



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

## Sunday of the Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

March 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday:** 4:30 PM

Rosario y la Misa en Español

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:** 4:30 PM

Tagalog Mass

**Tuesday @ 6 pm** Rosary & Bible

Anointing of the Sick every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday



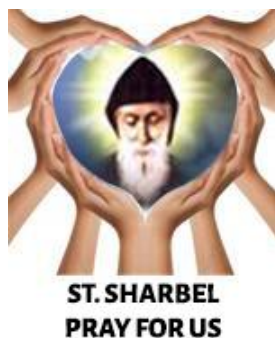
***"If I just touch His clothes,  
I will be healed" Mk 5:28***

Jesus continued to show us His miracles and powers as a Healer and Savior. The woman was considered by the Jews as unclean because of her illness (Lev 15:19). And she would also make "unclean" anyone who touched her, for this reason, she was prohibited by the law from mingling with others but she dared to enter the crowd, and touch Jesus' cloak. Jesus was her only hope, she felt that if she could get close to Him and touch only the tassels of His robe, she would be healed.

Then Jesus felt a power going out of Him, He wanted to extol the faith of the one who touched Him, for this reason He asked: "who touched My clothes?" Jesus wanted to speak with the woman, then she came and knelt before Him, He did not desire to embarrass her, but to exult in her faith and said: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

Finally, this woman had seen how much God loved and cared about her. The sick woman was not an unimportant member of the crowd following Jesus, she was important to Jesus. Each one of us is important in the eyes of Jesus, and worthy of all His attention. Jesus will never ignore you, and every day our lives touch not only the tassels of the Lord, but Himself through His Body and Blood. Only Jesus can cure today's world of its sickness and suffering, from hunger, war, and poverty.

Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid MLM



### **READINGS:**

**Numbers 15:37-41;**

**2 Corinthians 7:4-11**

**GOSPEL: Luke 8:40-56**

10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD.

LAS VEGAS NV 89183

**PHONE:** 702-616-6902

[www.stsharbellasvegas.org](http://www.stsharbellasvegas.org)

## OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS PRAYS FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE IN THE HOLY LAND AND BURKINA FASO

In renewed appeals following his Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis calls for prayers and for peace for the countless victims of violence in the Holy Land and Burkina Faso.

Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, after the recitation of the Marian prayer, Pope Francis turned his thoughts to the terrible news that continues to come from the Holy Land.

In light of recent tragedies, Pope Francis noted that many people, including children, are being killed and he asked, "How can we put an end to this spiral of violence?"

The Holy Father then renewed, once more, his appeal that "dialogue may reign over hatred and revenge".

"I pray to God for the Palestinians and the Israelis, that they may find the road to fraternity and peace, with the help of the international community".

### Violence in Burkina Faso

Pope Francis then shared his worries regarding the situation in Burkina Faso, where "terrorist attacks continue to take place".

Once again, Pope Francis invited all those following his Sunday Angelus to "pray for the people of that dear country", in the hope that the violence they continue to endure might not lead them to lose hope in their journey of democracy, justice, and peace.



*Destroyed buildings on the Gaza strip*

In recent updates from the west African nation, the so-called Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for killing over 70 soldiers, wounding dozens more, and taking five people hostage in an ambush on a military convoy in the northern part of the country.

Concluding, Pope Francis asked those present not to forget Ukraine one year after the start of the Russian invasion. "And let us not forget the Syrian and Turkish people, victims of terrible earthquakes".

## OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS APPROVES DECREES IN CAUSES FOR CANONIZATION

On Thursday Pope Francis gave approval for Decrees allowing for the beatification of Italian Sister Elisabetta Martinez, founders of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca, and recognition of the heroic virtues of five Servants of God from Italy, Brazil, and Spain.

Meeting with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, on Thursday morning, Pope Francis authorized the promulgation of Decrees regarding a miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Servant of God Elisabetta Martinez, Foundress of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca. She was born on 25 March 1905 in Galatina, Italy, and died 8 February 1991, in Rome, Italy.

### Blessed Elisabetta Martinez

Sister Martinez focused her ministry in areas involving childhood education, the care of single mothers, and service in parishes, leading to her founding the Institute of the "Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca."

The miracle recognized and attributed to her involved the healing of an unborn baby from "thrombosis and complete calcific occlusion of the left fetal umbilical artery" with "extensive placental infarction and plurifocal alterations of the villi as from hypoxemia" as well as "very severe intrauterine fetal growth retardation associated with brain sparing condition." Informed of the very grave situation regarding a mother from Rimini, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Mary of Leuca called on various communities to start a prayer novena to ask for a miracle through the intercession of the Foundress. The prayers accompanied the entire pregnancy period, and the baby girl was born on 19 March 2018 in good health.

### Decrees for five other Servants of God

The Pope also recognized the heroic virtues of the following Servants of God:

- **Fr. Giuseppe di Sant'Elpidio (Giulio Bocci)**, member of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Founder of the Congregation of the "Sorelle Francescane delle Vocazioni" (Franciscan Sisters of Vocations), born on 15 March 1885 in Sant'Elpidio a Mare, Italy, and died 23 November 1974 in Pesaro, Italy;
- **Fr. Aloísio Sebastião Boeing**, member of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Founder of the Marian Fraternity of the Heart of Jesus; born on 24 December 1913 in Vargem di Cedro, Brazil, and who died on 17 April 2006 in Jaraguá do Sul, Brazil;
- **Sr. Maria Margherita Lussana (Teresa Caterina)**, co-foundress of the Congregation of the Ursuline Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Asola; born on 14 November 1852, in Seriate, Italy, and who died there on 27 February 1935;
- **Francisca Ana Maria Alcover Morell**, laywoman; born on 19 October 1912 in Sóller, Spain, and who died there on 10 March 1954;
- **Albertina Violi Zirondoli**, laywoman and mother; born 1 July 1901 in Carpi, Italy, who died 18 July 1972 in Rome, Italy.



## EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON OF LOS ANGELES

## 2023 Lenten Appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I deeply appreciate your support for the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, especially over the past few years as we have faced challenges at home and abroad. You have been a blessing to the Eparchy.

The Lenten Season is an opportune time to practice fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. It is a time to deepen our faith, to count our blessings, and to think about the needs of others.

Each year at this time, I ask for your support for our most critical needs. These include the following:

- **Seminarian Education:** Our seminarians continue on their journey to the priesthood. We are blessed to have a large group of seminarians who are preparing to one day minister to our people.
- **Opening New Parishes and Missions:** Our goal is to build and strengthen our existing parishes and missions so that our people can celebrate their faith and heritage. We just opened two new missions and plan to open more missions in the coming years.
- **Expanding Services:** We need to reach out more to young people, families, and people at the most important times in their lives, especially in times of crisis.
- **Helping our brothers and sisters in Lebanon, Syria, and the Middle East:** Lebanon has been devastated by the pandemic, explosion and economic crisis. Syria has its share of troubles. Many people were displaced, and homes, hospitals, schools, and businesses suffered extreme damage.

Today, I would like to ask for your help with our Annual Appeal which addresses the Eparchy's most important and immediate needs. These needs are described in this short brochure. Please read this and prayerfully consider how you can help today, and please be generous. On behalf of all those who will be served by this Appeal, I thank you, and may God bless you!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

*A. E. Zaidan*

• A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles



### 1. Seminarians and Retired Priests

The Eparchy educates and prepares men (called "seminarians") for the priesthood, so that there will be enough priests to serve in our parishes. The Eparchy currently has six celibate seminarians and eight married men in formation. The cost of educating, housing and caring for these fine men is costly: we anticipate at least \$600,000 in these expenses this year. On the other end of the spectrum, eight retired priests receive a modest pension from the Eparchy along with health insurance. The total cost of supporting them in 2023 will be approximately \$228,000. One seminarian mentioned: "Through your support, I do not have to worry about paying student loans in the future." 35% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will support Seminarians and Retired priests.



### 2. Missions and Small Parishes

The Eparchy consists of thirty-four (34) parishes and nine (9) missions with over 46,800 Catholics across 34 states. Missions (new parishes) were opened in recent years in places like Milwaukee (WI), Seattle (WA), and Fort Bend (IN). The mission in Columbus (OH) now has its own priest. Three new communities are just starting in Wichita (KS), Nashville (TN), and Indianapolis (IN). Some missions and parishes are very small and need financial support with critical expenses such as insurance and utilities. It is necessary to strengthen our parishes and missions so that they may serve the Maronite faithful in those areas that have great potential for growth. 25% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will support Missions and Small Parishes.



### 3. Ministries

The Eparchy maintains several ministries to serve Maronites, including Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Family Life Ministry, Ordained Ministers Subdeacons and Deacons, and Communication. The Eparchy's ministries need to increase in scope and number. 15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the Eparchy's Ministries.



### 4. National Maronite Shrine

Our Lady of Lebanon National Shrine, located in Ohio, was founded over 55 years ago to invoke Our Lady of Lebanon's protection over all Maronites in the United States. The Shrine welcomes pilgrims throughout the year. Due to the pandemic, the Shrine needs support now more than ever. 10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the National Maronite Shrine.



### 5. Charitable Outreach

As the Eparchy asks the faithful to be generous to it, the Eparchy strives to be generous to those in need. With your support, the Eparchy helps the less fortunate in the United States and abroad in Lebanon and the Middle East. With your giving, we are able to lend a helping hand to those suffering. Many of those church institutions depend on our support in order to meet their basic obligations and to sustain their ministry. Father Michel Abboud, the head of Caritas Lebanon told us: "With your help, we will keep some people alive." 15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to charity.

2023 Lenten Appeal  
Allocation of FundsReport on 2022 Lenten Appeal  
Use of Funds (\$243,307)

"In 2022, we were able to meet the Lenten Appeal and even received \$5,037 over our goal. We are sincerely thankful to all those who generously gave to help our Eparchy continue its efforts."



Please make your gift to the Lenten Appeal through your local parish. Place your gift in an envelope noted "Bishop's Appeal", or note "Bishop's Appeal" on your check. You may also make a gift online at [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org).

## Additional Ways to Help

**Make a Bequest.** A bequest is naming the Eparchy (or your parish) in your will. This can be for a specific amount of money, or a percentage of your estate. To do this, include this language in your will:

"I give and bequeath to the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles \_\_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate (or: the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_)."

**Give from your IRA.** Generally speaking, taxpayers who are age 70½ years old and older may give up to \$100,000 each year from their IRA to the Eparchy without paying the mandatory tax on IRA distributions. This is a significant benefit because taxes on an IRA are normally very high. The practical effect of this is that you can give more, tax free, from your IRA – and this makes it a very effective way to support the Church. Contact your broker or the Eparchy for more information about this.

**Make the Eparchy a Beneficiary of Your Retirement Plan.** Another way to help the Church is to name the Eparchy as the beneficiary of your retirement plan. This avoids estate taxes (which are often very high on retirement plans) – and can be tremendously helpful to the Church.

**Make a Gift of Life Insurance.** Naming the Eparchy as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is a way to help the Church in the future while not impacting your income or lifestyle today. Ask your insurance agent or contact the Eparchy for more information about this.

"God loves a cheerful giver!" (2 Corinthians 9:7)



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

19300 Rinaldi Street Box 8509,

Porter Ranch, CA 91327

(818) 626-9193

[admin@eparchy.org](mailto:admin@eparchy.org) [www.eparchy.org](http://www.eparchy.org)



# JOURNEYING BY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

This Second Sunday of Lent is like a breather in our Lenten pilgrimage characterized by penance and sorrow. We rejoice, first of all, in the call of Abraham, our father in the faith, to be the beginning of the Chosen People, from whom the Messiah would come. We rejoice, even more, in the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in Jesus, the Messiah in whom the Father is well pleased.

Weak and wounded in many ways, we need to fix our gaze on the transfigured Christ, to derive from him the strength that enables us to undertake or continue our journey to the Jerusalem of God's promises. This is the journey from an existence characterized by the deceiving glow of material satisfactions to the splendor of Christ's holiness.

The joy of Tabor should fill us with the courage and perseverance that we need to pursue our quest for the values of the Kingdom and the light of a holy life even in the midst of a sinful environment.



***From the Archive***  
***of St. Sharbel Mission:***  
***Our new Patriarch was***  
***here in 2002 December for***  
***the Consecration of***  
***the Church ground***  
***December 19, 2002***



From left: Bishop Mounjed Al Hashem,  
 our new Patriarch Bechara Al Rahi,  
 Fr. Nabil Mouannes, Sheikh Ramon DeSage  
 & last with the Patriarch cousin Joseph El Rahi

**Present time**  
**Tuesday**

**February 28, 2023**  
**Breaking ground for**  
**the new Temporary**  
**parking space across**  
**the street from the**  
**Church, until we start**  
**construction.**



**Thank You LORD !**





## **St. John Maron** (March 3, 2013)

Saint John Maron First Patriarch of The Maronite Church

Saint John Maron, monk of the Monastery of St. Maron and Bishop of Batroun and Mount Lebanon, was elected the first Patriarch of the Maronite Church during the second half of the seventh century AD (c 686 AD), when the See of Antioch lay vacant.

He was the first Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, and the 63rd in succession to St. Peter, who founded the See of Antioch in the first century AD. This marked the beginning of the ecclesiastical, national, and organizational structure of the Maronite church. St. John Maron and his followers were forced to migrate to Lebanon following assault by imperial troops and persecution during the Muslim conquest.

The Patriarchal Seat was then transferred to Kfarhai, Batroun, where a monastery was built (Rich Mro = "Head of Maron") to house the skull of St. Maron.

Traditionally, this was where St. John Maron died and was buried on 9 March 707 AD.

His feast is now celebrated on the second day of March in the Maronite calendar.

St. John Maron was endowed with a militant apostolic zeal, and under his leadership, a decisive victory was won by the Maronites, which drew the population of Lebanon around the Patriarch.

However, St. John Maron was not only a national leader; he was also a Saint who was active in apostolic missions, teaching, preaching and visiting his people, especially during a time of plague (685AD), for which he wrote a special Mass. He also wrote a book on theological doctrine.

### ***Station of the Cross-2023***

***Every Friday***  
***2/24- 4/7***

***5:30 pm Arabic***  
***6:30 pm English***



St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

### ***Drawing March 26*** ***\$5.00 Donation***



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** Silver St. Jude (Value \$2,000)  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** Holy Family Statue (Value \$500)  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** Agronomical Chair (Value \$200)  
**4<sup>th</sup> Prize:** Car Roof Bag (Value \$200)  
**5<sup>th</sup> Prize:** Foot Spa (Value \$60)

### **Sponsors** **Needed**



**Jesus' Coffin**  
**\$4,000**

**ST. SHARBEL MONTHLY AUTO PAY 2023**

1. Abraham Padilla	48. Gilbert Feghali	95. M.C. & A.A. Manese	142. Robert Cansino
2. Adriana Ybarra-Rojas	49. Gladys L. Taylor	96. Maiqui Hertzog	143. Robert Fleming
3. Al Cornelio	50. Gloria Kirschbaum	97. Marc Karam	144. Rosario Gutierrez
4. Alain Hanash	51. Gregory Hagopian	98. Marcial Deguzman	145. Salwa Honiene
5. Alexis Harris	52. Guzman Family	99. Margarita Ablang	146. Samia Elkhoeiry
6. Ana Dimalanta	53. Hanna Sweis	100. Maria A. Bautista	147. Samih Alhwayek
7. Anastacio Dominguez	54. Hayde Interlicchio	101. Maria Delsi	148. Sandra Pierre-Louis
8. Angelina Suzuki	55. Henricus Sandjaya	102. Maria L. Valdez	149. Sinda Gonzales
9. Azeem Sweis	56. Herminia Fabriquer	103. Maria Tadeo	150. Stephany Herrera
10. Bashir Karam	57. Hichelle Maralit	104. Maricar Tadeo	151. Teresa Sulit
11. Benjamin tames	58. Imelda Dinoso	105. Marilyn Atijera	152. Teresita Lacap
12. Blanca Rosa	59. Irene Barcelon	106. Marion Rody	153. The Celuta Costa Elder
13. Brandon Rizk	60. Isabelle Barsoum	107. Marlene Miranti	154. Theresita Caponigri
14. Camilo Belarmino	61. Ivan Botic	108. Mary Bartolome	155. Virginia Reyes
15. Carla M Wagner	62. Ivrose Laguerre	109. Mary Milewski	156. Virginia Salvaleon
16. Carlos De Leon	63. Jasmine Rojas	110. Mary Willuhn	157. Wayne Hidalgo
17. Chantalle Daccache	64. Jay & Dima Howard	111. Mavi G. Carlos	158. Wissam Dagher
18. Christine Wilcox	65. Jean Affi	112. Merlyn Valdez	159. Wladyslawa Drozdowski
19. Cominador Claro	66. Jennifer Trujillo	113. Michael B. Royal	160. Yenny Susanto
20. Concepcion Laqui	67. Jericho Mamuyac	114. Michel Affi	161. Youssef Saikali
21. David Davenport	68. Jessica Ellano	115. Michel Hanach	162. Zenia Kutob
22. David Villalobos	69. Jessie Gueco	116. Michelle David	<p><b>*Please pledge through Auto Pay to take care of the Church:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Cover Monthly Expenses</b></li> <li><b>2. Budgeting</b></li> <li><b>3. Youth programs</b></li> <li><b>4. Maintenance</b></li> <li><b>5. New Construction</b></li> <li><b>6. Create Consistency</b></li> </ol> <p><b>"To Keep a Lamp burning we have to keep putting Oil in it "</b></p>  <p><b>Making a Difference !</b></p>
23. Delora Alonso	70. Joe Mawad M.D.	117. Michelle Medrano	
24. Dinora Membreno	71. John Hanach	118. Miguelina Bonifacio	
25. Dionicia G. Andrade	72. Jois J. Mendegorin	119. Mikko Eyeke	
26. Donald Schaefer	73. Josefina Snow	120. Mildred Urbiztondo	
27. Donna Triozzi	74. Joseph Abi-Nader	121. Mireille Sabbague	
28. Dr. Maria Regalado	75. Joseph Dagher	122. Nadim Abou Zeid	
29. E. Saade LTD	76. Joseph Miehllich	123. Nassar Massis	
30. Edward Benavente	77. Joseph Rahi	124. Natalie De Blasi	
31. Eleanore De La Cruz	78. Joseph Serhal	125. Nhowelyn Pabaira	
32. Elias Sarkis	79. Jude Nassar	126. Nicole Wellington	
33. Elizabeth Alvia	80. Juliette Hanache	127. Nona Bautista	
34. Ella Salabao-Tiu	81. Justine Garon-Puga	128. Pacita Bulala Sapico	
35. Elma & Efren Cara	82. Karen Feghali	129. Pacita Regaspi	
36. Emilia Barfoot	83. Karen Soto	130. Pascal Abi-Nader	
37. Erik David Gomez	84. Khalil Ziade	131. Patricia Snyder	
38. Estrellita Ventura	85. Kimberly Murga	132. Patrick Abinader	
39. Eufemia Catapang	86. Kozhaya Awad	133. Patrick Ziade	
40. Faris Massis	87. Kristine Kay Brigino	134. Paul Hanach	
41. Fouad Ziade	88. Lalaine Villahermosa	135. Pedro Lacap	
42. Frank Walton	89. Lea Karout	136. Ramesis Reyes	
43. Frederick Taala	90. Len Marc A. David	137. Rami Houchan	
44. Generose Mandapat	91. Lida Zabala	138. Rawad Bou Abdo	
45. Georges Tabet	92. Lilibeth Monteclar	139. Reena Lopez	
46. Geraldine Williams	93. Lilliane Hanache	140. Remedios Portugal	
47. Ghassan Dagher	94. Lydia Bernabe	141. Reynaldo Miravite	

**\*ONLY 162 PARISHIONERS ARE ON AUTO PAY OUT OF 1,200 REGISTERED**



Monthly Estimate Expense	Monthly Average
<b>1 - Utilities:</b>	
- Electricity:	\$ 1,600.00
- Gas:	\$ 200.00
- Trash:	\$ 500.00
- Sewage & Water	\$ 700.00
<b>2- Phone &amp; Internet Service</b>	\$ 300.00
<b>3 –Marketing &amp; Advertisement</b>	\$ 500.00
<b>4- Computer Network &amp; Camera Service</b>	\$ 700.00
<b>5- Total Employees Wages/Accounting /payroll taxes</b>	\$ 10,000.00
<b>6- Office/Church/Gift Shop Supplies</b>	\$ 500.00
<b>7- Insurance &amp; Medical</b>	\$ 3,000.00
<b>8- Security System</b>	\$ 200.00
<b>9- Auto Expenses (Insurance)</b>	\$ 500.00
<b>10- Postage &amp; Delivery</b>	\$ 100.00
<b>11- Printing &amp; Reproduction</b>	\$ 600.00
<b>12- Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	\$ 1,500.00
<b>13- Priest Retirement Fund (Diocese)</b>	\$ 1,000.00
<b>14-Visiting Priest Stipend</b>	\$ 700.00
<b>15- Charity/Needy</b>	\$ 1,700.00
<b>16- Bank charges for Checks &amp; Pledge Returned</b>	\$ 400.00
<b>17- Diocese Assessment</b>	\$ 1,500.00
<b>18- Church Travel &amp; Conference</b>	\$ 300.00
<b>19- Miscellaneous</b>	\$ 1,000.00
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>\$ 27,500.00</b>
<b><u>MONTHLY INCOME</u></b>	
<b>1- Monthly Collection</b>	\$ 12,000.00
<b>2-Pledges / Direct Deposit</b>	\$ 10,100.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 22,100.00</b>
<b>NET MONTHLY (\$27,500- \$22,100) =</b>	<b>(\$5,400.00)</b>



## ST. RAFQA: The Maronite Lebanese Nun, Patron of Sufferers & Incurable Cancer

Sister Rafqa (Rebecca) EI-Choboq EI Rayes, a Maronite Catholic Lebanese nun, was beatified as Blessed Rafqa in 1985 and canonized as Saint Rafqa on 10 June 2001, in both instances by His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

In 1885, at the age of 53, Sr Rafqa's wish and repeated prayers had finally been answered the desire to participate in the sufferings of Christ. She began to suffer numerous and extreme violent pains for the remaining 29 years of her life. She is a striking example for us of how suffering can be lived with joy but only through total submission to God. She is "The Little Flower of Lebanon" for hope and intercession to God for divine assistance. The miracles which are now recorded and verified by the Vatican are a testament to her help.

Saint Rafqa was born on 29 June 1832 in Himlaya, a Maronite village in the Lebanese mountains near Bikfaya. Her baptismal name was Boutrosiya (pronounced in Arabic as the feminine of Peter) having been born on the feast day of St Peter. She was an only child of her father Mrad EIRayes and her mother Rafqa Gemayel. Her mother died when she was 7 years old and her father later re-married. Civil war in the 1840's in Lebanon caused economic hardship. To help her father, Boutrosiya became a maid for three years in the home of Assad and Helena EI-Badaui, both in Baabda, Lebanon, and Damascus, Syria. According to the EI Badaui family she was a "model of purity". She was devoted to the Most Holy Virgin and prayed morning and night having learnt the devotion from the sweet heart of her maternal mother. On her 21st birthday she entered the convent of the Mariamite Sisters in Bikfaya. Shortly thereafter her father and stepmother attempted to take her back home but she refused. Her father never saw her again. After one year of postulancy, Boutrosiya became a novice on St Maroun's feast day, 9 February 1855. She pronounced her religious vows in 1856 in Ghazir. For 7 years she performed kitchen work during the day and studied Arabic, calligraphy and mathematics at night. For the next 11 years she taught schoolgirls in Deir-EI-Qamar, Jbeil (Byblos) and Ma'ad. During the time of the massacres of the Christians in the Chouf Mountains she saved a young boy by hiding him in her gown (habit) and later herself hid with other Sisters in a stable. Sr Boutrosiya was deeply affected by the massacres. In 1871 at the age of 39 she went to the monastery of St Simon in the village of Aitu near Ehden to become a cloistered nun rather than a teaching nun. It was at that time she adopted her name in religion as the name of her mother Rafqa.

At the age of 41 after 2 years' novitiate, Sr. Rafqa made her solemn vows in 1873 dedicating her remaining years on earth to a life of asceticism and contemplation. On the first Sunday of October in 1885 at the age of 53, on the feast of the Holy Rosary, Sr Rafqa made the following prayer to God: "Oh my God, why are you distant from me and have abandoned me?"

You don't visit me with sickness. Have you perhaps abandoned me?" She desired to share in the sufferings of Christ and His crucifixion. That same night she felt a violent pain to her head which spread to her eyes. No doctor could alleviate her sufferings. One American doctor removed her eye without anesthetic. She calmly said to the doctor: "I am in communion with the Passion of Christ. May God preserve your hands, Doctor. May God repay you." Enduring immense suffering, she became totally blind shortly thereafter.

In 1897, at the age of 65, Sr Rafqa and five other nuns transferred to a new convent of Mar Youssef of Jrapta (St Joseph) in the Batrun region. Her requests for suffering continued.

Gradually she lost weight and paralysis spread to her whole body with complete dysfunction to all joints. The whole time she never complained and thanked God for the pains and His holy will. In a 1981 medical report based on the evidence presented in the Canonical Process, three specialists diagnosed the most likely cause as tuberculosis with ocular localisation and multiple bony excrescences. This disease causes the most unbearable pain. Many of the details outlined above come from the fact that Sr. Rafqa under obedience to her superior Sr Doumit told her life story which she previously refused because she was so humble. After asking for absolution and the plenary indulgence, Sr. Rafqa died on 23 March 1914 at the age of 82. She suffered intolerable pain for 29 years. On one occasion Mother Superior asked Sr. Rafqa whether she wished she could see. Rafqa stated that she would like to have vision just for an hour to see Mother Superior. At that moment Rafqa saw, and because of her Superior's doubt Rafqa miraculously described in detail the items and colours in the room. On another occasion, on the feast of Corpus Christi, Sr. Rafqa, blind and paralysed, left the bed and dragged herself alone to the chapel to join the other nuns for the adoration, much to their disbelief. The same phenomenon happened over Sr. Rafqa's tomb as happened over that of St. Charbel immediately following his burial in 1898.

A number of persons from neighboring villages witnessed a splendid bright light coming from the tomb. Also, four days after Sr. Rafqa's death, Mother Superior, Sr. Doumit, was instantly cured of a large cyst in her throat which for 8 years had even made it difficult for her to drink any fluid. While asleep Mother Superior heard a knock on the door and a voice say, "Take dirt from the grave of Sr. Rafqa and put it on your throat."



The next morning Sr. Doumit proceeded to the grave of Sr. Rafqa and took a handful of dirt, mixed it with water and placed it on the cyst. She then felt her throat and instantly found no trace of the cyst. Since then numerous persons who have eaten the dirt from around her grave have been miraculously cured. Between 1926 and 1952, the number of miracles and graces obtained through the intercession of Rafqa numbered 2,689, and are recorded in detail with medical evidence in six volumes kept at the convent in Jrapta. Sr. Rafqa's beatification took place in 1985, and her canonization in Rome by the Holy Father John Paul II in 2001. The feast day of St. Rafqa is celebrated on 23 March. On this day especially every year the Maronite Catholic Church honors her and seeks her intercession in our lives.

**Born: 29 June 1832 at Himlaya, Lebanon as Boutrossieh Ar-Rayes**

**Died: 23 March 1914 at the Convent of Saint Joseph, Grabta, Lebanon of natural causes**

**Venerated: 11 February 1982 by Pope John Paul II**

**Beatified: 17 November 1985 by Pope John Paul II**

**Canonized: 10 June 2001 by Pope John Paul II**

**Feast Day: March 23**

**Visit [www.strafqa.org](http://www.strafqa.org)**



## 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



## WEEKLY COLLECTION

### Weekly Collections February 25 & 26

*Mass Collection	\$3,924	
*General	<u>\$2,921</u>	
	\$6,845	
*Weekly Expense	\$8,750	
Short	<u>-\$1,905</u>	
*Building Fund	\$820	
*St. Sharbel Helping Hand	\$385	
*Lenten Appeal (2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection)	\$1,348	



What is perfection in love?





**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 5 de Marzo 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 702-616-6902



*Ruega por nosotros*

**EL EXTRAORDINARIO CASO DE SAN CHARBEL MAKHLOUF**

El libanés San Charbel Makhlouf fue enterrado sin ataúd, como está recomendado en la regla de su orden religiosa, la Orden Maronita Libanesa. (Monasterio de San Marón, Annaya, Líbano). En vida se le atribuía el poder de detener plagas y epidemias. Su cuerpo fue encontrado flotando en barro dentro de una tumba inundada, durante la exhumación llevada a cabo cuatro meses después de su muerte, tiempo suficiente como para permitir al menos una destrucción parcial. Después se le enterró en un nicho y, 23 años después, un religioso descubrió que el muro rezumaba una serosidad sanguinolenta. Desenterrado de nuevo, se comprobó que el cadáver continuaba intacto. Su cuerpo, que se ha preservado perfectamente como cuando estaba vivo, y flexible por más de setenta años, emite constantemente un bálsamo perfumado que ha sido reconocido como verdaderamente prodigioso.

El informe médico de 1952 dice:

"La delegación médica y científica no puede dejar de constatar la evidencia de los hechos, su carácter excepcional y la ausencia de toda intervención humana".

Se le volvió a dar sepultura y cuando fue inhumado de nuevo, se vio que el cadáver conservaba su flexibilidad, flotaba en la extraña serosidad y hasta conservaba su cerebro. La esposa de uno de los médicos resultó curada de un cáncer y otra persona de una epilepsia. Tal vez la manifestación más impresionante ocurrió en la misma tumba de San Charbel Makhlouf:

Una luz que brilló fuertemente por cuarenta y cinco noches sobre la misma, fue presenciada por muchos pueblerinos y no desapareció hasta que se produjo la exhumación de su cuerpo, destapándose así los fenómenos antes mencionados y que todavía hoy pueden observarse.



***El cuerpo incorruptible de San Charbel en Annaya, Líbano, donde todavía está dejando nuestro aceite, el agua y la sangre en su tumba hecha del árbol de cedro en el Líbano.***





# Filipino News



## THE VATICAN DECLARES FILIPINO TEEN 'SERVANT OF GOD.' HE MAY BECOME A CATHOLIC SAINT

In the Philippines, we have two Filipino saints — Saint Lorenzo Ruiz and Saint Pedro Calungsod. And we may soon have a third saint in our lifetime as **Darwin Ramos**, a Filipino teenager, was recently declared a “Servant of God” by the Vatican.

Cardinal **Angelo Becciu**, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, made the declaration in Rome last March 29, 2019.

The pronouncement now allows the local diocese of Cubao to start the beatification and canonization process, according to the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

“The Vatican has given us the go signal to go deeper [into] his life. How he lived his faith and how he gave witness to Jesus to whom he was very close,” said **Bishop Honesto Ongtiengco** of Cubao in a statement on the *CBCP News* website.

The road to sainthood begins with church officials examining whether a candidate lived a devout Catholic life. Once he is found to be holy, the person will be beatified upon verification of a miracle attributed to that person, *CNN Philippines* reports. Then, the person will be canonized as a saint after a second miracle is verified.

### Who is Darwin Ramos?

Darwin Ramos was born on December 17, 1994, in Pasay City. He lived with his family in the slums and worked as a scavenger with his younger sister to help their family survive. He spent his days going through garbage and recovering plastic waste they could sell.

Soon afterward, initial symptoms of his Duchenne muscular dystrophy appeared. The boy could no longer stand and his muscles weakened. His father would leave Darwin every morning at Libertad station so he could beg for change from passers-by.

In 2006, Darwin discovered the Catholic faith after meeting a group of street educators from the Anak-Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation. He entered one of the centers run by the foundation and decided to help street children like him. On December 23, 2006, Darwin was baptized, and on December 22, 2007, the boy received the First Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. But his illness progressed rapidly, and his body deteriorated.



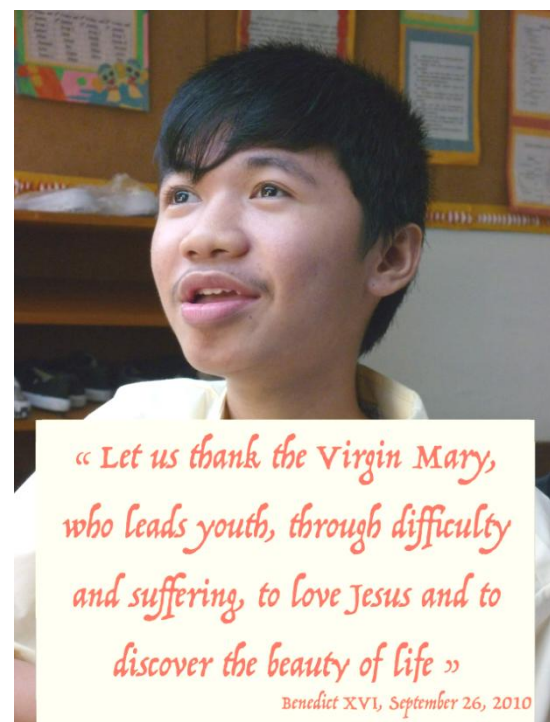
On the Facebook group, Darwin Ramos: Cause of Canonization, Darwin is described as someone who would uplift the staff and the children at the foundation. The words he repeated often were: “Thank you,” and “I love you.”

He is said to have developed a deep and personal relationship with Christ, and never let a day pass without entrusting himself to Jesus. “He never complained and always smiled even during difficult times,” according to the Facebook page. “When he was speaking of his illness, he did not talk about his myopathy but [he called it] his ‘mission.’”

On September 16, 2012, Darwin’s condition worsened suddenly. He was brought to the hospital where he eventually succumbed to his illness. Before he died, however, it was said that he thanked those who had cared for him and “expressed his joy in the hope of soon meeting the Lord.” He passed away on September 23, 2012, at the age of 17.

“Darwin is an example of holiness,” said Bishop Ongtioco.

“Being a street child, afflicted with myopathy, he is closely united with Christ in his suffering and joy.”



**WEEKEND**

**Saturday 4:30 pm**  
**Mar 4**

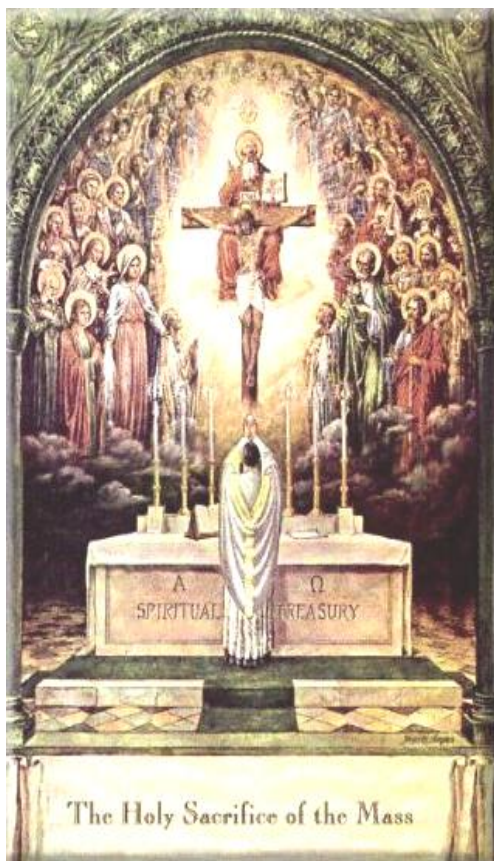
+Alberto Isaguirre

**Sunday 9:30 am**  
**Mar 5**

\*Delores Clinton  
+Julie Rubic

**Sunday 11:30 am**  
Faithful Departed

**Sunday Spanish Mass**  
**4:30 pm**  
+Nelson Campos

***HOLY MASS INTENTIONS***

*Pray for  
Healing of the Sick*

**DAILY 8AM**

**MONDAY Mar 6**

Corazon Leano (40 days)

**TUESDAY Mar 7**

Healing to the Sick

**WEDNESDAY Mar 8**

Government Leaders

**THURSDAY Mar 9**

Doctors & Nurses

**FRIDAY Mar 10**

Unborn Babies

**COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1. TUESDAY:** 6:00 P.M. Rosary in the Chapel followed by Anointing of the sick.
- 2. SECOND COLLECTION:** Lenten Appeal Collection for God's Poor. God Bless you for your generosity. (Throughout LENT)
- 3. GOD OUR FATHER DEVOTION:** Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 Mass.
- 4. MONTHLY SPANISH MASS:** Sunday, March 5 at 4:30 PM Rosary & Mass.
- 5. MONTHLY TAGALOG MASS:** Next Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM and Rosary at 4.30 PM.
- 6. SPONSORSHIP** We are praying for sponsors who will help us with our new project which is the parking lot across from the Church. This will provide additional parking and a secure area for your vehicle. Estimate proposal:
  - \$75,000 for Asphalt (millings)
  - \$25,000 fencing