



*The Maronite Cross of Rabboola*

### Hymn for the Glorious Resurrection

Come forth, O Daughter of nations, come forth! Through the mouths of your children, sing praise to the hidden Father, who, in his love, betrothed you to his only Son. At the end of time, he sent Christ to us. The Son took flesh from the daughter of David and saved all creatures. He bore sufferings on the cross for the sake of the guilty Adam. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of his Father. On the day of his rising, he gave joy to the choirs of angels in heaven and to people here on earth.

Today all creation rejoices and exults in praise, for the Son of God has been raised from the tomb in glory. He is raised on the throne above all the archangels and dominions. The holy and faithful Church looks at Christ on her altars, where his body is made food and his blood a spiritual drink. Every day the Church takes delight in Christ and will find joy with him in the heavenly kingdom.

Christ has risen from the grave, and enlightened all creatures. The angelic hosts shout, the choirs of seraphim clap their hands and the cherubim sing with fearsome voices: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord. Holy is the Father, who sent his only Son to make new the image of Adam, to be the ruler of all creation, and, by his bounty, to gladden the grave. He rose and destroyed death, demolished the nether world, and established his reign in heaven and on earth.

### Dear Friends of the Maronite Servants,

*Wishing you a happy Easter! May the light of this Glorious Season of the Resurrection illumine your journey of faith.*

*In this issue, we would like to share with you the great news that we have been living in our new home, Mother of the Light convent since Christmas. On page two you will*

*see some photos of our successful Open House event hosted in March. Sister Therese Maria and I were overjoyed to be able to show-off the renovations and the room we have to host retreats and spiritual gatherings. Thank you for helping us to get here.*

*We invite you to come and*

*visit. On page three we have featured events we are able to host at our convent. If your parish is unable to come to us, we will be glad to come to you. In our mission as the spiritual mothers of our Maronite communities, we are here to serve.*

*Please take a few minutes to read through these pages sharing the news of our apostolic endeavors and life as a Maronite Servant of Christ the Light.*

*Our prayers are with you each day. If you have a particular intention, phone or email it to us and we will include it in our Prayer Petition Book for special remembrance. God bless you.*

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

### Called to Radiate the Eucharist

*By Sister Therese Maria Touma*

Over the last two years of my formation as a *Maronite Servant of Christ the Light*, I have experienced a beautiful growth in my own spirituality and love for the Eucharist. It is the center of who I am and an ongoing source of light for my path to wholeness and union with God. Our convent life of Liturgical and communal prayer has deepened my understanding of how to approach prayer, how to surrender my will to the present moment, and to carry out my day in recollection.

As Maronite Servants, the primary purpose of our mission is to give God praise by striving for holiness following the Typicon (rule) of our Congregation. We are inspired and sustained by a vowed life in community of prayer, Eucharist, and joyful communion in living the Gospel of the Lord. We offer our lives as spiritual mothers in prayer and pastoral service, working alongside our priests, praying and sacrificing for

*(continued on page 3)*



## Open House at Mother of the Light Convent

We were pleased to have close to 150 people visit our convent last Sunday for our Open House. As you can see from the photos, our company was a diverse group of our friends including the Dominican Sisters of Hope who had previously owned the property.

Our guests were first introduced to our Chapel of Saint Maron, and then they proceeded to the dining room which was set up as a display area featuring photos of before and after the renovations. Refreshments were served by dedicated volunteers in our sunroom where our friends could sit back and enjoy each other's company. Guided tours were given of the second floor.



We invite you to visit us. Please call and arrange for a visit or a time of retreat.

The following excerpt written by one of our visitors captures the spirit of many comments we received that day:

*"Mother of the Light Convent is absolutely lovely. Thank you for your invitation on Sunday to witness the renovations, so well designed.*

*Our visit to the Chapel was the highlight of our tour. Watching those who were writing their pleas and seeing one young man expressing his sorrows. So very moving.*

*We felt much peace in our tour of the convent, especially on floor 2. The simplicity of color and décor is where we immediately sensed a peaceful aura where prayer could not be interrupted and one's mind could not be distracted with worldly goods, only to direct our hearts and mind to our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."*

## Cenacle of St. Maron

The Cenacle of St. Maron is sponsored by the *Maronite Servants of Christ the Light* as an apostolate to build up Maronite Catholic family life, and to share in our charism of spiritual motherhood by praying and sacrificing for our Bishops, priests, seminarians, and vocations. The families are a source of support, courage and inspiration for each other as they journey to deepen their Christian life.

On our trip to Washington D.C. 20-24<sup>th</sup> January we visited with our Cenacle of St. Maron (15 families) for the rosary, scripture sharing and supper at their monthly gathering. During the evening, Mother Marla Marie spoke to the parents on the call to sanctity while Sr. Therese Maria spoke to the children about the lives of the saints, in particular the life of St. Maron, and how they can live out their call to holiness.



## Youth Retreat — Brooklyn

We participated in the Eparchy regional youth retreat on March 16 – 18 at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral.



*("Called to Radiate the Eucharist" - continued from page 1)*

them and the needs of all our Maronite people. (Adapted from our Typicon Art. 2) In imitation of Mary, we are called as servants of the Lord to radiate the light of Christ's merciful love and hope by offering the gift of our spiritual motherhood to nurture God's life in the hearts of children, families, and people's of all ages through works of mercy. (Typicon Art. 3)

We live the monastic spirit of our Maronite spirituality through a contemplative-apostolic prayer life centered on the Eucharist. We find our strength and source of charity for the other in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the heart of our worship, and the centre of our devotional life of daily adoration which we seek to nurture in our Maronite faithful. (Typicon Art. 8)

Daily, we attend Divine Liturgy and we also offer an hour of prayer in the presence of the Eucharist, entrusting to the Lord, the needs of the world, the Church and community. We are particularly praying for holy vocations to the priesthood and to our Maronite Servant community, for generous supporters, and each day we offer our prayers and sacrifices for a priest serving in our Maronite Eparchy. Please join us in our prayer intentions.

In living this Eucharistic life as a community, I am amazed how I have discovered more about the mystery of who I am, in his Radiant Light, and with His mercy and grace I am learning to embrace it all, the good and all that needs transformation and healing in my humanity and the humanity of those around me. God is so good!

Help us to spread the word about our Community especially to young women. For more information about vocations email Sister Marla Marie: [sister@maroniteservants.org](mailto:sister@maroniteservants.org). Read more about our recent events and articles at [RadiateHisLight.blogspot.com](http://RadiateHisLight.blogspot.com).



*Magdalen Ross, JCL, teaches canon law to Sr. Therese Maria.*



## Events at Our Convent

- Monthly Ramsho & Supper. Ramsho is the evening prayer of the Maronite Church. Join us for this inspiring and beautiful tradition followed by a supper.
- Host your parish organization's retreat or meeting here and benefit from our Chapel, quiet surroundings, and spiritual presentations. Parish Councils, sodalities, religious education, MYO and MYA groups are welcome. We also offer tours and presentations to youth on Life in a Convent.
- Overnight retreats open to women (only) for private or guided reflection. Some areas we offer: The Four Movements of Prayer; Fasting as Prayer; Praying with Icons; Eucharistic Adoration; Our Maronite Heritage; and others.
- Discernment Retreats for young women interested in religious life as a Maronite Servant of Christ the Light.

Call Sister Marla Marie for more information regarding these spiritual programs: 508/996-1753.

## Eastern Vocations Fair 2012

On Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup> we participated in the Eastern Catholic Churches Vocations Fair alongside our Maronite Seminarians.



## March for Life 2012—Washington, DC



### 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.



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**Twitter and Facebook** (MaroniteServant)

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