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JULY 12, 2026

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
[PAGE 425 IN THE BOOK OF OFFERING]

The liturgy this week is offered for
the repose of the souls of

ANTOUN AND NAZIRA DINA
REQUESTED BY JOHN DINA AND FAMILY

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 8:1-11

Hence, now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death. For what the law, weakened by the flesh, was powerless to do, this God has done: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for the sake of sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law might be fulfilled in us, who live not according to the flesh but according to the spirit. For those who live according to the flesh are concerned with the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit with the things of the spirit. The concern of the flesh is death, but the concern of the spirit is life and peace. For the concern of the flesh is hostility toward God; it does not submit to the law of God, nor can it; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.



SAM SEMAAN REPORTS ON the 61st Annual NAM Convention

The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) 61st annual convention in San Diego from July 2 – July 5 was a fantastic, family experience. I attended with my mom Christiane, sister Sandy, and my two boys Sam Jr. and Michael. My uncle Abouna Bassam was also there as the priests' retreat had started a few days earlier.

Over the four days there were excellent lectures on faith, marriage and spirituality and the July 4th celebration fireworks were magnificent. Bishop Gregory's message about the blessings we have in the USA was wonderful to hear. There was a "shark tank" style pitch competition with 10 Maronite entrepreneurs presenting their companies. The products ranged from Lastminute, an app developed by Dr. Maya Semaan to help organize events, to frozen falafel company Falafelicious. The \$20k award went to Elie Massabki founder of Diagpro, an AI powered diagnostics tool for car mechanics.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 12:14-21



But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in



JAMES TISSOT. THE SICK AWAITING THE PASSAGE OF JESUS (LES MALADES ATTENDANT LE PASSAGE DE JÉSUS), 1886-1894. by James Tissot. THE Brooklyn Museum.

whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."



The spiritual heart of the experience, though, centered on the liturgical rhythm established by our two Bishops with morning (Safo) prayer, a daily Divine Liturgy and evening (Ramsho) prayers. There were priests available for confession and stands were setup for sales of rosaries, icons and books. Safo prayer with all 90 priests who had been on retreat and the two bishops was the spiritual highlight for me. The young adults group (18-34) had a Theology on Tap experience with beer with the bishops at a local pub. Even the younger children had special crafts and games to do with their new friends. Homemade breakfast and lunch were provided for all each day.

Those of us who grew up in a Maronite community might take the closeness and joy at the convention for granted, but for my two sons it was new experience and they really enjoyed meeting lots of people their age from the Maronite community. They even learned how to dance dabkeh after swearing they wouldn't dance! I think we all are looking forward to going back next year.

LAST SUNDAY'S NUMBERS

Attendance: 31
Collection: \$208.00

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

- 12 Sts. Rufina and Secunda, V, M
St. Susanna of Rome, V, M
- 13 Joel the Prophet
- 14 St. Bonaventure, Doctor of the Church, C
St. Kateri Tekakwitha (USA), C
- 15 Sts. Cyriacus and Julitta, His Mother, M
- 16 The Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- 17 St. Marina, Nun of Qannoubine, V
- 18 St. Symphorosa and Her Seven Sons, M

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

Although you feel tepid, approach with confidence, for the greater your infirmity the more you stand in need of a physician.

Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary.

If you learn everything, except Christ, you learn nothing. If you learn nothing, except Christ, you learn everything.

St. Bonaventure, Feast day July 14

Please remember Bishop Emilio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap. in your prayers as he takes up his new position as the third Bishop of Venice, Florida on July 11.

SNAPSHOTS AT THE NATIONAL APOSTOLATE OF MARONITES

JULY 2 - 5
SAN DIEGO



Left: Bishop Gregory Mansour, Bishop Elias Zaidan and radio personality Timmerie Geagea with the Maronite Young Adult group at Theology on Tap.



Above: Sam Semaan with Sami Shala the incoming NAM president



Below: Abouna Bassam

