

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Cathedral

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November—December 2012 Newsletter

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Dear Parishioners and Friends:

On October 11, 2012, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, promulgated a “Year of Faith” in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. The Universal Church is refereeing to this as the “New Evangelization.” What is the “New Evangelization?”

As people living in the modern world we are faced with many obstacles. These obstacles are very popular in nature. They are also very attractive. They come in the form of art, philosophy, ideology and the like. They are so camouflaged that we do not even recognize their influence on us. We think that they are intrinsically good. Both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI knew very well, humankind is in dire need of a definitive affirmation that it is good that the human person—and the world as a whole—exists. We need to know that human dignity is rooted in something unshakeable, that each and every human being is loved eternally and is called to love. Both of the Holy Fathers experienced in their own lives, growing up in Nazi Germany and Communist Poland; what happens to the human person when the sense of God is obscured. This is why Pope Benedict, when he became Pope, would say, “If ever man’s sense of being accepted and loved by God is lost, then there is no longer any answer to the question whether to be a human being is good at all...Where doubt over God becomes prevalent, then doubt over humanity follows inevitably.” Address of Pope Benedict to the Roman Curia—December 22, 2011

Why do we call this a “NEW” Evangelization?

The communication of joy we have in Jesus Christ, or the Good News of God’s definitive love for man made visible in the person of Jesus Christ, has been the task of the Church from the very beginning. This message and this reality has never changed. After Jesus’ crucifixion and death in abandonment, the Apostles locked themselves up in the Upper Room. But amid their fear, they suddenly encountered ultimate joy: “He stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you’ (Luke 24: 36) They were confronted with a reality that bursts all boundaries, so definitive that it grants all of history its meaning and its ultimate goal. Their Lord, who had died, stood living before them, inviting them to touch Him and see Him, they were filled with total joy. They touched and they saw, and they knew that this joy was not to be kept for themselves.

If, then, this proclamation never changes, why have Pope Benedict XVI and his predecessors called with ever greater urgency for a “new evangelization”? What can be “new” about a message that is two thousand years old? We begin to understand something of what these 20th and 21st century apostles mean when we hear John Paul II talk about the ‘passion’ that must be stirred up again in the hearts of Christians and in formerly Christian societies that have forgotten the joy that was entrusted to them. CF: Novo Millennio Ineunte, 30.

The believer who fails to pay attention to the thirst in his heart and who stops wanting to see, hear and touch the risen Lord, allows the Word of Life to die in him. His heart becomes passionless, sad and old. And the Christian people or society that stops wanting to see, hear and touch finds itself seeking infinity in ever more contradictory ways, faced eventually with the terrifying prospect of the human person unprotected by any ultimate affirmation of his dignity or worth.

Both the believer and the society whose faith has grown old and stale need ‘passion’, understood as far more than emotion or a passing fit of enthusiasm. Pope John Paul II would say that believers and societies need a ‘burning conviction’ of a people who have been enraptured by a surpassing beauty, who have been loved beyond their imaginings or hopes. And who are people thus who ‘love’. The call for a “New Evangelization” is a call to realize now, in our lives and in our times, that Christianity is not just a piece of information or a historical fact. It is a Word addressed to us personally, and this Word is LIFE, it is a love that abides. It is news so good and so necessary that no human being who has encountered it can keep it to themselves.

We have begun this year of the “New Evangelization” with an open mind and heart. We encourage each and every one of you to come and see, touch and hear the voice of Almighty God. This is a true gift, a true grace, that we as believers can only respond to.

I pray that this “New Evangelization” works deeply in each and every one of our parishioners. The witness who sees, hears and touches the Word—like John Paul II and Benedict XVI and perhaps ourselves—need to know this reality, like the parable of the grain of wheat that falls and dies in order to grow, will never be able to bear fruit and give life to others without giving up a part of our own lives. Simply stated this is the law of God’s love. This may seem like a strange method and a difficult law for the new evangelization, but this bearing witness by giving our life is the only way we can respond in love to love. It is the only way for the Christian message to become a living, joy-filled Word of Love for ourselves and for all men and women of our time.

As always, in our Lord and his Mother, I remain

Sincerely,

Msgr. James A. Root
Rector



Book of Initiation

Gianna Elena Vrahimis
Daughter of Alexandros and Georgina Alvarez Vrahimis
September 22, 2012

Gianna Khoury
Daughter of Fady and Carole Elasmar Khoury
September 30, 2012

Faris Bernard "Louis" Abdo
Son of Bernard and Yara Jabre Abdo
November 10, 2012

Sabrina Grace Gabriel
Daughter of Joseph and Patricia Saady Gabriel
November 10, 2012

Sophie Marie Massouh
Daughter of Naji and Ariana Massouh
November 11, 2012

Book of Crowning

Brent Devon Joseph and Alexandra Gasson
September 29, 2012

Michael Zoltan Seregily and Christina Youssef
October 6, 2012

Book of Life

Joseph Sahlani
September 23, 2012

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.
And let perpetual Light shine upon them.
May they rest in Peace!

Prayers for the Sick and Homebound

Laurice Fadel
Olga Kahraman
Gladys Lanese
Bernice Mansour
Marian Moshy
Lorraine Trabulsi

Gifts of the Heart

Altar Bread and Wine

November 2012
Georgette Victor
Requested by Barbara Segre

December 2012
Henry Hamid
Requested by Carol Hamid

January 2013
William Waked
Requested by Janet Waked

February 2013
Henry Hamid
Requested by Carol Hamid

March 2013
Kaiser and Richard Nofil
Requested by Lydia Gordon

April 2013
George Makadssi
Requested by Roger and Vera Shammas

May 2013
Simon and Raphael Families
Requested by Philomena Simon

June 2013
Mary Batal—Nofil
Requested by Lydia Gordon

July 2013
Arthur Matney Sr.
Requested by Laurice Matney

August 2013
Charles and Susie Gustin and Joe and Delores Gustin
Requested by Joseph Gustin

September 2013
Joseph and Margaret Mansour
Requested by Bernice and Marilyn Mansour



October 2013
Sahadi and Ciaccia Families
Requested by Marian Ciaccia

November 2013
James Gordon
Requested by Lydia Gordon

December 2013
Henry Hamid
Requested by Carol Hamid

Sanctuary Lamp

November 2012
Bishop Hameed Mourani
Requested by Mike Naber

December 2012
Deceased of the Simon Family
Carol Hamid

January 2013
Arthur Matney Sr.
Requested by Laurice Matney

February 2013
Anthony Jure
Requested by the Jure Family

March 2013
Maro Batrouni and Rita Hage Batrouni
Requested by Salim Batrouni

April 2013
Margaret Mansour
Requested by Bernice and Marilyn Mansour

May 2013
Simon and Raphael Families
Requested by Philomena Simon

June 2013
Salavessa, Santoni Spehn Families
Requested by Daisy and Elana Diamontopulos

July 2013
Diamontopulos and Ahearn Families
Requested by Daisy and Elana Diamontopulos

August 2013
Duart, Leito and Brignoni Families
Requested by Daisy and Elana Diamontopulos

September 2013
Maro Batrouni and Rita Hage Batrouni
Requested by Salim Batrouni

October 2013
Joseph Mansour
Requested by Bernice and Marilyn Mansour

November 2013
Margaret Mansour
Requested by Bernice and Marilyn Mansour

December 2013
Saad and Leesha Families
Requested by Bernice and Marilyn Mansour

Chapel Sanctuary Lamp

November 2012
Simon S. Besheer
Requested by Salma Vahdat

December 2012
Simon S. Besheer
Requested by Salma Vahdat

January 2013
Arthur Matney
Requested by Laurice Matney

February 2013
Arthur Matney
Requested by Laurice Matney

March 2013
Arthur Matney
Requested by Laurice Matney

April—December 2013
Available



Outdoor Shrine to Mary

November 2012

Bishop Hameed Mourani

Requested by Mike Naber

December 2012

For Peace in the Middle East

Requested by Gloria Djaha

January 2013

Adele and Cheme . Kiss—Bar

Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Coussa

February 2013

Special Blessings

Requested by Bernice and Marilyn Mansour

March 2013

Arthur Matney Sr.

Requested by Laurice Matney

April 2013

Arthur Matney Sr.

Requested by Laurice Matney

May 2013

Joseph Mansour

Requested by Bernice and Marilyn Mansour

June 2013

Eid and O'Shea Families

Requested by Mr. and Mrs. George Eid

July 2013

Eid and O'Shea Families

Requested by Mr. and Mrs. George Eid

August 2013

Eid and O'Shea Families

Requested by Mr. and Mrs. George Eid

October 2013

Sahadi and Ciaccia Families

Requested by Marian Ciaccia

November 2013

Farres Mattar

Requested by Leila Badran and Family

December 2013

Saad and Leesha Families

Requested by Bernice and Marilyn Mansour

Knights of the Altar

Application to begin Service

The primary purpose of the program is to address the obvious need for Altar servers. However, a secondary and significant purpose of the program is to be a tool for our youth—to encourage personal growth in the areas of faith, service, devotion, social awareness, family, prayer and knowledge of our Maronite Catholic Faith. At each level a Knight is challenged in some way to broaden and deepen his growth and to display an appropriate level of understanding of what he is being called to achieve in service to the priest and the Parish community. Guidance from the clergy, adult staff and parents is always encouraged and provided to assist the Knights in moving from one level to another.

PLEASE PRINT

Date: _____ Grade in Heritage: _____

Name: _____

Parent (s) Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

PERMISSION

I am happy to assist my son in becoming a Knight of the Altar. I agree to encourage and motivate him through my own active stewardship and faith, especially in the areas of daily prayer, Sunday Divine Liturgy, and living out my daily activities knowing they are done in service to God. As a parent of a Knight of the Altar, I will support my son in needed transportation and time commitment to ensure proper training and reverence in his service to God.

Signature: _____

Training will be held in the Church, and you will be notified of the date and time.

