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*Father Dominique Hanna, Administrator*

March 7th, 2010

## Sunday of the Parable of the Prodigal Son

### Abouna Dominique's Corner: Patriarchal Letter

### On the Occasion of the 1600<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the Passing of Saint Maron (3)

#### Second: Maronite Identity, Conscience and Personal Calling

We can define Maronite identity as a Christian spiritual and cultural renewal movement launched by Saint Maron to personify man's absolute desire to unite to God, his absolute yearning for freedom, and his biblical role in serving and developing his environment. This movement sees in ascetic life a direct rise to God, in the Council of Chalcedon (451) the expression of faith about the nature of Jesus, and in Lebanon a promised land and a stronghold for human freedom.

Talking about "Maronite identity" is wider than talking about the Maronite Church since it implies multiple and various Maronite manifestations that may only enter partially within the contextual framework of the Maronite Church. Maronites have gone through five consecutive stages, from the individual Saint Maron, to a group called the Maronites, to an organized collection called the "House of Maron," then to an organized community, then to a community with two faces: spiritual and ecclesiastical which is the Maronite Church and social which is the Maronite Community. Thus Maronite identity has climbed to the level of the collective conscience of the community or what one of the historians described this way: "Maronites can be considered an autonomous people endowed with ethnic characteristics, one rite, and an old history.

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#### *DIVINE LITURGIES FOR*

#### *Requested by*

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

**5:00 PM** Special Intention

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010

**9:00 AM** Special Intention

**11:00 AM** Emile Dagher

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

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Mr. & Mrs. Simon Dagher

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010

**5:00 PM** Special Intention

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010

**9:00 AM** Ofelia Guillain

**11:00 AM** Chorbishops Joseph Eid & Joseph Saidi

Readings: 1 Timothy 5: 24-6: 5 & Mark 2: 1-12

Readings: 1 Timothy 5: 24-6: 5 & Mark 2: 1-12

The Shamatta Family

Myrle & Joseph Shediack

## **Abouna Dominique's Corner**

They lived for centuries in an enclosed geographic area, spoke a particular language (Syriac) which still has some traces in their religious books. They preserved much history of the near east, and in addition, an independent political history and life that was transformed in their memory into a national legend. Through it all, the Maronite Church, most stable and steady in organizing the history of the Maronite people, played an important role in preserving and developing the idea of a nation and calling for its adoption.”

A scientific approach to the history of the Maronites confirms that this Maronite ideology is the focal point of the history of the Maronite community in its double dimension both religious and social, because it serves its interests, reflects its thoughts and aspirations, controls its practices, sets its goals, explains its status past and present, projects its vision into the future, highlights strategies to reach announced objectives, and makes up the basic criterion that allows one to measure its efficacy historically as well as its relation with others. Throughout history the Maronite community has confirmed its faith in two complementary and integral things that serve as a basis for this ideology and as an expression for the Lebanese cause: spiritual struggle to free the human being, and Lebanon–freedom as a symbol of this freedom which concerns, not only Maronites, but also the whole fabric of the Lebanese family in all its communities!

Maronite identity departs from this main source to the Maronite conscience. It is a conscience that was shaped throughout history particularly during times of crisis Maronites encountered and continue to experience. (continues on page 3)

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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

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## Miscellaneous Events & Announcements

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***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 began Monday, February 15th and will end 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.

***Helping Haiti:*** The Maronite Youth Organization decide to organize a clothing drive to assist the children of Haiti: Please Remember to look into your closets and bring any clothing for children ages 1 to 19. Bring them to Church by March 20th.

***Altar Servers Holy Week and Easter Training:*** On Saturday March 20th, the altar servers will meet at the Church at 11:00 am in preparation for Holy Week celebration. All boys who have received their First Communion are welcome to attend.

***Bake Sale:*** The Ladies Altar and Rosary Society of St Joseph will hold their spring bake sale on Palm Sunday March 28th from 10 am to 2 pm. Please plan on getting your traditional Easter goodies like pistachios, walnuts and date maamool, and much more other wonderful delights prepared by our own folks. There will also be zaatar and meat pies available to be purchased for breakfast on that day. This is the ladies first fundraiser of the year, please be supportive for the benefit of St Joseph Church.

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### Abouna Dominique's Corner

Patriarch Douaihy summarizes this historical conscience as follows: "a history of a community, possessing a unique religious structure, living in a largely threatening environment at every historical turn, and a people who rise up to defend themselves." To gain a true understanding, this conscience needs a "founding event for Maronite history," Bishop Hamid Mourani writes. "Regardless whether the Maronite migration happened only once or in different stages, what is important is that Maronites place at the basis of their history the fact of fleeing persecution and searching for freedom and independence. The conscience of each Maronite is born from this implication which remains the explanatory principle of all Maronite historical events." Furthermore, the dimension of faith gives meaning to Maronite history. The faith lived out by the hermit Maron became the inner strength of a people's history.

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## **Financial Standing**

INCOME	FEBRUARY	2010
<b>COLLECTIONS:</b>		
February 7		\$ 2,671.00
February 14		\$ 1,723.00
February 21		\$ 2,694.00
February 28		\$ 2,162.00
<b>OPERATING INCOME:</b>		<b>\$ 9,250.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES: Utilities, Salary, Xerox Machine &amp; Printing, Janitorial Maintenance, Priest's Insurance, Church Office &amp; Hall Supplies, Tresa's Farewell, Inman Park Application Fee, Security System, Miscellaneous</b>		
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>		<b>\$ 9655.00</b>
<b>NET OPERATING RESULTS:</b>		<b>(\$ 405)</b>

### BISHOP'S APPEAL

<b>COLLECTIONS:</b>		
February 21	\$ 459.00	During these difficult economic times, Fr. Dominique would like to thank you for your generosity and continuous dedication to Saint Joseph. May God reward you hundredfold.
February 28	\$ 494.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 953.00</b>	
<b>OUR GOAL</b>	<b>(\$ 3000.00)</b>	



**PRAYERS PLEASE**

- 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.