

Radiate His Light NEWS



Dear Friends & Family,

We just hosted our Open House and Day of Prayer to commemorate the Year of Consecrated Life. Thank you to all who attended, your presence was a sign of the love and support shown to us by friends and family all around the world. In



opening this special year (November 2014 to February 2016), Pope Francis challenged consecrated religious, "Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! ... It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women who are able to wake the world up."

During our open house, so many guests thanked us for adding to the Church, for the witness of our sisters and our mission. People notice that we have a different way of living and of doing things, and this is our call in sharing the Gospel. We thank God for the blessing to serve you, for our call to religious life. Please continue your prayers for vocations and that we will be faithful witnesses that "wake up the world."

This summer our mission has taken us to serve in many places, as you will see from the stories in this newsletter. One of the highlights was Sister Therese Maria's graduation from Boston College with a Master's in Pastoral Ministry. We are grateful to the Catholic Extension Society and Boston College for the grant to sponsor her education. Congratulations Sister Therese Maria! Sister is already putting her education and training at the service of the Church. His Excellency, Bishop Gregory has appointed Sister Therese Maria as assistant to both priest directors of youth and young adult ministry. Sister is working on an MYO regional retreat planned for the weekend of December 4, 5, & 6 at La Salette Shrine in Attleboro, MA.

At the end of September we plan to take our annual weeklong retreat. During this Year of Consecrated Life, a generous priest benefactor (wishing to remain anonymous) has sponsored us to go on retreat in Lisieux, France meditating on the spirituality of Saint Therese. Lisieux is the site where this beloved Saint entered and lived as a Carmelite nun. Our priest friend will guide our retreat and direct our pilgrimage to important sites in the life of St. Therese. We are grateful to Father for this blessed opportunity.

Please know that you will be kept close in our thoughts and prayers during our annual retreat. If you have specific intentions, send them to us via email or phone. God bless you.

In Mary, Mother of the Light - *Sister Marla Marie*

Illuminate Your Soul

Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

by Pope
Francis



Sr. Therese Maria cuts a cake for graduation while Fr. Jack gives a blessing

Annual NAM Convention 2015 - Cleveland

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light attended this year's National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention in Cleveland, Ohio from July 1st to July 5th, 2015. We were blessed with the opportunity to meet and mingle with over 1,000 of our Maronite parishioners who attended the Convention from all over the US, listen to spiritual discussions, and participate in enriching events.



Ordination Diaconate - Akron

On Sunday, August 16, the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light attended the ordination of Alexander Harb to the Order of the Diaconate by His Excellency, Bishop Abdallah Elias Zaidan of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon. The ordination took place at the Church of Our Lady of the Cedars of Mount Lebanon in Fairlawn, Ohio.

Light of Life (LOL) – Maronite Bible Camp 2015

The LOL Club began on August 3 with a week of learning about God's love in engaging DVD's, crafts, bible sharing, games, prayer, choir practice, and snacks. Sr. Therese Maria coordinated this year's program, with a "Son Surf" beach theme. The children enjoyed our time together, and it was great to hear that affirmed by the parents who mentioned to us that their kids were "having so much fun". Fr. Jack Morrison, pastor of Our Lady of Purgatory parish sponsored the week.

LOL Club Maronite summer camp concluded August 7th with Divine Liturgy celebrated at the Mother of Light Convent by Chorbishop Joseph Kaddo of St. Anthony of the Desert Parish, Fall River, attended by LOL members, volunteers, and parents.



MYO National Workshop 2015 – Latrobe

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light participated in the Maronite Youth Organization (MYO) National Workshop held on July 6th to July 11th at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The workshop was coordinated and facilitated by Fr. Gary George, C. Ss.R, National Youth Coordinator.

The theme was "Christmas in July", with a focus on the Maronite Liturgical Season of "Happy Announcements" leading up to the Glorious Birth of Our Lord. Each day focused on a different "happy announcement", which also included daily Divine Liturgy and lots of time for fun and sports.

Pilgrimage Reflection

By Monica Kassab

On August 13-15 I joined the Maronite Servants for a road trip to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon (Ohio) for the Annual Assumption Pilgrimage. On this feast of our Blessed Mother, I felt the closeness of my Maronite family and gained a deeper understanding of the centrality of the family to our faith.

Each day we gathered in the richly decorated basilica for a Liturgy in a different rite. ...

After the Liturgy we carried candles in a procession behind a statue of Our Lady and sang hymns under the dusk sky. At night, Father Gary led an engaging youth program that helped us to get to know Our Blessed Mother better.

Throughout the pilgrimage, I was happy to receive many blessings and hugs from our warmhearted bishops and priests, meet my Maronite brothers and sisters from all over the country, and enjoy the hospitality of the

Antonine Sisters who live next door. ... The Maronite Servants set up a table in the dining hall to greet the pilgrims. I had the chance to get to know the sisters better, and they taught me to say "abouna" and "seyedna," my first two Arabic words! On the last day of the pilgrimage we attended the Maronite Liturgy outdoors and saw a rainbow above the statue of Our Lady of Lebanon.

It was a pleasure to be able to join the Maronite Servants on this pilgrimage and meet my Maronite family. (Monica is discerning with our community.)



Young Adult Bible Sharing

On Wednesday evening, August 26, the first meeting for the Young Adult Bible Sharing met at the Mother of Light Convent. This new initiative for the young adults was formed at the request of the young adults who recently attended the International Convocation of Maronite Youth in Bkerke, Lebanon with our Patriarch, Cardinal Bishara Peter Rai. In meeting our Patriarch and visiting the various shrines of Maronite Saints, the young adults returned from Lebanon with a great desire to grow in their faith, and approached the Maronite Servants. Sr. Therese Maria facilitated a lectio divina (sacred reading) for the young adults as part of a monthly program.

Knights of the Virgin Mary Visit

On Saturday, June 27, the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light hosted an afternoon of "pray and play" for the Knights of the Virgin Mary (Arabic: Fersen el Adra) from Our Lady of the Cedars Parish, Boston, at the Mother of Light Convent. The afternoon followed with a spiritual talk from Mother Marla Marie about what we can do as Christians to become more like Jesus and then a visit to Our Lady's Shrine to pray the rosary.



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.



"Consecrated life is a call to incarnate the Good News, to follow Christ, the crucified and risen one, to take on "Jesus's way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word in relation to the Father and in relation to the brothers and sisters."—Pope Francis

ON THE WEB

Check our blog updated every Friday. Visit our website for a copy of this newsletter. Also, find Maronite Servants on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK (MaroniteServant)

This newsletter is printed courtesy of Minuteman Press Dartmouth, MA

EMAIL - sister@maroniteservants.org
WEBSITE - maroniteservants.org
BLOG - RadiateHisLight.blogspot.com
VOCATIONS - Vineyardofthelord.com
PHONE - (508) 996-1753
ADDRESS - Maronite Servants
856 Tucker Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR1 STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW BEDFORD, MA
PERMIT NO. 102
ECRWSS

Radiate His Light NEWS
Servants of Christ the Light
856 Tucker Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747