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JULY 26, 2026

FEAST OF ST. SHARBEL

[PAGE 718 IN THE BOOK OF OFFERING]

The liturgy this week is offered for
ALL THOSE NAMED AFTER ST. SHARBEL

MARONITE DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, 9:30 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

CONFESSION
For the month of July, Fr. Nicolas will hear confessions
30 minutes before and 30 minutes after Mass.

MASS REQUESTS
To request a Mass for someone
or some special intention,
please email your request to
Father@NaplesMaronite.org

EPISTLE

ROMANS 8:28-39
 Brothers and Sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:36-43

 The Apostle Matthew writes: Then, dismissing the crowds, Jesus went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of this kingdom all who cause others to sin

and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."



BUCKWHEAT HARVEST - SUMMER, between 1868-1874, by Jean-François Millet. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts. via Wikimedia Commons.

A REFLECTION BY ALIJAH MADKOUR

The Seventy-Two Returned with Joy (Luke 10:1-24)

Peace be with you! God loves you so much that he died and resurrected so that all of your sins would be forgiven! The kingdom of God is at hand, and I know this because I have experienced His transforming love in my own life. In short, beyond always being cradled by loving Catholic parents and the church, the sacraments have healed me in heartbreak and delivered me from an addiction I couldn't find a way out of. Christ has also revealed himself to me present in his priests who have loved and helped guide me since childhood.

This is the good news that I announced to total strangers for the first time in my life just a week ago. Jesus sending his disciples out in pairs announcing the imminent coming of the kingdom of God sounded like a spiritually romantic historical event until I lived it myself. On the evening of July 2, I arrived in Titusville, FL to join about 280 other Catholics (~3K nation-wide) on a present-day two-by-two mission! We brought no phones and no credit cards, only the clothes on our backs, maybe our medicine, our Bibles, Breviaries, a packed lunch, and \$20 cash to get us through the first day of the week-long journey living completely in the precariousness of the will of God. I was selected by lottery two nights before my send-off on a team with two other women to be sent to south western South Carolina.

Facing a lot of criticism before going, I would flee to an adoration chapel and Sacred Scripture with my doubts and worries. Every single

continued on page 3

LAST SUNDAY'S NUMBERS

Attendance: 43
 Collection: \$518.00

When you are out of town, you can still donate to the collection by using this link.
<https://naplesmaronite.org/donate>

We are grateful for all your generous financial support. The bank has requested that all checks must be made out to
 Naples Maronite Catholic Community, Inc.

SAINTS FOR THIS WEEK

- 26 St. Bridget of Sweden, C
- 27 St. Pantaleon (Asya), M
- 28 St. Anthusa, V
Bl. Stanley Rother (USA), M
- 29 Ezekiel the Prophet
St. Martha, the Sister of Lazarus, V
- 30 Sts. Abdon and Sennen, M
Bl. Solanus Casey (USA), C
- 31 350 Martyrs, Disciples of St. Maron, M
St. Ignatius of Loyola, C
- 1 St. Shmouni and Her Seven Sons, M

REFLECTION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

time, I was prayerfully reassured that going on this mission was God's will and my heart was set at peace. I figured I could find an adoration chapel to spend my nights and my spiritual father suggested I pray to St. Clare for my worried parents. After being dropped off, we encountered a St. Clare Perpetual Adoration Chapel where we met two women and a priest who generously supported us throughout the whole week with their friendship, a hotel room, food, and rides.

The main framework of the mission was to proclaim the good news as an encouragement to the priests in our area and then whoever we met along the way. Only on our second day, we found out that our mission would likely be limited to the small town we were dropped off in. Although we were disappointed at first, we accepted it as God's will to focus on proclaiming to the people of that town. We approached parishioners, businesses, protestant churches, and anyone we encountered in the street. Some listened very intently, one outright rejected us, and most responded with a, "Thanks, but no thanks," for one reason or another. I was happy even in the rejections, because at least they heard that day that God loved them and from Catholics who are often not even thought of as Christians in the Bible Belt.

Among quite a few people who heard us out, there was one protestant pastor who we spoke with for about 2 hours. He shared that he used to be Catholic, desired that his church would one day return to communion with Rome, and invited us to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with him. We stopped on a porch of a closed museum to pray and a woman invited us inside for the AC and some water. She and her co-worker were also very open to the good news and a gospel reading by chance. Every single homeless person we spoke with was very open to our proclamation and shared some of their own stories with us too. We consoled one woman who suffered the murder of two children. Another homeless man told us he had a feeling that he needed to approach us and seemed most touched by my experience with the sacrament of confession.

As Abouna Nicholas so eloquently described last Sunday when speaking of St. Elias' prophetic mission, this two-by-two was also a personal encounter with the Lord. After years of not being able to commit to marriage or religious life either because of personal difficulties or outside circumstances, my trust in God to pull me through was breaking down while anxiety welled up inside of me when I considered what my future may look like. Through experiencing the good that came out of unexpected circumstances, the time spent in prayer and with the sacraments each day, and a very strong word from the priest helping us, the Lord broke through the barriers I had put up against Him in my heart. My healing is still in process, but the miracle is that I was no longer willing to entrust my vocation to the hands of God and now I am. During the mission, I also was physically healed of neck pain I still had from a car

WISDOM FROM THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks

We must be faithful to the present moment or we will frustrate the plan of God for our lives.

Blessed Solanus Casey, Feast day July 30

Act as if everything depended on you; trust as if everything depended on God.

Love is shown more in deeds than in words.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Feast day July 31

PARISHIONER SNAPSHOTS!
 FEAST OF SAINT ELIAS



REFLECTION, CONTINUED

accident last March and noticed drastic improvement of my eczema after one of my teammates prayed for me.

Please help water the seeds of the gospel that my team and all of us on the two-by-two planted with your prayers for everyone we encountered. I encourage you not to be afraid of proclaiming the good news to whomever the Holy Spirit invites you to - lovingly, prayerfully, and courageously by virtue of your baptism. The worst that can happen is that the recipient rejects it or you. Even then, you can offer that suffering to God for their salvation, or maybe they will remember someone told them God loves them when they face a crisis they can't handle on their own. May the peace of Christ be with you always!