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Father Dominique Hanna, Administrator

February 28th, 2010

Sunday of the Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

Abouna Dominique's Corner: Patriarchal Letter

On the Occasion of the 1600th Jubilee of the Passing of Saint Maron (3)

The historical period in which Saint Maron lived in Northern Syria, and before him Saint Anthony the Great in Egypt, that is, between the third and the fifth centuries, was a period of great transformation in the life of the Church as Christianity became the religion of both Roman and Byzantine empires, East and West. At that time Theodoret of Cyrrhus wrote in his *History of the Selected people of God*: "Maron was the first to plant the garden of solitary life in the region" through a spiritual adventure launched by Saint Anthony and lived out by Saint Maron, and which is summarized by the fact that some believing souls found themselves unable to reach perfection within society, either because society was pagan or because it was Christian only in appearance; so they decided to leave the world so they could meet God directly, out in the open. This is the true meaning of the experience of ascetical and monastic lives which spread at that time and was for centuries the typical example of consecrated life. This group intended to have a complete break with the world of impurity, and to incarnate Christian holiness in a chosen few of very enthusiastic and devoted people who were able to carry the Gospel message in its original purity. Thus the hermit or monk living his deep faith in God through asceticism and contemplation, such as Saint Maron, became the defender of faith and the revealer of the greatness of Christianity on one hand,

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DIVINE LITURGIES FOR

Requested by

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010 Readings: 2 Corinthians 7: 4-11 & Luke 8: 40-56

5:00 PM Special Intention

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Readings: 2 Corinthians. 7: 4-11 & Luke 8: 40-56

9:00 AM Raymond Stevens

The Shamatta Family

11:00 AM Toufic Habib Abi Sarkis

Teddy & Nancy Abi Sarkis

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

Readings: 2 Corinthians 13: 5-13 & Luke 15: 11-32

5:00 PM Special Intention

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010

Readings: 2 Corinthians 13: 5-13 & Luke 15: 11-32

9:00 AM Special Intention

11:00 AM Emile Dagher

Mr. & Mrs. Simon Dagher

Abouna Dominique's Corner

.and a living confirmation that the human being for whom God became man through Jesus Christ carries values that are more important than life itself. In this context, and within this vision, the metaphysical or altruistic philosophy of Saint Maron and his disciples, hermits and monks, was elaborated during the fifth century.

This altruistic dimension, founded on a personal talent, gave Saint Maron the power to generate an extraordinary spiritual state at the foundation of an atypical Church, outside the usual way of founding churches. Our Church was not built after a name of a See or Apostle, but rather took its identity from the radiance of a man and a monastery: the Maronite Church, a Church of asceticism and adoration attached from the beginning to a solitary man, not a man of rank or a Church leader. With the canonization of Sharbel, Rafka and Hardini, the Maronite Church has returned to its own self, its history extended through the ages, to its roots, and to its initial identity with Saint Maron: A Church of hermits and saints! Indeed, the first trait in the identity of this Church goes back to the uniqueness of the founder and the cornerstone. Saint Maron, a prophetic evangelist in the Pauline sense, who, by his vivid faith, his outstanding virtues, his ideal life style, his prophetic preaching, and his radiant commitment in his environment was able to set the spiritual tone for a Church who came to bear his name unlike any other churches. He became the head of a Church attributed to him. This exceptional merit to Saint Maron, which granted him the status of a spiritual leader in Northern Syria, then in Lebanon, is due to the biblical roots embodied in his practice of three kinds of heroic virtues:

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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

Ladies Altar and Rosary Society Meeting: The ladies will have their next meeting on this Sunday February 28th between the two masses.

Stations of and Benediction with the Cross: Every Friday of Lent @ 7:30 pm, Saint Joseph will pray the Stations of the Cross with the Benediction. The service will be followed by a Lenten Supper.

Bishop's Appeal 2010: A second collection will be taken every Sunday during the Season of the Great Lent that begins Monday, February 15th and ends Sunday, April 4th. This Collection is for the Eparchial Charities Appeal which is divided as follows: 30% priests' retirement fund, 25% seminary, 15% endowment fund, 15% Patriarchal liturgical commission & texts, 15% Lebanon. Our goal is to raise \$ 3000.00. We thank you for generosity and financial support.

Holy Grounds: Holy Grounds a series of talks presented by the Office of Young Adult Ministry of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. On March 3rd the MYA of St. Joseph invites all the parishioners for an evening of faith, fellowship. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 6:00 pm followed by a talk given by Ann Hartle entitled "the Desert within". Holy Grounds is presented by the Office of Young Adult Ministry of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

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Abouna Dominique's Corner

Apostolic Heroism in guiding the non-believers of Syria's country side, building churches over their temples, beginning at the mountain of Saint Simon the Stylite, guiding souls and preaching the Word.

Spiritual Heroism expressed an attachment to Christian ideals to the point of living martyrdom after the example of Christ with regard to physical sacrifice: living in the open or on a pillar so he could express yearning for the celestial homeland and get nearer to God, opening up to heaven and freeing himself from earthly things. He did so after the example of Christ who was crucified and left out in the open.

Human Heroism where faith and humanity meet at the service of God's people, physically and spiritually; with the power of miracles, Saint Maron achieved, inspired and was assisted by the Holy Spirit in his capacity as a priest not only a hermit.

This radical three-dimensional heroism imposed itself on the socio-religious history of his era and afterwards made him a founding power in Church and community. He became a man of new beginnings! This explains the meaning of the controversy which broke out over where to bury him at that time; it also explains the continuity of his memorial through time and our celebration of his one thousand six hundredth year Jubilee today.

FROM THE NAM OFFICE



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*Thank you for your support
and your help to
our Maronite Church*



- 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.