



April 18th, 2010

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Father Dominique Hanna, Administrator

Third Sunday of the Resurrection

Abouna Dominique's Corner: On The Feast of Saint Bernadette April 16th

After thirty years undisturbed in the tomb, Sister Marie Bernard's body was exhumed for examination. The cause for sainthood had begun. When the stone was lifted from the vault, the coffin was immediately seen. It was carried to the room prepared for it and placed on two stands covered with a cloth. On one side was a table covered with a white cloth. The remains of Bernadette were to be placed on this table. The wooden coffin was unscrewed and the main coffin cut open to reveal the body in a state of perfect preservation. There was not the slightest trace of an unpleasant smell. The Sisters who had buried her thirty years earlier noted only that her hands had fallen slightly to the left. The words of the surgeon and the doctor, who were under oath, speak for themselves:

"The coffin was opened in the presence of the Bishop of Nevers, the mayor of the town, his principal deputy, several canons and ourselves. We noticed no smell. The body was clothed in the habit of Bernadette's order. The habit was damp. Only the face, hands and forearms were uncovered." The head was tilted to the left. The face was dull white. The skin clung to the muscles and the muscles adhered to the bones.

The nuns washed the body, and placed it in a new coffin that was lined with zinc and padded with white silk. In the few hours in which it had been exposed to the air, the body had started turning black.

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DIVINE LITURGIES

REQUESTED BY

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Readings: 2 Timothy 2: 8-13 & Luke 24: 13-35

5:00 PM Special Intentions

Sunday, April 18, 2010

Readings: 2 Timothy 2: 8-13 & Luke 24: 13-35

9:00 AM Special Intentions

11:00 AM Olga Andraos

The Andraos Family

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Readings: Hebrews 13: 18-25 & John 21: 1-14

5:00 PM Special Intentions

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Readings: Hebrews 13: 18-25 & John 21: 1-14

9:00 AM Special Intentions

11:00 AM Nemr Najm; Fouad & Warde Haddad

Henriette Najm & family

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS OFFERED BEFORE EACH LITURGY

Abouna Dominique's Corner

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The double coffin was closed, soldered, screwed down and sealed with seven seals. The workmen again returned Bernadette's body to the vault by the time the examination had been completed. The fact that Bernadette's body was perfectly preserved is not necessarily miraculous. It is well known that corpses decompose to varying degrees in certain kinds of soil and may gradually mummify. However, in the case of Bernadette this mummification is quite astounding. Her illnesses and the state of her body at the time of death, and the humidity in the vault in the chapel of Saint-Joseph (the habit was damp, the rosary and the crucifix had turned green), would all seem to be conducive to the decay of the flesh.

Ten years later, on April 3, 1919, another identification of the body of the venerable Bernadette was mandated. Doctor Talon and Doctor Comte conducted the examination in the presence of the Bishop of Nevers, the police commissioner, and representatives of the municipalities and church tribunal. Everything was just the same as at the first exhumation. Oaths were sworn, the vault was opened, the body transferred to a new coffin and reburied, all in accordance with canon and civil law. After the doctors had examined the body, they retired alone to separate rooms to write their personal reports without being able to consult each other. The two reports coincided perfectly with each other and also with Doctors Jourdan and David's report of 1909. There was one new element concerning the state of the body. This was the existence of "patches of mildew and a layer of salt which seems to be calcium salt," and which were probably the result of the body having been washed during the first exhumation.

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RELIGIOUS CLASSES

On Sunday @ 9:50 am

COMMUNION CALLS

For Hospitalized, shut-in or suffering from a long illness.
Call the Priest.

ANOINTING

Contact the Priest for the Sacrament of the Sick.

BAPTISM

Baptism & Confirmation arrangements must be made six weeks in advance.

CROWNING

Marriage arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Bride or groom must be a registered member of the parish. Call the Priest.

HOLY ORDERS

If you would like to serve God by preaching the Word of God, by celebrating the Sacraments and by serving those in need, you may have a vocation to the priesthood. Why not speak to a priest today or contact the Vocations Office @ 404-525-2504

Miscellaneous Events & Announcements

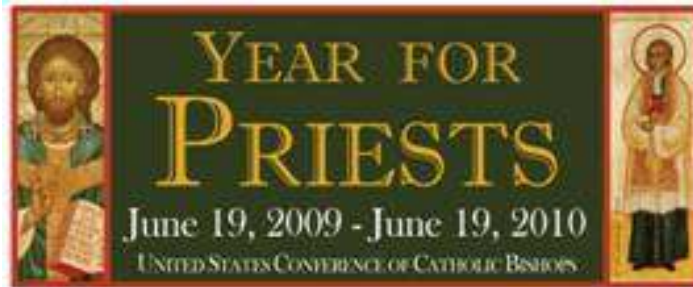
Inman Park Festival: The Inman Park Festival is on Saturday & Sunday, April 24 & 25. Like every year, the MYO is a sponsoring a booth preparing and offering different kinds of Lebanese food. Stop by to encourage our youths in their endeavors. All the proceeds of the booth will go to help with the National MYO Retreat in June.

Inviting you to visit "Lebanon" at the Atlanta Dogwood Festival:

Come visit the Lebanon booth at the International Village during the 74th Annual Atlanta Dogwood Festival April 17 through 18 at Piedmont Park . The Dogwood Festival is the city's favorite springtime tradition with a large Artist Market, live music stages, a restaurant tasting area and a popular dog show. Join us at 2:00 pm, Sunday the 18th, for a lively Lebanese Dabke performance by dancers from the Atlanta Community, including dancers from St Elias, St Joseph, St John, and the Alif Insitute. For more information about the festival, please visit www.dogwood.org or contact Jocelyne Nassar at LebanonCedars@ymail.com

Saint Joseph Festival: The Annual Saint Joseph Festival will be held on May 16. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve the food. For more information please see David Nasser and Adel Abi Rached who are co-chairing this year's festival.

New Committee: Over the last eight months, informal discussions were taking place concerning moving the Church to another location or staying here and do a major renovation. For this purpose, a new committee will be formed to explore the different ideas and concepts. All those who are interested in such discussions and are willing to serve on this committee please see Abouna.



Easter Lilies Donations

Easter Lilies were Donated by:

- Mrs. Louise Najjar in memory of Ernest Najjar

Abouna Dominique's Corner

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"When the coffin was opened the body appeared to be absolutely intact and odorless." (Dr. Talon was more specific: "There was no smell and none of those present experienced any discomfort.") The body is practically mummified, covered with patches of mildew and quite a notable layer of salts, which appear to be calcium salts. The skeleton is complete, and it was possible to carry the body to a table without any trouble. The skin has disappeared in some places, but it is still present on most parts of the body."

In 1925, the third and final exhumation of the body was conducted. This was the occasion during which relics of the sacred body of Bernadette would be taken. Doctor Comte was again asked to conduct the procedure. Once the surgical part was over, he had the body swathed in bandages leaving only the face and hands free. Bernadette's body was then put back into the coffin, but left uncovered. At this point, a precise imprint of the face was molded so that the firm of Pierre Imans in Paris could make a light wax mask based on the imprints and on some genuine photos. This was common practice for relics in France, as it was feared that although the body was mummified, the blackish tinge to the face and the sunken eyes and nose would make an unpleasant impression on the public. Imprints of the hands were also taken for the presentation of the body.

A crystal coffin was made for Saint Bernadette's body. She was placed in a chapel in the Church of St. Gildard at the convent in Nevers where she lived for thirteen years. She has remained undisturbed and on view in this chapel since August 3, 1925. The Sisters of Charity and Christian Instruction at Nevers are not secretive about the body of St. Bernadette. They welcome visitors, and encourage learning about the life example and messages of their sister saint. May her prayers be with us.



- For our military; that the Lord may give them strength and courage. May the Lord help them protect and defend the rights of the innocent. Watch over their loved ones while they are far from home. When they are in harm's way, protect them from injury; We pray to the Lord.
- That we might put our faith in the Lord when we ourselves or family members are confronted with an unexpected pregnancy; We pray to the Lord.
- That this church community may not judge women who have had abortions but rather encourage to seek forgiveness and healing ; We pray to the Lord.
- That we may live out our vocation to be ambassadors for Christ by spreading the message that each human life is sacred; We pray to the Lord.
- For the sick, the suffering and the elderly of our community, especially **Eva Solomon, Almas Tanory, Francois Khalil, Tony Rouhanan, Jeff Faded, Josphine Dahdah**, We pray to the Lord.