



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

11th Sunday of Pentecost 2021

August 2021

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Pastor: Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

Our Services HOLY MASSES

DAILY: Monday–Friday 8:00 AM English

SATURDAY VIGIL:

4:30 PM English

SUNDAY: 9:30 AM English

& 11:30 AM Arabic/Aramaic/English

1st Sunday : 4:30 PM

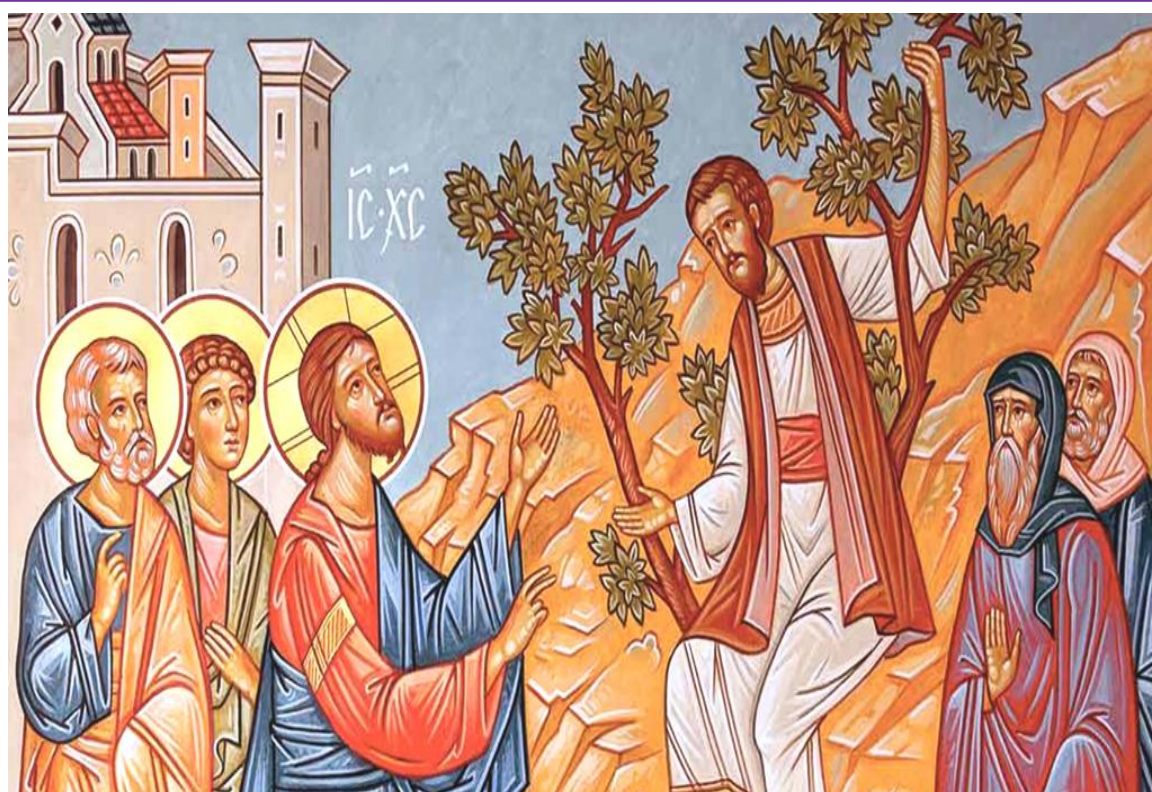
Rosario y la Misa en Español

2nd Sunday: 4:30 PM

Tagalog Mass

1st SUNDAY 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

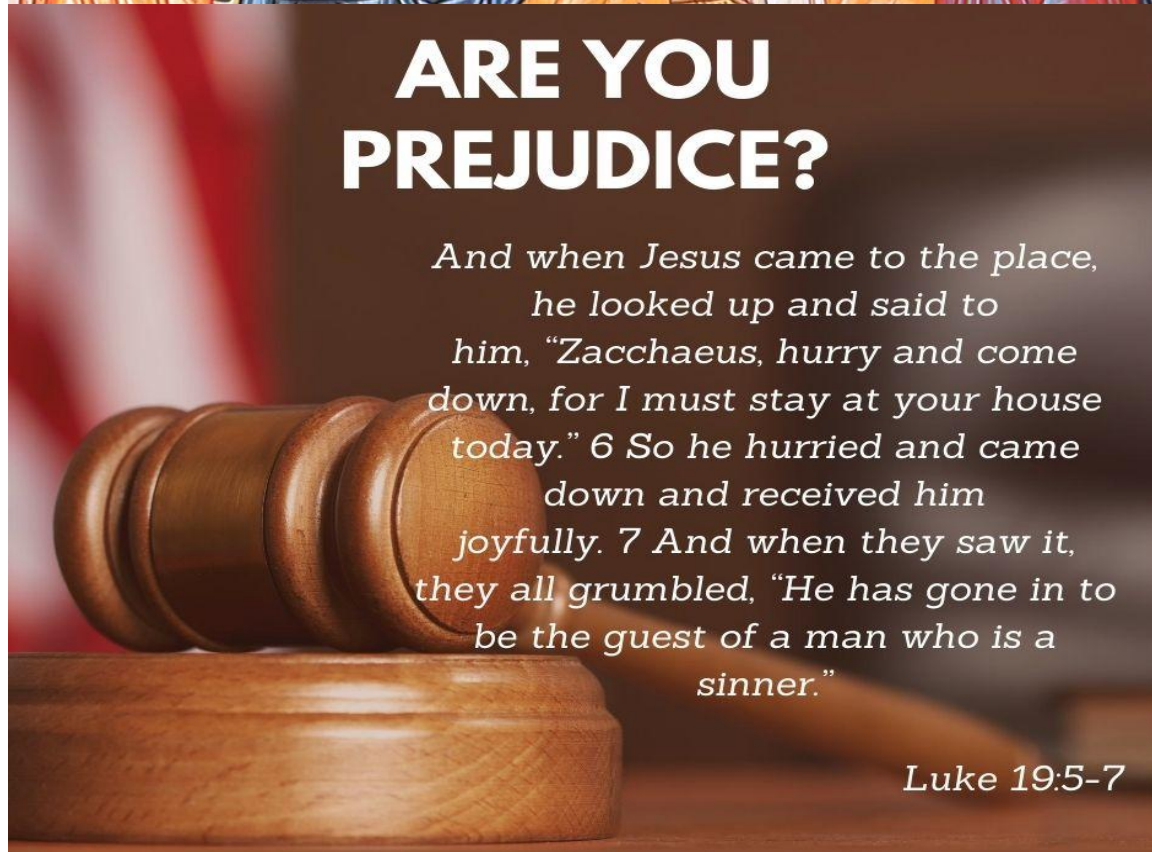
Youth Mass



ARE YOU PREJUDICE?

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

Luke 19:5-7

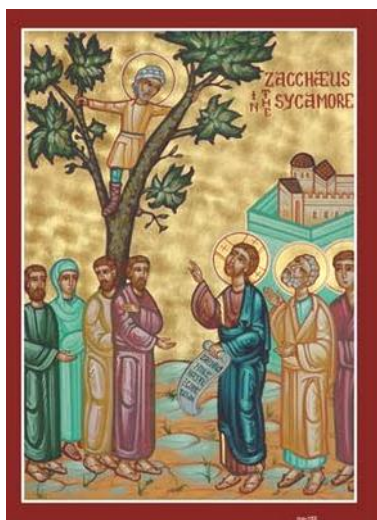


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LAS VEGAS NV 89183 PHONE: 702-616-6902**

www.stsharbellasvegas.org



11^H SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Scripture warns us that "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6; Prov. 3:34). Jesus paints a vivid story of two men at prayer. What's the point or lesson he wants us to learn? Luke gives us a hint: Jesus warns us about the danger of despising others. Contempt is more than being mean-minded. It springs from the assumption that one is qualified to sit in the seat of judgment and to ascertain who is good and just. Jesus' story caused offense for those who regarded "tax collectors" as unworthy of God's grace and favor. How could Jesus put down a "religious leader" and raise up a "public sinner"? Jesus' parable speaks about the nature of prayer and our relationship with God. It does this by contrasting two very different attitudes towards prayer.

The Pharisee, who represented those who take pride in their religious practices, exalted himself at the expense of others. Absorbed with his own sense of self-satisfaction and self-congratulation he mainly prayed with himself. His prayer consisted of prideful boasts of what he did and of disdain for those he despised. The Pharisee tried to justify himself; but only God can justify. The tax collector, who represented those despised by religious people, humbled himself before God and begged for mercy. His prayer was heard by God because he had remorse for his sins. He sought God with humility rather than with pride. This parable presents both an opportunity and a warning. Pride leads to illusion and self-deception. Humility helps us to see ourselves as we really are and it inclines us to God's grace and mercy. God dwells with the humble of heart who recognize their own sinfulness and who acknowledge God's mercy and saving grace. *I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit* (Isaiah 57:15). God cannot hear us if we despise others. Do you humbly seek God's mercy and do you show mercy to others, especially those you find difficult to love and to forgive?

Rev. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

READING: Ephesians 2:17-22
GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10



Zacchaeus (Greek Ζακχαῖος, "Zakchaiōs" Hebrew זַכַּי, which means pure and righteous one.), according to chapter 19 of the gospel of Luke, was a superintendent of customs; a chief tax-gatherer (Latin: *publicanus*) at Jericho (Luke 19:1-10). Tax collectors were hated by many of their fellow Jews, who saw them as traitors for working for the Roman Empire.

Because the lucrative production and export of balsam was centered in Jericho, his position would have carried both importance and wealth. In the account, he arrived before the crowd who were later to meet with Jesus, who was passing through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. Described as a short man, then Zacchaeus climbed up a sycamore fig tree so that he might be able to see Jesus. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up into the branches, addressed Zacchaeus by name, and told him to come down, for he intended to visit his house. The crowd was shocked that Jesus, a Jew, would sully himself by being a guest of a tax collector.

Moved by the audacity of Jesus's undeserved love and acceptance, Zacchaeus publicly repented of acts of corruption and vowed to make restitution for them, and held a feast at his house.

WHO IS ZACCHAEUS

In Eastern Orthodox and Greek-Catholic Churches of Slavic tradition, the Gospel account of Zacchaeus is read on the last Sunday preceding the liturgical preparation for Great Lent, for which reason that Sunday is known as "Zacchaeus Sunday." It is the very first commemoration of a new Paschal cycle. The account was chosen to open the Lenten season because of two exegetical aspects: Jesus' call to Zacchaeus to come down from the tree (symbolizing the divine call to humility), and Zacchaeus' subsequent repentance.

In the Eastern churches of Greek/Byzantine tradition, Zacchaeus Sunday may fall earlier than the Sunday before the Pre-Lenten season.

The story of Zacchaeus is used by some to illustrate the saying of Jesus: "Blessed are the pure of heart, For they shall see God" Matthew 5:8. Zacchaeus whose name means pure, climbed up a tree, which represents the cross, and by being symbolically crucified with Christ, was able to see God (He who has seen Jesus has seen God John 14:9) The sycamore tree, climbed by Zacchaeus, was considered "unclean" because it bore a fruit that was fed to pigs. In the culture of the time it was humiliating for Zacchaeus to climb that tree. To see Jesus, Zacchaeus' pride had to be crucified. In Romans, Paul wrote "knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." Romans 6:6

OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS GRANTS JULY 25 PLENARY INDULGENCE AND TELLS CATHOLICS: HONOR YOUR GRANDPARENTS THAT DAY

COMMENTARY: It's highly significant that Pope Francis has established the 'World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly' to be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July.

Many countries have special days to honor grandparents.

Some choose fixed days: Poland celebrates on Jan. 21 (grandmothers) and 22 (grandfathers); the Netherlands, June 4; Brazil, Portugal and Spain on July 26; Mexico on Aug. 28; Italy on Oct. 2; and Russia on Oct. 28.

Others choose specific Sundays: The United States, together with Bangladesh, Estonia and the Philippines, on the second Sunday of September; France, the first Sunday of March; Taiwan, the last Sunday of August; Japan, the third Sunday of September; the United Kingdom, the first Sunday of October; Hong Kong, Germany and Pakistan, the second Sunday of October; Australia, the last Sunday of October; South Sudan, the second Sunday of November; and Singapore, the fourth Sunday of November.

But the vast majority of the world's 197 countries don't have a day to honor our parents' parents. The United Nations, which has 190 international days, does not have one for grandparents. That's why it's highly significant — not just within the Catholic Church, but within the global community — that Pope Francis has established the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July. With Catholics present in almost every country, the commemoration should be a leaven, making fitting appreciation for grandparents rise across the globe. The first observance will take place July 25 this year.

In his [message](#) in preparation for the day, Pope Francis said he was moved to establish it not just because of the importance of grandparents and the elderly, a theme on which he has often spoken, but particularly because of the neglect and isolation so many grandparents and seniors experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, when travel restrictions, nursing-home policies and fear for their safety prevented their being visited and embraced by their loved ones.

He hopes that, on this day, grandchildren will visit their grandparents, perhaps even sharing with them a copy of his letter, and that parish families will have special Masses thanking God for the gift of grandparents, praying for them, and entrusting to him those who have died, particularly during the pandemic.

To incentivize the day, he has permitted the granting of a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, for all those who participate in liturgical celebrations observing it, those who unite themselves spiritually to those celebrations if they are unable to leave their homes, and those who visit, in person or virtually, their grandparents or elderly brothers and sisters in need.

The choice of the fourth Sunday of July is transparently to connect it, as closely as possible, to the July 26 feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary and grandparents of Jesus. This link to Jesus' family tree and to salvation history suggests that everyone's genealogy and personal prehistory is part of the providential plan of God.

Pope Francis, in his message, was summoning grandparents to recognize and be renewed in their sacred calling to be guardians of the connection between their family's history and salvation history and to pass on to younger generations a clear awareness of their place in the bigger picture.

Speaking as an elder himself, he asked grandparents and seniors, "What is our vocation today, at our age?" It is "to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones." He called grandparents and seniors to be a living memory. "Keeping memory alive and sharing it with others," he stated, "is a true mission for every elderly person."

Memory, he added, is "the foundation of life," and grandparents have a key role in establishing their grandkids securely, not only in firm familial roots and stories, but also in the history of the faith. The young normally look toward the present and the future and are prone to neglect the past; grandparents are prophets who bring the wisdom and experience of the past to guide the now and not yet.

The vocation of grandparents, he added, is linked to their vocation as apostles. Just like the Lord "never, ever goes into retirement," he stated, "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren."

He was surprised, he said, that, at 76, he was elected the Successor of St. Peter, and in the last eight years, he hasn't slowed down in trying to live and teach the faith. Citing the biblical figures of Abraham, Moses, Tobit, Eleazar, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, Anna and Nicodemus, whose major contributions to salvation history took place when they were advanced in years, he urged them to see themselves as still very important laborers in the Lord's vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). Even if physically they may not be as vigorous, he reminded them that their prayer is a "very precious resource," something that can protect and help the world, perhaps even more "than the frenetic activity of many others."

While calling upon grandparents and seniors to recognize how important their mission is in the Church and society and to keep loving, like Christ, until the end, the Pope was also encouraging grandchildren, children and the young to receive with gratitude the generous giving of their elders.

"The future of the world," he said, "depends on this covenant between young and old." Normally elders long for that sacred bond, while the young can be focused so much on looking ahead that they can take for granted, often until it's too late, the treasure being offered. The official flower for Grandparents' Day in the United States is, appropriately, the forget-me-not. The Holy Father is hoping by this new World Day of Grandparents to have grandparents and grandchildren renew that covenant and mutually strengthen each other through that bond.

In my years as a priest, I have witnessed — as almost every priest does — the crucial importance of grandparents in the transmission of the faith and the culture that flows from it. I have also repeatedly seen firsthand the suffering of grandparents when their children and grandchildren do not receive that gift and practice the faith.

In my conversations with wayward teens and young adults, often one of the most effective apologetics is not getting them to appreciate the love of God and seek to love him back, but getting them to appreciate the love of their grandmother or grandfather and to recognize that the greatest way to love them back and make them happy would be to make the mature choice to return with them to Mass. Appreciating their grandparents' faith as constitutive of what has made them who they are is frequently a means by which more maturely to make it their own.

Growing up, in the midst of a happy childhood, I lacked the presence of grandparents, three of whom died when I was an infant and the fourth of whom lived in Florida and I saw only a handful of times before he died when I was a teen. I was lucky to have many great-aunts and great-uncles, who were, to some degree, surrogate grandparents. But I have rejoiced to see my own parents make the transition from Mom and Dad to Mémère and Pépère for my nieces and nephews and several other kids who have spontaneously related to them by those beautiful and significant titles.

Surveys have shown that 72% percent of seniors think that being a grandparent is the single most important and satisfying thing in their life, 90% enjoy talking about their grandchildren to everyone, and 63% confess they do a better job caring for their grandchildren than they cared for their own. Like so many other grandparents, with more time on their hands than they ever did as parents, my parents love spending time with their grandchildren, teaching them, praying with them, playing with them, giving them encouragement and unconditional love, listening to their stories and attending their games, concerts and academic milestones. They are the ultimate good cops, leading by positive example. And they love watching their kids grow as parents simultaneous with the maturation of the grandchildren.

The world is so much better because of the way they and so many other grandparents live out their vocation.

Together with Pope Francis and the whole Church, we celebrate them, thank them, commit to spend time with them, recommit to the covenant of love with them, and pray for them.

OUR MARONITE PATRIARCH CARDINAL BECHARA EL RAI ENTRUSTS LEBANON TO SAINT CHARBEL

On the Feast of St. Charbel, celebrated last Sunday, Cardinal Béchara Raï, Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites, prays for the intercession of the Saint of Lebanon to help the nation recover from one of the worst economic and political crises it has ever faced.

Cardinal Béchara Raï, Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites, has entrusted Lebanon to Saint Charbel, and that his intercession might help the nation pull out of one of the worst crises in its history. The Feast of Saint Charbel was marked on Sunday, July 18. In his homily for the occasion, the Patriarch said Saint Charbel "will not let Lebanon collapse," and encouraged the faithful to seek, through his intercession, "the miracle of our salvation from total ruin." The economic and political crisis in Lebanon has entered a new phase with last week's renunciation of Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri to form a new government, after struggling negotiations lasting several months with President Michel Aoun.



*Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Bechara Rai of Lebanon
at a celebration in Diman on 11 July 2021*

"On behalf of the poor, oppressed, hungry and lost people, like sheep without a shepherd," Cardinal Raï urged all political forces to unity in order to choose together a prime minister who is capable of facing the enormous challenges facing Lebanon. "It is time to take responsibility, not retreat," he stressed. "The country is not facing a normal crisis of government," but a systemic crisis "that requires concerted efforts by all" and the overcoming of "selfishness, interests and the narrow electoral calculations that unfortunately dominate the attention of most parties at the expense of the highest national interest."

According to the head of the Maronite Church, the institutional deadlock and immobility of Lebanese political leaders confirms that the only way out of the crisis is by convening an international conference under the auspices of the UN that formalizes the "neutrality" of Lebanon in the Middle East political scenarios. The country's ruling class, he said, proves every day more and more its inability "to solve simple daily issues such as waste removal, electricity, food, and medicine", to "fight corruption, facilitate the work of the judiciary, regulate the functioning of ministries and administrations, close the routes of waste trafficking", and to implement the reforms that Lebanon urgently needs.

Lebanon has been without a government for almost a year and has been going through a serious political,

economic and social crisis for some time. The situation has been worsened by the pandemic and by the explosions at Beirut's port in August 2020, pulling 55% of the population below the poverty line. In this dramatic context, Cardinal Raï has repeatedly relaunched his proposal for an International Conference for Lebanon under the auspices of the UN, stressing the urgency of reaffirming and protecting Lebanese "neutrality" so that the country is not drawn into conflicts between regional powers and can thus safeguard its specific pluralist identity.

An appeal to the international community to help Lebanon "not sink" and recover was also made by Pope Francis on the occasion of the recent Day of Reflection and Prayer for Lebanon, celebrated on July 1 at the Vatican with the leaders of Lebanon's Christian communities. In particular, the Pope called on national political leaders to put themselves resolutely at the service of the country, and not of their own interests; and also for an end to external interference to give the Lebanese a chance to be builders of a brighter future.

On August 4, on the first anniversary of the explosions in the port of Beirut, a new international conference will be organized for Lebanon on the initiative of French President Emmanuel Macron, who is pressing for the rapid establishment of a national unity government to enact the reforms necessary to release blocked international aid.

FEAST OF THE 350 MARONITE MARTYRS

After St Maroun died, many were inspired by his teachings and his ascetic way of life. By the fifth century a monastery was built near where he lived known as Bet Maroun. The monastery became very significant in the region. Also in the fifth century a debate had emerged about the nature of Jesus. The debate centered on whether Jesus was divine, human or both and exactly what that meant. Some, like the Nestorians, argued that Jesus was separately divine and human and that the two natures were independent. Others such as the Jacobites taught that Jesus was only divine and his divinity absorbed his human nature.

In 451, The Council of Chalcedon dealt with the debate once and for all, declaring that Christ was both divine and human, but one person.

The Maronites upheld the proclamation of the Council of Chalcedon. The monks of Saint Maroun led the way preaching the true doctrine and opposing heresy. We learn of the martyrdom of the 350 Monks in a letter from the monks to Pope Hormisdas in the year 517. They described the suffering and attacks they are enduring, particularly from the Antiochian Patriarchs Severus and Peter who opposed the teachings of the Council of Chalcedon.

They described that they were mocked for their support of the Council and were suffering afflictions. They described how the Emperor Anastasius had sent an army that had marched through the district of Apamea closing monasteries and expelling the monks. Some monks had been beaten and others had been thrown into prison.



While on their way to St. Simon Stylite, the Maronites had been ambushed and 350 monks were killed, even though some of them had taken refuge at the altar. The monastery was burned. The letter was signed by Alexander, priest and archimandrite and over 200 other signatures followed, of other archimandrites, priests and deacons.

We pray that like the 350 Martyrs we are always obedient to the teachings of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. May their prayers be with us always. Amen

THE PROTESTANT BOY AND THE VIRGIN MARY

A six-year-old Protestant boy had often heard his fellow Catholics pray the Hail Mary. He liked it so much that he memorized it and prayed it every day. "Look, mommy, what a beautiful prayer," he told his mother one day.

"Do not say it again," replied the mother. "It is a superstitious prayer of Catholics who worship idols and think that Mary is a goddess. She is a woman like any other. Come on. Take this Bible and read it. It contains everything we have to do." From that day on, the boy stopped praying his Hail Mary every day and spent more time reading the Bible.

One day, while reading the Gospel, he saw the passage on the Annunciation of the Angel to the Virgin. Full of joy, the boy ran to his mother and said: "Mommy, I found the Hail Mary in the Bible: 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women'. Why do you call it a superstitious prayer?" She did not answer. On another occasion, he found the scene of Elizabeth's salutation to the Virgin Mary and the beautiful canticle of the Magnificat, in which Mary announced: 'from now on all generations shall call me blessed'. He did not say anything to his mother and began to pray the Hail Mary every day again, as he used to do. He felt pleasure in telling those beautiful words to the Mother of Jesus, Our Savior.

When he turned fourteen, one day he heard his family discussing about Our Lady. They all said that Mary was an ordinary woman. The boy, after hearing their erroneous reasoning, could not take it anymore and, full of indignation, he interrupted them saying: "Mary is not like any other son of Adam, stained with sin. No! The Angel called her FULL OF GRACE AND BLESSED AMONG WOMEN. Mary is the Mother of Jesus and consequently, the Mother of God. There is no greater dignity to which a creature can aspire. The Gospel says that all generations shall call her blessed, while you try to despise her. Your spirit is not the spirit of the Gospel or the Bible you claim is the foundation of the Christian religion."

The impression made by the boy's words on his mother was so deep that she often wept inconsolably: "Oh, God, I fear that this son of mine will one day join the Catholic religion, the religion of the Popes!" And indeed, a short time later, the son was convinced that the Catholic religion was the only authentic one, he embraced it and became one of his most ardent apostles.



A few years after his conversion, the protagonist of our story found his sister already married. He wanted to greet her and hug her, but she rejected him and said indignantly: "You have no idea how much I love my children."

If one of them wanted to become Catholic, I would first bury a dagger in their heart than allow them to embrace the religion of the Popes."

Her anger and temper were as furious as those of St. Paul before his conversion. However, she would soon change her mind, as happened to St. Paul on his way to Damascus. It happened that one of her children fell seriously ill. The doctors gave no hope for his recovery. As soon as her brother found out, he looked for her in the hospital and spoke to her with affection, saying: "Dear sister, you naturally want your child to be cured. Very well, then do what I'm going to ask you. Let us pray together a Hail Mary and promise God, that if your child recovers, you will study the Catholic doctrine. And in case you come to the conclusion that Catholicism is the only true religion, you will embrace it no matter what sacrifices this implies."

His sister was initially reluctant, but she wanted her son to recover, so she accepted his brother's proposal and prayed with him a Hail Mary. The next day, her son was completely healed. The mother fulfilled her promise and began studying the Catholic doctrine. After intense preparation, she received Baptism in the Catholic Church along with her entire family. How much she thanked her brother that he had been an apostle to her.

This story was told by Father Francis Tuckwell in one of his homilies. "Brothers," he concluded, "the Protestant boy who became a Catholic and converted his sister to Catholicism, devoted his whole life to the service of God. He is the priest who speaks to you now. How much I owe to the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady! You too, my dear brothers, dedicate yourselves completely to serving Our Lady and do not let a single day pass without saying the beautiful prayer of the Hail Mary as well as your Rosary. Ask her to enlighten the minds of Protestants who are separated from the true Church of Christ founded on the Rock (Peter) and against which 'the gates of hell will never prevail'."

LATEST DOCUMENTED MIRACLE OF ST. CHARBEL MAKHLOUF THE WONDER-WORKER MONK OF THE EAST (24 JULY) - KNOWN AS THE PADRE PIO OF LEBANON

The latest miracle in Lebanon; An Italian lady from Australia heard of Saint Charbel Makhlouf in Lebanon and decided she wanted to go with her Lebanese friend and son to visit his shrine because she was suffering from cancer. She arrived in Lebanon and went to the church to notice everything was closed. As her and her son walked back to the car a priest was walking past, the lady asked if the church was open and he answered "How can I help you?" she explained has come from Australia suffering from terminal cancer and wished to just receive a blessing from the priest. The priest said to her that he would give her a blessing now. She asked her son to take a picture of her when the priest blesses her simultaneously. She thanked him, got back in the car and left. As they were driving back to the hotel she went through the photos with her Lebanese friend on the phone that her son had taken of her receiving the blessing and suddenly realised, that the priest in the picture is actually St Charbel. It's a miracle, She got back to Australia went to the hospital and realized after running some test she no longer had cancer.



MIRACULOUS PRAYER TO SAINT CHARBEL MAKHLOUF - WONDER-WORKER MONK OF THE EAST (Known as the Padre Pio of Lebanon)

Lord, infinitely Holy and Glorified in Your Saints, You have inspired Charbel, the saint monk, to lead the perfect life of a hermit. We thank You for granting him the blessing and the strength to detach himself from the world so that the heroism of the monastic virtues of poverty, obedience, and chastity, could triumph in his hermitage. We beseech You to grant us the grace of loving and serving You, following his example.

Almighty God, Who has manifested the power of St. Charbel's intercession through his countless miracles and favours, grant us...

(State your intention(s) here...)

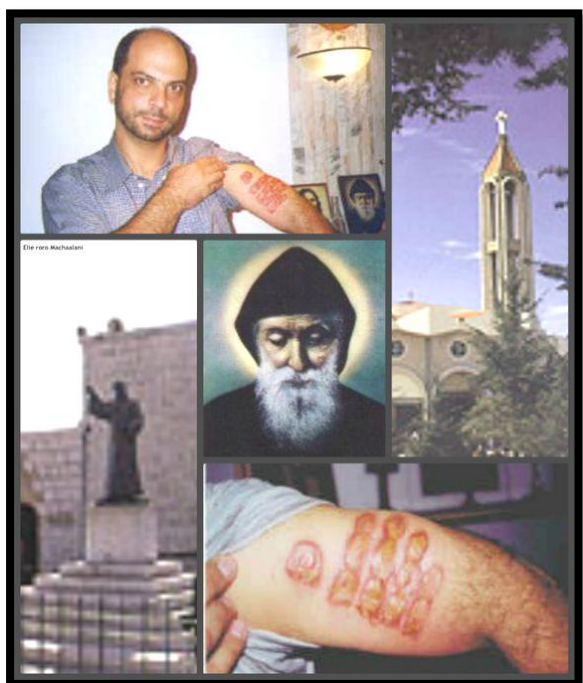
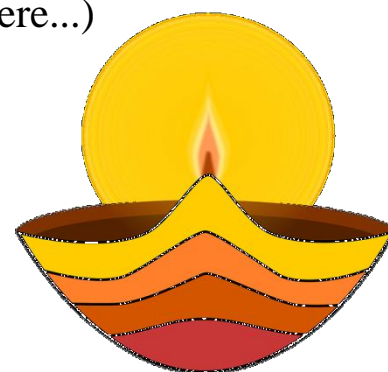
through his intercession.

Amen.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...



BEAUTIFUL FACES & PLACES

Congratulations to all July Baptisms



***Youth Gathering Friday
July 2nd water balloon
fights. It's the safest way
to celebrate our
Independents Day***

MILAGROS DE SAN CHARBEL LINDA ANTOUN

Linda sufrió osteoartritis a la edad de 40 años. Se sometió a muchos tratamientos pero sin ningún resultado, hasta que hasta que ya no pudo caminar sin un bastón. Linda vino al Líbano y visitó San Charbel, cuando llegó al monasterio, se derrumbó en lágrimas antes del estado del San. Después de su regreso a los Estados Unidos, se dirigió al Médico y descubrió que esté totalmente curada. Después se trasladó a Suiza, pero vino al Líbano para visitar al tumba de San Charbel al monasterio de San Maron – Annaya para agradecer a Dios por su curación e inscribió el milagro en el 27/04/2012.



Venga a visitar la milagrosa reliquia de San Charbel en nuestra capilla y obtener la oración milagrosa y Petróleo Santo. San Charbel ha erformed más de 300 milagros por año especialmente aquí en Las Vegas. This fue tomada en julio de 2013, donde la imagen de San Charbel había rezumaba aceite en su cuerpo.

El Grupo Guadalupano

de la Iglesia de San Charbel Te invita a que asistas a la Misa y El Rosario que se celebran el primer domingo cada mes comenzado,
DIA: Domingo 1 de Agosto

HORA: Rosario 4:30pm Misa

**DONDE: Iglesia Catolica de San Charbel
10325 Rancho Destino Rd,
Las Vegas, NV 89183**

Despues de la Misa te invitamos a que nos acompañes a una pequeña recepcion donde compartiremos: café, postres, bocadillos con todos los asistentes.

Si tienes alguna duda communicate con:

Oficina de la Iglesia 702-616-6902





Filipino News



'THANK YOU FOR PRAYING:' HIDILYN DIAZ REVEALS STORY BEHIND 'MIRACULOUS MEDAL'

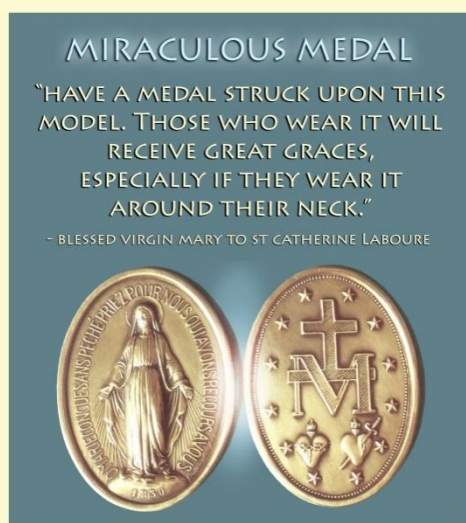
Hidilyn Diaz made history on Monday after becoming the Philippines' first Olympic gold medalist, breaking the country's 97-year drought.

Diaz credited her historic win in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to God and to the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

The 30-year-old topped the women's 55-kilogram weightlifting competition after an overall lift of 224 kilograms — an olympic record



Hidilyn Diaz shows her Olympic gold medal and a "Miraculous Medal of Our Lady".



After winning, the four-time Olympian praised God and lifted up Our Lady's Miraculous Medal she wore around her neck while shouting "Thank You, Lord" repeatedly.

That gesture by Diaz has since gone viral.

In a virtual press conference Tuesday, the weightlifter from Zamboanga shared the story behind the miraculous medal and what

"This was given to me by my friend. They prayed the novena for 9 days before my competition. I also prayed the novena," Diaz said. "It is a sign of their faith and my faith to Mama Mary and Jesus Christ," she added.

In her instagram, she posted a story with a text that reads, "Thank you for praying!"

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has joined the whole nation in celebrating Diaz's victory.

"We admire her devotion to the Blessed Mother as she carried in her victory her great faith in God," said Archbishop Romulo Valles, CBCP President.

"Hidilyn is a true weightlifter who draws her strength from her love for the country and her deep Catholic faith," he added.

SAINTHOOD CAUSE OPENED FOR FILIPINO PRIEST KILLED BY ISLAMISTS IN 2000

The sainthood cause opened this week of Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, who died on May 3, 2000, after being held for 43 days by Islamists.

The Claretian missionary was killed at the age of 34, just six years after his ordination as a priest and 11 years after making his first profession as a religious.

On March 20, 2000, Gallardo was kidnapped, together with a school administrator, five teachers, and 22 students from the Claret School of Tumahubong, a village located on the island province of Basilan, in the Philippines.

The majority of the population in Basilan is Muslim; the next largest religious group is Catholic. Gallardo, who was the school's principal, and the teachers and students, were taken captive by the Islamic separatist group Abu Sayyaf, the East Asia branch of the Islamic State.

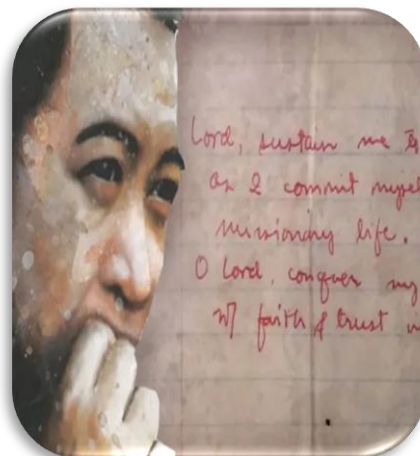
Gallardo died when he was shot in the head, shoulder, and back at close range, after repeatedly refusing to renounce his Catholic faith. Three teachers and five children also died when they were caught in a gunfight between the terrorists and the military.

When Gallardo's body was recovered, it was discovered that the nails on his index fingers and toes had been pulled off before he was shot. There were also other signs of torture.

The Territorial Prelature of Isabela, led by Bishop Leo Dalmao, officially opened Gallardo's cause for beatification on May 3, 2021, the 21st anniversary of his death.

The ceremony took place at St. Vincent Ferrer's Church in Tumahubong, the town where Gallardo had volunteered to serve the year before his murder.

According to Claretian Fr. Angel Calvo, quoted in [Asia News](#), "Fr. Gallardo was the first priest kidnapped in Basilan to be killed.



Other priests and nuns had been seized, even beaten, but in the end everyone was freed."

"People already think of him as a martyr, a hero. The other hostages said that he did not want to give up the cross and the rosary, as the Islamists wanted. That's why they tortured him by ripping off his nails," Calvo said. "He suffered a lot; yet, as school principal, even in captivity he cared first of all about the teachers and the children entrusted to him. He offered his life for the people around him."

The priest said that even after Gallardo's death, the Claretian missionaries stayed in Basilan. In the two decades since Gallardo's death, Abu Sayyaf has moved its activities more to the island of Jolo.

"Fr. Gallardo's testimony remains an example that no one has forgotten," Calvo said.

CBCP News, the news agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, [quoted](#) Fr. Elias Ayubon, the provincial superior of the Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines, who said that Gallardo "stood up for God who was faithful to him until the last drop of his blood."

Martyrdom "could have occurred to any of us who were the young missionaries then, but it was given to Fr. Rhoel because, in hindsight, he was the most prepared to receive the crown," Ayubon said.

"We join in fervent prayer that our brother and friend Servant of God Fr. Rhoel Gallardo will, one day, be counted among the martyrs and saints of our Mother Church."

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS CHRIST?

"After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There He was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!' Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead" (Mark 9:2-9).

The account of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ as recorded here in Mark (parallel passages are found in Matthew 17:1-3 and Luke 9:28-36) is a demonstration to three witnesses that Jesus Christ was who He claimed to be. In all three accounts of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ, we are given the names of the three disciples who accompanied Jesus and who stood as human witnesses to the glory that was Christ's. There were also three heavenly witnesses, Moses, Elijah, and the voice of God from heaven. Therefore, the Old Testament law of three witnesses required to attest to any fact (Deuteronomy 19:15) was satisfied both in earth and in heaven.

The word "transfigured" is a very interesting word. The Greek word is "metamorpho" and it means to transform, literally or figuratively to metamorphose, or to change. The word is a verb that means to change into another form. It also means to change the outside to match the inside. The prefix "meta" means to change and the "morphe" means form. In the case of the transfiguration of Jesus Christ it means to match the outside with the reality of the inside. To change the outward so that it matches the inward reality. Jesus' divine nature was "veiled" (Hebrews 10:20) in human form and the transfiguration was a glimpse of that glory. Therefore, the transfiguration of Jesus Christ displayed the Shekinah glory of God incarnate in the Son. The voice of God attesting to the truth of Jesus' Sonship was the second time God's voice was heard. The first time was at Jesus' baptism into His public ministry by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:7; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22).

Therefore, the transfiguration of Jesus Christ was a unique display of His divine character and a glimpse of the glory, which Jesus had before He came to earth in human form. This truth is emphasized for us in a passage in the Apostle Paul's letter to Phillippi. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form (morphe) of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form (morphe) of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5-11)

The Son of God came to earth in the form of a man to be the true servant of God and to gift mankind with the greatest gift ever given, eternal life. The transfiguration of Jesus Christ was a visible sign in the presence of reliable witnesses of the reality of the power of God and the glory, which is Christ Jesus.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (AUGUST 15)

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life is a defined dogma of the Catholic Church. The Feast of the Assumption, celebrated every year on August 15, is a very old feast of the Church, celebrated universally by the sixth century. It commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay--a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts and a holy day of obligation.

The feast was originally celebrated in the East, where it is known as the Feast of the Dormition, a word which means "the falling asleep." The earliest printed reference to the belief that Mary's body was assumed into Heaven dates from the fourth century, in a document entitled "The Falling Asleep of the Holy Mother of God."

The document recounts, in the words of the Apostle John, to whom Christ on the Cross had entrusted the care of His mother, the death, laying in the tomb, and assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Tradition places Mary's death at Jerusalem or at Ephesus, where John was living.

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII, exercising papal infallibility, declared in "Munificentissimus Deus" that it is a dogma of the Church "that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory." As a dogma, the Assumption is a required belief of all Catholics; anyone who publicly dissents from the dogma, Pope Pius declared, "has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith."

While the Eastern Orthodox believe in the Dormition, they object to the papal definition of the dogma, seeing it as unnecessary, since belief in Mary's bodily assumption, tradition holds, goes back to apostolic times.



2021

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WEEKEND

Saturday 4:30pm July 31

+Frank Diblasi (40 days)
+ Luis Anson
Charley Dixon
John Ruff
Jerry Hayden

Sunday 9:30 am Aug 1

+Erlinda Yden Orap
Health-Frank & Rita Duca
Andy Lam

Sunday 11:30 am

World Peace

5 pm Misa en Español

Para Paz del Mundo



**PRAY
FOR THE SICK**

DAILY 8AM

MONDAY Aug 2

+Estella Hernandez
Kim Nguyen
+Luis Anson

TUESDAY Aug 3

Anna Lee
+Luis Anson

WEDNESDAY Aug 4

+Luis Anson
Francesca Le

THURSDAY Aug 5

Judy Le

FRIDAY Aug 6

Healing – Thea Maure &
Raymond Martinez

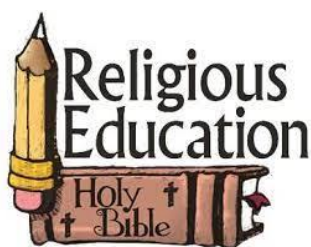


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3rd Prize – Medjugorje Picture

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Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 to Noon

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- ❖ Registration fee is \$200 per child plus \$100 for books.
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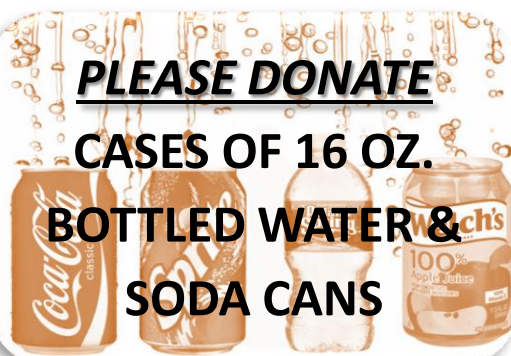
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