

# Radiate His Light NEWS



*The Maronite Cross of Rabboola*

## Dear Friend of the Maronite Servants,

*We have been regularly following Pope Francis on the "Pope App", finding the videos and homilies a source of encouragement and inspiration. I am sure you heard the news reports this past July of the Pope's Mass at World Youth Day on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro where an astounding 3.5 million were in attendance. We, like so many, are moved by Pope Francis' personal touch, humor and fatherly wisdom. Please take a moment to read the sidebar on this page for some excerpts from Pope Francis' first encyclical, "Light of Faith" published for the Year of Faith.*



*During this Year of Faith promulgated last October and concluding this November 24<sup>th</sup>, we are encouraged to form, witness and celebrate faith through the Mysteries (sacraments), and to renew and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. One way recommended in carrying out this aim is by making a pilgrimage to a holy shrine. Sister Therese Maria and I are blessed to go on pilgrimage to Rome this September to visit the Vatican and other designated holy sites. We will carry your intentions in our prayer and you may also email or phone us with your specific intentions. We pray that the light radiating from the richness of our faith illumine your daily journey.*

*Our pilgrimage to Rome became a possibility because of our anticipated trip to Lebanon in late September to do vocation work and to attend the ordination to the priesthood for Elias Khalil and Antoine Kairouz of the eparchy of Saint Maron USA, and the ordination of Bishop-Elect Abdallah E. Zaidan, M.L.M. for the eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon USA. While in Lebanon, we will remember you as we visit the shrines of our beloved Maronite saints.*

*We are grateful to be able to participate in all these holy events, which will be a source of light and inspiration for our faith, and in turn, passed on to you in our service as your Maronite Servants of Christ the Light. We thank you for your friendship and support.*

*In Mary, Mother of the Light,*

*Sister Marla Marie*

## Daily Rosary for Peace

Our hearts and prayers go out to our brothers and sisters suffering in the Middle East because of the senseless violence that continues to escalate. Join us in offering a daily rosary for peace, reconciliation and dialogue.

## Illumine Your Soul

Some quotes from the first Encyclical of Pope Francis: Lumen Fidei (The Light of Faith) The full text is on the Vatican website.

"The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence. A light this powerful cannot come from ourselves but from a more primordial source: in a word, it must come from God. Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfillment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us." Paragraph 4

"If laying down one's life for one's friends is the greatest proof of love (cf. Jn 15:13), Jesus offered his own life for all, even for his enemies, to transform their hearts. This explains why the evangelists could see the hour of Christ's crucifixion as the culmination of the gaze of faith; in that hour the depth and breadth of God's love shone forth." Paragraph 16

## Light of Life—Maronite Bible Camp

LoL (Light of Life) Maronite Bible Club week-long summer camp concluded with the Divine Liturgy celebrated at the Maronite Servants convent in Dartmouth by Chorbishop Kaddo of St. Anthony of the Desert, Fall River. There were 40 people attending the Liturgy which included the LoL members, volunteers, and parents. After the closing Liturgy, all those in attendance enjoyed mini-golf and bumper boats and lunch at a local venue.

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light hosted the program for the children to grow in their relationship with Jesus through dvd's, crafts, Bible sharing, games, prayer and choir practice, and fellowship. As one parent said, "they were spiritually driven and eager to learn more about Christ." The Maronite traditions and hymns were the focus of this program designed by Sister Marla Marie and supported by Father Jack Morrison, pastor of Our Lady of Purgatory in New Bedford.



## Our Lady of the Cedars—Boston

We attended the parish Festival for the Feast of the Dormition on August 12 and shared some time with the MYA volunteers and our good friend Therese Abouzi.

**Assumption Pilgrimage—Ohio** We enjoyed several days of prayer and visiting with the pilgrims at the National Shrine to Our Lady of Lebanon in celebration of the Dormition of the Mother of God. Sister Therese climbed to the top of the shrine with the sisters from Christ the Bridegroom congregation of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church, Burton, Ohio.



## God's Blessings to Sayedna Robert

We offer our congratulations and prayers for His Excellency, Bishop Robert Shaheen of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon USA as he begins retirement. Sayedna Robert has been a blessing and inspiration to us in his dedication as priest and shepherd.



## Year of Faith Calls for Witness

*(This is an excerpt from a paper Sister Therese Maria submitted in her graduate studies this summer at Boston College.)*



“In this Year of Faith, the People of God have also been urged to witness to their faith through increasing their practice of charity. In seeing to our neighbor’s needs, we are serving and loving Christ himself, this is powerful. “As you did it to one of the least of these brethren, you did it to me.”(Mt 24:40) Consequently, all Christians by the nature of their baptism are invited and challenged by the

Gospel to carry the light and healing of Christ to all those who are in need especially to those who are broken, suffering and poor. It is through this call to love Christ that we are to reach out in humility and care for our neighbor by helping them in their physical needs, and journey of faith. I have witnessed and seen in my own ministry, the great impact of living a disposition of self-giving love, hospitality and forgiveness, especially when it comes to cultivating openness and dialogue in relationships. On the other hand, I also believe that if we truly desire to grow in holiness and intimacy with Jesus then our desire to reach out in love will grow and intensify, even amidst all confusion, poverty and persecution. We learn from Jesus, who was meek and humble of heart that the focus is always on loving and bringing humanity to salvation. I too perceive that the focus of the New Evangelization is on loving our neighbor (where they are at) and upholding their sacred dignity as son or daughter of God. “

1 Pope Benedict XVI, *Door of Faith (Porta Fidei)*, no. 14

## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER 2013

- 12—MFF (Maronite Faith Formation) 10AM, Our Lady of Purgatory
- 13—Ramso & Supper, RSVP by Oct. 11
- 15 to 21—St. John Maron, Orange, CA, Mission trip
- 22—St. Louis MO, installation of Bishop Zaidan
- 30—MYO meeting at the Convent
- 31 to Nov. 4—MYA Workshop, Atlanta GA

### NOVEMBER 2013

- 1 to 4—Atlanta GA, MYA
- 5 to 14—Annual Retreat
- 10—Ramsho & Supper, RSVP by Nov. 8
- 13—Come & See Visitor
- 20—MYO at the Convent
- 23—MFF 10AM, Our Lady of Purgatory

*Celebrating the First Vows of two Pauline Sisters at their convent in Boston. We are pictured with Sr. Laura (l) and Sister Jackie (r).*



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**Pray for Vocations**

On our way back from the Shrine to Our Lady of Lebanon in Ohio, we stopped by to visit our friend, Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, of the Sisters of St. Basil in Uniontown, PA. We honored her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee as a vowed religious. Congratulations, Sister!

The dedication of fifty years of fidelity and self-less service to God and his people is a powerful witness to the light of faith. We need many more lights like this for our Maronite Church. Please pray and work for religious vocations to the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light. Encourage vocations in your parish and in your family. Contact us and we will let you know how you can help in this effort.



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