

# Parish Bulletin

July 2010



*"The Just Man shall flourish like a palm tree and like a Cedar of Lebanon shall he grow"*

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From the Desk of Father Ghattas:

From the Desk of the Pastor :

July is the month of vacation. Most of the families take a vacation to see the other members of their family and relatives. Many would see a necessity before returning to their daily routine life. During this time the Maronite Church has a convention that is the gathering of the Church to see deferent members of the Maronites in the United States. Also there is another occasion the gathering of the youth.

This month also has many feasts such the Fourth of July, the independent Day. There is an obligation to pray for our great Country that gives us a space of freedom of prosperity. These privileges would be abused by human being if we lose our freedom by license, there is a risk to lose them if the moral is decline, therefore our faith is a shield to protect our freedom and keep the prosperity to do more charity and proclaiming the Gospel.

There is another feast the Feast of the Massabki Brothers who shed their blood on behalf of Jesus in Damascus.

Many like them in Syria and Lebanon lost their properties and the others died because of their Christian faith.

Also there is feast of Saint Sharbel, the one who became famous by his generosity of performing miracles. Many received graces of conversion and healing. With him we celebrate of feast of Saint Elias the Great Prophet of the Old Testament. Most of the Eastern Churches consider him the protector of the People.

Also, the Maronite Church celebrates the feast of her Martyrs who died defending the teaching of the Orthodoxy of their faith.

Many are the occasions to meditate and to increase our faith. We hope that we continue our journey to see Jesus face to faith.

## **Divine Liturgy:** Sundays 11:00

- **Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Pentecost/ Fr. Robert Rossi the Celebrant.
  - **Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>** Massabki Brothers and the Christian Martyrs and Lebanon
  - **Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Pentecost; Fr. Bob Skagen the celebrant
  - **Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Pentecost; Father Johnrita St Theresa. the celebrant
  - **Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Pentecost; Father Johnrita St Theresa. the celebrant
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## **Announcements and Activities:**

- **Arabic & Catechism School:** The parents who have children for school need to register their children for the year 2010-2011. Please visit our website [www.stjosephaz.org](http://www.stjosephaz.org)
- **Pastor's Vacation:** Father Ghattas will be in Lebanon from July1-July 29.
- **Second Collection:** There will be a second collection for the Catholic University on **Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Mark your Calendar : Our Annual Festival this year will be Friday Saturday and Sunday November 5,6&7, 2010.**

## **The New Blessed Brother Estefan Nehme**

### **Pope Welcomes Beatification of Lebanese Monk**

VATICAN CITY, JUNE 27, 2010 (Zenit.org). - After praying the Angelus today with the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square, Benedict XVI welcomed the beatification in Lebanon of Stephan Nehmé, a religious of the Lebanese Maronite Order.

"I heartily rejoice with the Lebanese brothers and sisters," the Pope said, "and I entrust them with great affection to the protection of the new blessed."

Archbishop Angelo Amato, the prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, presided at today's beatification liturgy in Kfifan.

Stephen Nehmé (born Joseph) was known for his constant awareness of God's presence in his life. He was born in March 1889 in the town of Lehfed, in the Jbeil district, as the youngest of seven children.

In 1905, two years after his father's death, Nehmé entered the novitiate of the Order of Maronites, in the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Kfifan.

On Aug. 23, 1907, he made his monastic vows, taking the name Stephen after the patron saint of his birthplace.

Father Nehmé died Aug. 30, 1938, at the age of 49, of natural causes and was buried in the monastery at Kfifan, where his body remains intact.

## Maronite Martyrs

July 10, we remember the Massabki Brothers who were killed in Damascus with thousands of Christians who live in Lebanon and Syria. In Europe, the nationalism and the superiority of the races caused a lot of damages by destroying people who did not have the identity of the majority. The same way, the Middle East, the Near East labeled the people: Moslem and non-Moslem. The non-Moslems are the second-class citizens. The state does not have a law to govern them. The head of the Church is in charge of his community before the state. More than that, they have to pay extra taxes, the "Dumih Tax." The Ottheman Empire, the Old Turkey, had difficulty governing the huge Empire with an old law from The Seventh Century. This weakness encouraged the European States to intervene to have the privileges inside the Empire, which destroyed its unity.

In the Islamic World, there is trouble over the Christians, if they claim their rights to be equal to the Moslems. The European States obliged the Moslem Empire to enforce the Civil Rights of the Christians. The Moslem empire stirred up the trouble between the Christians and the Druze, who are Sectarians, and the Moslems. The Christians were victims, of these Civil Rights. Many were killed, because of their identity among them the, Massabki Brothers, who were killed with the Franciscans. Most of the men of Dyer El-kamar, were trapped by the Ottheman officials, who were supposed to protect them. They conspired against them.

Actually, how do we explain the rising of the Fundamentalism in Islam, to return to the Old Law that would restore its dignity and establish peace on earth? This peace would be similar to the Roman one that controlled the same Empire of the Ottheman Empire by fire and iron. This was the same experience that happened in Russia and Eastern Europe. They tried to impose their regulations over the people, by eliminating the dignity of human being. In the end, they failed. The Civil Rights are the basic laws that should establish order in the States. Without these laws, there is no place for equality of mankind.

The Middle East would never have peace unless the States recognize their Civil Human Rights. Otherwise, it will be the source of trouble to start World War III. It will be the last one, because there are weapons that can destroy the earth. With that, the freedom of human beings would abolish life on earth.

### ST. Elias, The Prophet July 20

Elias or Elijah, whose name signifies "Yahweh is my God", was one of the great prophets of the Old Testament. Devotion to him is spread through the East and there his miracles are greatly celebrated. The First and the Second Books of Kings speak of him. He is referred to as the "Tishbite" after the village of his birth. Elias was filled with zeal for spreading the word of God. He lived during the reign of King Ahab (875-845). He courageously criticized the king's wife, the impious Jezebel. He was taken to heaven

in a chariot of fire. The prophet Malachi announced that he would return. Christ said that Elias had returned in the person of John the Baptizer. The Eastern Churches honor him. The Maronite Church has many Churches after his name, Aleppo Cathedral, Beirut, and St Elias Birmingham, Alabama. May his prayers be with us?

#### A Saint from Lebanon, St. Sharbel Makhoul

Sharbel Makhoul was born in Bakacafra, North Lebanon 1828. He entered the Lebanese Order to live a monastic life. He chose to live the solitary life of a hermit. After twenty-five years as a hermit, he died in 1898. After his death, his body continuously sweated perspiration and blood. Numerous miracles have been attributed to St. Sharbel. He was beatified at the end of the second Vatican II, on December 5, 1965. He was canonized on October 9, 1977. Sharbel was conspicuous for his humility, works of penance, love of silence, work and constant prayer. May his prayers be with us?

St. Marina the Nun of the Holy Valley, July 17

This Saint was born in Lebanon. She joined the monastic life with her father who lost his wife. Marina hid herself by covering her head by a hood like a man and lived a humble life of prayer and penance. The monks left the monastery to Tripoli, North Lebanon to sell the products of the monastery. Until their return, Marina stayed at a house that used to have a woman that committed adultery. Her father came to the monastery and accused the humble Merinos, the name of Marina as a monk. The superior ordered the poor monk to leave the monastery with the boy. She took care of him with the help of shepherds around. The surprise was that the monk is a woman that lived a life of penance. She was an innocent virgin. The Maronites honor her especially in Cyprus and in north Lebanon. Actually, her place is the tomb of the Maronite Patriarch.

#### A Miracle

Adel Zlaket from Saint Joseph Church confined me his situation before he told his family, during the hospitalizing of Yvonne, the mother of his wife. I told him we will pray for him and trust God his health

Sunday June 6, 2010, Nada His wife asked me to remember him in the Divine Liturgy. After Liturgy, Adel was in peace and he was ready for the surgery, Monday June, 6,2010



Adel , Nada his wife, his son Christopher, Yvonne Nada's Mother

Due to an uncomfortable feeling in his Chest and persistent dizziness Adel Zlaket had a nuclear stress test performed in 1999. The doctors found three arteries to be blocked and would need the insertion of stents to reopen. An Angioplasty was performed and one of the stents was placed in the left major artery. The surgery was followed by yearly stress tests and everything was found to be clear until 2009. In 2009 the nuclear stress test results showed a major blockage in the same major left artery close to the heart. An .angioplasty was successfully completed and corrected the problem in January of 2009 Eighteen months later a routine nuclear stress test was performed and the results showed a severe blockage in the same major left artery located closer to the heart and adjacent to the other stents. Adel Zlaket receives a phone call from the doctors office informing him of the finding. They told him to immediately make an appointment to have a catheter performed to see if the doctor will be able to perform and angioplasty. They also informed him that if the artery does not open via angioplasty the heart doctor would be forced to perform a bi pass surgery without any delay. When Adel Zlaket received this phone call his mother in law was in the hospital with a fractured hip and his wife was with her. He decided to keep it secret from everyone until his mother in law came back home. This was to help not add any pressure to the family at the time. Adel's sister Grace who is an endocrinologist found out only and immediately called the cardiologist and spoke to him personally about the issue, his answer was just like Adel was told by .the nurse in the office

Adel was acting normal and visiting his mother in law in the hospital. He saw the cardiologist who had performed a catheter on his mother in law. Adel then asked for the doctors opinion and the doctor said he needs to let his wife know so that if anything happens, such as a heart attack, she would know of his heart issue. Adel then told his wife and they decided to get a second opinion. Adel Zlaket went and acquired his records from the heart doctor who had found the blockage. He then went to visit his mother in law in the hospital and he found a medical school student doing his residency at the Mayo clinic in general surgery visiting her. He was shown the report and read it. He then advised Adel not to wait too long because of the danger involved. After that Nada Zlaket (Adel's wife) found the hospitalist who takes care of Nada's mother in the hospital. He was asked for advice as to who the best cardiologist that he could recommend for catherization and angioplasty in the hospital. He referred Adel to Dr.David Rizik. He was said to be the best and that if the artery had any hope of being .opened Dr. Rizik would be able to open it

An appointment was set up to visit Dr. Rizik and Adel along with his sister Grace who is also a physician. When they got into the office he was very excited to see Adel Zlaket because his father and him had gone to visit Adel in his salon 10 years ago. Dr. Rizik's father loved Adel and kept insisting to go meet Adel more often, but never got the chance to. Dr. Rizik spent an an hour and a half looking at the test results and explaining the situation to both Adel and his endocrinologist sister Grace. Dr. Raizik said he would take care of Adel as a brother and would do his absolute best to open the artery however necessary. Adel then made an appointment to go into the hospital .praying that his issue could be solved by an angioplasty and not a bi pass

Throughout the entire ordeal Adel was praying to Saint Charbel to take care of him. Adel was never afraid, nor did he feel as though his heart had a blockage. The day of the procedure Adel checked in at 11am and the procedure was scheduled for 1:30 pm. Adel, his wife, and his sister went to the hospital. The nurses came in and took him to the pre-op room and allowed Nada Zlaket and Grace Zlaket Matta to go in as well. When Adel was finally taken in for the cauterization he was feeling fine, as though nothing was wrong with him. When Adel was instructed to lay down on the procedure table he saw Saint Charbel shadow in front of him in the room for a short time then disappeared. This was to let Adel know that Saint Charbel was with him. Then Dr. Rizik came in for the procedure and asked how Adel was feeling. Adel Said he felt great. Then after the doctor had sat down Adel told him very calmly that he's wasting his time because Saint Charbel already did the job. The doctor then said "oh my God your a fan of Charbel!" and Adel told him that he is and that he's never asked St. Charbel for anything that St. Charbel hasn't done for him. Adel is certain that St. Charbel healed his blockage. It turned out that Dr. Rizik had done the composition music for St. Charbel when he became a Canonized; at the time Dr. Rizik was about 19 years old and lived in New York at the time. The procedure was suppose to take at least an hour and a half, in less than 45 minutes the doctor comes out and to say by the word I don't have good news I actually have great news, Adel has no blockage at all, he even performed a stress test in that left major artery and no effect to the heart at all, he drew on a piece of paper to way the artery looked, Nada, Grace, Adel's cousin Leila and son Frederick .were all there when the doctor came out and explained .We believe Saint Charbel just added a miracle to His long list of miracles

## A New Blessed from Maronite Lebanese Order.

By Fr. Ghattas Khoury

Those who have the simplicity of a child are ready for the Kingdom of God. After the canonization of Saint Sharbel a hermit, a teacher who lived a monastic life, a mystic with suffering, the Church presents another model of life; a simple monk that was living in the shadow of the others. He was a labor brother that benefited his community with his prayers and his labor as a farmer, builder and carpenter.

There is nothing is remarkable like saint Sharbel with his meticulous way of observing the regulations of the Monastic life. He was full with joy in his laboring and praying. They saw the grace of God shaped the profile of his face. He was a humble brother that was obedient to the Father Superior of the monastery.

With this sincerity of love and the simplicity of faith, the grace of Jesus transformed him to become a mediator with our unique Mediator Jesus Christ. Even though he has a lot of wisdom, Bother Esftan had the heart of a child, according to Jesus he is qualified to be in the Kingdom of God.

Brother Estfen is not the only one that he is qualified to be beatified by he is like an example for us that his baptism is the privilege that God gave to our humanity to become children of Life.

This year, the Church honors those who have a special vocation to be the hands and the heart of the Lord and to serve them as they serve Jesus Himself. The Priests are the mystery of the presence of Jesus among his people. In the end of the Jubilee year, the Church is presenting to us as Maronites Church, a brother who lived in the shadow of the others served them with his heart. Through this service of love, he walked up toward the perfection.

His birth March 1889, at that period, Lebanon was relatively tranquil from the civil war after the protocol of 1861. The Ottoman empire was obliged to accept the independence of the mountain of Lebanon. However, she speeded the weeds of division among the people. This division insinuated the walls of the monasteries and the Churches. Most of the time, the towns were divided and some time the orders like, the Lebanese order. With that two major things happened their implications were between positive and negative; the schools and universities and emigration.

**Education** in the largest sense is any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual. In its technical sense, education is the process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills and values from one generation to another. With the education, the person is recoiling himself his dignity and his rights. For the theocratic regime, this is against the imposing law that coming from God through the Sultan. Many people started to move from Lebanon to Egypt and the United States. Many of them were authors and poets who shaped the Arabic languages and changed the mentality of the people, such Gibran and others.

During that time many Lebanese People left Lebanon but they supported their families during that time. Many feudal people lost their properties. They sold them to the people who earned money from their labors and their investments.

The time of Brother Esftan was time of development and education that influenced the Maronites Monastically life a specially after the spreading of the school with Jesuits Lazarettos, most of the time they adopted the French Education.

That time the Maronites Church started a new system of education. There is a development of the old System of education. The old system was reading Syria and Arabic. The Eparchy of Beirut developed the Sagesse, Alhikmat and the Law School. The Lebanese Order has a special School Mayfouk,

That time of transition was difficult the reluctance to protect the tradition and keep the people ignorant or transform the monastic life to missionary life with the people of God.

During that time, Brother Estefan lived his monastic life. Probably he was away from the two methods of monastic life. He was busy to fulfill his duty toward his vows.

Brother Estefan was blessed to have the Abbot Ignatius Dagger who was educated in St Joseph University. This great man developed the monastic life. He was a good teacher for the postulants. He renewed the School of the Sainthood by his good exemplary life. Brother Esftan learned from him the monastic life. He was not chosen to be a priest. He continued to live his vows and he was occupied by his prayer and his labor. Like the Fathers of the Desert, Brother Estefan, developed his skills to serve properly his brothers wherever they are. He died August 1939.

[Ghattas Khoury](#) June 28 at 10:43pm



هالشمس غابت واختفيت من هالوديان  
راحت عا بلاد صحابا فيها حلوا  
جارت علين العيشي وتركوا الاوطان

وادي قاديشا وين ما النساك صلوا  
صار فراغ بالقلب وخربت البلدان

وعصافيرا راحت والنسورا كتار فلوا  
بعد خرب طاخنة سخ بالقلب الايمان

وكتار من الناس عن طريق الرب ضلوا  
يا ررب انت قادر بشفاعة اسطفان

بعدن صابرين عا الضيم كتر ممن ملوا  
رجع عا ارض احترقت اكلتا النيران  
ويرجع لي غا ب غالي الوطن قلوا

