



## **Abouna Dominique's Corner: Film Festival Honors Monks**

(continues from page 1)

In the West, Christians may be ridiculed or ostracized, but we do not have to face the same witness for our faith that our brethren in other parts of the world do.

The movie opens much like "Into Great Silence," the 2005 documentary that revealed the lives of Carthusian monks at the Grand Chartreuse. We see an austere hallway, and follow the little band of Trappists to their chapel. In the Spartan sacred space, they gather in their white robes and sing their prayers. Shoes scuffle, chairs scrape, and paper crackles as the sounds of everyday life form a sort of percussion to their song.

The camera leaves the chapel to accompany the monks on their daily activities. They live at Our Lady of Atlas, impoverished town in Tibhirine, Algeria. There, they tend their garden, produce jams for the market, and offer the villagers medical assistance. In the Muslim community, they live peacefully and in a warm climate of mutual respect and appreciation.

The film highlights the fact that the centerpiece of their life is prayer. They kneel in adoration together, sing the Divine office and celebrate the Eucharist in community. Although they have a chapter room for discussion and planning, the main source of the community life is their prayer.

The Algerian civil war breaks out around them and murders, soldiers, and terrorists move closer and closer to the little vulnerable monastery on the hill. The little community must decide whether to remain with their flock or flee for safety. The most striking aspect of these discussions of life or death is that while there is fear and uncertainty, and even a sort of Agony in the Garden, the violence and instability never manage to penetrate the walls of the monastery.

Despite their very real differences, there are no recriminations or hostilities among the Trappists as they try to decide what to do. Together, they try to discern God's will for them. The film brings a vision of community life to those of alien to it, and indeed one feels drawn to this brotherhood.

There are many striking moments to the film, none with sweeping music or special effects, nor the heroic defiance popular in our superhero age. These quiet men simply love. They love their flock, they love each other and most of all they love God. The last letter sent by Father Christian, the prior of the monastery, holds no anger regarding his circumstances, but only forgiveness for his attackers. In this testimony of the power of love, rarely seen in cinema, these Trappists bring new meaning to the Magnificent Seven.

The film has already been released in France and Italy and the rights were purchased by Sony pictures for English language distribution. In a world where novelty and variety are most prized, "Of Gods and Men" sanctifies the everyday and the commonplace, it shows how heroes are born in the most unlikely places with the most unexpected faces, and that God's transcendent power penetrates even (or especially) the darkest hours."

## Miscellaneous Events & Announcements

**Men's Club Dinner:** The First Official Dinner for Saint Joseph Men's Club will be held on Wednesday November 10th @ 7:30 pm at Lawrence Café & Restaurant on 2888 Buford Hwy NE Atlanta, GA 30329. All men from the parish are welcomed to attend. We apologize for the short notice, but please spread the word.

**Family Portraits for the Ad Book:** On November 14th, Mark Najjar at Atlanta Studios will be taking family portraits for the Ad Book of our Centennial. The photos will be shot at different locations around the church, both inside & outside. MYO, MYA, MCF students and teachers, Altar Servers, Altar & Rosary Society, Choir

**Bake Sale:** The Ladies Altar and Rosary Society is organizing a bake sale for Sunday November 14. Home made delicacies will be available for sale after both masses. The ladies encourage every member of the parish to donate and purchase items for the benefit of the Church. If you would like to bring something for the bake table please contact Dany Dagher at [danydagher@hotmail.com](mailto:danydagher@hotmail.com).

**Pastoral Council Breakfast:** The members of the Pastoral Council will organize a breakfast on November 21st after the 9 and 11 o'clock liturgy. Make sure to attend to experience and encourage our pastoral council member in their task in serving the Church.

**Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Toy or Gift Drive:** We are having a parish-wide toy or gift drive for patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston. Toys or gifts must be **brand new** and **unwrapped**. Please no balloons, guns or items that suggest violence or fighting. Gifts must be safe, sturdy and non-toxic. The drive starts Sunday, Oct. 24th and continues through Sunday, Dec. 5th. The age range of patients at Egleston's is from infancy up to 21 years old. Please leave your gifts in the receptacle provided for this purpose in the downstairs hallway. Let us all try to make a hospitalized girl or boy happier this Christmas season. For further info, please contact Reem Ragy or Marie DiPaola.

**100th Anniversary Ad/ Commemorative book:** On the occasion of its centennial celebration, our parish is putting together an Ad book. Families as well as businesses could acquire a form at the entrance of the Church or from the members of the Centennial Committee. For more information please see Louie Abdou contact info in the bulletin.

**Junior Choir:** There will be a junior choir rehearsal for children between 7 - 18 every Sunday after the 11:00 o'clock liturgy. George Moussa and Cecilia Romero will be in charge of the Choir. Please encourage the children to take part in this activity.

**NAM Awareness Sunday:** Shehade Chihane, Louis Ragy and Tracy Doueir are the delegates for NAM (National Apostolate for Maronites) representing Saint Joseph Parish. On Sunday, December 5th, they will be giving an awareness session explaining to the community the importance of the NAM on the parish and eparchial (diocesan) level.

**Congratulation to the New Officers  
of the Altar & Rosary Society**

During their meeting last Sunday 10/24 the Ladies Altar and Rosary Society elected the following officers for the year 2011:  
**Marize Murad (president) , Mireille Teeny (Vice President) Cecilia Romero (recording secretary) and Corinne Moussa (corresponding Secretary). Susan Swanson has accepted to be the treasurer of the group. Congratulations and may God bless their hard work.**



For Information & Reservations Call:  
 Susie Hagley (404) 831-8292  
 Malida Ghawi (770) 355-8851

St. John Chrysostom Melkite Greek Catholic Church  
**Annual Patronal Feast Day Dinner & Dance**  
 Saturday, November 13th, 2010



Cocktail Hour starts at 7:00 PM  
 Dinner starts at 8:15 PM  
 R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010

Donations:  
 \$65.00 per person  
 \$90.00 per person (Front Table)  
 \$45.00 per Student (13-22)  
 \$35 per Child (4-12)  
 \*No tickets sold at the door

Arabic Entertainment featuring:  
**Oussama Karaki**  
 and American Entertainment.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL 2011**

Friday December 31, 2010 (8 PM to 3 AM)

TICKET PRICE (Donation)

Adults: \$75

Child: \$30 (5 yrs - 14yrs)



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