



# Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

## 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

September 2023

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**Pastor: Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid**

#### Our Services

**DAILY:** Monday–Friday 8:00 AM English

**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 @ 5 pm** Rosary & Bible

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

Is your love extravagant or miserly? No one who met Jesus could do so with indifference. They were either attracted to him or repelled by him. Why did a rabbi invite him to a nice dinner and then treat him discourteously by neglecting to give him the customary signs of respect and honor? Simon was very likely a collector of celebrities. He patronized Jesus because of his popularity with the crowds. Why did he criticize Jesus' compassionate treatment of a "bad woman" -- most likely a prostitute? The Pharisees shunned the company of "public sinners" and in so doing they neglected to give them the help they needed to find healing and wholeness. Why did Mary approach Jesus and anoint him at the risk of ridicule and abuse by others? Mary's action was motivated by one thing, and one thing only, namely, her love for Jesus and her gratitude for forgiveness. She did something, however, a Jewish woman would never do in public. She lost her hair and anointed Jesus with her tears. It was customary for a woman on her wedding day to bound her hair. For a married woman to loosen her hair in public was a sign of grave immodesty. Mary was oblivious to all around her, except for Jesus. She also did something which only love can do. She took the most precious thing she had and spent it all on Jesus. Her love was not calculated but extravagant. In a spirit of humility and heart-felt repentance, she lavishly served the one who showed her the mercy and kindness of God. Jesus, in his customary fashion, never lost the opportunity to draw a lesson from such an incident.



Why did he put the parable of the two debtors before his "learned host", a rabbi and teacher of the people? This parable is similar to the parable of the unforgiving official (see Matthew 18:23-35) in which the man who was forgiven much showed himself merciless and unforgiving. This man was completely callous because he could neither believe in love, accept it or give it. Who is to be pitied most? Those who cannot receive love or those who cannot give love? Jesus makes it clear that great love springs from a heart forgiven and cleansed. "Love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8), "for love is of God" (1 John 4:7). The woman's lavish expression of love was proof that she had found favor with God. The stark contrast of attitudes between Simon and the woman of ill-repute, demonstrate how we can either accept or reject God's mercy. Simon, who regarded himself as an upright Pharisee, felt no need for love or mercy. His self-sufficiency kept him from acknowledging his need for God's grace. Are you grateful for God's mercy and grace?

### **READINGS:**

**Micah 7:7-9, 18-20**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**



**GOSPEL:**

**Luke 7:36-50**

10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD.

LAS VEGAS NV 89183

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



## OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION URGES YOU TO CARE FOR THE POOR

Pope Francis received participants in a pilgrimage promoted by the Sisters Disciples of Jesus in the Eucharist, and encouraged them to let their love of the Eucharistic Lord inspire care for “the poorest, the most despised, and the most marginalized members of the Body of Christ.”

Pope Francis encouraged the Sisters Disciples of Jesus in the Eucharist to be “*vasa Domini*, ‘welcoming chalices’, kneeling before the Tabernacle and with your arms always open wide to your brothers and sisters,” as he received them in audience at the Vatican.

The Sisters Disciples had undertaken the pilgrimage on the occasion of the centenary of their founding, in October 1923, by Venerable Bishop Raffaello Delle Nocche and two young women, Linda Machina and Silvia Di Somma.

### **Poor servants of a poor people**

Recalling the foundation of the group, Pope Francis said, “The Holy Spirit inspired their action through the concrete and pressing call of a local Church: that of Tricarico, in the heart of Lucania,” which had suffered for long years without a pastor and in 1923 still bore the scars of the First World War and the outbreak of the so-called “Spanish” flu.

Without male or female religious in his diocese, Bishop Delle Nocche, with the approval of the reigning Pope, founded an institute “that could help him in his service to the least.”

“Thus, were born the Sisters Disciples of Jesus in the Eucharist,” Pope Francis said, “poor servants of poor people, supportive in sharing their labors and prophetic in promoting their human and religious redemption.”

### **Love, unity, and charity**

The Pope noted that the Eucharist – “the sacrament of love, sign of unity, and bond of charity”, as Vatican II says – was at the heart of their lives: “Love, unity, and charity; to adore, serve and repair, that is, to fill with tenderness the wounds and voids produced by sin in man and society, beginning by kneeling before Jesus in the Consecrated Host, and remaining there for a long time.”

By the world's standards, spending time in Eucharistic adoration when there are so many pressing needs might seem absurd; however, the Pope noted, the Sisters' time in prayer “generated a contagious force, which soon led them to undertake and promote works of material, cultural, and spiritual redemption far beyond all expectations.” Pope Francis explained that the Sisters “unleashed a different kind of ‘war’, a war against poverty, against injustice; and spread a different kind of epidemic, an epidemic of love.”



**Pope Francis greets participants in the pilgrimage organized by the Sisters Disciples of Jesus in the Eucharist**

### **‘Welcoming chalices’**

The Holy Father then called on the pilgrims, the “witnesses and heirs, but also the continuators” of the original Sisters, saying that, “starting from pausing in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist – the Bread broken and the Master Who washes the disciples’ feet, you also learn to look upon your brothers and sisters through the magnifying glass of the consecrated Host.” The Eucharist, he said, “urges you to care... especially for the poorest, most despised, and most marginalized members of the Body of Christ.”

And recalling their founder’s call for the Sisters Disciples to be *vasa Domini* “vessels of the Lord”, Pope Francis concluded, “This, seems to me to be a beautiful image of your mission: to strip yourselves of self, to have ‘your purse always empty, as your founder often repeated, in order to be open and spacious ‘vessels,’ ready to welcome everyone and to carry everyone in your hearts before God, so that each, in turn, can make a gift of his or her life.”



**“In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life.”**

Pope Francis “*Laudato si*” (24 May 2015)

## SYRIAN CHURCH HAS LOST ITS 'ABUNDANCE OF VOCATIONS' DUE TO CIVIL WAR

The Maronite Archeparchy of Damascus, Samir Nassar, laments that family and vocations, two pillars that support the life of Syria's Christians, are now lost, as the Church in war-torn Syria has gone from "an abundance of vocations" to only 37 seminarians in formation.

Archeparchy, Samir Nassar reckons that Syrian Christians have lost two important assets, their families and vocations in the Church. This is a result of the country's 12-year civil war and the economic crisis that has resulted.

Over the years, the situation of Christians in the Middle East has been a major concern in the Church, as Christians are often treated as a minority.

### Remembering Fr. Paolo Dall'Oglio

On 29 July 2023, the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, celebrated Mass at the Church of Saint Ignatius of Loyola in Rome on the tenth anniversary of the disappearance of Fr. Paolo Dall'Oglio.

Fr. Paolo was an Italian Jesuit priest who founded the Monastic Community of *Al-Khalil* in Syria to encourage hospitality, ecumenism and dialogue with Islam.

Since July 2013, there has been no news of his whereabouts after he was allegedly abducted.

In his homily, Cardinal Parolin emphasized that Christians in Syria, as in Palestine, Lebanon, Israel, Iraq and other nations, "are citizens to whom all freedoms must be guaranteed."

"The Christian communities in the Middle East are part of those peoples in their own right, and have always contributed to their cultural, economic and political development with dedication and competence," he said.

### Reality on the ground

After over 12 years of civil war in Syria, Archeparchy Nassar notes that in the past the Church in Syria "depended on a united and close-knit family, and on the abundance of vocations." However, the war has weakened family bonds and led to a decrease in seminarians.

"It is rare nowadays to find an entire family," he told Asia News.



**A child lights a candle at a church in Syria**

"Twelve years of war have delocalized the family: the father is either exiled or emigrated. The mother is sick or depressed, the children are abroad, each one in a different country. Even grandparents, once honored at home, are now isolated and die in silence."

From 120 in 2019, today only 37 seminarians are left in formation. "The massive flight from mandatory military service is reflected in the lack of young men; a situation which decreases marriages and births," the Archeparchy says.

"Therefore, a demographic weakening, empty houses, and Churches thirsty for its faithful, the family, a strong pillar of faith is a shaken asset," the Maronite Archeparchy concludes.

### Prayers of hope

Christians in Syria often visit the Shrine of the Martyrs dedicated to eleven Franciscan missionaries and three lay Maronites killed by Druze who were beatified by Pope Pius XI in 1926. The Church in Syria pays homage to the martyrs of 1860 in Damascus and to many who endured martyrdom during the heavy crisis that has torn Syria apart since 2011.

Silent prayers filled with tears find refuge in the ultimate meaning of Christian witness are a representation of hope.

For Christians in the Syrian capital, praying at the Shrine of the Martyrs is their Wall of Lamentation, "to meditate on the meaning of sacrifice and self-giving".



## *Catholic Teaching on Abortion*

From time to time, we hear it suggested, even at times by Catholic politicians and academics, that Catholic teaching on abortion is unclear.

Yet in its earliest teachings and down through the centuries to modern times, the Church has consistently and unequivocally condemned abortion as a grave moral and social wrong. The Church argues its position on clear philosophical grounds, rather than any special revelation private to Catholics.

From a high view of the human person-shared by people from many philosophical, religious and humanistic traditions-comes the basic principle that every human being must be respected as a person and accorded rights and dignity equal to all other persons. A long list of basic human rights has thus been enunciated and codified in United Nations conventions and other places-of which the most basic right, upon which the others depend, is the right to life. The direct taking of innocent human life is therefore almost universally deplored. Thus, Catholics join others in resisting disrespect for and threats to human life in many situations: violent crime, murder, child abuse, embryo experimentation, abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, genocide, killing of non-combatants in war, starvation etc..

Abortion is a case of direct killing of an innocent human being - a violation of the rights of the youngest members of our society and the human family. It is, thus not just a matter of personal choice, religious opinion or women's rights, but a basic human rights and social justice issue. All human beings are called to respect (and, if they are in a position to do so, protect and nurture) human life at all stages, and to ensure a society where crimes of violence are as far as possible prevented. Thus, the Vatican Charter on the Rights of the Family (1983, #4) declares:

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. Abortion is a direct violation of the fundamental right to life of the human being."

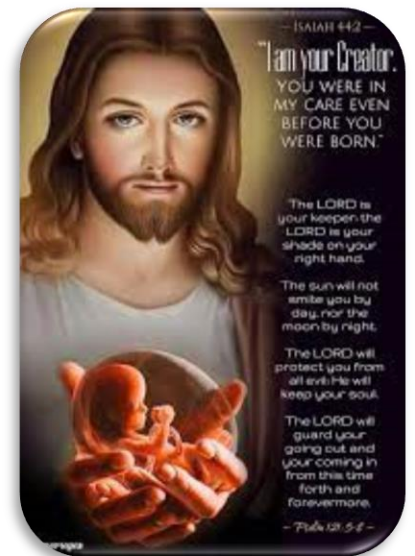
In taking this position the Church is not proposing an eccentricity. Even entirely secular government committees have soundly concluded:


"The embryo is a genetically new human life organized as a distinct entity oriented towards further development as a biologically individuated member of the human species... It commands such a degree of respect as to prohibit destructive non-therapeutic experimentation." - Australian Senate Committee on Human Embryo Experimentation (1986)

"From a biological point of view, there is no argument as to when life begins. Evidence was given to us by eminent scientists from all over the world. None of them suggested that human life begins at any time other than conception." - New Zealand Royal Commission on Abortion etc. (1974)

What should be recognized, therefore, is that 'pro-lifers' including Catholics are concerned about the abuse of the youngest members of the human family'.(1) They are not seeking to impose some personal religious opinion on the rest of the population any more than those who oppose other forms of violence and discrimination, such as rape or the killing of aborigines (Native Australians).(2)

Some object that the Church has changed its position on abortion over the centuries. It is true that there have long been disputes among philosophers and theologians over the status of the early human being. Parallel traditions developed, some arguing that the human being has a 'human soul' (rational and immortal life- principle) and 'personhood' from conception, others arguing for a later date ('delayed hominization'). Penalties attaching to abortion varied from time to time and from place to place. But right from the beginning the Church insisted that abortion was gravely wrong, whether or not it was actual homicide (the direct killing of a human person), recklessly risking homicide (directly killing what might well be a human person), or intentionally killing an already human person-to-be.(3) Even those who argued for delayed hominization did not use the time of ensoulment as a moral dividing line between permissible and immoral abortions.(4)





**EACH ONE  
MUST GIVE  
AS HE HAS  
DECIDED IN HIS  
HEART, NOT  
RELUCTANTLY  
OR UNDER  
COMPULSION,  
FOR GOD  
LOVES A  
CHEERFUL GIVER.**

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

PHOTO BY LUKAS FROM PEXELS

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## **WEEKLY COLLECTION** **August 26 & 27**

*Mass Collection	\$4,679
*General	\$1,172
	<b>\$5,851</b>

*Weekly Expense	\$8,750
<b>Negative</b>	<b>- \$2,899</b>

*Building Fund	\$ 675
*Helping Hands	\$397

**\*The weekly shortfalls are covered by the monthly Auto Pay. Its consistent and guarantees to keep us going. To avoid shortfall please give through Auto Pay.\***

**Does the Catholic Church require tithing?**

**NO**, the Catholic Church does not require tithing.

Tithing was an Old Testament obligation that was incumbent on the Jews under the Law of Moses. Christians are dispensed from the obligation of tithing ten percent of their incomes, but not from the obligation to help the Church.

The Catholic Church teaches that offering some form of material support to the Church is obligatory for all Catholic adults who are able to do so. However, it does not specify what percent of one's income should be given.

The key to understanding how God wants us to give to the Church is found in the Bible:

"On the first day of the week [Sunday] each of you should set aside whatever he can afford" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

"So, I thought it necessary to encourage the brothers to go to you ahead of time and arrange in advance for your promised gift [donation], so that in this way it might be ready as a bountiful gift and not as an exaction" (2 Corinthians 9:5).

These passages make it clear that God wants us to give to the Church freely and cheerfully, according to what we can afford. He does not want us to be forced or coerced into

## **TITHING?**

If people are forced by their church to give a certain percent of their income, that's extortion. If they give freely and cheerfully the amount, they are able, that's a gift.

So, how much should you give to the Church? That's up to you. But remember, God doesn't demand a fixed amount of money from us; he wants us to give from the heart.

What are some ways to give to the Church?

There are many ways to give to the Church. You can:

1. Give money in the collection basket during Mass.
2. Set up a recurring donation through your bank or credit union.
3. Volunteer your time and talents to the Church.

No matter how you choose to give, your gift will be used to support the mission of the Church: to preach the Gospel, to teach the faith, and to serve the poor and needy.

God loves cheerful giver

Thank you for your generosity!





# Thank You!



## Our Festival 2023 Expense SPONSORS \* Making a Difference (Tax Deductible)

	Food	Price	Sponsor Names	Donated	Remaining
1	Kibbi Meat	\$ 500	Wadih Hanache & Family	\$ 500	\$ -
2	Ground Beef	\$ 1,000	Christine Baljian	\$ 1,000	\$ -
3	Chicken Kabob	\$ 4,000	John & Yoko Hanash/Anonymous	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,500
4	Whole Chicken	\$ 1,000	Fanny Catapang & Mitch Nimitz	\$ 1,000	\$ -
5	Shawarma Chicken	\$ 3,000	Dima Howard & Hanan Kabban	\$ 3,000	\$ -
6	Pita Bread	\$ 1,000	Allan & Mary Brazier	\$ 1,000	\$ -
7	Sage Bread	\$ 1,000			
8	Grape Leaves	\$ 600	Yergat Packing Company	\$ 600	\$ -
9	Falafel	\$ 400	Tarazzi		
10	Tahini	\$ 500	Tarazzi		
11	Pizza Dough	\$ 600	Gregory Hagopian	\$ 600	\$ -
12	Herbs	\$ 500	Anonymous/Pacific West Injury	\$ 500	\$ -
13	Burgul	\$ 200	Vee Alvarez	\$ 200	\$ -
14	Rice	\$ 400	Vee Alvarez	\$ 400	\$ -
15	Pickles	\$ 300	Celuta Elder	\$ 200	\$ 100
16	Tomatoes	\$ 400			
17	Parsley	\$ 300	Trudy & Robert Fleming	\$ 300	\$ -
18	Onion	\$ 200	Marilyn Canilao	\$ 200	\$ -
19	Garlic	\$ 200	Louis & Paulette Borelli	\$ 200	\$ -
20	Lettuce	\$ 500			
21	Mozzarella Cheese	\$ 500	Yousef Taouk	\$ 500	\$ -
22	Labne (Yogurt)	\$ 500	Jim Tomey	\$ 500	\$ -
23	Zaatar	\$ 400			
24	Olive Oil	\$ 600	Samih Alhawyek	\$ 200	\$ 400
25	Frying Oil	\$ 800			
26	Lemon	\$ 200	Sara Segura	\$ 200	\$ -
27	Chicken Nuggets & Fries	\$ 800			
28	Baklava Dough	\$ 500	Gudelia Villanueva	\$ 500	\$ -
29	Walnuts	\$ 500			
30	Pistachio	\$ 600			
31	Dates	\$ 300	Black Nazarene Group	\$ 300	\$ -
32	Sugar	\$ 400			
33	Unsalted Butter	\$ 400			
34	Rose & Orange water	\$ 400			
35	Semolina	\$ 400			
36	Water / Soda	\$ 1,000	Tony & Najah Hanach	\$ 500	\$ 500
37	Wine & Beer	\$ 3,000	Taymour Chamoun	\$ 3,000	\$ -
38	Knefe	\$ 3,000	Ziade Family	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
39	Ice Cream & Freezer	\$ 1,000			
40	Entertainment	\$ 7,000			
41	Sound System	\$ 8,000			
42	Tents & Generators	\$ 10,000			
43	Chairs & Tables	\$ 6,000			
44	Permits	\$ 1,000	Nassar Massi (Wash & Shop)	\$ 1,000	\$ -
45	Light Towers	\$ 4,000			
46	Kitchen Equipment rental	\$ 2,000	Ghassan & Marcelle Dagher	\$ 2,000	\$ -
47	Marketing	\$ 5,000			
48	Security	\$ 5,000			
49	Trash container	\$ 500			
50	Propane Gas	\$ 500			
	Total Expenses	\$ 80,900		Total donated \$ 20,500	





Cedar of  
the Lord (Ps 4:16)



**Beneficiary**

**The Poor  
&**

**United  
Blood  
Services**

**2023**



**Friday October 6**

**4 pm – 11 pm**

**Saturday October 7**

**2 pm – 11 pm**

**Sunday October 8**

**1 pm – 8 pm**

**\*Live entertainment**   **\*Delicious Food & Vegan**  
**\*Drinks**   **\*Raffle**   **\*Kids Zone**   **\*Convenient Parking**



**Singer  
Doris Ferhat  
Fri. & Sat.**



**Singer  
Bassel Eid  
Sat. & Sun.**

✓ **Admission & Parking**

**\$8 Donation**

- ✓ **Free Children under 10**
- ✓ **Free active Military & Police**



**[www.lebaneseamericanfestival.com](http://www.lebaneseamericanfestival.com)**

Hosted & Held @  
St. Sharbel Church  
10325 Rancho Destino Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89183  
Phone # 702-616-6902



## Eucharistic Adoration



- Do you want 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 **7 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

If you need to report child  
or vulnerable adult sexual abuse by a Cleric (Priest  
or Deacon), Member of a Religious Congregation,  
Lay Employee or Volunteer in the Eparchy of Our  
Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles contact

**Dr. Laura Kahwaji**  
**Victim Assistant Coordinator**  
(323) 428-6815





**Is this the miracle of St Charbel's? The amazing footage Sydney parishioners say shows the Virgin Mary's lips MOVING in a painting as they say the Hail Mary**

Some parishioners at Saint Charbel's Church in Sydney believe they witness a miracle when they prayed inside the church.

Two young Catholics, who regularly attend mass at the church in Punchbowl, in Sydney's south-west, have filmed a painting of the Virgin Mary carrying Jesus where it appears Mary is praying with them.

The two videos show a close-up image of an old Middle Eastern Catholic painting that appears to show the Virgin Mary's lips moving while the worshipers are praying. The painting hangs above the church altar and both recordings show Mary's lips moving in sync with the prayers. Young Catholic, Kristen Keirouz was the first to upload footage of the painting to her Facebook page on July 5th.

Kristen said she was at church with two of her friends when one of them nudged her and told her to 'to look at the painting'. 'Once I looked up, I had no idea what they wanted me to look at and I saw her [the Virgin Mary] mouth moving. I then asked my friend; "Is it her mouth?" She replied "yes." and then I got the shivers throughout my whole body. I couldn't believe my eyes, I kept blinking in case I was seeing things.'

Since Kristen uploaded the footage on to her Facebook account on July 5th, more than 41,000 people have viewed it.

But the recording has viewers divided. Believers have described the footage as a 'miracle', while sceptics claim on social media that it's the camera movement and the church lighting which are making Mary's lips appear to move.

However, Kristen disagrees.

'I believe it was a miracle, and not just lighting because we all saw it at the same time and because her lips would start moving and then stop and start again,' she said.

After watching Kristen's recording, George Akary who is also a member of the same parish, remembered he too had seen the Virgin Mary's lips move while parishioners were praying and he also decided to film it. 'This is something I had seen a few times,' said George. 'This time I recorded it.'

George recorded the footage on Sunday July 19th during mass and uploaded it to Facebook.

'To clarify for the viewers... I saw this during mass and at the end of mass the rosary is prayed. I went to the altar and wanted to confirm via recording it (sic). Lights are not relevant,' he wrote in the Facebook post that accompanied the video. George Akary told Daily Mail Australia that he usually stares at the photos on the wall when praying at church and has seen this happen before: 'I never thought to record it until I saw a clip a few weeks ago. These signs are to bring people to know God is really with us,' he said.

Saint Charbel's parish consists of over 40,000 Australian Maronite Catholic members and it has one of the highest rates of youth church attendance in Australia.

Father Superior Joseph Sleiman from Saint Charbel's Church told Daily Mail Australia that he does not consider this to be a miracle but rather an optical illusion 'I do not consider this to be a miracle, but I still encourage personal reflection and spirituality.'



- **Catholics at a church in Sydney believe they have witnessed a miracle**
- **Two parishioners have recorded footage of a painting of the Virgin Mary**
  - **The footage appears to depict Mary's lips moving in sync with prayer**
- **Skeptics believe it is flickering lights that make footage appear this way**
  - **Together the recordings have reached over 50,000 viewers on social media**

Check the video at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZ7VCy7OfiY>

**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 3 de Septiembre 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*

**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 al los Estados Unidos, se dirigió al Medico y descubrió que esté totalmente curada. Después se trasladó a Suiza, pero vino al Líbano para visitar al tumbo 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.*





# Filipino News



## CHURCH MOVE FOR SAINTHOOD OF FILIPINO TEEN HAILED

13-year-old Niña Ruiz-Abad was known for her strong devotion to the Eucharist and Virgin Mary before her death in 1993

Filipino Catholics have welcomed a church move for sainthood of a 13-year-old girl three decades after her death from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, an incurable heart disease.

The Diocese of Laoag in northern Philippines has recently issued an edict inviting testimonies from people to proceed with the cause of canonization of Niña Ruiz-Abad for her piety and devotion to Mary.

The edict was in response to a petition from the "God First Association," which called for the opening of Abad's cause for sainthood, CBCP News of the national bishops' conference reported on Aug. 21.

Abad spent half of her life in Laoag before her death in 1993 and was buried there.

Laoag Bishop Renato Mayugba who issued the edict on Aug. 16 said that the diocese has already received testimonies from Abad's classmates and teachers.

"I gained interest in Niña's life when I heard testimony about her holiness not only from his relatives and friends but also from her former parish priests. I also read a book about her entitled GOD FIRST," Laoag Bishop Renato Mayugba told UCA News.

Mayugba said it is time for the Catholic-majority country to have a modern-day saint who is not a clergyman nor a member of a religious congregation.

"When we think of sainthood, we think that it is only for priests, bishops, or sisters... but no, Niña taught us that holiness is a calling for all, especially to the youth. We are called to be saints," Mayugba said.

The process of sainthood normally begins where the candidate dies but Mayugba said he requested for the authority from the Diocese of Novaliches in Quezon City to conduct the investigation. Abad died in Quezon City.

Local Catholics as well as her former teachers and classmates have welcomed the push for her sainthood.

"I still remember when she was in her elementary grade here in Laoag. She always told me 'God first.' Before every examination or recitation, she would always pray. Before anything that she does, she will always pray first," teacher Eliza Samson, told UCA News.

Samson remembered she carried a folder full of novenas and religious icons in class.

"She distributed them [religious icons] to her teachers and classmates. She would give rosaries and stickers of gospel verses to her classmates... proof of her deep devotion to God and to Mama Mary," Samson added. Abad's lawyer-parents moved to Manila from Ilocos province in 1993 where she died in the same year. She was diagnosed with the heart disease at the age of 10.

"We all knew she was suffering from a disease, but she never showed it. She lived a life of prayer and peace," Belen Sulit, her teacher at Holy Spirit School in Quezon City, told UCA News.

Sulit said Abad was a bright yet humble student.

"I was her Filipino teacher. She got good perfect grades in my exams and recitations. She was well-loved by many, especially her classmates. She was intelligent but very unassuming," Sulit added.

Her classmates also recalled how she encouraged them to pray in the chapel and attend Mass.

"She was sick, but she was always friendly to us. Because of her, everyone was reminded to pray before class, even before playing at the field we were reminded – God first," said Bianca Manlapaz, a former classmate.

Her friend Maria Lagud also recalled her prayerfulness.

"If she's not in the classroom or playing field, she's inside the chapel. She used to wear a rosary around her neck. She was not ashamed for people to see it. It was a testament to her relationship with the Blessed Mother," Lagud told UCA news.

In an earlier statement, CBCP said that the Diocese of Laoag will present the gathered information to the Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

After a successful verification, the Vatican will issue the "Decree of Validity" in order to authorize the writing of a "Positio" or the official report to the dicastery.

Catholic Church follows a three-tier sainthood process. A candidate is first declared "Servant of God" marking the official beginning of the canonization procedures.

Then the candidate is declared "Venerable," "Blessed" and then "Saint" by the pope.

If not a martyr, two miracles through the intercession of the candidate are required for sainthood.

The Philippines has produced two saints -- St. Lorenzo Ruiz and St. Pedro Calungsod, who were canonized in 1987 and 2012 respectively.



**Catholic Church in the Philippines is pushing for sainthood of 13-year-old Niña Ruiz-Abad who died in 1993 for her piety and strong devotion to the Eucharist and Mother Mary.**

## HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

### WEEKEND

**Saturday 4:30 pm Sept 2**

Healing-Paul Sarabia

**Sunday 9:30 am Sept 3**

+Ramon Manab

Healing-Paul Sarabia

**Sunday 11:30 am**

+Richard Chamoun

+Gilbert Hanach

**Sunday Spanish Mass**

**4:30 pm**

Para perdonar los pecados



*The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass...  
The Heart of the Church*

**DAILY 8AM**

**MONDAY Sept 4**

Healing-Paul Sarabia

**TUESDAY Sept 5**

Healing of the Sick

**WEDNESDAY Sept 6**

Faithful Departed

**THURSDAY Sept 7**

Unborn Babies

**FRIDAY Sept 8**

Thanksgiving to the Birth of  
our Blessed Mother

+David Veloria Jr.

## COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1. TUESDAY:** 5:00 P.M. Praise and worship followed by Rosary in the Chapel.

**2. SECOND COLLECTION** will be held next week for Catholic University. Please be generous.

**3. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** will begin next Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 8 AM.

**4. PARENTS:** You must purchase our First Holy Communion Maronite Catechism for Pre-K and First Grade level so that the students are prepared for Catechism class next year to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Book price - \$25.

**5. SPONSOR A FOOD ITEM FOR THE FESTIVAL** – Please pick up a copy of the list of items in the main church. This will help reduce our expenses.

**6. FESTIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS** are available at the Gift Shop - \$100 each and only 300 printed. Grand prize is \$2000 and total prizes \$10,000. Only 35 tickets left.

**7. PLEASE DONATE CASES OF SODA (CANS ONLY)** for our Annual Festival.