



*The Maronite Cross of Rabboola*

## Dear Friend of the Maronite Servants,

*God is good! He, together with your support, is sustaining the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light as we work to build our community, serve the Maronite Church and radiate the love of Christ the Light in this world. As is outlined in this newsletter, there is much news to report, including:*

- Our “Mother of the Light Convent” in Dartmouth, MA, is now a place of prayer, ministry, and study. We invite you to visit us for retreats, days of prayer and other gatherings.

- Sister Therese Maria has been accepted into a part-time graduate studies program in which she will earn a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Work. This education should help her in serving the Church in decades to come.



*With some of the First Communicants at Saint Theresa’s parish, Brockton, MA*

*We have traveled to numerous retreats, pilgrimages and events over the past few months, and more are planned for this summer: Vacation Bible Camp for children at our convent; the National Apostolate of Maronites Convention in Tampa July 3-7; the Pilgrimage on the feast of the Assumption at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in Jackson, Ohio August 14-16*

*Summertime is a period that many people take time off to relax. Unfortunately, our insurance and utility bills don’t take a vacation! Would you please consider making a donation to support us this summer? An envelope is attached awaiting your generous tax-deductible gift.*

*Thank you for your continuing support. You sustain us with your prayers and financial gifts. You are remembered in our prayers each day.*

*Yours in Mary, Mother of the Light,*

*Sister Marla Marie*

## Year of Faith Catechesis by Pope Francis May 13, 2013

*“Being Christian is not just obeying orders but means being in Christ, thinking like him, acting like him, loving like him; it means letting him take possession of our life and change it, transform it and free it from the darkness of evil and sin.*

*Dear brothers and sisters, let us point out the Risen Christ to those who ask us to account for the hope that is in us (cf. 1 Pet 3:15). Let us point him out with the proclamation of the word, but above all with our lives as people who have been raised. Let us show the joy of being children of God, the freedom that living in Christ gives us which is true freedom, the freedom that saves us from the slavery of evil, of sin and of death! Looking at the heavenly homeland, we shall receive new light and fresh strength, both in our commitment and in our daily efforts.*

*This is a precious service that we must give to this world of ours which all too often no longer succeeds in raising its gaze on high, no longer succeeds in raising its gaze to God.”*

## House Visit With Mary—Boston

We were invited to the home of Agop and Sylvie Nadjarian to welcome the statue of Mary and lead the rosary on Tuesday, May 7. There were 30 ladies and children present as we led the Rosary and sang hymns of devotion to the Mother of God.

After the Rosary prayers, we took the opportunity to share about our mission as Maronite Servants of Christ the Light. A number of the women offered donations in support of our mission and asked for prayers for their loved ones. It was a blessed evening as we came together as children of Mary to honor and love her as our Mother.



## Nurturing the Faith—Fall River

On Sunday April 20 we presented a catechesis on the gift of faith to grades four to eight at the Maronite Faith Formation group of St. Anthony of the Desert, Fall River. In our time together, we focused on the gift of faith given at Baptism, the Creed (summary of our Catholic beliefs and profession in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and practical ways in growing the faith.

We encouraged the children to develop their faith and relationship with Jesus through spending more time in

prayer (talking and listening to God), praying a decade of the Rosary with the family, watching or reading the lives of the saints, and doing good and loving deeds, especially to those who are in need.

## MYO Brockton Visits Convent

On Sunday May 5, the MYO from St. Theresa's parish in Brockton came to our convent for an afternoon retreat. We had a fruitful and fun time together learning more about the gift of our Catholic faith. We began the session with a get to know you ice-breaker and snacks.

Through visual media we discussed a number of questions: Such as what does it mean to be Catholic? Why are we Maronite Catholic? What is faith? How do we grow faith? Also, we reflected on the central beliefs we profess in the Creed. For the Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon, in honor of the Mother of God, we processed to our grotto and prayed a rosary for the intention of the sick, our loved ones and for peace. We concluded the evening with Ramsho & Supper.





## Teen Mission Trip

Our friends from Immaculate Conception parish in Syracuse NY joined us for a day of mission service on April 4, 2013. The junior high Edge group was represented by an energetic and generous group of youth led by their youth minister Kelly Colangelo. We first took them to serve at the soup kitchen at St. Anthony's in New Bedford, and then for card making and yard clean up at our convent in Dartmouth, followed by a visit to pray the rosary and deliver Easter cards to the residents at Cedars Assisted Living in Dartmouth. The day concluded with a pizza supper before the IC van departed for its long journey home. We thank Kelly and the Edge teens for their witness and service.

Call us to plan a mission day for your youth or young adult group.

## Marian Devotion-New Bedford

The children in Faith Formation and their parents offered a prayer service and crowning of Mary on May 18 coordinated by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light and Father Jack Morrison, pastor of Our Lady of Purgatory in New Bedford. During the devotion, a decade of the rosary was prayed and each child offered Mary a flower as a symbol of their honor. Traditional Maronite Marian Hymns were sung and a Gospel reading was proclaimed as the participants gathered around a statue of Mary set up outdoors.



## MYA Brockton Retreat

Sister Therese Maria teaching on the Holy Spirit and Pentecost at the MYA Retreat on Saturday May 11 at St. Theresa's Church Brockton, MA.

## Upcoming

In July, the Maronite Servants will also offer a one week summer vacation bible camp at their convent open to area Maronite parishes for children ages 5-12. Please contact the Sisters for more information 508/996-1753.

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## Young Women's Retreat—Dartmouth

These young women enjoyed an overnight retreat at our convent on May 31 to June 1, focusing on the Light of Faith. A couple of them are in discernment with us. We offer retreats to help strengthen the faith and prayer life of our people so that they can be credible witnesses to Christ in their homes, parishes, and places of work. Our blog details this retreat with more photos and some feedback from the retreatants.

## Pray for Vocations

Please join us in praying for vocations to the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light. Also, spread the word about vocations to young women in your parish. Promote our mission on your Facebook page.



### 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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