

The Maronite Cross of Rabboola

Dear Friends of the Maronite Servants,

Summer is practically here, and Sister Therese Maria is now a veteran gardener as you can see from this photo. Only last spring did she try her first hand at planting, and now we have flower gardens dotting our landscape with assorted colors waiting to welcome your visit to us.



We are happy to share this summer news with you offering a glimpse of our apostolic mission in serving the Church as spiritual mothers seeking to radiate the light of Christ in our prayerful endeavors. His light has illumined the retreats we have hosted here at the convent and in the parishes. Please read about some of these in this issue. If you are interested in having the Maronite Servants host a spiritual event for your parish or group, contact us.

In the coming months, we look forward to seeing many of our Maronite friends at the MYO National Retreat in St. Louis, at the NAM Convention in San Antonio and at the Assumption Pilgrimage in Ohio.

May you enjoy a restful and fruitful summer. Our prayers are with you.

In Mary, Mother of the Light,

Sister Marla Marie

Rest in His Light—A Joyful Retreat



We hosted a women's retreat on June 1 to June 2 at our Mother of the Light Convent. We had seven energetic young women attend from St. Theresa's Church, Brockton and Our Lady of the Cedar's Church, Boston. The theme of the retreat "Rest in His Light" was planned to give the women a chance to come away from the

hectic rush of daily life and rest their body and soul by nurturing their relationship with Jesus, and in joyful fellowship and communal prayer. On Saturday morning, Father Jack Morrison, pastor of Our Lady of Purgatory, offered the Divine Liturgy and heard confessions.

The program included presentations on the life of prayer, Sacred Scripture, personal

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Hymn for Pentecost

In the likeness of tongues of fire the Spirit of consolation came down. He overshadowed the assembly of the apostles, gathered in the Upper Room. By his overshadowing, they were filled with light. They came out announcing to the world: the Son has risen from the tomb, in the glory of his divinity.

How beautiful and desirable is the assembly of the apostles, as they gathered waiting for the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Suddenly he came to them and descended upon them all. They cried out with one voice: Glory to the Trinity.

Glory to the Father, the merciful One: he fulfilled the promise of his Son. Adoration to the life-giving Son: he sent his Spirit to the apostles. Praise to the Holy Spirit: he instructed the disciples in wisdom. Three holy Person, on Lord: have mercy on us.



The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light will host a summer vacation Bible camp—**LoL Club** (Light of Life Club) at their convent on 856 Tucker Road, Dartmouth, July 23-27 from 9:00AM -12:00PM for ages 4 to 12 (children 13 & older can be volunteer helpers). For more information or to register your child(ren) please contact Sister Marla Marie at 508/996-1753. The **LoL Club** will feature fun activities, Bible stories, prayer, games, videos, crafts, designed to help children grow in their love for Jesus and to learn more about Maronite heritage and saints.

Prayer Group Visits Us for Maronite Prayer



On Monday 21st May we had an area prayer group from the Latin Church join us for Ramsho in our chapel. After the prayer, Mother Marla Marie addressed the group on the topic of Christian Hope.

Ramsho & Supper



Sr. Therese Maria with Ed & Alice Grayson, and Sr. Diane and Sr. Susan from the Daughters of St. Paul at our monthly prayer and supper evening at 5:00PM every second Sunday of the month at our convent.

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reflection, guided adoration, Ramsho & Safro, recreation including dabke on the beach! We shared great laughs, beautiful times of quiet, healing and deep prayer, as we drew closer to one another in Christ's radiant light.

This short time apart was grace-filled, as expressed in the words of one of the participants,

"The resting in his light retreat was so beautiful. There are honestly no words to describe the Holy Spirit's presence, but you know when he is there. The first time we had adoration in the chapel I had a hard time hearing God, because I was doing most of the talking, and even when I tried to listen it felt as if there was a wall between us. It's kind of like talking and I wanted him to hear me, but there was a wall; maybe I was asking him things that he did not want to answer at that moment.

Well, any way on the second day I went to confession. After confession I felt like the eyes of my heart were again open, and the wall was broken. It felt wonderful to receive with a pure heart. The second adoration when by so quickly, and I wish wished it could have lasted longer. When I quieted my mind and my thoughts, I could feel the Holy Spirit's presence. The Sprit does do not really speak in words, but I know he is telling me something, I not really sure what, but it was beautiful. It was so nice to dedicate 24 hours to talking to and learning more about God.

I learned that there is always room for our relationship with God to grow, even though sometimes it feels like we have reached our limit. God is infinite."



Danbury Retreat

We directed a women's spiritual retreat at St. Anthony's Maronite Church, Danbury Connecticut on April 28-29. Father Jean Younes, M.L.M., pastor offered us generous hospitality during our weekend visit which included an opportunity for Mother Marla Marie to speak at the Liturgies about Pope Benedict's message on the World Prayer Day for Vocations.

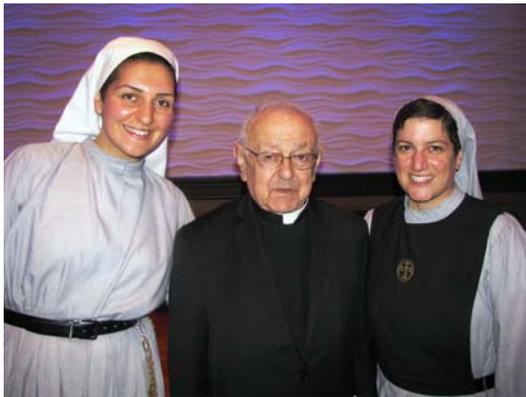


The *Seeking His Light in Prayer* retreat included presentations on the four movements of prayer, Lectio Divina and how to approach the Mystery of Penance. In the evening, we offered the ladies a guided hour of Eucharistic Adoration, praying the four movements.

"In my name and the ladies of St Anthony, we would like to thank you for leading us with sister Therese during the retreat in Danbury. Your presence affected many lives," said Fr. Jean.

At the weekend Divine Liturgies, Mother Marla Marie challenged the parents and the grandparents and all those present to be generous and bold in praying for and encouraging vocations in their own families and parish community.

May God bless St. Anthony's parish and all our Maronite parishes with many holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life!



Congratulations

Chorbishop Lahoud

We are pictured with Chorbishop Joseph Lahoud at his Honorary Banquet, Saturday April 21st, 2012 where he was made a Knight of the National Order of the Cedar awarded by the President of the Republic of Lebanon, His Excellency Michel Sleiman.

MYA—Brockton

On Saturday, May 19th Mother Marla Marie spoke to the MYA group and their advisors on *God's Love*. If you would like us to come and speak at your parish to the MYO/MYA Groups or sodality groups give us a call. Our contact number at the convent is (508) 996 1753 or email sister@maroniteservants.org.



Fostering Vocations

Pope Benedict XVI in his message for 2012 World Day of Prayer for Vocations emphasized the need for parish communities, organizations and especially families to play a vital role in fostering vocations. In his message, titled "Vocations, the Gift of the Love of God", the Pope says, "It is important for the Church to create the conditions that will permit many young people to say "yes" in generous response to God's loving call. The task of fostering vocations will be to provide helpful guidance and direction along the way."

The family is especially highlighted in the Pope's message, and he challenges parents to be a "community of life and love." He writes, "Indeed families are not only the privileged place for human and Christian formation; they can also be the primary and most excellent seed-bed of vocations to a life of consecration to the Kingdom of God, by helping their member to see, precisely within the family, the beauty and the importance of the priesthood and the consecrated life."

Our Holy Father also stressed the need to help our young people to grow in a life of prayer to help them discern their vocation in life whether it is to marriage, priesthood, or religious life. He explains, "Central to this should be love of God's word nourished by a growing familiarity with Sacred Scripture, and attentive and unceasing prayer, both personal and in community; this will make it possible to hear God's call amid all the voices of daily life. But above all, the Eucharist should be the heart of every vocation journey."

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Upcoming Events



An evening out with the Saint Theresa Parish MYO, Brockton

These and other events are listed on our blog under Upcoming Events.

- June 23 Day of Recollection for catechists of Our Lady of the Cedars, at the convent
- June 26-29..... MYO Retreat, St. Louis MO
- July 5-8 NAM Convention, San Antonio TX
- July 23-27 LoL Club, summer camp week for youth ages 4-12, at convent in Dartmouth MA

Help Us Update Our Database



Please send us your email and postal mailing address if they have changed in the last two years. Also, if you receive this newsletter by postal mail, send us your email and help us save postage/paper.

Volunteer



Consider being a volunteer at our convent. We have a list of indoor and outdoor jobs that need to be done. In this photo, Jack, Bob and Charlie help to clean up our yards.

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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