



MARONITE MEMO



January 2007

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

MARONITE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Lady of the Cedars,
Woodmead

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LEBANESE FAMILY
CLUB

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING OUR
LEBANESE HERITAGE THROUGH

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- FAMILY TREES
- FAMILY BOOKS
- FAMILY WEBSITES
- FAMILY HEALTH

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Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid M.L.M

FAMILY CLUB

Lent

Maronite Links

God bless you all.

FATHER BADAOU HABIB - SUPERIOR OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MARONITE MISSION



MARONITE MEMO



Father Badoui - Lent

Maronite Catholic Church

Proudly Celebrates

St. Maroun's Festival

Sunday, 10 February 2008

At Our Lady of
the Cedars

- Holy Mass
10:30 am
 - Food
 - Flea market
 - Entertainment
For The Whole
Family
- ## All Welcome!

Western Service Rd, Woodmead
Contact (South) Liza 082 615-1582 (East) Sharon 084 - 406-5099
(North) Franca 082 - 587-7283 (West) Nazha 082 - 410-7686

FEAST OF ST. MAROUN

All that is known about St Maroun, the spiritual father and protector of the Maronites comes from Theodoret, the bishop of Cyr. In approximately 444, Theodoret undertook the project of writing a religious history. Theodoret never knew St. Maroun personally, but only through the disciples of this holy man. He described St. Maroun as “the one who has planted for God the garden which flourishes now in the region of Cyr”. Little is known of the birth or youth of St. Maroun because Theodoret was unconcerned about that aspect of his life. He felt that St. Maroun was a man born not for this world, but for heaven. In his description of the beginning of St Maroun’s life, Theodoret assests that St Maroun had “already increased the number of saints in heaven”.

According to history, St Maroun was never satisfied with the ordinary practices of asceticism, but was “always seeking for new ways to accumulate all the treasures of wisdom.” St Maroun was the spiritual leader not only of the hermits who lived near him, but of all the Christian faithful in the area. He used to counsel them and heal their bodily and spiritual ills. The date of St Maroun’s death is placed somewhere between 407 and 423. Because of his great popularity among the people, riots broke out at the time of his death because everyone wanted to save his remains in their village.

The Maronite Church formerly celebrated the feast of this great saint on January 5th. (This is the day in which the church of Kfarhai was consecrated in his honor.) However, in the seventeenth century, the feast was transferred to February 9th. Lebanon has proclaimed St Maroun as its patron saint and **POPE BENEDICT XIV GRANTED A PLENARY INDULGENCE TO EVERYONE WHO VISITED A MARONITE CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 9TH.**



SAINT MAROUN

The Patron of the Maronite Catholic Church

b: 350 - d: 410 AD - Feast day: Feb 9th

✠ Prayer to St. Maroun ✠

Holy Father Maroun, Patron of our Maronite Church, you lived the life of a hermit on a mountain. God granted you the gift of miracles and you attracted people from far and near. Your prayers were medicine for all diseases, you gave people hope, cured their bodies and sanctified their souls. Through your prayers, heal and cure us from all diseases... and help us to secure the wealth of wisdom through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...
May his prayers be with us. Amen.*

By following the Way of the Cross we learn to imitate Jesus in our own sufferings, and find, through Him, the patience, hope, love and forgiveness to overcome our trials and return our love wholly to Him who sacrificed all and died for us.



VIII



Join us 7PM
every Lenten
Friday for

Stations of the Cross

at OLM & OLL

Lord Jesus, help us walk in Your Steps.

INVITATION TO PERPETUAL ADORATION AT OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS' SHRINE

As we approach the 7th anniversary of our Perpetual Adoration, it is an opportunity to say "thank you, Lord" as we recall the graces and blessings we've received in abundance.

It is also a time to recall the inspiration we received:

(i) **BLESSED MOTHER TERESA** – "I make a Holy hour each day in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. All my sisters of the Missionaries of Charity make a daily holy hour, as well, because we find that through our daily holy hour our love for Jesus becomes more intimate, our love for each other more understanding, and our love for the poor more compassionate. Our holy hour is our daily family prayer where we get together and pray the Rosary before the exposed Blessed Sacrament for the first half hour, and the second half hour we pray in silence. Our adoration has doubled the number of our vocations."

(ii) **POPE JOHN PAUL II AND POPE PAUL VI** have requested that Bishops, priests and the faithful take part in Eucharistic adoration. Pope John Paul II desired that every parish have perpetual adoration

(iii) **Scripture:** The people of God go before the Lamb on the throne "day and night without pause" in unceasing adoration and thanksgiving (Rev.4:8).

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive, honour, glory and Praise" (Rev 5:12).

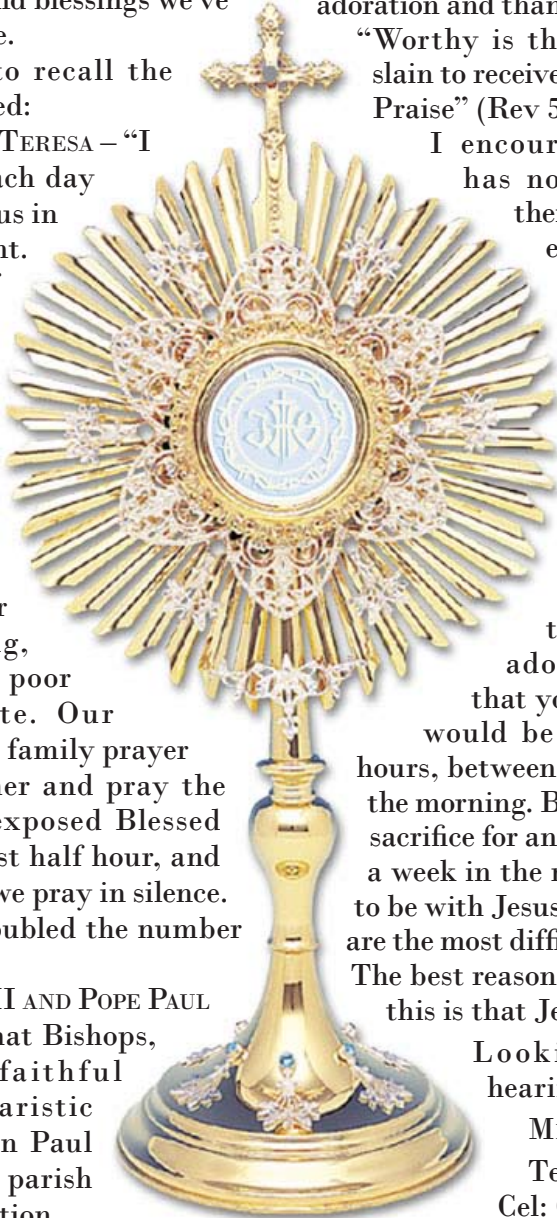
I encourage anyone who has not yet committed themselves to one hour each week to spend with Jesus, to consider making that decision now. Whatever hour one chooses to be with Jesus, morning, noon, evening, or night is most pleasing to Him. In order to have perpetual adoration, the hour that you are most needed would be one of the night hours, between midnight and 4 in the morning. Because it requires a sacrifice for anyone to get up once a week in the middle of the night to be with Jesus for one hour, these are the most difficult hours to cover. The best reason to be willing to do this is that Jesus deserves it.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

MICHELLE JOSEPH

Tel: 011 648-5860

Cel: 082 609 6919



JOIN us for the celebrations of our 7th Anniversary of Perpetual Adoration with Holy Mass, Benediction and Procession on Tues, 26 Feb at 7 PM.

“IN HOPE WE WERE SAVED” POPE BENEDICT XVI’S NEW ENCYCLICAL



“SPE SALVI facti sumus”—in hope we were saved, says Saint Paul to the Romans, and likewise to us (Rom 8:24). According to the Christian faith, “redemption”—salvation—is not simply a given. Redemption is offered to us in the sense that we have been given hope, trustworthy hope, by virtue of which we can face our present: the present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey. Now the question immediately arises: what sort of hope could ever justify the statement that, on the basis of that hope and simply because it exists, we are redeemed? And what sort of certainty is involved here?

(From the Introduction)

Learn More about this newest and most-inspirational Letter from our Holy Father.
Available in the Repository after every Mass.

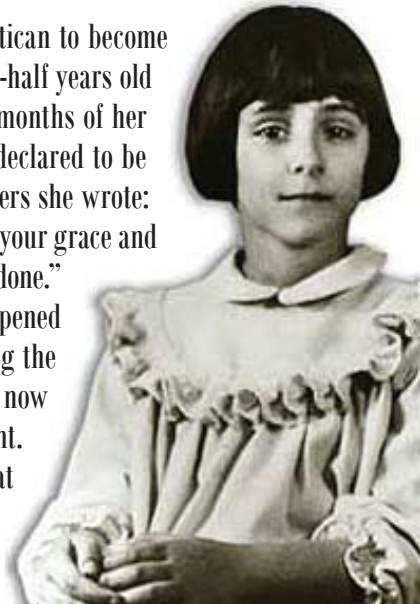
SAINTS TO BE

YOUNGEST SAINT (AGE 6) SET TO BE MADE

Dec 2007, an Italian girl has been placed on course by the Vatican to become the youngest saint in history. Antonietta Meo was just six-and-a-half years old when she lost her battle against bone cancer. But in the final months of her life she began writing letters to Jesus which theologians have declared to be “extraordinary”, and the works of a “mystic”. In one of the letters she wrote: “Dear baby Jesus, you are holy, you are good. Help me, grant me your grace and give me back my leg. If you don’t want to, then may your will be done.” Antonietta died on 3 July 1937 and her cause for sainthood was opened in Rome in 1972. Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree recognising the “heroic virtues” of Antonietta. This means that two miracles are now required to declare the youngster first “blessed” and then a saint.

The letters reveal that when the girl had her leg amputated, at the age of five, she bore her sufferings cheerfully and offer them up in union with those of the crucified Christ.

Source: DailyMail



WHO HAVE WE LOST TO ABORTION?

Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI researcher, has examined the data from the 2007 Statistical Abstract of the United States (most recent census data) and extrapolated the numbers of the various professions and categories of Americans who have been eliminated in the wake of nearly 49 million legalized abortions, one third of all Americans conceived since 1973. The following numbers are based on the actual government estimates of the professions represented in America. So then, who have we lost to abortion?



Abortion Mass

Archbishop Buti Tihagale will be concelebrating mass with priests from the Johannesburg archdiocese on February, 16th at 12 midday at St Charles Parish, Victory Park. This was as a result of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill which the ANC tried to pass. We want to make a united stand against this Bill and against abortion as an archdiocese. Please all make a concerted effort to attend, to encourage your parishes and organizations to join us on this day and to storm heaven for mercy. Also please unite your prayers with ours (rosaries, masses, holy hours, etc) for the success of this day and for the elimination of abortion from our country.

- 2 US Presidents
- 7 Supreme Court Justices
- 102 US Senators
- 589 Congressmen
- 8,123 Federal, district & local court judges
- 31 Nobel Prize laureates
- 328 Olympic medalists including 123 Gold medalists
- 6,092 professional athletes
- 134,841 physicians and surgeons
- 392,500 registered nurses
- 70,669 priests, ministers, rabbis including 6,852 priests and 11,010 nuns (vocations “shortage”?)
- 1,102,443 teachers (K-12)
- 553,821 truck drivers
- 224,518 maids and housekeepers
- 336,939 janitors
- 134,028 farmers and ranchers
- 109,984 police officers and sheriff’s deputies
- 39,477 firefighters
- 17,221 barbers, and
- 24,450,000 women

These numbers of course are only the tip of the iceberg. Keep in mind that we get our statistics about abortion from the abortion industry itself which has a vested interest in under-reporting the numbers... For three and a half decades the feminists have reveled in a misleading “freedom to choose,” and on the basis of that false “right” have eliminated their children and done immense damage to the family as the basic unit of society. Those who respect these sacred realities, on the other hand, have their wives and husbands to grow old with, their children to enjoy and their grandkids to play with and spoil. *Therefore let us pray for an end to this, the most tragic of sins.*

Source: Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, “How Many Heisman Winners Has Abortion Killed?” <http://www.hli.org>



THE STORM

BY KEN HANNA

“The first great moment that I remember was when I was three years old-a storm - I tore my clothes and ran out in it - and I have been doing that in storms ever since”
Kahlil Gibran.

On the road between Johannesburg and Vereeniging stands the Church of Our Lady of Lebanon. The sign says “Catholic Church - Shrine of Our Lady”.

I take this road often. Sometimes I turn off and visit the Shrine for a short moment of solitude.

One Wednesday afternoon I decided to see Father Maurice Chidiac. It was a quiet period just before Catechism and Benediction.

Father Maurice is in charge of the parish in the South. His co-priest, Father Abdo Skayem, was deep in study in the one office and Father Maurice was meditating in prayer.

Father was happy to see me and we discussed many issues. He said that he was happy to be serving the Lebanese community in the South of Johannesburg. I mentioned that we were so blessed to have six priests serving our Community in South Africa.

We discussed the “Cedar Leaf”, the Maronite newsletter and the Family Club, amongst numerous other matters. Both of us agreed that we had lost the language, and the main pillar of our survival as a Lebanese Community would be the Maronite Church.

Four other great pillars would be Faith, Family, Finance (we have to work to make a living) and naturally Fellowship with our fellow South Africans.

Naturally the discussion turned to Gibran. We discussed the Gibran Projects the community had undertaken, and the discussion turned to Gibran’s Book “The Storm”.

Father had been trying all over to obtain this book. He asked me if I had a copy. I said that I did and that I would make a copy of the book and let him have it.

I also promised myself that I would revisit “The Storm”.

It was overcast on this summer highveld afternoon and a storm was anticipated. But it was just a light downpour as I made my way home.

That Saturday night at Monte Casino the “Lion King” extravaganza was on. Thousands stormed the “Teatro’ oblivious to the fact that just kilometers away a group of Missionaries were quiet in peace and solitude.

I thought then to myself, hopefully, we too, could find peace and calm in the eye of the “Storm”.

LETTERS

Greetings Mr. Hanna

My Grandfather informed me that you will not be circulating your newsletter anymore. This is unfortunate as I was just starting to get into it and really enjoyed reading up on family news and Lebanese culture. The work the you put in to it was unbelievable. Will there be a replacement newsletter of some sort? Thank you for all the work that you have put in over the years.

God Bless,

*MARC GEORGE KAIRUZ.
(Cape Town)*

Dear Marc,

Thank you for your email and kind words. They are much appreciated.

Please note that all is not lost. Thanks to Father Badaoui, Father Nadim and their editor Jeraldene Coleman, the news continues by way of the “Maronite Memo”, incorporating the Lebanese Family Club and the “Cedar Leaf”.

We are meeting soon to hand over documents and past records to the Church. As you know I had an inning spanning over 38 years.

Quite frankly I do not have the energy to carry on handling the “Cedar Leaf” on my own anymore.

Please convey my love to your dear grandfather, Dr. George, and all the family you may come into contact with.

Yours sincerely,

*KEN HANNA (KAIROUZ)
Editor, “Cedar Leaf” Section of Maronite Memo.*



**Family Message
Of the Month**

“Ubuntu”

Ubuntu - the ideal African family. The African theologian A. Shorter writes: “If the Church is to be truly a Family of God, then the Church and family which provides its model must both reflect God’s priorities.” And that is what the laity, who are living their day-to-day lives in a family context, are challenged to work towards.

www.marfam.org.za

“FAMILY IS THE AGENT FOR PEACE”

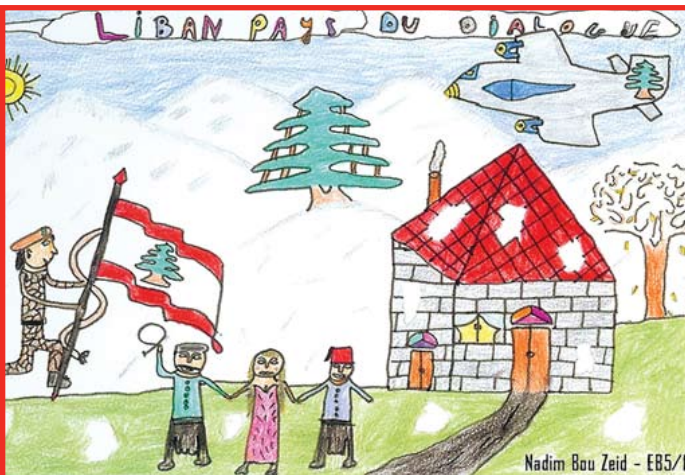
VATICAN CITY, JAN. 1, 2008 The family is the principal agent of peace, and whoever disrupts the family, disrupts peace, says Pope Benedict XVI. Reflecting on this year’s theme for the world day: *The Human Family, a Community of Peace* the Holy Father said: “The same love that builds and maintains unity in the family, the vital building block of society, favours these relationships of solidarity and of collaboration among the peoples of the earth, who are members of the single human family.” *Source: www.zenit.org*

Therefore, in response to the Pope’s message, this year, let us strive to preserve and promote peace within our own families for there has never been good war and bad peace.

According to the World Health Organisation’s statistics regarding the war on Iraq:

- 151 000 civilians have been killed in the last three years of America’s invasion and occupation. In the first year 128 Iraqi died per day, 115 daily in the second year and 226 daily in third year;
- 40 000 bombs have been dropped by American aircraft (many within minutes of each other);
- Deaths caused by violence has risen from 104 000 (2003) to 223 000 (2006)
- Over 10 000 families have been investiaged;
- 4000 American soldiers have been killed, 180 British soldiers and 5000 - 64000 Iraqi soldiers;
- 50 000 Kaldeenean Christians have left Iraq to Jordan and Syria where many young girls fall into prostitution to get money for food and shelter.

NO MENTION IS MADE OF ALL CHURCHES BOMBED AND HOW DEVASTATING THE GRIEF OF FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES.



ARTWORK BY FR NADIM’S NEPHEW - NADIM ABOU ZEID - DEPICTING PEACE BETWEEN ALL THE LEBANESE INHABITANTS.

**War is bad for everybody.
It is a lose-lose situation
which results in further loss
of life through famine and
lack of medication, further
depravity through the loss of
hope, faith and conscience.**

**War is breaking
families.
Let us stop war
and pray for peace.**



Dear Maronite-Krugersdorp Family & Friends

We have recently held our AGM and have elected new members into our committee. We welcome you all and thank you for your generosity in time, talents and treasures. We will soon be forming a new youth/young adult committee and encourage all our children to get involved in preserving our Lebanese culture and sculpting our future.

The Club is truly grateful for the spiritual commitment and support from our Superior, Rev. Fr. Badaoui Habib and the Maronite priests and we send them many thanks and blessings in our prayers.

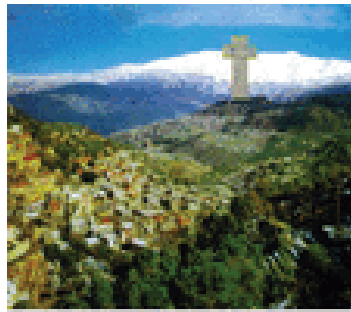
We will be celebrating Sunday Mass at the Club on the 24th, Feb at 11.00 am and all are welcome. Braai packs and salads will be available for lunch. We look forward to seeing you all there and invite you to bring along a friend who would like to experience a Maronite Mass.

God Bless,
NAZHA ESSEY, CHAIRLADY



THE KRUGERSDORP COMMITTEE: BACK: RONNIE FARRY (VICE CHAIRMAN), SAIDIE JACOBS, BERNARD CHIDRAOUI, GRAHAM RENNIE & BARRY CHEKETRI. FRONT: ELPIDA THEMISTOCLEOUS, NICOLETTE ESSEY (SECRETARY), BRONWYN JACOBS, NAZHA ESSEY (CHAIRPERSON) & MARTIN GOSSYAN (TREASURER).

The new Cross of Love for all nations



Lebanon has the privilege of erecting on Mount Sannine a massive Cross of 73.8m high named "the Cross of Love for all Nations". It is being built for the unity of all humanity, especially the East and has been approved by: Pope Benedict XVI; his Eminence Moussa Daoud, Prefect of the Eastern church to Rome; Lebanese Consular Authorities in France.; the order of the Maronite Convent of Holy Joseph (of which its Bishop dreamed of this Cross); Father Jozo Zovko of Medjugorje; Gift Gobbi of the priestly Movement Marial; and civil authorities of the Municipality of Baskinta. The metal work has been commissioned (\$750 000) and is ready for construction.





Dear Committe Members and Maronite Youth

Life in the Spirit Seminar



You are invited to come learn more about the Third Person of the Trinity - the Holy Spirit through prayer, song, seminars and discussion every Thursday night at Our Lady of Cedars, Woodmead, every Thursday at 19h30.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
ISABEL 072 623 6501 OR
VERONICA 083 375 4395

On Sunday 27 January 2008 we celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass for Jason Mazaham' and Luke Farry's healing.

Luke gave a testimony on his accident in 2006 and his subsequent recovery thanks to his faith and trust in God during the Mass.

After Mass we had a party at Sheiks Palace. in honour of Jason Mazaham and his miraculous recovery after having fallen four stories. The theme was "Celebrating Life" and 200 people, mainly youth, helped us enjoy the night with great success.

The Life in the Spirit Seminar is currently on every Thursday night and so far we have many youth participating and we encourage many more to come.

On the 10th of Febuary, Saint Maroun's Festival, the youth will have a store at the Fate so please support us.

The youth has many more things in store to come and we look forward to a great year ahead.

Thank you for all support so far.

NAKITA BOLUS AND JASON MAZHAM
YOUTH LEADERS



JASON

NAMES





“IT IS WORTH IT TO WORK FOR THE FAMILY AND MARRIAGE”



VATICAN CITY, JAN. 1, 2008 On the Feast of the Holy Family, Pope Benedict XVI said: “... we stop to look at Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we look with adoration on the mystery of a God that chose to be born of a woman, the holy Virgin, and to enter this world by a path common to all men. In this way he sanctified the reality of the family, filling it with divine grace and fully revealing his vocation and mission. The Second Vatican Council paid special attention to the family. The spouses, it affirmed, are for each other and their children witnesses of the faith and love of Christ... The Christian family loudly proclaims both the present virtues of the kingdom of God and the hope of a blessed life to come...”

“Upon contemplating the mystery of the Son of God that came into the world surrounded by the affection of Mary and Joseph, I invite all Christian families to experience the loving presence of the Lord in their lives. I encourage them, inspired by love of Christ for all mankind, to give witness before the world of the beauty of human love, marriage and family. This, founded in the insoluble union between a man and a woman, constitutes the privileged environment in which human life is welcomed and protected, from its beginning until its natural end. For this, parents have the right and fundamental obligation to educate their children, in the faith and in the values that dignify human existence. It is worth it to work for the family and marriage because it is worth it to work for the human being, the most valuable being created by God.”

Source: www.zenit.org

Compulsory MARRIAGE PREPERATION CLASSES are underway every Monday night at OLM, 7pm. We wish all the participants a blessed and fruitful journey during this time. For more info contact Fiona Grant on 011 804 1305.



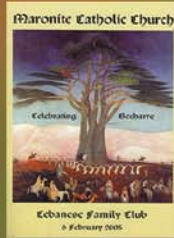
CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL AND JANINE AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ENGAGEMENT,



FAMILY CLUB AVAILABLE FAMILY BOOKS



Bakhos / Rakos / Rachos



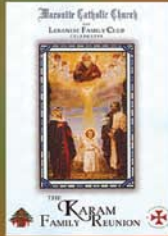
Bedarra



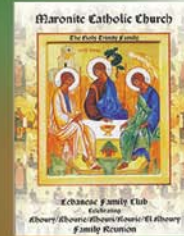
Germanus / Germanos



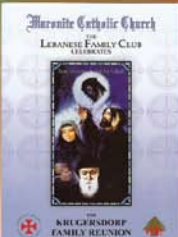
Kall / Khail / Kareil



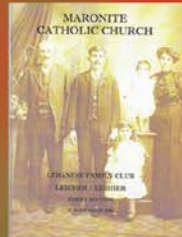
Koram



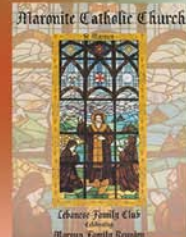
Khour / Khoute / Khour / Koute / El Khoury



Klugendorp



Leicher / Laisher



Maron



Rahms



Sham



Towell / Towell / Tawi

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THE SPIRITUALITY OF FOOD

What a blessing food is! And it always seems to taste better when it is made with love and shared with family and friends.

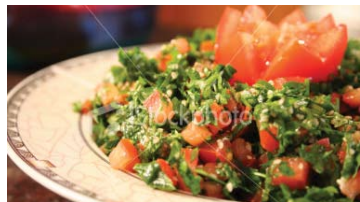
Food, when it is not abused for greed or gluttony, unites us. Is not the family table, where everyone comes to eat and nourish their bodies, also nourished emotionally and spiritually by this time of prayer and thanks to the Lord for His blessings and bounty; a time of enjoyment and appreciation of a family member's time and effort he/she placed in the preparation of the cuisine; and a time of peace and contentment as each person freely and generously shares the dishes?

Our Lord Jesus knew how special food was, especially when shared with family and friends, that is why He often attended meals with both saints and sinners alike, and that is why, as His final gift to us - He became our food!

At your next meal remind yourself all things are gifts from a loving God: that physical, delicious food is meant to be shared with both loved ones and those who are poorer than ourselves; and that Holy Communion is truly our Lord's presence here on earth and meant to be prepared for with a heart hungry and thirsty for His love and nourishment.

Let us remember that earthly food, neither appreciated nor shared in brotherly love, will satisfy our bodies for a few hours, but food shared in love, especially the Eucharist which we share with all the Communion of Saints, is to be desired and hungered for above all, as that which will satisfy our souls forever.

RECIPE FOR A LEBANESE SMILE



TABOULI

10 min prep 4-6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 3 bunches fresh parsley, stems removed & chopped
- 2 sprigs fresh mint, chopped
- 1 sweet onion, finely chopped
- 4-6 roma tomatoes, diced
- 1 cup bulgur wheat
- 1 lemon, juice of, fresh
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Soak Bulgur wheat in 3 cups boiling water for 1 hour then dry with cheese cloth or towel.
2. combine the parsley, onion, tomatoes and mint in a large bowl and mix to combine.
3. In a small bowl combine the lemon juice, olive oil, salt and pepper and add to the salad.
4. Mix well then cover and place in the refrigerator for several hours (the longer the better) overnight is best. Stir well before serving.
5. Enjoy!



SHARING A SPIRITUAL MEAL: FR.CHARBEL, JAMES, ROY JOSEPH, TIM, MICHELLE, FR.GEORGES, MARTIN JOSEPH, FR. ABDO, FR.BADAOUI & FR.MAURICE

A LEBANESE CHEF IS NEEDED FOR "JP'S COFFEE CAFE" IN CT. FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT JP ON 083 325 4010.



Happy Birthday to

DEBBIE AUBY, 7 JAN



MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST & CHAIRMAN OF OLM PARISH COUNCIL,
VINCENT LEICHER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY AT OLL, 20 JAN 08



MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST & MUSIC
MINISTER (OVER 50 YEARS),
JOE KOURIE'S 80TH BIRTHDAY AT OLL,
20 JAN 08.



LOLITA ADELTRA, 73RD BIRTHDAY, 10 JAN 08



THERESA MOBORAK
92ND BIRTHDAY 14 JAN



The best part about getting old is watching new generations being born because of the love we shared in marriage.

DEAR SENIOR MEMBERS, WHEN WRITING UP YOUR WILLS, PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE POOR AND NEEDY. ALSO, IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A GOVERNMENT PENSION BUT HAVE NOT APPLIED FOR IT BECAUSE OF THE INCONVENIENCE, PLEASE CONSIDER SACRIFING THE NECESSARY TIME TO APPLY AND PERHAPS DONATING A PORTION OF IT TO THE SAINT CHARBELS HELPING HAND, WHERE A FEW HUNDRED RAND A MONTH CAN MAKE AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE TO A FAMILY.

A LEBANESE MAN OF 106 YEARS LIVES IN DEIR EL-AHMAR, LEBANON



MAHROUSSE, THE KID IN THE MIDDLE & HIS MARRIED BROTHER YOUSSEF & HIS WIFE SANIORA ZAAITER FAKHRY & THEIR CHILDREN, HIS MOTHER ZARIFE, HIS COUSIN YOUSSEF'SON & ZAAITER FAKHRY.

Mahrousse Salim Louis Fakhry, was born in 1902, in Deir El-ahmar, his parents were Salim Louis Fakhry and Zarife Boutros Naddaf. He has had one brother Youssef who immigrated to Chile with his wife Saniora Zaiter Fakhry and 3 sisters: Saide (Leicher Kairuz's wife) who died many years ago, Hala who immigrated to USA, Hanne (Najib Fakhry's wife) and Yasmine (Father Youssef Fakhry's wife).

By the way, Moubarke (Miriam), the sister of father Youssef Fakhry is the wife of Nagli Simpson Tarry (Tawk) in South Africa. And the three Peter brothers (Joseph, Anthony and Louie Naddaf), who came to South Africa in 1896, from Deir El-ahmar, Lebanon were the uncles of Mahrousse.

In the 1920's he married Nabihia Amine Mouawad Fakhry and they had 2 sons and 6 daughters. He served 8 years in the Lebanese French army in Lebanon during the French mandate 1920-1946 and he participated in the battle of independence of Lebanon in Rashaya in 1943. He was the first chief of the municipality of Deir El-ahmar and kept this title and that of mayor for 30 years. At the beginning, he opened the municipality offices in his own house because there was no building built yet, and his daughter Ivette was his voluntary secretary. In that period there was no infrastructure. Therefore, when he became a municipality's chief, he went with Boutros Habchi, another chief from Deir to the Patriarchate in Bkerke to ask the patriarch Anthony Peter Arida (1931–1955) to push the government to install water and electricity in the village for the first time. In the same time Mahrousse used his relations with the French officers to realize some projects for the municipality. He was a also farmer and owned many plots. Last year, when I had a conversation with him about the old days, I was astounded by his quick thinking and remarkable memory. Sitting in his bed and putting his old radio next to him, he told me many

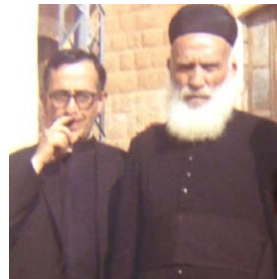


MAHROUSSE WHEN HE WAS A CHIEF OF THE MUNICIPALITY



YOUSSEF AND HIS WIFE SANIORA WHO IMMIGRATED TO CHILE

MAHROUSSE TODAY



FR. MICHAEL CHEBLI WITH FR. YOUSSEF FAKHRY - DEIR EL-AHMAR, 1970

stories and events which had occurred in my town during the last century. He is a living book about the history of Lebanon and especially of his town - a huge source of information.

His grandson, Fr Charbel HABCHI



Family Club - Community News

For more Lebanese Family Gatherings go to www.lebanesefamilyclub.co.za



MICHEAL FAMILY'S GATHERING AT OLL MULBARTON - 13 JAN



FR BADAOUI'S 40TH - 6 JAN 08



FR GEORGES' B-DAY - 26 JAN 08



**"LET US SUPPORT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS"
FR NADIM CELEBRATES MASS AT ST DAVID'S, INANDA - 1 FEB 08**

Brise Family Enquiry

My maiden name is BRISE and I believe a lot of the family originated from the Benoni area but a lot of the family from my side are deceased and I dont know if there are many other BRISE's living in Johannesburg. With the passing of my father and two uncles (both weren't married - Tony & Patrick Brise) the family is totally out of touch. I noticed in the church newsletter that a BRISE had passed away but it isnt a common Lebanese surname so it is difficult to find out who is related to who...

- Letter from Pam Hiepner

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE FAMILY CLUB OFFICE ON 011 804 7566

Lebanese Family Club

"Bringing Families Together"



