RENNIE, SHAMLEY, TOWELL
& WARBY. - R 50

FAMILY BOOKS:

☛ SHAM - R 10
☛ BACKOS / BAKOS /
BECHUS - R 50
☛ LEICHER /
LEISHER - R 50
☛ BECHARRE
VILLAGE - R 100
☛ KALIL / KALELL
/ KHALILL - R 100
☛ KHOURY /
KOURIE /
KHOURI - R 100
☛ TOWEEL /
TOWELL - R 100
☛ RAHME - R 150
☛ MAROUN - R 100
☛ KARAM - R 100

10TH of June - a historical union of the Lebanese families of the West Rand and the Maronite Catholic Church was celebrated by Fr Nadim in a Mass held in the hall of the West Rand Lebanese Social Club (formed in 1974) followed by a luncheon attended by 220 friends and family. Families of Krugersdorp include the Abiet, Cheketri, Chidrawi, Diab, Essey, Fahry, Gossayn, Joseph, Karam, Khoury, Loutfie, Rennie, Shamley, Towell & Warby families. Each of the eldest members of these were honoured with certificates. Other honourable guests included the Lebanese Consul, His Excellency, Mr Jimmy El Douheig, Fr Luke Cheketri, Sr Elizabeth Towell Sr Jeanette Essey.

Mass in the Maronite rite will be held monthly by one of our priests and plans are underway to buy land for a Church and a priest's house in the fulfilment of the Maronite Missionaries goal to unite all our families and provide them with a base to live, grow and prosper in the rediscovery of our Lebanese spirit and identity.

Family Day Statistics

FAMILY	DATE	GUESTS
SHAM	29 Aug 2004	400
BACKOS / BAKOS / BECHUS	7 Nov 2004	400
LEICHER / LEISHER	21 Nov 2004	300
BECHARRE VILLAGE *	6 Feb 2005	850
KALIL / KALELL / KHALILL	6 Mar 2005	250
KHOURY / KOURIE / KHOURI	12 Jun 2005	400
TOWEEL / TOWELL	28 Aug 2005	380
RAHME	12 Feb 2006	400
MAROUN	11 Feb 2007	200
KARAM	18 Mar 2007	350
KRUGERSDORP	10 Jun 2007	220
TOTAL		4150

*Kairuz, Kourie, Tarry, Succar, Anthony, Warby, Michael Hannouch, Fagri, Peter, Soma, Simpson.



Frs Nadim & Luke



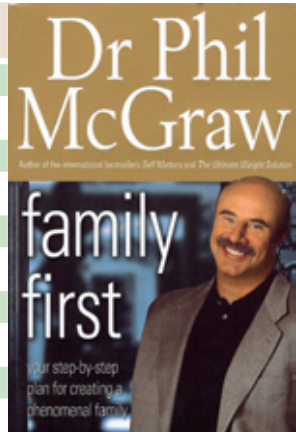
Holy Mass



Nazha Essey, Chairlady, Mrs Essey, Sr Essey & friend



Our Children, Our Future, enjoying their friendships



5 FACTORS OF A PHENOMENAL FAMILY

*TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART IT.
(PROVERBS 22:6)*

1. Create a NURTURING AND ACCEPTING FAMILY SYSTEM.
2. PROMOTE RHYTHM IN YOUR FAMILY LIFE
3. ESTABLISH MEANINGFUL RITUALS AND TRADITIONS
4. BE ACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNICATION
5. LEARN HOW TO MANAGE CRISIS

R 150

Francesca Zackey

Dear Parishioners

I think you have all heard about Franseca Zackey, our Maronite parishioner, who claims to have received visions of Our Lady, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Francesca has been the centre of much media attention speculating on the truth of these visions.

At this time, we, the Maronite Catholic Church, cannot say whether these visions are authentic or not until we receive an official statement from the Catholic Church. But in this article we would like to discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

If we read the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians chapters 12-14 we will know that the Holy Spirit can give every one of us a special gift from God at any time. Some might receive the gift of understanding, others, the gift of wisdom, others the gift of faith or of prayer because no one can say “Abba Father” except by the

inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Some may receive the gift of knowledge and still some others the gift of speaking in tongues, or the gift of prophecy and others the gift of love. All these gifts are meant to build the Church, the Body of Christ.

Saint Paul spoke about three important gifts: speaking in tongues, prophecy and love. He states that speaking in tongues is good as it builds the person himself but the gift of prophecy even better as it builds the Church as the prophet can explain God’s words. “I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy” (1 Cor. 14. 5) but St Paul insists that we should all work and pray to attain the greatest of gifts - the gift of love.

On the 23rd of May, Francesca claims to have seen a vision of our Mother appearing in the sky. Some with her said they too

saw our Lady, others saw three crosses and others the Eucharist in the spinning sun. During this time some people's vision were affected. Because of this event many people have questioned whether these visions come from God or not. But reading the bible we can see that such events as these are biblical like the story of Saint Paul who on the road to Damascus (Acts. 9), saw and heard the voice of Christ, was blinded and whose sight was restored after three days. So we can see that such events can come from God as God did not come to only save our bodies but our souls. One lady who witnessed Our Lady said that even though her vision had been affected she had been comforted with inner peace. As Christians we may confidently believe that if the apparitions of Mary are authentic, then God can and will perform miracles, no matter the widespread negative media reports. However, if it is not, it will fade on its own.

As Jesus said every tree is known by its fruits: our focus should be not on whether Our Lady appeared to Francesca in Benoni, but on the same messages which Mary tells of in all her apparitions throughout the world i.e. Fatima, Lourdes, Medjugorje which are to

- *Pray the Rosary daily*
- *Read the bible daily,*
- *Confess regularly*
- *Attend prayer groups and religious seminars,*
- *Obey the 10 Commandments,*
- *And have faith in God and a special devotion to the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist.*

These messages are all very much part of our Catholic tradition and treasures and therefore we encourage everyone, whether Mary appeared or didn't appear, to keep their faith in her and in her son Jesus and fervently practice these Church devotions.

FR. BADAQUI HABIB

VICE-SUPERIOR OF THE MARONITE
CATHOLIC MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA

General Superior's Visit



MARONITE MISSIONARY NEWS

On 1 July at Our Lady of Lebanon, Harissa we are blessed with three ordinations:

✠Fr Tony Elias

✠Fr Elias Androus

✠Fr Charbel Geagea

*May the Lord,
bless and keep
these shepherds
always.*



Our Maronite Lebanese Missionary Fathers visit Krugersdorp
Fr. Badaoui Habib, Fr. Elie Nakhoul, Most Rev. Fr. Khalil Alwan (General Superior), Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid (Mission Superior), Fr. Bassem Zaynoun .

20TH of May - our General Superior of the Congregation of the Maronite Lebanese Missionaries, Reverend Father Khalil Alwan visited South Africa together with Father Elie Nakhoul (Counsellor and Treasurer) on the 22nd to view the Maronite Church's projects such as the expansion of Our Lady of Lebanon, experience its fruits in events such as the May Festival and the unification of the West Rand Lebanese and provide recommendations for its future growth.

From 19-29 July, the Maronite Missionaries are convening in Lebanon to vote for their new General Superior of the Congregation. We pray that the Holy Spirit may guide the Maronite Church and her shepherds in this important election.



Rev. Fr. Khalil Alwan
General Superior



Fr. Elie Nakhoul
Counsellor and Treasurer