

# Radiate His Light News

## Dear Friends of the Maronite Servants,

Peace. I am pleased to send you this first issue of our quarterly publication "Radiate His Light News" sharing a few highlights of the blessings received by the *Maronite Servants of Christ the Light*. As you know, we marked year one this past June 2009 as the first ever congregation of Maronite women religious to be founded outside of Lebanon.

Our faith communities are in need of the nurturing gift that consecrated nuns can offer in their service as spiritual mothers of the parish. As Bishop Gregory J. Mansour expressed, "a mother's touch, a woman's touch is life giving for our families. How can the spiritual family that is the Maronite Church do without it?"



At present, we are anticipating the arrival of the first two postulants on February 2nd, 2009 on the Feast of the Presentation (read more on page 2). In preparation, I am currently renting the former convent building of Immaculate Conception (Roman Catholic) parish in Weymouth, MA. I am grateful to Fr. Bill Salmon, pastor, for this arrangement. The Eparchy has asked us to settle in the eastern section of Massachusetts where there are seven Maronite parishes nearby. This is a good place to begin.

It is my aim and hope to transition to a permanent home of our own in God's time. The needs of establishing a religious community are many, and so I ask your continued prayers for this important mission in our Church.

Thank you for being part of the Maronite Servants circle of family and friends. We count on your friendship and support. May His radiant light illumine your journey of life and faith.

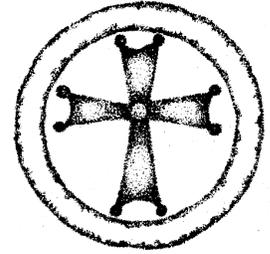
With my prayers in Mary, Mother of the Light,

*Sister Marla Marie*



## Praying for You

The Divine Liturgy is the life of the Church, and it is always a joy and awesome blessing when a Monastery is able to celebrate around the chapel altar. This joy was ours on August 10th when Abouna Jack Morrison (Our Lady of Purgatory, New Bedford MA) celebrated the Holy Mysteries at Mother of the Light Monastery in Weymouth, MA.



The Maronite Cross of Rabula.

## Illuminate Your Soul

"Liturgy and Prayer" is the third pastoral letter of Bishop Gregory J. Mansour, of the Eparchy of Saint Maron. This letter offers good thoughts for reflection and meditation to help deepen your life of prayer. Here are a few selections from the letter (available on the Eparchy website [stmaron.org](http://stmaron.org).)

"Whether we pray, alone or with others, the demands of a loving God always have claim over us. The fourth century Syriac writer, Aphrahat, in his *Demonstration on Prayer* says: 'Purity of heart constitutes prayer more than do all the prayers that are uttered aloud, and silence to a mind that is sincere is better than the loud voice of someone crying out.'"

"Prayer is Marian. She received the Word, made Him part of her life, and gave Him to others as a gift. She inspires us to do the same. Her life is prayer: "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38) she said, even before our Lord at Gethsemane."

## Vocations to the Maronite Servants

God has blessed the *Maronite Servants of Christ the Light* with vocations. We have two women who have responded to God's call in this new congregation. They are Therese Touma of Sydney, Australia, who has been accepted, and Tresa Van Heusen of Atlanta, who is in the application process.



"The charm and spirituality of this mission spoke to me personally," Therese Touma said in a post on the Maronite Servants' blog. "In imitating the humble and faithful response of Our Lady, the sisters are called to offer their spiritual motherhood, talents and service to the Maronite people. What a beautiful and challenging call to service!"

"It is with great joy that I continue the application process in the hope to enter the *Maronite Servants of Christ the Light* in February 2010," said Tresa Van Heusen.

Pray for these generous young women, and pray for more vocations to the Maronite Servants.



## Will You Help Us?

We are seeking generous hearts to financially support the mission of the *Maronite Servants of Christ the Light*. As with any household, the bills and needs are the same: food, gas, electric, phone, internet, water, clothing, health care, education, .... We are also seeking a property for a monastery which will entail a large expense.

Some folks have already rallied behind us with a monthly pledge, and a couple of parish communities have hosted a fundraiser.



Consider being a monthly or quarterly angel of the Maronite Servants. Tax-deductible donations can be made by check and mailed or by credit card via our website or blog.

Bishop Gregory said he hopes "that some people will step forward and gather around Sister as spiritual and financial supporters in this effort." "My hope is set on God, and the graces he bestows on generous hearts," he said. "I hope Sister's dream and our dream as well will find blessings and spiritual fulfillment in Christ."

*Thank you for supporting this vital mission in our Church.*

### Join Our Email List

Help us to save on postage & paper by sending us your email address.

### On The Web

Check our blog up-dated every Friday. Visit our website which will also carry this newsletter. Also, friend Sr. Marla Marie Lucas on FACEBOOK and LINKEDIN.

## Look for us on Tele Lumiere-Noursat



Marie-Therese Kreidy, programming director of Tele Lumiere - Noursat interviewed Sister Marla Marie during the July NAM Convention in Los Angeles. The episode will be aired on September 13, 2009, EST - repeated four times at: 23:55; 11:55 ; 17:45 ; 21:30.

Please share this newsletter with your mail list of family, friends, & parish members.

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