

Radiate His Light NEWS



Illuminate Your Soul Jubilee of Mercy Prayer

By Pope Francis

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Dear Friends and Family,

The Year of Mercy is coming to a close on November 20th. During this jubilee year, we have focused our mission efforts to highlight the theme of mercy: in our youth and adult retreats, presentations to parish groups, catechetical programs, and postings on social media and in publications. You will see this throughout the newsletter articles. In our convent monthly and annual retreats, and spiritual reading, mercy was each sister's point of reflection.

Our intentional focus on "mercy" has inspired us to renew our efforts to the lifetime of work at hand -- to receive and to give mercy. Pope Francis reminds us that mercy is, "a love to be praised. Which love? The love of God, who has shown me mercy." In our presentations, we have found the ABC's of mercy a good way to keep this truth in mind. I have copied this acronym from thedivinemercy.org website and put them in a text box in case you would like to cut them out as a bookmark for your prayer book or the fridge.



A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive."

In other news, we invite you to visit our revised website. We give gratitude to Tarek K. Dina and his team at Levant Technologies for helping us to update and re-design our web page. We recommend them for your web needs. Please take a look at maroniteservants.org and let us know what you think.

You are remembered in our prayer during this season of the Glorious Cross, a seven-week cycle in our Maronite Liturgical calendar rounding out the church year. Here is a sample of one of the prayers we offer taken from the third prayer of Safro.

O Creator and Savior of all, you were raised on your cross between heaven and earth;
...May your cross be our companion every moment of our lives, so that we may remain attached to the faith, have confidence in you and love you. Then we shall praise you with the whole world, and glorify the Trinity of life, now and forever. Amen

If you have a specific intention, let us know via phone, email or Facebook. Please pray for us, thank you.

In Mary, Mother of the Light,

Sister Marla Marie

World Youth Day – Poland

By Sister Therese Maria

I, along with Father Rudy Wakim pastor of Our Lady of Victory Maronite Church in Pittsburgh spiritually accompanied the 28 Maronite pilgrims from the U.S. who attended World Youth Day (WYD) in Krakow, Poland July 24-August 3, 2016. The pilgrimage week included Catechesis, Catholic Festivals, Praise and Worship, the Sacrament of Confession, the Way of the Cross, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, daily Mass, and lots of walking and penances that are part of a pilgrimage experience.



What an awesome opportunity it was to see how young, vibrant and fully alive our Catholic Church is with so many different communities coming together to witness, pray and share the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. A high point for me, was being in the actual presence of our Shepherd, Pope Francis, welcoming him, listening to his words which nourish, encourage and challenge us to be those missionary disciples who share mercy and joy with all those who need it. I look forward to the next WYD 2019 in Panama. Consider joining us!

National MYO Workshop

Sister Therese Maria assisted in and presented on the works of mercy at the 2016 National Maronite Youth Organization workshop directed by Fr. Gary George and his awesome team from July 16 to July 21 at Latrobe, PA.



NAM Convention – San Francisco

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light attended this year's National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) Convention in San Francisco, California from July 7th to July 10th, 2016. We were blessed with the opportunity to meet and mingle with over 1,500 of our Maronite parishioners from all over the US and to meet and greet our Patriarch, his Eminence and Beatitude Cardinal Beshara Peter Rai.

Maronite Bible Camp 2016 – Fall River

The 6th Annual LOL (Light of Life) Club began on June 27th with a week of learning about God's merciful love in engaging video, crafts, bible sharing, games, prayer, choir practice, dabke dance rehearsal, and snacks. Sr. Therese Maria organized the program with the theme "In the Footsteps of Mercy", and focused on the specific ways that lead us to Jesus, who is the visible face of our Father's mercy.



Pope Francis invites us to make a Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors in this Jubilee Year of Mercy

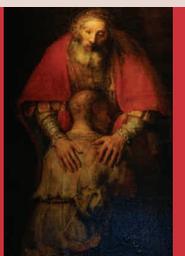
Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy to continue through November. Maronites throughout the Eparchy are invited to visit the designated place of pilgrimage with Holy Doors.

In our area, **Our Lady of Mercy, Worcester MA** is the designated pilgrimage parish and you are invited to walk through the **Holy Doors** to receive the special blessings of this Jubilee Year.

Your family is invited to participate in this spiritual pilgrimage of seeking God's mercy. The morning will begin with Divine Liturgy, followed by refreshments, then a walk through the Holy Doors, into the church for Eucharistic Adoration prayer, and an opportunity for confession.

Encountering Mercy

MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER



Maronite Pilgrimage and Prayer
Our Lady of Mercy, 341 June Street
Sunday, October 16th

RSVP before Oct. 12, by calling
Sister Marla Marie at 508/996-1753

Time: Beginning with Mass at 10:00AM
and all the events to follow,
concluding by 1:30PM.

Annual Retreat

The Maronite Servants of Christ the Light annual retreat of silence and solitude was from August 21st - 28th at the Mother of Light Convent and the theme highlighted Mercy and the Beatitudes. Our retreat master Father James gave insightful conferences and direction. Father James is a priest of the Roman Rite with bi-ritual faculties and is currently assisting at St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Church in Fall River.



Sr. Therese Maria wrote a reflection on our retreat:

Blessedness

Lord Jesus, I desire to reflect your face of mercy and radiate your light and charity to all those I encounter.

May I become one with each Beatitude:

Help me to be compassionate, courageous, sacrificial in suffering love, and authentic in living out "meekness".

Help me to be detached, docile, trusting and giving of myself in my striving to be "poor in spirit".

Help me to shed all that displeases you and sincerely "mourn" my willfulness and selfishness, in order to freely love you and my neighbor.

Help me to be your "Reservoir of Light" in extending "mercy" and comfort to all those who suffer, want or need a hand.

Help me to clearly distinguish what comes for you and what does not, so that I can choose you in "purity of heart".

Help me to uphold the awesome dignity we have as children of God by sowing words and deeds of "peace" and love.

Help me to serve and seek what is Good, True and Beautiful, and "hunger and thirst" for you, the Hidden One, the Radiant One. Help me to remain undivided in loving and following you, my sweet Jesus,

despite what "persecutions" may come....

You are my life

You are my all

My eternal home is with you!

A Maronite Vocation Prayer

Gather us, Good Shepherd, into your holy Church, your sheep fold, and send us shepherds and pastors who will model their lives on yours, and who lead us to graze in your Spirit.

Place in the hearts of young men and women your call to serve your house, spread your gospel and save the poor. Call your people to care for the sick, feed those who are hungry, teach your children, and offer you spiritual worship, so that your kingdom may be perfected.

We shall praise and glorify you, forever. Amen.

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.



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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