

**This Week's Message
from Fr. Amesse
August 16, 2026**



No, I don't spend all my time watching television! Between celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, and the many responsibilities here at the Shrine, there isn't much time for that. But I do enjoy the Saturday evening movies on EWTN. They often tell the stories of remarkable saints whose lives continue to inspire us.

Recently, I watched a movie about St. Charbel Makhlouf, a Maronite monk and priest from Lebanon. He lived a quiet life of prayer, simplicity, and deep devotion to God. Although he sought no recognition during his lifetime, countless people have turned to him for his intercession, and devotion to St. Charbel has spread throughout the world.

One of his sayings especially caught my attention:

"Begin nothing on earth unless it has its end in heaven. Do not walk on a path that does not lead to heaven."

Those few words contain a lifetime of wisdom.

It is easy to become preoccupied with the things of this world. We worry about our schedules, our finances, our careers, and countless other concerns. While these things are important, St. Charbel reminds us to keep our eyes fixed on what is eternal.

Before making a decision, perhaps we should ask ourselves a simple question: Will this lead me closer to Christ? If the answer is yes, we can move forward with confidence. If the answer is no, perhaps we should reconsider. That is really what holiness is all about. It is not doing extraordinary things. It is allowing every part of our lives to draw us closer to God.

The saints came from different countries, spoke different languages, and lived in different centuries. Yet they all point us in the same direction. They remind us that our true home is not here on earth, but in heaven. I hope the next time you hear the name St. Charbel, you will remember his simple advice:

"Begin nothing on earth unless it has its end in heaven. Do not walk on a path that does not lead to heaven."

If we lived by those words each day, we would all be well on our way to becoming saints.

I remember you at Mass.