

Reflections by Fr. Tom

My Dear Maronite Friends:

Through this month of August, our Anaphora Prayer will be that of Saint Peter. As with the Anaphora of the Twelve Apostles which we used throughout July, this ancient Syriac prayer has its roots in Antioch, a church whose faith, tradition tells us, was formed by Saint Peter himself. This ancient Anaphora is embraced by all the family of Syriac Churches including the Syrian Orthodox Church. With this prayer in common, we might find hope for reconciliation and unity.

Throughout this Anaphora, the attitude of unworthiness and readiness for the second coming of the Lord is pronounced which surely reflects the expectation of the earliest followers of Christ. Throughout the Anaphora of Saint Peter there is a profound sense of community reflected in the prayers which is so important for us during these times of heightened individualism that often puts us at odds with each other as though we were competitors fearing that there might not be enough of God's mercy to go around.

Every Anaphora begins with the Rite of Peace, and this one asks that *"we may embrace one another with a sincere kiss in the Spirit of your unending love."* While the "Preface" leading to the Holy, Holy, Holy, in other Anaphora prayers addresses, the Trinity, this ancient Anaphora is only two sentences long addressing the *"Maker of all Creation."* One is led to think that the later development of theology and expression regarding the Holy Trinity has not yet found a voice in this prayer. It is the same with the single/sentence prayer that follows the singing of the Holy, Holy, Holy. That same expectation of the Second Coming arises again after the words of Institution as the priest says: *"We await your second coming."*

Finally, that sense of community and family is heard again with the Intercessions as *"We pray for our parents, brothers and sisters, teachers, and all the faithful departed here and everywhere."* With these thoughts and observations, listen attentively to this Anaphora throughout this month. May its focus on community and the way it reminds us of the second coming of Christ make us all more conscious, merciful, and loving as a family united in the faith that rests upon the faith and holiness of Saint Peter.

Father Tom Boyer



Welcome to

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WEBSITE
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FACEBOOK
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MARONITE DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, 9:15 A.M.
St. Agnes Chapel
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road
Naples, Florida

WEDNESDAY, 12:00 NOON
Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
5130 Rattlesnake Hammock Road
Naples, Florida

AUGUST 11, 2024

**THIRTEENTH WEEK OF
PENTECOST**

**EVANGELIZING WITH THE WORD
THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER**

*Plant the land
with prayer and incense.*

*Be saints and
sanctify the earth.*

-- St. Sharbel

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

Brothers, I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were unable to take it. Indeed, you are still not able, even now, for you are still of the flesh. While there is jealousy and rivalry among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving in an ordinary human way? Whenever someone says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL

Luke 8:1-15



Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources. When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed.

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GOSPEL *Continued from page 2*

And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that 'they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.' "This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.



THE SOWER (LE SEMEUR). James Tissot, between 1886 and 1894. The Brooklyn Museum. [via wikimedia commons](https://www.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:James_Tissot_-_The_Sower_(Le_Semeur).jpg)

