

Parish Bulletin

May 2011



"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:

This Sunday, May 1st, is the New Sunday, Sunday of Mercy, Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon, and First Communion for eight children in our parish. We are celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord who established peace and tranquility in our hearts. It is a fulfillment of what the Angel promised the inhabitants of the earth would receive from the Prince of Peace. This gift of peace is for those who believe in His death and His resurrection. These days are critical for the whole world, financially; many people have lost their savings and their houses. In Japan, the tsunami erased many places with earthquakes and the hazardous conditions of the nuclear station. In the Middle East the movement of change has uprooted regimes and left people in confusion. Many would say the promises of God that the Lord will establish peace are manifesting themselves. God is inviting us to join Him through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ who has established peace and tranquility in the hearts of His disciples. He is inviting us to enjoy His peace during the crazy storms in this world. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is always inviting us through the Church to draw from His living water and to join the faithful by sharing His holy things and to receive the Holy Spirit, in order to have peace in our hearts. Similar to the apostle who received a personal gift of peace, so together, we will establish the plan of salvation in the whole universe. Each one of us has responsibility to establish peace when, the faithful live the unity and charity to be the ambassadors of Jesus Christ who put us in charge to carry out the message of Heaven.

Announcements

Divine Liturgy: Saturdays 6:00 PM **AND** Sundays 11:00 A.M.

- **Sunday May 8th** Second Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day (2 Tim 2:8-13 & Lk 24:13-24)
- **Sunday May 15th** Third Sunday of Easter (Heb 13,18-25 & Jn 21:1-14); Tucson Mass 5:00 PM
- **Sunday May 22nd** Fourth Sunday of Easter (Eph 2:1-10 & 21:15-19); Intention by Thomas Joseph
- **Sunday May 29th** Fifth Sunday of Easter (Rom 10:1-13 & Lk 24:36-48): El Paso Mass 6:00 PM

Activities:

- **Lunch:** We will be having **Falafel** lunch on **Sunday May 22nd** following mass in the Church Hall
- **First Communion:** The Parish of St. Joseph would like to congratulate the 8 children who received their First Communion this year. Congratulations to Alexandra Chamoun, Reva Francis, Vannesa Ghosn, Rania Affas, Maria Dirani, Chris Thomasian, Charbel Medawar and Sharbel Ashkar for doing a wonderful job in Heritage School this year. It was a joyful day for your parents and for every parishioner to see 8 young children get older in the eyes of God. We would also like to thank Maggy Eid, Sabine Chamoun, Marie Rose Faddoul, Marlene Boulos and Toufic Faddoul for their continued dedication to our Church in their various roles.
- **Talent Show:** On Sunday April 3, 2011, Saint Joseph Maronite Church had their annual talent show. The show was a great success! Many friends and families came to support the children of the church, express their talents outside in the beautiful weather! We had a variety of incredible talents such as singing, belly dancing, piano playing, joke telling, ballet, and much more! The children worked very hard in preparation for this day! We had many volunteers who helping in providing hamburgers and hot dogs for the audience and for the performers, and many who helped in the clean up. Saint Joseph Maronite Church put efforts and worked hard together to make this event a joyous event for everyone. Whether it be the smiles in the audience, or the excitement of the performers, Saint Joseph's annual talent show is always one to bring joy to everyone's hearts! Working together goes a long way! Thank you everyone for your help and support!
- **Egg Hunt:** Every year before Hosanna Sunday, the kids of our community have a joyful day hunting for eggs. It became a tradition that is organized by the Sunday school. The children enjoyed the beautiful weather running to hunt eggs, while many received prizes.

Special Thank You:

I would like to thank all the members of our Parish who worked hard to have a successful Hosanna Sunday and Holy Week. Firstly, I would like to thank all those faithful who came to Friday prayers and meditated the Gospel. Secondly, thanks to the Ladies Guild for hosting a successful Bake Sale and Austerity Dinner. Thirdly, for the Choir who did a wonderful job during Friday prayers, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Fourthly, for the altar servers for their cooperation and dedication. Fifthly, for the generous donations used to decorate our Church. Sixth, for the generous donations you made to me personally. Seventh, for those who worked as ushers, in the kitchen, at the barbeque and anyone else who may have been accidentally left out. Last but not least, thank you to the MYA for hosting a successful Egg Cracking contest for the Parish on Easter Sunday.

Father Ghattas Khoury

A Man Came From a Far Country

By Fr. Ghattas Khoury, April 7, 2005

The Evangelist John says "there was much else that Jesus did: if it were written down in detail, I do not know suppose the world itself would hold all books would be written."

From where do I have to start, from his difficult life, from his philosophy, Theology, Art, Poetry, Minister, Priest, Bishop, Cardinal, or Pope? Through these talents and brilliant mind, there is a mystery comes from Jesus, who came from a far country, and whose life ended on the Cross. Before His death, he forgave his enemies, as John Paul did in his life. Since his election, when he presented himself to the People saying with perfect Italian language, "I came from a far Country". A columnist replied, "Yes he came from Galilee." The people saw in him, the powerful Jesus who charmed the people. Since his Childhood, Carol Wojtyla, was his name before his election to be the Pope of Rome. His body holds the stigmata of the suffering Jesus, when he lost his earthly mother. He gave his life the Heavenly Mother of Jesus, who knows how to be near the Cross-of her only Son. She led him to a right path, during his difficulties. He decided to join the priesthood, to carry the message of hope to his oppressed people. When Nazism terrified Europe, his country was a victim of its atrocity. After that, Communism trapped Poland, when he was ordained priest. He consecrated himself to the one who was crucified to be an innocent oblation on behalf of a sinful humanity. With hope, the young priest, enflamed fire in the hearts of his hopeless people. His bishop sent him to Rome for further studies. There, with rigor, he studied St. Thomas Aquinas and studied Saint John of the Cross-, and his Mystical Theology. He did his researches in Spanish language, his dissertation in Latin, and his discussions in French. After four years of learning, He returned to Poland to invest his brilliant talents in the services of his people. To move from town to town, he used a horse-cart. He was teaching the kids, taking care of different parishes with a special care for the youth. This brilliant personality was presented to the universal Church, when he was appointed an auxiliary Bishop of Krakow, than the Archbishop of the same city. With his deep spirituality and his experiences, the Archbishop of Krakow, was very active in the Vatican II committees. Many of the Council cods have his figure prints. Since then, Archbishop Wojtyla started to enclose the Laities to be in charge of Parish Councils, Pastoral Councils and other committees. With his vision, he was trained his people to take responsibilities. Further, these activities were the seeds of freedom that would blossom, and erased the dictatorship of the Communism without shedding blood.

Archbishop Wojtyla has been identified with the one who came from Galilee for many reasons. First, he has the courage of Peter. In addition, the new Pontiff repeated, what Jesus told his disciple on the boat, "do not be afraid", and after His resurrection, "peace is with you, do not be afraid." Second, he has the courage of the Martyrs, with it; he faced the dictators using the convictions of the Prophet. With his message, and his courage, the people identified him to the One who came from Galilee, with his power in "words and deeds". Therefore, wherever he went, they recognized him, and welcomed him, "in the name of the Lord," as welcome Jesus from Galilee, When he entered Jerusalem.

The Man of a smiling face was, also, a man of sufferings, and difficulties. With the courage of martyrs, he persevered to the end. The Lord has anointed him to carry to the suffering people, the message of hope and forgiveness. This scholar man, and theologian, presented to the world the

suffering and the courageous Jesus. Similar to him, he faced death with courage. He never used violence against violence, but the Theology of Saint John of the Cross-was guidance to face the time of darkness with hope and offense with forgiveness. How did this courageous man forgive the one who shot him? The answer is, He answered violence with forgiveness. He became the symbol of reconciliation, when he steadfast and asked forgiveness of the past mistakes that the Catholic Church felt guilty. (Until now, no one exchanged forgiveness by the others for their mistakes.)

With the blossoming of the seeds of freedom, John Paul II, was similar to Jesus Christ, who by His death abolished the Wall of Division between Gentiles and the Jews. With his convictions, he prepared the people to have courage before the boot of the dictatorship. They called his revolution “the white revolution for freedom.”

For Lebanon, He had concern to save Lebanon from the Civil War, or the wars of others. His correspondences and speeches express his concerns of the Future of the Country of the Cedars. Since his election, he started to support the Country of the Cedars by calling for reform inside of the Maronite Church in 1986. He called for a Synod for Lebanon. Many times, the Pontiff asked to visit. They were not sure if the Head of the Catholic Church would be safe. His visit 1997 was successful especially among the youth. To them he gave the decrees of the Synod, and relay to them for the future of their Country. Recently and not far from the stadium, where she was a Pontifical Liturgy, the Lebanese youth have started their Cedar Revolution.

John Paul II is, always, a priest. He was the same, as a Bishop, Archbishop, Cardinal and Pope. By rising higher to have more responsibilities, Carol Wojtyla never changed his identity as a priest in the image of the High Priest, Jesus Christ. Never the pressing crowds, and the flesh of the Cameras and the Medias, disturbed his tranquility in the time of prayers. He was similar to the Eternal Priest, by raising praise and thanksgivings, day and night. Like Jesus Christ, Prayer was part of his daily life, like Jesus Christ. , As he said, it is raising the heart and the mind to God. He had the gift of prayer. More than that, the Holy Eucharist is a central of all prayers. For him, there was no difference, if this Mass was in Saint Peter or at plain air there was no different. Finally, his devotion to Mary is remarkable, and through her, he had a great admiration of the Woman.

With the Highest office in the Church, Pope John Paul II, presided in love, and always his is a sinner dependent in the mercy of God. He considered himself, as sinner needs to repent and confess his sins. This Great Man has a weak body. In his old age, he agonized on the Cross-of suffering. His agony was a bridge to cross this life to the life to come. His love is a passport to pass the borders of nations. Even though, He was linguistic; he speaks different languages fluently; the perfect language is love. He used the international perfectly.

Finally, the legacy of John Paul II is great, as the Evangelist says, “there was much to say of him. However, one would be more effective and necessary to make a difference. Probably the first word at the day of his election “does not be afraid”. Pray for us to keep this treasure in life. Let Jesus give us your courage to carry it to the generations to come. This sort verse is similar to the “mustard seed” has power to crack the iron curtains of hatred and animosity, to establish peace on earth.

The Promises of the Resurrection

By Ghattas Khoury

Many question that if the death of Jesus greater than his resurrection. Immediately, I would answer that is the Crucifixion is the peak of any kind of love. The Death of Jesus is the most eloquent way to express the abundant grace that came over our humanity. This love would be unknown to us without the resurrection of the Lord. How would we be convinced that shameful death on the cross would be a triumph unless that the Lord was please through the power of the Resurrection of Jesus by the presence of the Holy Spirit among us?

The scandal of the cross destroyed all the dreams of the apostles and much time would understand Jesus himself. I can give an example of the discourse of the multiplication of the bread. After the challenge of the bead of life, many followers of Jesus left him. Peter and the disciples trusted Jesus and his words without understanding. However, the power of his resurrection opened their minds and restored their memories to review whatever Jesus did in his public life.

Without the resurrection of the Lord, we recognize Jesus as the Word of God. Jesus is trustworthy. For example, what is the meaning of the beatitudes without the resurrection?

The dreamer is gone and no fulfillment of his words. The promises of God never would come through without the resurrection. Jesus became the fulfillment of the Law and the prophecy. What is the meaning of the suffering of Job without the resurrection of Jesus? Suffering has a new meaning with the suffering of Jesus who redeemed the world by his death. The beatitudes of the mountain are promises of Jesus to comfort them. These promises are the new Law. What Jesus did is similar what Moses did in Sinai.

“ after had promulgated all the commandments of the Law to the people, he took the calves blood, the goats blood and some water, and , and with these, he sprinkled the book itself and all the people, using scarlet wool and hyssop; saying as he did so this is the blood of the covenant that God has made with you”

St John has a meticulous observation during the crucifixion, he listened to last word of Jesus that was “It is fulfilled” it means the new Covenant is ready to be ratified.

After the death of Jesus, a Roman soldier pierced his side by a lance, immediately, blood and water came out. Historically, it was the duty of the observer to confirm the death of the person. Similar to the role of the sergeant who is present during the execution, the soldier confirmed the death of Jesus.

From that, there is no doubt of the death of Jesus.

Spiritually, the meaning is further; it is the ratification of the new covenant between God and the new Humanity.

How did John observe the event of ratification?

Jesus gave his spirit his blood means the spirit of life that was mingled with the water of baptism to wash away our guilt and confirm the words and deeds of Jesus. At that time Jesus took the role of Moses, the mediator. He is the Son of God who is much higher than Moses. And more than that, instead to use the blood of calves and goats, he used his own blood.

The blood of Jesus transformed in the Church a living Spirit and the water from inside is the living water came from the side of the Altar that Jesus promised twice one for the Samaritan Woman. The Second when Jesus said: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me. Let anyone who believes in me come and drink! As the scriptures say: ‘from his heart shall flow streams of living water”

And John continues “he was speaking of the Spirit which those who believed in him were to receive For there is no spirit as yet because Jesus had not been glorified.”

The Hour of glorification is that hour when Jesus ratified the new covenant; he gave everything to his bride, the Church.

He gave Mary, his mother the beloved, the Church and he ratified the Covenant by his own blood.

Those who were baptized in the name of Jesus their sins were washed away and they receive the Spirit of Jesus, his blood to become children of God.

Jesus was away our sins and gave us a new birth.

All these things that she has used to confirm are meaningful with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

St John and the other evangelists could be good observers of journalists. They could be good reporters for information. Also, the last supper at the upper room could be the last supper forever. It would be a memorial like the Passover of the Jews. Easter Sunday is the revelation par Excellence for many reasons.

We move from the discussion of the responsibility of the death of Jesus. Who would legally be responsible for his death penalty? What was the role of Judas, the disciples, the leaders of the people and the compromised procurer? Probably, we would arrive to a solution to blame. Also there are many things to discuss.

The resurrection of Jesus, has transformed the controversial problem to acts of salvation.

We do not bring to an end the controversial problems. Those who abused the Law are guilty so whatever happened. The execution on the cross has a meaning of humiliation for the Jews who are looking for a king to take over the power of Caesar. The intention of the leaders is to erase the name of Jesus from the memories of the people by put a curse of Jesus. The traitor Judas is always done wrong by betrayed his master. The soldiers who are abusive by mistreat the prisoners. The procurer is always compromiser.

During the time of confusion, the Lord God is establishing the New Covenant through the Crucifix

. Peter tried to defend Jesus he failed to persevere. God was looking to the beloved Son who was obedient even to death on the cross. Through him, God the Father instead to retaliate by hatred, he Gave Salvation to our humanity.

They released Barabbas and executed Jesus. Barabbas is representing the old humanity that puts the guilt over the shoulders of Jesus of Nazareth. The New humanity is represented by John who receives his love through Mary.

St Paul summarized eloquently by saying: "it is all to God's work; he reconciled us to himself through Christ and he gave us the ministry of reconciliation. I mean, God was in Christ reconciling the World to him, not holding anyone's faults against them, but entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

الكهنوت في العشرين

عشرين سنة حامل كنوز السما
جسم ترابي ضعيف معرض للفنا
امانة حب حملني، لاهبي قلبي
كبرت قلبي وفاض حبو جنى
يا رب من قلبي بقلك عبدك انا
محبتك ورحمتك اعطيني منك لنا
كلمتك نعمة سماوية زدنا غنى
حملتك قلبي نار حدة ولاهبي
وجمرتك بديي بتحرق فيها فنا
وكاسك المليون فيها للبشر هنا
وكل ما زاد القسى وسودت الدني
بضوي صليبك بتذكرك انا
منسمع صوتك بردد ويقول
الشر انتهى وجات مواعيد الجنا

Twenty year O Lord, I am with you
My body is dust easy to disappear
You trust me with your treasures
My heart grew and full of crops
From my heart, sincerely, I am you servant
Your abundant love has poured over us
Your Word increase our treasures
Al carried you as a flaming love
While I am carrying you with my hands
You cheerful chalice to the people is joy
If I pass trough harsh time and a gloomy life
I remember you shining cross over the sky
I heard your voice repeats saying
Evil is over the promises of heaven are ready

ابو دقشتو

ابا الحق

شو صار بهاك النهار عا الجلجلي
كان لازم العار والتعثير كلن الي
ابنك ارتفع عنا وتسمر عا الصليب
كان لازم تكون الي كل البهلي

وحيدك تحمل عني عار الصليب
هوي ابنك حبيبك يسوع الحبيب
ما شفت يا بينا الا ابن مطيع
نسيت القلب البشر الرهيب

ما تطلعت شو اخترعوا من الام
ولا انا شو عملت من خطايا واثام
شفت ابنك كبش عنا مدبوح للفدا
وتمنيت بس دمو ما يهرق سدا

بالفعل تحول دمو حياة بالروح
وشفيت بها القلب الانسان المجروح
وفضت على البشري منو الحياة
وشلت الخطايا وشفيتنا من القروح

ها السر بقي ثابت مدى الاجيال
اذا قارنا حبك يا بينا شو بينقال
خبك ورحمتك ما بيدركها خيال
بتبش عا خطييتي لبتوزن جبال

شو بقدر عوض عن يلي صار
كنت انا معتر شو اكثر بينقال
ما بستوعب كيف مات البار
ومحبتك عظيمة ما بتخطر عا بال

شوفي اعمل اكثر من ذبيحة شكران
شو ها المحبة لي خلصت الانسان
كيف صار حبيبك عنا ضحي
باقبي عاطول مدى الدهر والازمان



St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

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May 6, 2011

As you know, our Church always depends on your generous gifts to survive and to continue our mission. For many of you, this community is part of your lives that you seek to always do with love. This place and the community have a special blessing coming from Saint Joseph who is our Father, as he was the Father of Jesus.

With faith, we are secure but we are expected to do more, if we have the intention of serving and extend the borders of our Church. Therefore, I would like from you to intensify your prayers so that we may have enough to do. With continuity of thanksgiving, we will receive more. During this hot summer, many of you will be leaving the city to do other activities. With that said, the Church continues to need your support especially to pay for the increased electricity expenses. Therefore do not forget to send your generous support to help and support St. Joseph with its mortgage.

In advance, I would like to thank you for your love and your generosity that comes from your heart. From my heart, I wish you a joyful, busy and fruitful summer. May the Lord continue to bless you always through the intercession of Saint Joseph.

Fr. Ghattas Khoury