

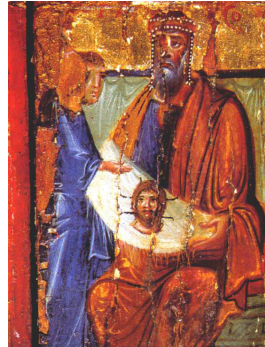
Reflections by Fr. Tom

Dear Friends:

Every now and then I come across some curious historical event that has found its way into our Maronite heritage and spirituality. I recently came across the icon pictured here that springs from an ancient legend out of Edessa. The Church of Antioch with its Greek and Syrian communities is easily known and often acknowledged as the site and source of our Maronite faith tradition. At the same time, the city of Edessa, while less known to many, contributed just as much to our traditions. Edessa, now called Urfa, is in southwest Turkey on the frontier of Syrian desert. The Christian faith was active there as early as 202, and it quickly became the most important Church in Syria. On an important trade route to the East passing between the Syrian desert to the South and the mountains of Armenia to the North, Syriac was the language there, and it was the center of literary culture long before the coming Christianity. An early historian believes that one of the 72 disciples came to Edessa at the request of King Abgar, the first Christian King.

That legend comes from Edessa pictured in this icon. It records the legend of "The Mandylyon." It seems that King Abgar, the first Christian king, begged Jesus to come and cure him of some unknown ailment. Unwilling to make the journey, Jesus wiped his face with a cloth and sent it with a disciple named, Addai to the king who was cured the moment he looked upon the image. The face of Jesus was miraculously imprinted on the cloth itself becoming the first "Icon." The existence of this Sacred Image is first recorded about 593 describing a miraculous defense of Edessa from an attack by the Persians. The Holy Image was taken to Constantinople [see image at bottom of page 2] in the 10th century and disappeared when the city was sacked during the Fourth Crusade. Some believe it was taken to King Louis IX in Paris and the destroyed in the French Revolution. With the loss of this image, there is now only way to see the image of Jesus Christ, and that is in the face of our brothers and sisters.

Father Tom Boyer



Anonymous.
Abgar of Edessa Receiving the Mandylyon. After 944 A.D.
St. Catherine's Monastery, Egypt.
Via Wikimedia Commons.



Welcome to NAPLES MARONITE COMMUNITY

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WEBSITE
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FACEBOOK
Naples Maronite Community

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 18, 2024 FOURTEENTH WEEK OF PENTECOST

LISTENING TO THE WORD MARTHA & MARY

THE LITURGY THIS WEEK IS OFFERED FOR
Simone Romanos
Requested by Mark & Christine Middendorf
A one year memorial.

A REMINDER
When you are out of town, you can still
donate to the collection by using this link.
Thank you all for your faithfulness.
<https://naplesmaronite.org/donate>

EPISTLE

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-13

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our reception among you was not without effect. Rather, after we had suffered and been insolently treated, as you know, in Philippi, we drew courage through our God to speak to you the gospel of God with much struggle. Our exhortation was not from delusion or impure motives, nor did it work through deception. But as we were judged worthy by God to be entrusted with the gospel, that is how we speak, not as trying to please human beings, but rather God, who judges our hearts. Nor, indeed, did we ever appear with flattering speech, as you know, or with a pretext for greed--God is witness--nor did we seek praise from human beings, either from you or from others, although we were able to impose our weight as apostles of Christ. Rather, we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us. You recall, brothers, our toil and drudgery. Working night and day in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers. As you know, we treated each one of you as a father treats his children, exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you conduct yourselves as worthy of the God who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.



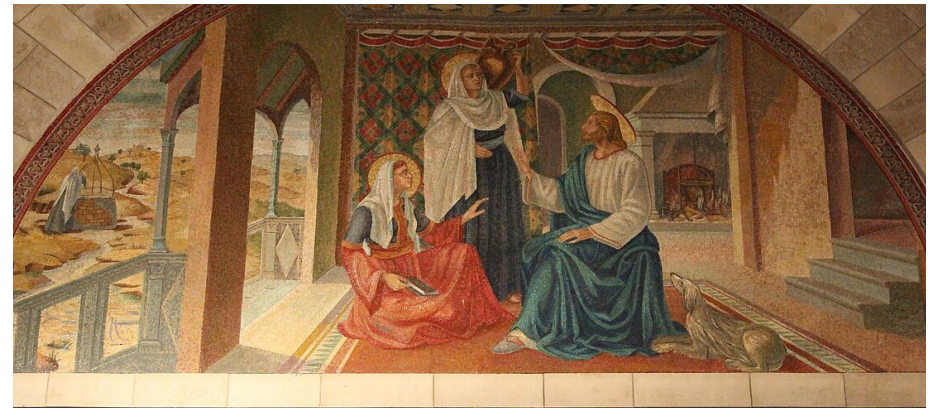
Anonymous, 13th Century.
The surrender of the Holy Mandylion bearing the face of Christ, by the inhabitants of Edessa to the Byzantines in 944.
Chronography of John Skylitzes, cod. Vitr. 26-2, folio 131a, Madrid National Library.
Via Wikimedia Commons.

GOSPEL

Luke 10:38-42



As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary (who) sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."



MARTHA AND MARY WITH JESUS. Fresco in the Church of St. Lazarus in Bethany. via wikimedia commons

There is still time to take advantage of this amazing trip!!!



AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL TO ROME FOR THE CANONIZATION OF THE BLESSED MASSABKI BROTHERS!

In 1860, during a time of great persecution, these brave and holy brothers chose to die rather than renounce their faith. They will be canonized by Pope Francis on October 20 and Bishop Gregory has put together a pilgrimage to Rome, Vatican City, San Giovanni and Assisi from October 15-22 in order to attend the canonization. The package includes 2-person rooms, bus transportation, monument entrance fees, hotel breakfast and international full coverage insurance. The price is \$1900, which does not include airfare. There are limited seats still available for this very extraordinary chance to witness the canonization of three new Maronite saints. The registration deadline is August 31. For more information, contact Fr. Antoine Kairouz at abounaantoine13@gmail.com or 724-732-4064