

July 24, 2016
Bulletin #30

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

Rectory: 304-233-1688 • Fax: 304-233-4714

E-Mail: ololwv@comcast.net • Web Site: www.ololwv.com

Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Evelyn Ghaphery, Organist



11th Sunday of Pentecost

***Weekend Masses:** **Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m.** [*Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass*]
Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. [*Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass*]

***Weekday Masses:** **Monday No Mass**
Tuesday to Friday at 12:05 p.m. [*Rosary & Litany start 20 minutes before Mass*]

***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:** **First Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m.**
First Sunday of the month after 10:30 a.m. Mass

***Confession:** Saturday: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. or any other time by appointment

***Baptism:** Please call the Pastor as soon as baby is born; at least one Godparent must be Catholic

***Weddings:** Please make arrangements at least **six** months in advance before any other plans are made

***Sick Calls & Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify the Pastor at 304-233-1688

***Parish Council:** Lou Khourey, Mike Linton, Rita Strawn, P.J. Lenz, Mary Stees

***Choir Members:** Earl Duffy, George Thomas, Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Shelly Hancher, Ted Olinski

***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer

***Altar Server:** Mike Linton

***Altar Boys:** Dalton Haas, Shaun Hancher & Luke Lenz

***Cedar Club:** Linda Duffy, President 304-242-6853

***Women's Society:** Sandra Dusick, President 304-232-7395



***Bulletin Announcements:** Submit all Bulletin Information to Msgr. Bakhos by Noon on Tuesday every week

***New Parishioners:** We welcome you with great joy & invite you to officially register as one of our parishioners

***Cedar Hall Rental Fees:** Call the Church Office at 304-233-1688 or 304-639-1372

***Parking:** Saturday & Sunday parishioners may park in both lots; Monday-Friday park **ONLY** in the 3 Alley spaces

***Remember the Church in your Last Will & Testament:** Her prayers will accompany you to heaven

Gospel Reflection: 11th Sunday of Pentecost

Readings: Eph 2:17-22 and Lk 19:1-10

How can Jesus' predilection for publicans and sinners be explained, except that there is some divine link between salvation and that which is lost? Such, at least, is suggested by the story of Zacchaeus, this senior tax collector. A man rich, despised, but enterprising, dogged and straightforward, wholly devoid of caring about appearances. It is not every day that a senior tax collector climbs a tree like a schoolboy in order to see Jesus passing by, making a public show of himself while Jesus is visiting Jericho!

It is from his perch in the sycamore that the Lord's grace plucks Zacchaeus, with humor and gentleness: "COME DOWN, HURRY!" Zacchaeus responds promptly to the divine impatience. He hears the words which do away with his life as an outcast and fill him with joy: I must stay at your house today. Today you too can become a son of Abraham! This "TODAY" of salvation Jesus no doubt explained at length to Zacchaeus in his house, while the people of Jericho complained outside. The offer of grace, the decision to accept it by the obedience of faith, this is the "TODAY" of God and mankind.

Forthright even in his spectacular conversion, Zacchaeus opens at the same time his house, his heart, his life: the fiscal officer admits his income, and taxes it generously for the poor and any he may have wronged. Some may have thought he had lost his head, but his unusual generosity was the simple consequence of God's goodness to him, the outer sign of an inward change of heart. When one has really been forgiven, the desire is to give everything in return, for one has become a new person, a descendant of Abraham, saved and believing in the unexpected and surprising love God bears towards us. The Church, too, is the house of sinners: but are we sufficiently aware of that?

Divine Liturgy Schedule

This Weekend, July 23-24: 11th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, July 23 at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ George Lewis by Sue Shia Jochum

✠ Special Intention

Sunday, July 24, at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ Sam Khoury (Anniversary) by his wife Esther Khoury

✠ Patricia Holmes by the Weisner Family

Weekday Masses

Monday, July 25: No Mass. Msgr. Bakhos Day off

Tuesday, July 26 at 9:05 a.m.:

✠ Mary Daniel by Chuck & Jana Shubat

✠ Special Intention

Wednesday, July 27 at 9:05 a.m.:

✠ Carola Joseph Gaddis by Janice Jones, Mike Lahood, Brenda Lahood & Patti Adam's

✠ Mariam Harris by her son Paul & Family

Thursday, July 28 at 9:05 a.m.:

✠ Assessor Kathy Hoffman by Msgr. Bakhos

✠ Mariam Harris by her son Paul & Family

Friday, July 29 at 9:05 a.m.:

✠ Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL) & his special intentions

✠ Mariam Harris by her son Paul & Family

Next Weekend, July 30-31: 12th Sunday of Pentecost

Saturday, July 30 at 4:00 p.m.:

✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will

✠ Special Intention by Mary Rose Kukula

Sunday, July 31, at 10:30 a.m.:

✠ 40-Day George Lewis by the Family

✠ Gloria George Sterling by her sister Nettie Seidler & Family

Calendar of Parish Events at a Glimpse

Tue. Aug. 9 at 9:00 am	<i>Make and bake cookies</i>
Wed. Aug. 10 at 9:00 am	<i>Zaatar bread and sesame bread</i>
Mahrajan (Festival)	<i>Sunday, August 14 (Mass at 10:30 a.m.; Booths Open at Noon)</i>
Hall Rental	<i>Saturday, October 8th</i>

2016 Mahrajan News (Sunday, August 14 from noon to 7:00 p.m.)--There will be a **Pony Ride** this year at the Festival,--There will be a **new dance group** to replace Alhambra Troupe who retired***--Anonymous Sponsor***

Many Thanks to a lawyer, friend of Msgr Bakhos, for sponsoring **the Raffle Prizes** of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. Also he sponsored other items needed for the Mahrajan. May and his family be rewarded many folds.

--Baking Days for Mahrajan

Ladies & Men are asked to plan to help prepare baked goods for our Mahrajan on the following days:

--Tuesday, August 9, at 9:00 a.m.: make & Bake Cookies,

--Wednesday, August 10, at 9:00 a.m.: make & Bake Zaatar Bread & Sesame Seed Sweet Bread.

Please bring a covered dish for lunch. Thanks

--Help Needed for Pastry Booth: *Oglebay Park, Sunday, August 14*

We are asking for volunteers to sign up to work at the Mahrajan Pastry Booth.

Please call Maryann Carl at home at 304-843-1199 if you are willing to help with any of these tasks. If no answer, please leave your name and phone number for her to call you back.

--Volunteer workers are needed from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. to package pastries.

--Additional volunteers are needed from 10:30 a.m. to Noon to help set up the tables.

--Others are needed from Noon to 6:00 p.m. in 2-hour shift minimums to assist our customers.

Those who are asked to operate the Cash Register as Pastry Booth Cashiers will be contacted by Michelle Marinacci to arrange attendance at a special Training Session probably on Friday or Saturday, August 12 or 13.

Many people are not need in the Food Line and Oglebay Kitchen this year so please consider volunteering for pastries.

As in past years, if you can Volunteer to work other Mahrajan Booths call the Church Office at 304-233-1688 to leave your Name, Phone Number.

--Mahrajan Eve Night Gathering: *(Cedar Hall, Saturday, August 13 at 6:00 p.m.)*

Please join us for a pre-Mahrajan gathering. All chairpersons, volunteers and parishioners are invited to join us for an evening of fun and friendship to kick off our 83rd. Mahrajan (festival). The event will take place on Saturday, August 13th, at 6:00 p.m. Lebanese DJ music and dance. There will be a covered dish dinner and beverages will be provided. If you would like to donate a covered dish please contact Carol Dougherty at 740-782-0146 so that the food items can be coordinated. The items promised so far are the following: Msgr. Bakhos, fish, salad and pita bread, Carol Dougherty, Lebanese style rice, Rita Strawn, Lentils, Mary Thomas, green beans and Shirley George, cucumbers in sour cream, Nettie Siedler, mini meat pies, Fran Saseen, dessert and 7up, Luane Frazier, cheese platter, Thomasina Giemer, Jello cake and peach ice tea, Mike Linton, Lemonade and peach ice tea.

This is an opportunity to unwind, relax and have fun and enjoy each others company before the exciting day ahead. This is a long standing tradition in the Lebanese community so save the day and come and share the evening with us.

Msgr. Bakhos Priesthood Silver Jubilee

On December, 21st this year, Msgr. Bakhos will celebrate his 25th Anniversary to the priesthood. It is his silver jubilee. He was ordained in Sydney, Australia on December 21st, 1991. He started the building of Saint Joseph church in Sydney then moved to the United States in 1994. He served in Lawrence Massachusetts, started the church in Dayton, Ohio, Saint Paul Minnesota, and Wheeling West Virginia. He served Our Lady of Lebanon for the last 16 years and helped building the new addition and remodeling the old structure. He loves his parishioners and West Virginia and the many friendly people he met. He built his retirement home in Wheeling and he wants to be buried in Wheeling. As he loves and serves everyone, he only asks for your prayers.

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers

Virginia Joseph, Bernadine Elias, Linda Duffy, Diane Palotay, Riyanna Robbins (daughter of parishioners Tony & Amanda Ashby, granddaughter of Mark & Cindy Thomas and great granddaughter of Rita & Rex Strawn), Rob Thomas (OH), Jim Dellget, Sandra Dusick, Bill Daniel, Dolores Joseph, Barb Sobota, Betty Shia,

Also Please Pray for Those Who Asked Us to Pray for Them

Mary Margaret Blum, Jim George Sr., Peggy Justice, Jim Thomas (father of Diane Frenn), Carrie Jane (Powell) Parodi (daughter of Eva Lee Powell),

Happy Birthday

July 26: Anna Marie Duymich
 July 30: Dee Shiben, Susan John Burns
 August 2: Douglas Bratton, Rosella C. DeMuth
 August 3: Jim George, Sr.
 August 7: Rita Strawn
 August 10: Kory Bratton, Thomasina Geimer
 August 14: Mary Thomas
 August 16: Tara George Musilli

Your Church Support Last Week

\$1,964.00	Sunday Collection
42.00	Candles
755.00	Mahrajan (Ad Book, Raffle Tickets, Table Reservations, etc.)
50.00	Donation to the church
30.00	Donation to poor families of the church
\$2,841.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i>

What's New?

Pantry for Families in Need

A barrel is set at the entrance of the church to collect non-perishable food items for parishioners and families in need. Please drop whatever you can afford and Msgr. Bakhos will distribute the food on your behalf on those who call us for help. May you be rewarded many folds. Msgr. Bakhos

Reflection: Why Go to Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

Why Go To Church? A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them.. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.

It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher! : "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Spirituality

The 21 Ecumenical Councils

1st COUNCIL OF NICAIA. Year: 325

Summary: The Council of Nicaea lasted two months and twelve days. Three hundred and eighteen bishops were present. Hosius, Bishop of Cordova, assisted as legate of Pope Sylvester. The Emperor Constantine was also present. To this council we owe the Nicene Creed, defining against Arius the true Divinity of the Son of God, and the fixing of the date for keeping Easter (against the Quartodecimans).

2nd COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE. Year: 381

Summary: The First General Council of Constantinople, under Pope Damasus and the Emperor Theodosius I, was attended by 150 bishops. It was directed against the followers of Macedonius, who impugned the Divinity of the Holy Spirit. To the above-mentioned Nicene Creed it added the clauses referring to the Holy Spirit and all that follows to the end.

3rd COUNCIL OF EPHESUS. Year: 431

Summary: The Council of Ephesus, of more than 200 bishops, presided over by St. Cyril of Alexandria representing Pope Celestine I, defined the true personal unity of Christ, declared Mary the Mother of God (*theotokos*) against Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople, and renewed the condemnation of Pelagius.

4th Council CHALCEDON. Year: 451

Summary: The Council of Chalcedon -- 150 bishops under Pope Leo the Great and the Emperor Marcian -- defined the two natures (Divine and human) in Christ against Eutyches, who was excommunicated.

5th Second COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE. Year: 553

Summary: The Second General Council of Constantinople, of 165 bishops under Pope Vigilius and Emperor Justinian I, condemned the errors of Origen and certain writings (The Three Chapters) of Theodoret, of Theodore, Bishop of Mopsuestia and of Ibas, Bishop of Edessa; it further confirmed the first four general councils, especially that of Chalcedon whose authority was contested by some heretics.

6th Third COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE. Years: 680-681

Summary: The Third General Council of Constantinople, under Pope Agatho and the Emperor Constantine Pogonatus, was attended by the Patriarchs of Constantinople and of Antioch, 174 bishops, and the emperor. It put an end to Monothelism by defining two wills in Christ, the Divine and the human, as two distinct principles of operation. It anathematized Sergius, Pyrrhus, Paul, Macarius, and all their followers.

7th SECOND COUNCIL OF NICAIA. Year: 787

Summary: The Second Council of Nicaea was convoked by Emperor Constantine VI and his mother Irene, under Pope Adrian I, and was presided over by the legates of Pope Adrian; it regulated the veneration of holy images. Between 300 and 367 bishops assisted.

8th FOURTH COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE. Year: 869

Summary: The Fourth General Council of Constantinople, under Pope Adrian II and Emperor Basil numbering 102 bishops, 3 papal legates, and 4 patriarchs, consigned to the flames the Acts of an irregular council brought together by Photius against Pope Nicholas and Ignatius the legitimate Patriarch of Constantinople; it condemned Photius who had unlawfully seized the patriarchal dignity. The Photian Schism, however, triumphed in the Greek Church, and no other

general council took place in the East.

9th FIRST LATERAN COUNCIL. Year: 1123

Summary: The First Lateran Council, the first held at Rome, met under Pope Callistus II. About 900 bishops and abbots assisted. It abolished the right claimed by lay princes, of investiture with ring and crosier to ecclesiastical benefices and dealt with church discipline and the recovery of the Holy Land from the infidels.

10th SECOND LATERAN COUNCIL. Year: 1139

Summary: The Second Lateran Council was held at Rome under Pope Innocent II, with an attendance of about 1000 prelates and the Emperor Conrad. Its object was to put an end to the errors of Arnold of Brescia.

11th THIRD LATERAN COUNCIL. Year: 1179

Summary: The Third Lateran Council took place under Pope Alexander III, Frederick I being emperor. There were 302 bishops present. It condemned the Albigenses and Waldenses and issued numerous decrees for the reformation of morals.

12th FOURTH LATERAN COUNCIL. Year: 1215

Summary: The Fourth Lateran Council was held under Innocent III. There were present the Patriarchs of Constantinople and Jerusalem, 71 archbishops, 412 bishops, and 800 abbots the Primate of the Maronites, and St. Dominic. It issued an enlarged creed (symbol) against the Albigenses, condemned the Trinitarian errors of Abbot Joachim, and published 70 important reformatory decrees. This is the most important council of the Middle Ages, and it marks the culminating point of ecclesiastical life and papal power.

13th FIRST COUNCIL OF LYONS. Year: 1245

Summary: The First General Council of Lyons was presided over by Innocent IV; the Patriarchs of Constantinople, Antioch, and Aquileia (Venice), 140 bishops, Baldwin II, Emperor of the East, and St. Louis, King of France, assisted. It excommunicated and deposed Emperor Frederick II and directed a new crusade, under the command of St. Louis, against the Saracens and Mongols.

14th SECOND COUNCIL OF LYONS. Year: 1274

Summary: The Second General Council of Lyons was held by Pope Gregory X, the Patriarchs of Antioch and Constantinople, 15 cardinals, 500 bishops, and more than 1000 other dignitaries. It effected a temporary reunion of the Greek Church with Rome. The word *filioque* was added to the symbol of Constantinople and means were sought for recovering Palestine from the Turks. It also laid down the rules for papal elections.

15th COUNCIL OF VIENNE. Years: 1311-1313

Summary: The Council of Vienne was held in that town in France by order of Clement V, the first of the Avignon popes. The Patriarchs of Antioch and Alexandria, 300 bishops, and 3 kings -- Philip IV of France, Edward II of England, and James II of Aragon -- were present. The synod dealt with the crimes and errors imputed to the Knights Templars, the Fraticelli, the Beghards, and the Beguines, with projects of a new crusade, the reformation of the clergy, and the teaching of Oriental languages in the universities.

16th COUNCIL OF CONSTANCE. Years: 1414-1418

The Council of Constance was held during the great Schism of the West, with the object of ending the divisions in the Church. It became legitimate only when Gregory XI had formally convoked it. Owing to this circumstance it succeeded in putting an end to the schism by the election of Pope Martin V, which the Council of Pisa (1403) had failed to accomplish on account of its illegality. The rightful pope confirmed the former decrees of the synod against Wyclif and Hus. This council is thus ecumenical only in its last sessions (42-45 inclusive) and with respect to the decrees of earlier sessions approved by Martin V.

17th COUNCIL OF BASLE/FERRARA/FLORENCE. Years: 1431-1439

Summary: The Council of Basle met first in that town, Eugene IV being pope, and Sigismund Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Its object was the religious pacification of Bohemia. Quarrels with the pope having arisen, the council was transferred first to Ferrara (1438), then to Florence (1439), where a short-lived union with the Greek Church was effected, the Greeks accepting the council's definition of controverted points. The Council of Basle is only ecumenical till the end of the twenty-fifth session, and of its decrees Eugene IV approved only such as dealt with the extirpation of heresy, the peace of Christendom, and the reform of the Church, and which at the same time did not derogate from the rights of the Holy See.

18th FIFTH LATERAN COUNCIL. Years: 1512-1517

Summary: The Fifth Lateran Council sat from 1512 to 1517 under Popes Julius II and Leo X, the emperor being Maximilian I. Fifteen cardinals and about eighty archbishops and bishops took part in it. Its decrees are chiefly disciplinary. A new crusade against the Turks was also planned, but came to naught, owing to the religious upheaval in Germany caused by Luther.

19th COUNCIL OF TRENT .Years: 1545-1563

Summary: The Council of Trent lasted eighteen years (1545-1563) under five popes: Paul III, Julius III, Marcellus II, Paul IV and Pius IV, and under the Emperors Charles V and Ferdinand. There were present 5 cardinal legates of the Holy See, 3 patriarchs, 33 archbishops, 235 bishops, 7 abbots, 7 generals of monastic orders, and 160 doctors of divinity. It was convoked to examine and condemn the errors promulgated by Luther and other Reformers, and to reform the discipline of the Church. Of all councils it lasted longest, issued the largest number of dogmatic and reformatory decrees, and produced the most beneficial results.

20th FIRST VATICAN COUNCIL. Years: 1869-1870

Summary: The Vatican Council was summoned by Pius IX. It met 8 December, 1869, and lasted till 18 July, 1870, when it was adjourned; it is still (1908) unfinished. There were present 49 cardinals, 11 patriarchs, 680 archbishops and bishops, 28 abbots, 29 generals of orders, in all 803. Besides important canons relating to the Faith and the constitution of the Church, the council decreed the infallibility of the pope when speaking *ex cathedra*, i.e. when as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church.

--21st SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL. Years: 1962-1965

Wisdom: Family First. A look at Christian Families

I would like to discuss one area of prayer that can be very trying for young families, in fact in many cases it is the reason why some young families do not attend Divine Liturgy on a regular basis: Young children and Divine Liturgy -- the trial of the young family.

I am a father of 4 children (ages 7, 6, almost 5, and almost 2) and this has long been a “problem” that, I and my wife, have had to deal with. I am writing this topic after a recent incident in my own life. Recently I was at Church with my children. I sat through the service with my children. They were not the best behaved by far, but they were not horrible (the biggest situation was the chatter of Anthony, the youngest child). At the conclusion of the service this woman came up to my pew and began to tell me how my children had destroyed the Mass for her. How she would have to wait another week to feel spiritually uplifted and eventually went as far as to say “*you might find your children cute but they are really just a bunch of brats.*” This is a very difficult exchange for many parents to hear and for many would cause them to either:

- 1- get angry with their children or
- 2- not go back to church for awhile. I must say that as I was leaving four other individuals went out of their way to tell me my children were not distracting (since they had heard her yelling at me) and one said he didn’t hear them at all (some people can be very kind and understanding).

How should we handle Divine Liturgy and young children? I would like to address this in two ways. First I would like to look at the child’s place at Liturgy and second I would like to go over some helpful tips for the parents of a young child at the Divine Liturgy Service.

Even in Christ’s time the thinking was that children could not understand Jesus, so they should be turned away. Jesus’ own closest followers attempted to turn away the children from coming to see Jesus and He responded in this way. “***Let the little children come unto Me and do not hinder them, for of such is the kingdom of God.***” These children come to Jesus in a way that is much easier than for us adults. They come not understanding the words being spoken or the mystery of the liturgy. They come being able to know Jesus by just feeling his touch, by just being present where he is, and Christ knows this and thus told his followers to allow these little children in.

This does not mean that we have no responsibility in forming our children. In fact, as parents, this is our primary responsibility. It simply means that children rightly have a place in church and they should be accepted in church for who they are, Children of God.

How then do we help them to grow in reverence while attending Divine Liturgy?

I am by no means an expert and my children are not perfect, but let me share with you some tips for young children at the Liturgy:

Tips for young children in Church :

- 1- Help the children make the sign of the cross and bless themselves with Holy Water as they enter the church. (This sets up a sense of this being a special place they are entering.)
- 2- Sit towards the FRONT of the church. Children can behave better if they can see more. Standing behind a field of 5-6 feet tall adults gives a child nothing to look at. They need to be able to see the Mystery of the Eucharist develop before them.

- 3- Bring age appropriate Religious Books for children to look at. This allows them to investigate the world of saints and bible figures when they just can't seem to devote any more attention to the liturgy in front of them.
- 4- Bring paper and pencil for drawing. Possible items to draw:
 - a- flowers to place at Mary's feet;
 - b- a picture to place in the collection basket as their offering;
 - c- a picture about the Liturgy to give Father after Liturgy.
- 5- For the youngest child (probably under 4) a sippy cup and a bag of Cheerios, crackers or some other finger food can really help. We need to remember that this population is at the greatest disadvantage. (Just try your best to pick-up after your child and remove your trash. This is what most parishes object to, the food and trash being left in the pews.)
- 6- As soon as they can (about age 3) start to have children make the sign of the cross, and sing and say simple songs and prayers when they are able to.
- 7- For toddlers (who need to talk) explain to them that when the congregation is all singing they can sing too. This will give them an appropriate time to vocalize whatever it is they need to.

It is only by coming to Divine Liturgy regularly that they will develop the appropriate behaviors that we so wish would come sooner.

--By Bernard Hassan

A Time to Laugh (308)

Safari

A wealthy man decided to go on a safari in Africa and he took his faithful pet dachshund along for company. One day, the dachshund started chasing butterflies and before long discovered that he was lost. Wandering about he noticed a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having lunch. The dachshund thought, "OK, I'm in deep trouble now!" Just then he noticed some bones on the ground close by and immediately settled down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard was about to leap, the dachshund exclaimed loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this the leopard halted his attack in mid-stride, as a look of terror came over him, and slinked away into the trees. "Whew," thought the leopard. "That was close. That dachshund nearly had me." Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figured he could put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So, off he went. But the dachshund saw him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figured that something must be up. The monkey soon caught up with the leopard, spilled the beans and struck a deal for himself with the leopard. The leopard was furious at being made a fool of and said, "Here monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine."

Again the dachshund saw the leopard coming, now with the monkey on his back, and thought, "What am I going to do now?"

But instead of running, the dog sat down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hadn't seen them yet... and just when they got close enough to hear, the dachshund said....."Where's that damn monkey? I sent him off half an hour ago to bring me another leopard."

Brain Cramps

Question: If you could live forever, would you and why? Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever," -- Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest.

Oooooooooooooooooops!

"Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff." (Mariah Carey)