



*The Maronite Cross of Rabboola*

## Dear Friends & Family,

On June 1 we celebrated our seventh anniversary of foundation as the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light. I look back with a deep gratitude to God for all the blessings and graces that have unfolded in these years. Thank you to our beloved Bishop, His Excellency Gregory J. Mansour, our clergy, benefactors, family and friends. You have each been a part of the journey and we count on your continued support.



In response to this Year of Consecrated Life, we recognize that, "it is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but by attraction" (Evangeliigaudium, No. 14). Our good news in this special year is the entrance of Petra Nakhoul to the postulancy (see below). As Maronite Servants of Christ the Light, we strive to radiate the joy and beauty of living the Gospel and following Christ to the full. We are privileged to serve our Maronite parishes and spread the light, hope and healing that Jesus brings.

In the upcoming months, in our efforts to "wake up the World", we will participate in the National Apostolate of Maronites Convention in Cleveland OH; the Maronite Youth Organization Workshop in Latrobe PA; the annual Light of Life (LoL) Summer Bible Camp for children ages 4 to 12 from Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> at our convent in Dartmouth; the Assumption Pilgrimage in North Jackson OH; and an Open House September 13.

Pope Francis also points out, "consecrated life will not flourish as a result of brilliant vocation programs, but because the young people we meet find us attractive, because they see us as men and women who are happy!" Please join us in prayer that more young women will consider a vocation to consecrated life as a Maronite Servant. Our love and prayers are with you.

In Mary, Mother of the Light-

*Sister Marla Marie*

## Welcome

Petra Nakhoul entered as a postulant of the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light in Dartmouth on the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Mother Marla Marie welcomed Petra at the closing of the Liturgy at the parish of Our Lady of Purgatory in New Bedford, and Father Jack Morrison, pastor, gave her a blessing. Petra comes from Perth, Australia, and is the daughter of Sarkis and Georgette Nakhoul, parishioners of St. Charbel's Maronite parish. Please join us in praying for Petra and her family as she begins the journey of religious life.



## 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.

## Welcoming New Maronites to the Catholic Church

Cody Shidell and Angela Chan received all three Mysteries of Initiation (baptism, chrismation and eucharist) on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Purgatory, New Bedford celebrated during the vigil Liturgy by Father Jack Morrison, pastor. Both candidates were regular attendees at Mother of Light Convent, receiving their catechetical formation and preparation from Mother Marla Marie. Cody said the weekly classes *“helped me to have a deeper understanding of the faith and have helped me to get closer to God with a life full of prayer”*. Angela added, *“the classes led me spiritually, and Mother Marla was there to guide me mentally and spiritually through the process.”*



## First Holy Communion—Our Lady of Purgatory

First Holy Communion Liturgy was celebrated in New Bedford, MA on May 3 and receiving were Daniel Yazbek, Rafael Yazbek, Jacob Dupre and Annica Dupre. Father Jack Morrison, pastor, was the celebrant, and Sr. Therese Maria Touma was their catechist in preparation for the Mysteries of Penance and Eucharist.



## Periodeut Ordination—Boston

On Saturday, May 16, the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light attended the ordination and elevation of Fr. Georges El-Khalli, pastor of Our Lady of the Cedars in Boston, to the rank of periodeut, with the title of reverend monsignor, by His Excellency, Bishop Gregory J. Mansour. The priestly rank of periodeut is unique to the Eastern Catholic Churches, especially the Maronite Church.



## Serving at St. Anthony Food Pantry

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light have been facilitating and conducting weekly bible sharing for the people that visit the food pantry at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church in New Bedford, MA. We were invited by the pastor, Fr. Edward Murphy to facilitate the sharing every Thursday. The sharing, led by Sr. Therese Maria, is focused on the daily Gospel readings.



## Catholic Extension—“Serving at the Margins”

We participated in the Catholic Extension Young Professionals of Boston panel discussion on April 30 at the Hilton. Sr. Therese Maria was on the panel with two other young adults who work in some of the unique areas of the Catholic Church in the US. The three panelists were given an opportunity to tell their stories and how they are carrying out Pope Francis’ call to serve those at the margins, and also to take questions from the audience. Sr. Therese Maria shared her experience of serving in the Eparchy of St. Maron and she explained the importance of having a missionary spirit.



## World Youth Day 2016—Poland



Sister Therese Maria will be accompanying the Maronites going from the Eparchy of St. Maron to World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland. This pilgrimage will take place from July 24 to August 2, 2016. The theme of the event is “blessed are the merciful, they shall have mercy shown them” (Matthew 5:7). If you are interested in attending or would like more information please email [srtherese2010@gmail.com](mailto:srtherese2010@gmail.com).

World Youth Day (WYD) is a gathering with the Pope and young adults from all over the world. It is typically celebrated every three years in a different country. The target group is ages 14 to 35 years old. It will cost approximately \$2000.00 for each person.

## Maronite Servants & Social Media

The Maronite Servants are utilizing social media to promote the New Evangelization on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and blogger by offering posts that nurture spirituality, strengthen a sense of community and identity as Church. We invite you to benefit from our regular posts on Maronite spirituality and liturgy, scripture, our mission and outreach in the community, weekly blog articles and catechesis. Please “like”, “share” and post your prayer intentions, thereby joining with us in evangelizing and witnessing to Jesus’ merciful love. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter by looking up MaroniteServant.



## Interested in Making a Difference?

We invite you to consider becoming a monthly supporter of the Maronite Servants and assist us in our outreach in the community to nurture our Maronite heritage and spirituality. We rely on the goodness and charity of folks like you so that we can continue our mission of prayer and service. Your donation can be made online via our website by clicking the donate button under the main menu or sending a check in the mail. God bless your generosity!

## 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.



*"In calling you God says to you: 'You are important to me, I love you, I am counting on you'. Jesus says this to each one of us! Joy is born from that! The joy of the moment in which Jesus looked at me. Understanding and hearing this is the secret of our joy. Feeling loved by God, feeling that for him we are not numbers but people; and we know that it is he who is calling us." -Pope Francis in his letter to Religious*

### 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)

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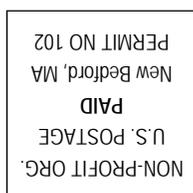
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