

# Radiate His Light NEWS



Sister Therese Maria venerating the place where Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

## Dear Friends and Family,

*A blessed Season of the Holy Cross!*

*We are filled with joy to welcome a new member to our Maronite Servant community, Emily Lattouf. Please pray for our postulant who joins us from St. Theresa's Maronite Church, Brockton MA.*

*Our summer concluded with the Sisters participating in activities to defend persecuted Christians and minorities in the Middle East. In the article below, you can read about our visit to Washington, DC and our involvement in IDC. Also, Sister Therese Maria was sponsored to travel to the Holy Land from September 8-15 to study inter-faith dialogue. Sister will share about this experience in the winter newsletter. One of our daily intentions at the convent is to pray for the persecuted Christians and minorities in the Middle East and in the world. Please join us in this intention and learn more at [indefenseofchristians.org](http://indefenseofchristians.org).*

*On the following pages, we share about some of the missions and activities we were blessed to be part of. One of the highlights each summer is the Light of Life (LoL) Bible Camp that we sponsor at a couple of parishes. In the coming weeks and months, we will host a retreat for young women (see page 4); offer talks on spirituality at Our Lady's Maronite Church in Austin TX; facilitate the MYA workshop in San Antonio TX; and host the MYO regional retreat in CT.*

*Thank you for supporting us in our mission to evangelize in our Maronite communities. Please know of our Love and Prayers.*

*In Mary, Mother of the Light,*

*Sister Marla Marie*

## At the IDC Conference – Washington D.C.

The Maronite Servants participated in the 6th annual In Defense of Christians (IDC) Conference in Washington, D.C. on September 10-11. IDC was founded in 2014 in response to the tidal wave of violence towards Christians in the Middle East. One of the main goals of IDC is to advocate for policies that preserve Christianity in its ancient homeland.

The IDC Leadership Conference commenced on the evening of September 10th with the Solidarity Dinner featuring a number of congressmen, ambassadors, dignitaries and religious leaders, among them our own Bishop, His Excellency Gregory Mansour. We heard from Mr. Samuel Brownback, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom. Mr. Brownback encouraged all participants to keep up the fight for religious freedom, predominantly through constant prayer, as God is the source of all freedom and unity.



With Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Nebraska.

Towards the close of the evening, we heard a moving and poignant testimonial by Mrs. Mona Rizk Rowan who shared her harrowing story of surviving the Damour Massacre in Lebanon 1976.

The next day on September 11, the sisters joined Mr. Steven Howard from IDC and the Massachusetts constituents, among them were Mrs. Rowan and her family, to advocate for the Coptic Christians in Egypt and for recognition of the Armenian Genocide. We visited the offices of Congressmen William Keating, and Joseph Kennedy, as well as, the office of Senator Elizabeth Warren.

These were two very grace-filled days for us, as we witnessed to the importance of religious freedom in the Middle East and provided a voice for the voiceless. We are grateful to the President of IDC, Mr. Toufic Baaklini and his dedicated Board of Directors for their ongoing efforts of fighting for equality, freedom and security for religious minorities in the Middle East.



## Ongoing Formation - Summer Studies

Sr. Therese Maria participated in a Theology of the Body immersion course on June 20-26 in Quarryville PA. It was such a renewing and enriching experience for her as Christopher West delved into Saint John Paul II's life-changing teachings including these topics: what does it mean to be human, what is our identity, purpose and destiny, the complementarity of man and woman, the human longing for love and communion with God, the gift of marriage and consecrated life.

We all have an ache, a hunger, a desire for more... and that MORE is eternal bliss and joy and communion with our Triune God.



Sister with Christopher West

## Ultimate BBQ Fundraiser



We are most grateful to Msgr. James Root, Pastor of St. Anthony of the Desert, and his devoted parishioners for graciously hosting a BBQ fundraiser for the Maronite Servants.

There were 150 people in attendance from different Maronite and Roman Catholic parishes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The evening's program was filled with gratitude for God's blessings, a delicious BBQ buffet, and live entertainment.

This BBQ fundraiser could not have taken place without the help of many donors and benefactors who have overwhelmed us with their generosity in giving of their time, talents and treasures. Thank you for your support.

## MYO Night at the Convent

In late August, a number of Maronite youth came to the convent for an evening of prayer, ice-breakers, and a cookout. This gathering was a way to thank them for their help at our Bible Camp. Sister Natalie Sayde's smore skills were a hit with the teens.



## NAM Convention – Miami, Florida



We attended the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention in Miami, Florida from June 26th to June 30th, 2019 and were blessed to be with over 1,000 of our Maronites who attended from across the US. We had an evangelization table in the exhibitor's area which gave us the opportunity to share the faith and meet with many of the people.

Some highlights: we attended a Theology on Tap, hosted by Fr. Tony Massad and Sister Therese Maria. An outdoor venue was also booked where the young adults had a BBQ and a vocation panel. We also attended the Bishops' Panel Commission on the affairs of Lebanon in its current political and economic state; we listened to the many concerns and issues currently affecting Lebanon.



## Assumption Pilgrimage 2019 - Ohio

By Sr. Natalie Sayde Salameh, MSCL

We enjoyed several days of prayer and visiting with friends at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, North Jackson, Ohio in celebration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. The pilgrimage began on Tuesday, August 13, with a Divine Liturgy of the Roman Rite followed by a candlelit procession and blessing with the Icon of Our Lady of Lebanon.

The Maronite Servants had an evangelization table in the Cedars Hall where we were able to speak with many people one on one, and see many new (and not so new) faces. It was great to catch up with the people that visit the shrine each year for these solemn days of triduum in honor of Our Lady's Dormition.



On both Tuesday and Wednesday nights, Sr. Therese Maria and Rosa Calabria spent time in prayer, adoration and fellowship with the MYO, and with their Excellencies, Bishop Elias Zaidan and Bishop Gregory Mansour.

## LoL Bible Camp 2019 - Fall River, MA

The LOL Club (Light of Life) began on August 5th with five days of learning about the life and spirituality of St. Joseph. Each day focused on one of his virtues: trust in God, vocation as the Foster Father of Christ and Spouse of the Holy Virgin, prayer, listening and silence, and sacrifice and service.



The children learned that despite the many uncertainties and difficult situations in St. Joseph's life, he placed all his trust in God who provided for him and the Holy Family in every way. They also learned that just as St. Joseph had a special calling from God, they too, have a special calling from God because each of them is precious, unique and unrepeatable.

Day three focused on St. Joseph's listening and silence. He had no recorded words in the Bible because he was a man of prayer and total devotion to Jesus and Mary. The children learned how to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Day four focused on St. Joseph's loving spirit of service and sacrifice toward others, especially Mary and Jesus.

## Summer Bible Day-Boston, MA

The LOL Club (Light of Life) summer bible camp was offered on June 22nd, at Our Lady of the Cedars Church in Boston.



## MYO national workshop – Canton, Ohio

We enjoyed a high energy week in July with our teens at Walsh University, North Canton OH. The theme for this year was "Only Jesus" and the various workshops focused on the Theology of the Body, prayer and developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit.



## Our Maronite Servants' Mission

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light are a congregation of consecrated religious serving the Church in the parish as spiritual mothers in imitation of Mary, radiating the Light of Christ in their mission to children, youth, young adults, families, the sick, the dying, the grieving... They serve alongside the priests in pastoral ministry reaching out with a maternal touch to many needs of the parish family.



*“There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God’s word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged “place” for our encounter with God. I wish heartily to encourage this kind of profound friendship with the Lord, above all for the sake of imploring from on high new vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life.” (Pope Francis)*

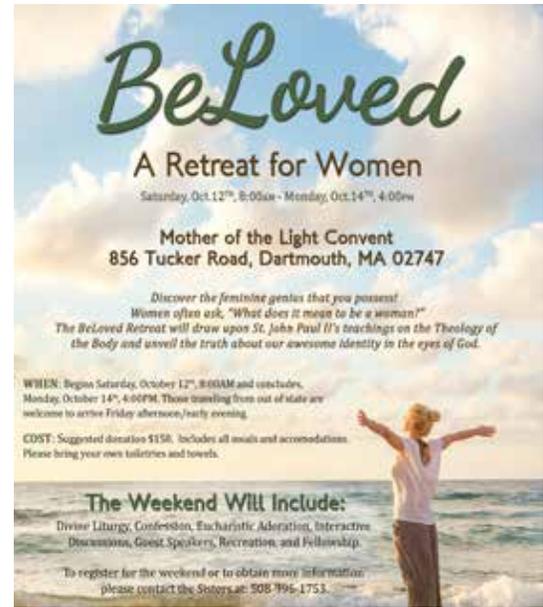
### ON THE WEB

Check our blog updated every Friday. Visit our website for a copy of this newsletter.



**FOLLOW US** at MaroniteServants

*This newsletter is printed courtesy of Minuteman Press Dartmouth, MA*



**BeLoved**  
A Retreat for Women  
Saturday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am - Monday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm  
Mother of the Light Convent  
856 Tucker Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747

*Discover the feminine genius that you possess!  
Women often ask, "What does it mean to be a woman?"  
The BeLoved Retreat will draw upon St. John Paul II's teachings on the Theology of the Body and unveil the truth about our awesome identity in the eyes of God.*

**WHEN:** Begins Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM and concludes, Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:00PM. Those traveling from out of state are welcome to arrive Friday afternoon/early evening.

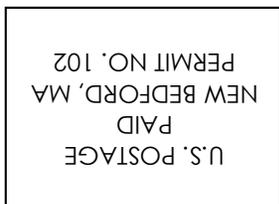
**COST:** Suggested donation \$150. Includes all meals and accommodations. Please bring your own toiletries and towels.

**The Weekend Will Include:**  
Divine Liturgy, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, Interactive Discussions, Guest Speakers, Recreation, and Fellowship.

To register for the weekend or to obtain more information, please contact the Sisters at: 508-996-1753.

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