



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

Sunday of the Circumcision of Jesus World Day of Peace

January 2023

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Pastor: Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

Our Services

DAILY: Monday–Friday 8:00 AM Eng.

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

Tuesday @ 6 pm Rosary & Bible

Anointing of the Sick every 1st Tuesday

10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD

LAS VEGAS NV 89183

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www.stsharbellasvegas.org

The Church teaches that religious freedom is grounded in the inherent dignity of the human person. The Holy Father's message affirms that all people have a duty and a right to seek religious truth and to practice religion in accordance with their conscience. Religious freedom allows deep and healthy relationships with God, oneself, others, the world and helps to form a society where peace can prevail, human development can occur, and the life and dignity of all can be respected.

The world needs God. It needs universal, shared ethical and spiritual values, and religion can offer a precious contribution to their pursuit, for the building of a just and peaceful social order at the national and international levels. Peace is a gift of God and at the same time a task which is never fully completed. A society reconciled with God is closer to peace, which is not the mere absence of war or the result of military or economic supremacy, much less deceptive ploys or clever manipulation. Rather, peace is the result of a process of purification and of cultural, moral and spiritual elevation involving each individual and people, a process in which human dignity is fully respected. I invite all those who wish to be peacemakers, especially the young, to heed the voice speaking within their hearts and thus to find in God the stable point of reference for attaining authentic freedom, the inexhaustible force which can give the world a new direction and spirit, and overcome the mistakes of the past.

In the words of Pope Paul VI, whose wisdom and farsightedness we owe the institution of the World Day of Peace: "It is necessary before all else to provide peace with other weapons – different from those destined to kill and exterminate mankind. What is needed above all is moral weapons, which give strength and prestige to international law – the weapon, in the first place, of the observance of pacts". Religious freedom is an authentic weapon of peace, with a historical and prophetic mission. Peace brings to full fruition the deepest qualities and potentials of the human person, the qualities which can change the world and make it better. It gives hope for a future of justice and peace, even in the face of grave injustice and material and moral poverty. May all men and women, and societies at every level and in every part of the earth, soon be able to experience religious freedom, the path to peace!



READING:

MICAH 4:1-4

OR

GENESIS 21:1-5;

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

GOSPEL:

LUKE 2:21-24



OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS: PEACE BEGINS IN EVERY PERSON, IN EVERY FAMILY, IN EVERY CITY

Pope Francis sends a video message to members of the “Mensajeros de la Paz” association thanking them for their work to promote human and social development and encouraging them to pursue their message and work for peace.

Pope Francis has reiterated his urgent call to all men and women of goodwill to be peacemakers “because this is what we need today!”

In a video message recorded this month during an audience with Father Ángel García Rodríguez, founder and President of the “Mensajeros de la Paz” association, the Pope encouraged operators and volunteers of the association to “help end conflicts so that peace may follow.”

“To all of you, brothers and sisters of the family of *Mensajeros de la Paz*, who carry a good message, not only in words, but in everything you do, [...] you create an atmosphere of love, you solve problems, and you know how to speak coherently with your words and with your heart. I congratulate you, keep going!” he said.

Thanking them for being messengers of peace, the Pope noted that peace is a state of being, something that is established when conflict comes to an end.

He said that world peace is in a sad state at this moment and called for peacemaking in all situations.

“Also the smallest peace, the peace of the small towns, the peace of small families that need the peace of each person.”

He invited the *Messengers of Peace* to “keep kicking up a fuss” because this is what we need today.

The *Mensajeros de la Paz* is a non-governmental organization, founded in Spain in 1962 by Father Ángel García Rodríguez and Ángel Silva Sánchez. It works at a national and international level and has been awarded the Prince of Asturias Award for Concord, among other distinctions.

It aims to promote human and social development of marginalized and vulnerable populations and is present in 75 countries across the world.



Pope Francis and Fr. Angel Garcia Rodriguez



EPIPHANY - BLESSING OF WATER

***Saturday January 7 @ 4:30 pm &
Sunday January 8 @ 9:30 am & 11:30 am.***

***Please bring your bottles of water to be blessed
and take home***



**O Come Let Us
Adore Him!**

U.S. BISHOPS MAKE 'THE SUFFERING OF LEBANON' PRIORITY WITH ELECTION OF MARONITE TO KEY POST

One of the two Maronite bishops in the United States was elected to lead the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace this past week in Baltimore.

Bishop Abdallah Elias Zaidan of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, who originally comes from Lebanon, spoke with CNA after his election about the Church's role amid the **political and economic turmoil** in his home country.

"The Lebanese people are suffering," said Zaidan, who will serve a term from November 2023 to November 2026.

"Definitely with all the difficulties Lebanon is facing — and now, Lebanon is somewhat ignored — it's not a priority for many of the countries, especially with the war in Ukraine and other fronts."

The **committee's mission** is to advise the U.S. bishops on international issues. Zaidan, who has been a committee member, was chosen as chair over Archbishop Nelson Pérez of Philadelphia by a vote of 148-95. He succeeds Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois.

Zaidan listed a plethora of struggles causing instability in the country including its **seeming inability to elect a new president**, its devalued and inflated currency, and high unemployment rates.

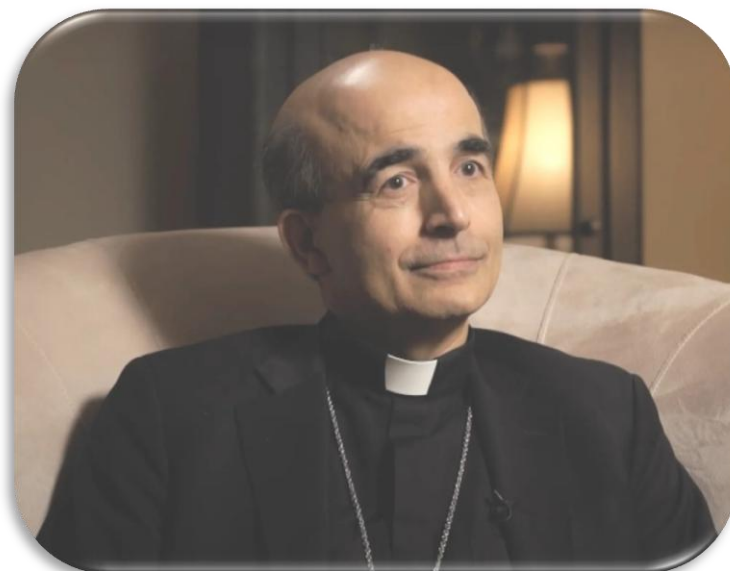
"Plus, everything is becoming more expensive. Unemployment is very high in Lebanon because of the uncertainty and corruption," he said, adding that due to a lack of infrastructure for electricity and other necessities "people have to do it on their own."

Zaidan said that if Lebanese citizens have families outside the country who can financially support them in small ways "that a few hundred dollars makes a big difference for them."

But, he added, "if they don't have anybody it's very difficult, and that's why people would like to leave."

Despite the many unfortunate circumstances burdening the Lebanese people, Zaidan said that the Church in Lebanon is doing whatever it can to be close to the suffering people. He praised the work of Caritas Internationalis, the Church's humanitarian arm, in using its resources to keep people alive.

"Often the priest is what we call the main person you go to because he knows his people. He knows who are the needy, who don't have any one to help them," he said.



Bishop Abdallah Elias Zaidan of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles is the chairman-elect for the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace.

Zaidan said that many priests are calling their bishops and taking the initiative to assist their flock.

He said he wanted to send a message of thanks to the parish priest in Lebanon and to "commend him for standing with his people and being part of that and serving them with all his own difficulties and to stay there and do his best for his people."

Zaidan also urged "everybody here and wherever they are to first keep Lebanon in your mind. Keep our brothers and sisters in your mind, in your prayers, and whatever you could spare here could make a big difference in Lebanon," he said.

Zaidan said that Christ is closest to the people who are suffering and needy.

"We need to know [that] anyone who's in need, whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you've done it to me, Christ told us," he said. Zaidan said that there are many inspiring stories about people who are in need, and who assist someone who is in a worse situation than they are. "It's amazing," he said.

Zaidan said that the Maronites in Lebanon played a significant role in making Lebanon a great country. He said that Maronite Patriarch Elias Hoyaek de Helta, who served from 1898-1931, "was instrumental in making Lebanon great in its own borders today."

Zaidan said that it's important for Lebanon to be a "beacon of hope" and a "haven" for Christians in the Middle East.

"Lebanon, as John Paul II said, is a message between the East and the West, between the Christians and the Muslim — and also among the Christians — between the Catholics and Orthodox, as well.

"It's a unique mission from that perspective," he said. Zaidan said that many Lebanese migrated to the United States over the past 100 years.

"We always think about Lebanon as the mother church and the branches who are spread all over the world and are present in different parts of the world," he said.

"Hopefully, we could bear fruit and let the mother church enjoy some of those blessings as well," Zaidan said.



Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, MLM

Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

Chairman-Elect, Committee on International Justice and Peace



PROMOTING ROSARY PRAYER & CREATING PEACE

A supernatural phenomenon shocked the world in 1917. A crowd of 70,000 citizens witnessed a celestial light show in the skies of Portugal that had many believing the world was about to end. However; to three local shepherd children, this event came as no surprise. To them, this miracle was a fulfillment to one of the many prophecies given to them by the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Amongst the messages received by these children came numerous requests for prayers and penance. Not just ordinary prayers...but rosary prayers. In fact, the importance of praying the rosary was repeatedly stressed and reiterated by the Virgin Mary to these children during their meetings. Rosary prayers were not only necessary, but they were the key to obtaining world peace.



*Queen of
the Most Holy Rosary,
pray for us*

FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE December 30

A strange joy – following a time of deep anxiety probably bordering on panic: Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple. Their reaction of bewilderment is easily understandable – what does he mean about needing to be about his Father's business? Especially when it has caused them so much distress?

As a terminal illness progresses, there can come a time when the person who is dying may begin to focus on their inner world, deepening their relationship with God. For their loved ones, it can feel as if they are already losing them. It is a grace when people can pray together and gently let the person they love go into the hands of the God who is preparing to bring them home.

Circumcision of Our Lord January 1st

On January 1st, we commemorate an event in the life of Jesus which took place eight days after His Birth: His Naming and Circumcision. According to Hebrew Law, every male child was to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth (*Genesis 17: 11-12*). Circumcision was the sign God gave to Abraham of His Covenant with His chosen people. Through Circumcision the Hebrew child received the physical sign of his membership in the chosen people of God. At the time of circumcision the child was also given the name by which he was to be known among God's people. It is thus that Jesus is circumcised and given His name which means, "The Lord is Savior". Jesus, as God's True Son had no need of circumcision and yet, in order to show that He was the fulfillment of the Law, He submitted to being circumcised. Jesus was already a member of God's chosen people; for, in fact, He was God's Chosen One, the Son of the Most High. And yet, Jesus not only observed the prescriptions of the Law, He also surpassed them since after His Death & Resurrection, the New Covenant would be established abolishing the Old Covenant.

**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 Makhlof 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 she 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 realized, 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
MAKHOUF -
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 favors, grant us...

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

through his intercession.

Amen.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles



CAMPAIGN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DO WE NEED TO SUPPORT THE EPARCHY?

In the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, there are 42 parishes and missions across 18 of the 34 states in our diocese. The Eparchy represents our family of Maronite faithful, and a local church is but one part of that larger community. Picture the Eparchy like a Rosary that is interconnected and we need each other's support and unity to flourish.

The Eparchy coordinates programs and ministries on behalf of all parishioners and complements the work that is done at the local church level. These efforts cannot be accomplished by either the Eparchy or the local churches alone, it is a partnership. Just as we support the Pope, our Father and Head of the whole Catholic Church, so we are to extend our support spiritually and financially to the Eparchy and our Bishop.

The Eparchy does not have sufficient resources to fund all the vital programs and ministries that are necessary for a vibrant faith community. Without your generosity, ministries would suffer. We could not afford to educate future priests or care for our retired ones. Thousands of underserved Maronites in areas without a local church will remain without a priest and place to gather and worship. Your gifts to the Eparchy, and in particular to the **Vision for the Future – Mission for Today** Capital Campaign, ensure all the people and local churches within our Eparchy receive equal access to the sacraments and ministries today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE – MISSION FOR TODAY CAMPAIGN?

The capital campaign is an effort to raise money in the short term (three to five years) to support an Endowment Fund for future use. For a Maronite Catholic diocese or parish, this refers to gifts and pledges over and above parishioners' regular giving to the Sunday collection or annual appeals. Parishioners who make pledges to the Eparchy's campaign will have three years to fulfill their commitment based on a schedule of their choosing, such as monthly, quarterly or annually.

The **Vision for the Future – Mission for Today** campaign is an extraordinary opportunity for all to play a role in strengthening the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles. This campaign is the first of its kind for any Eastern Rite Eparchy in the United States and the first for the Maronite Church worldwide. Our goal is to raise \$15 million for the Endowment Fund to strengthen **Missions, Ministries, and Ministers** to fulfill our Eparchial vision and mission today, tomorrow and for generations to come. Your donations to this historic campaign will ensure all of our parishes and missions are strong both spiritually and financially. The campaign funds will help create new missions, provide coordination, support and training for parish-based ministries, educate our future priests, and care for our retired priests who faithfully served our parishes and families.

**JANUARY 1: THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+ SAINTS BASIL & GREGORY**

The Old Testament law prescribed that every boy should be circumcised in the eighth day after his birth. In obedience to this law, Baby Jesus was circumcised, according to the Gospel of Luke 2:21: **"When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."** "Jesus" is the name given to Joseph by the Angel Gabriel in Mat. (1:21) *"She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins"*. "Jesus" also was the name given to Mary for her child to be, (cf. Lk 1:31) *"Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end"*.

Jesus not have to fulfill this mosaic rule, as Saint Thomas Aquinas explains, because He is the Lord of the law. However He wanted to obey the law to show us that He had become truly a man. He also wanted to show us that He too is circumcised, a descendent of Abraham. Third, He wanted to teach us to obey the law, like He did.

Our Savior was circumcised to give us a lesson in taking care of our salvation, so we learn how to circumcise our hearts in the spirit, as Saint Paul explains, detaching them from the desires of this world and its vanities.

**Also on this day is the memorial of Saints Basil and Gregory**

Gregory had a pagan father and a Christian mother who took care of him good and gave him education. Gregory was a brilliant student in the school of Athena, where he became a friend of Basil; as he later wrote: *"we didn't know but two paths, the path to the Church and the path to the school, and left for others to hang around bars and theaters"*. Once he finished his studies, Gregory was baptized.

By nature, he loved solitude, and dwelt in it for a while with his friend Basil. At this time his father had been baptized a Christian, thanks to the prayers of his pious mother; he then became a priest, then a bishop on Nezianz. Then he called his son Gregory to help him. Gregory came to help his father, now a bishop, who ordained his son a priest asking him to help him in his eparchial responsibilities. Gregory was a great assistant to his bishop; however he preferred to turn back to the solitude, living an austere monastic life with his old friend Basil.

And when his dad was deceived by the Arian heresy, Gregory left his hermitage and came to rescue him, and brought him back to the true Catholic faith. After that, Gregory was elected the patriarch of Constantinople. There, with great zeal, he served the people entrusted to him by God, defending the Catholic faith, and converting many Arians. Upon this, several Arian bishops opposed him, and demanded his resignation. Gregory was not someone to confront people by nature, therefore he resigned from the Patriarchal Chair, spending his time in prayer and theological writings, which he knew the best. And because of his excellent theological writings defending the Catholic faith, he deserved the title *"Theologos"*, i.e. the theologian. Thus Gregory spent his last years as a hermit, busy with his theological writings, until he died in the year 379 A.D. His writings are a treasure for the Church, where he is honored as a great saint, and doctor.

May his prayers be with us. Amen.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF JESUS (THREE KINGS)

This Feast -- also known as the . "Theophany" or "Three Kings Day" -- recalls Christ revealing Himself as Divine in three different ways: to the Magi, at His Baptism, and with His miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

For families who practice traditions involving "the Magi" or "La Befana" leaving gifts for children, the day begins with the wee ones discovering what was left for them while they slept on Twelfth Night.

At today's Mass, there will be a blessing of gold, frankincense, myrrh, Epiphany Water, and, after Communion, a blessing of chalk. Bring small special items of gold to have with you during the Mass, and they will be blessed if they are exposed as you sit in your pew with them (wedding rings, rosaries, an heirloom piece of gold jewelry, for example).

When Mass is over, you will take some of the blessed chalk, frankincense, myrrh, and Epiphany Water home with you, so it's good to bring a container to transport Holy Water and one to put some grains of incense and a piece of chalk into. (Note: if you can, take and keep 5 pieces of blessed incense for your Paschal Candle this Easter),



When you get home, sprinkle some Epiphany water (otherwise and afterwards used as regular Holy Water) in the rooms of your house to protect it and bring blessings. This Holy Water recalls the waters of the Jordan, and is a visible reminder of Christ's Divinity, of Jesus's revealing Himself as God at His Baptism, when we heard the words from the Father: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

The Maronite Catholic Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Eastern Churches this feast is known by two names: Epiphany and Theophany. The Greek word Epiphany means manifestation or an apparition and the word Theophany refers to an appearance of God. On this day we celebrate the appearance or manifestation of Christ among us as God's Son.

The feast of the Epiphany was first celebrated in the East around the third century and eventually was dropped by the Western Church. In the Eastern Churches the celebration of the Epiphany originally centered on both the Birth of our Lord and his baptism.

The feast of the Epiphany is intimately connected with the mystery of our Lord's birth. The Child who was born for us and the Son who was given to us is manifested before us to be the Son of the Most High. Christ begins his public life with his baptism by John in the Jordan river. At his baptism Christ is seen as the fulfillment of John's preaching: He is the Messiah and the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The Father and Holy Spirit are witnesses to Christ for he is the beloved Son of the Father and upon him the Spirit rests. Thus at the baptism of the Lord we have not only an epiphany or manifestation of Christ as God's Son, but also Theophany or Manifestation of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF OUR LORD (BAPTISM OF JESUS) January 6



The feast of the Epiphany reminds us not only of the baptism of Christ, but also of our own baptism. St. Ephrem in his Hymn of Epiphany says: "...our blessed Lord came to be baptized with sinners and because of his glory the heavens were opened. The One who purifies all creatures, desiring to cleanse them, went into the waters and sanctified them for our baptism." It is for this reason that we bless water on this day. Originally, the mystery of baptism was celebrated on this feast and the waters blessed were those of baptism.

Today we celebrate the manifestation or epiphany of the Trinity at the baptism of Christ as well as the manifestation of the glory of God in the person of the Lord come into the world, that is to say, the manifestation of Christ, the Word of God, among us. Let us then call to mind the grace of God who has appeared for the salvation of all, and thank him for the baptism through which we have been begotten in the Spirit and through which we have put on Christ and become children of the Father.

Eucharistic Adoration

- Do you want some peace & quiet?
- Do you want to have a date?
- Do you want to be loved?
- Sign up for a date with Jesus!

Then Eucharistic Adoration is for You!

Eucharistic Adoration is a privilege and gift to us here at St. Sharbel from **6 AM – 6 PM DAILY**

- Sign up forms are available on the table in the Adoration Chapel
- Check the hours that are available on the picture frame on the table or in the white binder

•If you have already sign up, it is your responsibility to make sure you show up or call someone to cover your hour. Names and telephone numbers are in the white binder.

Questions: Contact the Parish Office or Mylynn Lim at 702 769-2382



St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Raffle Ticket

\$5.00 Donation



1st Prize



2nd Prize

1st Prize: Silver St. Jude (Value \$2,000)

2nd Prize: Holy Family Statue (Value \$500)

3rd Prize: Agronomical Chair (Value \$200)

4th Prize: Car Roof Bag (Value \$200)

5th Prize: Foot Spa (Value \$60)

Drawing Sunday March 5, 2023

FORMED



There are 3 easy steps for parishioners to download the FORMED App.

1. Visit the App Store or Google Play Store(search: FORMED Catholic)

2. Download the app to your device (Note, you will need to register at formed.org/signup before logging in to app)

3. Enjoy the content you want, where you want!

Code is 89183

NUESTRO NOTICIAS DE LA COMUNIDAD ESPAÑOLA

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 Enero del 2023

HORA: Rosario 4:30 pm Misa 5 pm

**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, y bocadillos con todos los asistentes.

Si tienes alguna duda communicate con:
Oficina de la Iglesia 702-619-6902



Ruega por nosotros

A 30-DAY GUIDE FOR NEW BELIEVERS BY JOHN D. BECKETT



DAY 14: RESISTING THE DEVIL

How do I deal with the devil?

One day a heated argument broke out between two senior managers at our company. Normally these two got along well. What caused the outburst? I didn't have a clue!

Then I happened to read a book called Dealing with the Devil and realized we may have encountered Satan at work in our business—a new thought for me! The book went on to describe the authority we have in Christ with this analogy: Suppose a person, dressed normally, is standing in a busy traffic intersection— cars coming from all directions. He waves his arms wildly trying to stop traffic, but the cars keep whizzing by. Then he makes one change. He puts on a policeman's uniform. The results are totally different. Drivers immediately comply.

Here was the clue I was looking for. If I were "clothed with Christ" I would have authority to deal with spiritual opposition, just as the policeman does in traffic. So I "put on my uniform" and prayed in Jesus' name, taking authority over the unseen forces stirring up trouble. To my amazement, the problem with the managers evaporated just as quickly as it had erupted.

The devil, or Satan, is a real adversary we must reckon with. Though once a high-ranking angel, he rebelled and was cast out of heaven. He has been in total opposition to God ever since. Jesus called him a thief who steals, kills and destroys.

Satan was defeated when Jesus went to the Cross, yet he continues to exert influence on the earth. What are we to do? The Bible says: "Resist him and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). In other words, put on the policeman's uniform!

KEY VERSE: "I (the Lord) will contend with him who contends with you" (Isaiah 49:25).



Filipino News



FEAST OF THE BLACK NAZARENE

Quiapo, Manila, Philippines

The Black Nazarene (Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno) that has come all the way from Mexico through a galleon is a life-sized, dark-colored, wooden sculpture (carver is an Aztec carpenter) of Jesus Christ which has been known to be miraculous by majority of the people, especially its Filipino devotees. The black Nazarene is currently enshrined in the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila, Philippines where novena celebrations are held every Friday throughout the whole year. Roman Catholic tradition holds that the Black Nazarene came from a boat that caught fire, turning it from its original white into black or burnt complexion. For almost 200 years, the Black Nazarene is carried into the streets for procession in a "Caroza" or golden red carriage pulled through the streets of Quiapo by male devotees clad in maroon. Every 9th of January, the feast of the Most Holy Black Nazarene is celebrated while novena masses begin on the first Friday day of the year, in honor of its weekly novena mass held every Friday. This also celebrates the Translacion or the transfer of the image to its present shrine in Quiapo. The devotion to the miraculous Black Nazarene (Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno) has attracted huge following among the public. Its popularity, which initially spread to the northern and southern provinces of Luzon, spread over time throughout the country. Devotees pay homage to the Santo Cristo Jesus Nazareno by clapping their hands in praise at the end of every Mass performed at the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene. On its feast during January 9, people believed that whoever touched the Nazarene sometimes has been healed of their diseases. Catholics come from all over Manila for the chance that they will be able to get close enough to touch the image and perhaps even receive a miracle. Some devotees also throw towels or handkerchiefs to the people guarding the statue and ask them to rub them on the statue in anticipation of carrying some of that power away with them.



*The Original
Miraculous Image of
the Black Nazarene in
Quiapo, Manila*

History of the Black Nazarene Festival

The Black Nazarene statue was brought to Manila by the first group of Augustinian Recollect friars on May 31, 1606. The image was originally housed in the first Recollect church in Bagumbayan (now part of the Rizal Park), which was established on September 10, 1606, and placed under the patronage of Saint Juan Bautista Saint John the Baptist.

In 1608, the image of the "Nazareno" was transferred to the second, bigger Recollect church dedicated to San Nicolas de Tolentino (Saint Nicholas of Tolentino). The Recollect Fathers dynamically promoted devotion to the Suffering of Our Lord represented by the image that in fifteen short years, the Cofradia de Santo Cristo Jesús Nazareno was established on April 21, 1621. The confraternity obtained Papal approval on April 20, 1650, from Pope Innocent X.

Sometime in the year 1787, then Archbishop of Manila, Basilio Sancho de Santas Junta y Rufina, ordered the transfer of the image of the Nazareno to the church in Quiapo, again providently placed under the patronage of Saint John the Baptist. The Black Nazarene made a lot of miraculous things. These are the survival of the image from the great fires that destroyed Quiapo Church in 1791 and 1929, the great earthquakes of 1645 and 1863, and the destructive Bombing of Manila in 1945 during World War II. Today the head and the cross stay on the Altar Mayor of the Minor Basilica, and the original body image of the Black Nazarene is used in the processions. Other, even smaller replica can be found in other churches.

WEEKEND

Saturday 4:30 pm
Dec 31

*Chesca Ibrahim
+Mercedes Espiritu

Sunday 9:30 am Jan 1
+Virgilia Carlos

Sunday 11:30 am
World Peace

Sunday Spanish Mass
4:30 pm
+Antonio Moreno

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

*Pray for
Healing of the Sick*

DAILY 8AM

MONDAY Jan 2
*Aaliyah Giron
Astrid Emanuel

TUESDAY Jan 3
Agustin Family

WEDNESDAY Jan 4
Faithful Departed

THURSDAY Jan 5
+Connie Daguio

FRIDAY Jan 6
+Angles R. Zacal
*Kim M. Clinton
Unborn Babies

COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. TUESDAY: 6:00 P.M. Rosary in the Chapel followed by Anointing of the sick.

2. BLACK NAZARENE NOVENA – began December 31 and will continue January 2-6 after the 8:00 AM Mass and 4:00 PM on January 7

3. GOD OUR FATHER DEVOTION: Sunday, January 1st after the 9:30 Mass.

4. MONTHLY SPANISH MASS: Sunday, January 1st 4:30 PM Rosary & Mass.

5. YOUTH GROUP GATHERING: Friday, January 6 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

6. EPIPHANY - BLESSING OF WATER: *Saturday January 7 @ 4:30 pm & Sunday January 8 @ 9:30 am & 11:30 am. Please bring your bottles of water to be blessed and take home.*

7. VISION for the future MISSION for today / CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Bishop Zaidan will be visiting our Parish over the weekend of January 14-15, 2023 to discuss the following:

- The capital campaign is an effort to raise money in the short term (three to five years) to support an Endowment Fund for future use.
- For new Maronite Missions, this refers to gifts and pledges over and above parishioners' regular giving to the Sunday collection or annual appeals.
- Parishioners who make pledges to the Eparchy's campaign will have three years to fulfill their commitment based on a schedule of their choosing, such as monthly, quarterly or annually.

8. RAFFLE TICKETS – 1 Ticket for \$5.

- 1st Prize: Silver St. Jude (Value \$500)
- 2nd Prize: Holy Family Statue (Value \$500)
- 3rd Prize: Agronomical Chair (Value \$200)
- 4th Prize: Car Roof Bag (Value \$200)
- 5th Prize: Foot Spa (Value \$60)

Drawing will be held on Sunday, March 5th