

# Radiate His Light NEWS



Photo by Bryce Vickmark  
www.vickmark.com

## Dear Friends of the Maronite Servants,

Great news! We now have a place to call home "Mary, Mother of the Light Monastery", in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. This home will help our current and future Sisters to live a life of prayer, ministry, and study. Our doors are open to welcome you, the faithful, for retreats, conferences, days of prayer and other apostolic works and activities.

A kind parishioner at our Maronite parish in New Bedford was the lead to this property, which is situated on five acres and had served as the former novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Hope who owned this home since 1960 after acquiring it from the original owners, the Prescott Family, who had it built in 1895. Over the years, as the Dominican Sisters declined in numbers and advanced in age, this property became too much for them to maintain.

We are grateful to be able to purchase this property, thanks to the help of seed money from the Eparchy of St. Maron and a mortgage. We are happy to think that soon we will be able to move into this permanent home, but before we can move in, much required renovation work must be done.

Some pictures and list posted on page 4 give a glimpse of some of the needs. This is a lovely house as you can see from the first photo. However, it is in need of great repair as can be seen in the other photos. Our immediate needs are to repair the roof and gutters; update the plumbing; install furnace safety valves; install a security fire/alarm system; paint the interior; bring the electrical service up to code, and prepare for a time when we may be able, through some donor's generosity, to install air conditioning; and upgrade the bathrooms. Please see the list for additional detail.

I ask for your help to provide the needed funds to get this new Monastery up and running so that we can move in before Christmas. Father Jack Morrison, pastor of Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Church in New Bedford, is greatly assisting us with plans for renovations and securing reliable contractors. He is a veteran in renewing church property, and a skilled negotiator.

Would you please donate to our renovation fund and enlist others to help us too? An envelope is attached awaiting your generous tax deductible gift. Our postulants, Tresa and Therese, and I have a huge task at hand, but with your help our burden will be considerably lightened.

With Mary, Mother of God, as our model, we strive to serve you as spiritual mothers by radiating the light of Christ's merciful love through our prayers, sacrifices and mission. Please remember us in your prayers. Thank you.

Yours in Mary, Mother of the Light,

*Sister Marla Marie*

Maronite Servants  
 Eparchy of St. Maron  
 109 Remsen Street  
 Brooklyn NY 11201  
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## Please Help Our Renovation Drive

Here is a list of the needed renovations and work to be done at the house that will serve as our Maronite Servants' Monastery. The list is in order of priority.

Plumbing & bathroom upgrades.....	\$28,000
Roof and gutter repairs .....	\$1,500
Electrical wiring .....	\$2,500
Security/Fire System .....	\$3,500
Furnace repairs.....	\$1,500
Interior Painting.....	\$20,000
Kitchen .....	\$12,000
(major appliances & sinks)	
Floor refinishing .....	\$2,500
Insulation.....	\$3,000
Tree removal.....	\$1,500
Window blinds.....	\$2,500
Lighting fixtures.....	\$1,500
Backyard privacy fence.....	\$10,000
Walls replaced .....	\$3,000
A/C installation.....	\$15,000
Garage .....	\$75,000
1 <sup>st</sup> floor guest 1/2 bath .....	\$7,000
with handicap access	
Furnishings .....	\$5,000
Basement laundry & rec room.....	\$20,000

Donations are tax deductible can be made by check and mailed, or by PayPal via our website.

Thank you for your gift.

Back view of the monastery



Kitchen area

2nd floor bathroom



A Sister's bedroom

Basement



## On the Web

Check our blog up-dated every Friday. Visit our website for a copy of this newsletter. Also, friend Sr. Marla Marie Lucas on FACEBOOK and LINKEDIN.

## Contact Information

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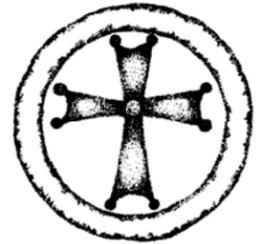
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The Maronite Cross of Rabula

## Illumine Your Soul

Year of Saint Maron

PRAYER

Lord God,  
you called your chosen one, Saint Maron,  
to the monastic life,  
perfected him in divine virtues,  
and guided him along the difficult road  
to the heavenly kingdom.

During this jubilee year,  
commemorating 1600 years since the death of  
your chosen one, Saint Maron,  
when he was called to the house  
of your heavenly Father; we ask you,  
through his intercession, to immerse us in your  
love that we may walk in your path, heed your  
commandments, and follow in his footsteps.

May his holy example resonate  
throughout our lives.  
With your love, may we achieve that final  
destination reached by our father,  
Saint Maron, and carry your  
Gospel throughout the world.

Through his intercession, may we attain the  
glory of the resurrection and  
everlasting life in you.  
Glory and thanks are due to you,  
to your blessed Father,  
and to your living Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

**2010 NAM Convention—Birmingham, Alabama**

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light travelled south to Birmingham, Alabama, to attend the 47th Annual National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention.

It was great to see dear friends arrive into the city and to meet many new ones. We shared information on our recent adventures and activities through our table in the hospitality area.

We also presented in the workshop titled “A Maronite Legacy: How to Foster Religious Vocations in Your Family”. The postulants, Therese and Tresa gave a witness to how their own families accepted the news of their vocation to enter the convent. Tresa's parents, Chuck and Marie Van Heusen spoke on their experience of having a son in seminary and a daughter in the religious life.

We are grateful to the NAM Board and Directors, as well as our supporters, for the opportunity to attend.



**Maronite Servants on EWTN TV**

It was a great experience to be on the set of EWTN LIVE on July 7th. Father Mitch Pacwa hosted our Maronite Bishops, Robert Shaheen and Gregory Mansour in a lively discussion on the Maronite Church.

The over-flow audience was predominately our Maronite clergy and faithful attending the National Apostolate of Maronites Convention in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mother Marla Marie was surprised to be invited by Fr. Pacwa to speak at the end of the program. Mother had the opportunity to briefly share about the mission of the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light.



**Maronite Ordinations—Michigan**

On Friday 25 June, the Maronite Servants attended the ordination of Father Vince Farhat at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Lansing, Michigan, his hometown. The ordination was presided by Bishop Gregory J. Mansour and concelebrated by Bishop Robert Shaheen, Chorbishop Seely Beggiani, Monsignor Michael Thomas and ten of our beloved Maronite priests from both Eparchies.

We were blessed a second time the following day in Flint, Michigan with the ordination of Father Tony Massad. At Our Lady of Lebanon Church, his home parish, Abouna Tony was ordained by Bishop Robert Shaheen.



Let us rejoice and thank God for our three new priests here in the US. Abouna Dany Abi Akar was ordained earlier in June in Lebanon. May they continue to persevere in their vocations of service and radiate the awesome light of Christ. Join us in prayer for all of our priests who nourish us with Christ and bring his healing love.

**Assumption Pilgrimage—Ohio**

For the Feast of the Assumption (Dormition), the Maronite Servants travelled to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, Ohio. The pilgrimage from August 13th through the 15th was full of opportunities to gather, pray, share some great food, and to socialize with many Maronites from across the country, including our beloved Bishops, Robert Shaheen and Gregory Mansour, as well as many of our priests and the Antonine Sisters. Every evening concluded with a candlelight procession and the finale of fireworks over the Shrine on the Feast of the Assumption.



**Studies at the Maronite Seminary—Washington, DC**

We were in Washington, DC, the first week of June to attend classes with Chorbishop Seely J. Beggiani, Rector of the Maronite Seminary. The topics we studied were Maronite Liturgy and Eastern Catholic Spirituality. We discussed the origins of the Liturgy and went through the parts of the Liturgy, making references to the chapters of Chorbishop's books on "Maronite Divine Liturgy and Eastern Catholic Spirituality". Pictured here is Chorbishop Beggiani with Mother Marla Marie, Tresa and Therese at Our Lady of Lebanon Seminary Chapel.

**MYO Annual Conference—Pennsylvania**

Over 250 gathered for a week of Maronite spirituality and social events drawing youth 12-18 from all over the country at the annual MYO Retreat and Conference (July 19-24) at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA. We explored the theme of "Heroes" especially in the example of our saints. The postulants were grateful to facilitate a group of teens in the small group break outs. They coordinated small group discussions and activities that followed the conferences. Our Bishops, clergy, seminarians, and religious, joined with the youth for a photo outside the Basilica on campus.



**Seek My Face Retreat—Pennsylvania**

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light were graced to share in five days of retreat and extended silence at the Mount Saint Marcrina House of Prayer in Uniontown, PA. The spacious and scenic grounds of this monastery offered the perfect setting for our meditation and solitude. The retreat theme was "Seek My Face", exploring Jesus' call to a life of deeper prayer, especially through Sacred Scripture. Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, a member of the Sisters of St. Basil directed the retreat.

Therese Touma comments, "As a postulant, I found this retreat encouraging as it gave me the opportunity to get to know myself more in the light of the Holy Spirit, and to grow in my desire to see, know and love the Lord more deeply, as an intimate friend. I learned that if I want to grow in my friendship with Christ, then I need to give him more of a chance to speak to me, share himself and transform me into his image."

