

March 19, 2017

Bulletin #12

## ***Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church***

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Evelyn Ghaphery, Organist



### ***Sunday of the Prodigal son***

\***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 and Friday No Mass**  
**Tuesday to Thursday at Noon.** [*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

\***Sacristan:** 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

## *Epiphany: Sunday of the Prodigal son*

Readings: 2Cor 13:5-13 and Lk 15:11-32

### INTRODUCTION:

The story of the prodigal son is that of many young men and women who have left God and His Church. Some, like him, had the courage to come back; some, unfortunately, did not show up again in the Father's house. But God, our Father, loved them all and expected their returning home. How should we understand the three persons of the parable?

### 1-THE PRODIGAL SON:

He was a young growing man but weary at home. He was third in the family if we count his father and his older brother. He felt acutely an outsider and not much favored. He was looking for total freedom and independence from his family. Instead of seeking advice or seeing a family counselor, he resolved his restlessness in a selfish and thoughtless way. He requested from his father his share of the family's properties and left home.

In a short time, he spent his funds in permissive and loose living. He was now poor, miserable and living in rags and beggary. Moreover, the swine of his friend were better fed than he. In his deep destitution he realized that in his father's house life would be better even if he was hired as a servant. Then, he noticed that he placed his own pleasures above the love and respect of his parents and remembered his father's love for him.

He carefully prepared his words of repentance and returned home to face his father and be ready to do his fathers' will: "FATHER, DO TO ME WHATEVER YOU WISH. I LEAVE IT TO YOU...." At this, his father welcomed him out of love and mercy.

### 2-THE FATHER:

**He is a rich landowner and loves his children very much. We find him generous in granting his youngest son's request. However, knowing how blind young people can be and how wrong and stubborn they can be in their determination and decisions, we wonder if any help can make them change their mind. How many children listen to their fathers? Nevertheless, we ought to tell them what are the consequences of their foolish decisions. In this parable, the father hoped and prayed till his loved son returned. He did not demand any apology; but he immediately, received him back as his son and not as a servant.**

Moreover, the father ordered for him the finest robe (like that of a dignified child), the ring (symbol of trust in sharing paternal authority upon the servants), and shoes befitting a noble man. Finally, his son's return home is also celebrated by a lavish and expensive banquet. All the generosity of the loving father was displayed for the dusty and ragged child, who repented and returned home

### 3-THE ELDER SON:

He took an unpleasant attitude. He became angry for what he heard and saw and refused to enter his own house. In vain his father pleaded with him, tried to make him understand and convince him to join the celebration. He rejected all and stated that he, the faithful son and not his immoral brother, deserved such a treatment and celebration.

What happened after that is everyone's guess! Jesus left the story unfinished. His main intention, however, is to show us on one hand, that God's (our Father's) love and forgiveness are far greater than anything experienced on earth, and on the other hand, that we, humans, in contrast to God, have difficulty to forgive our fellowmen.

This is why, instead of calling the parable "THE PRODIGAL SON", we may call it either the parable of "THE FORGIVING FATHER", who is ready to receive us with open arms if we repent and make a good confession. Or we may call it the parable of "THE UNFORGIVING BROTHER".

## *Meditation for Lent: Ask, Seek, Knock*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matt 7:7)

Reflection: In 1942, Warner Sallman painted the scene of Jesus knocking at the door, a door that had no outside handle. If the door were to be opened, it had to be opened from the inside. The painting was a rendition of Revelation 3:20, a verse in which the Lord is seeking entrance into our lives. A great Lenten question: will we allow Jesus to come into our souls and dine with us?

When Jesus tells the disciples to ask, to seek, and to knock, we must realize that Jesus is always the one to take the initiative. He first knocks at the door of our life before we knock on the door of heaven; he seeks out the lost sheep long before the flock seeks the Good Shepherd; he asks us to share our gifts with others before we ask him for renewed grace. Again, we are to emulate the God in whose image and likeness we are made.

So, what will you ask for this Lent? Better health? A deeper prayer life? The healing of relationships? Greater wisdom and compassion? The gift of tears, tears of repentance? A world of justice and peace? These are noble requests. Yet, too often we ask for greater personal recognition, more possessions or control, an increase in comfort and security. We are co-opted by our culture and it is only through the grace of the Holy Spirit that we request what is best for others and for ourselves.

So, what do you seek? The widow sought her lost coin; the shepherd, his lost sheep; the father, his prodigal son. We are all searchers and everyone seeks some form of meaning to life. Most people seek integration in a broken world. Many are looking for depth in a world of superficiality. Such goals are noble. Yet, we can also chase after rainbows and waste our time looking for that nonexistent pot of gold.

So, where do you go to find the Lord? In what sacred geography does God dwell? All we have to do is turn toward the mystery of creation and there, in the starry, starry night, in the flight of the eagle, in the beauty of the ocean and mountain, we are immersed in the "divine milieu." And we can be assured that if we knock, the Lord will open.

Meditation: What does your heart seek? In what ways does God take the initiative in your life? Have you opened the door to our "pilgrim" God?

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, teach us your ways. Give us the wisdom to ask and to seek and to knock in all the proper places. Prevent us from wasting our time and energy on things that do not matter. Instruct us in your ways, the ways of love, peace, and joy.

## *Divine Liturgy Schedule*

### ***This Weekend, March 18-19: The Prodigal Son***

#### **Saturday, March 18 at 4:00 p.m.:**

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

#### **Sunday, March 19 at 10:30 a.m.:**

✠ Intentions of the Benefactors of our Church

### **Weekday Masses**

**Monday, March 20: No Mass Msgr. Bakhos day off**

**Tuesday, March 21: No Mass Msgr. Bakhos day off**

**Wednesday, March 22 at 12:05 p.m.:**

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

✠ Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)

**Thursday, March 23, at 12:05 p.m.:**

✠ Bess Ferris Garcia (Birthday) by Mary Zaid Stees & Libby G. Magnone

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

**Friday, March 24:**

**5:10 p.m.: Rosary & Litany**

**5:30 p.m.: Divine Liturgy for the Repose of the soul of William Breit**

**6:00 p.m.: Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Cross**

**7:00 p.m.: Friday Lenten meal**

✠ For the intentions of the benefactors who sponsored the meatless dinner tonight

## ***Next Weekend, March 25-26: The Paralytic***

### **Saturday, March 25 at 4:00 p.m.:**

✠ Douglas Bentz by Patrick H. Belby

### **Sunday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m.:**

✠ Michael & Annette Howard by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Family

✠ Dale Seidler Sr. by his wife Nettie & Family

## ***Easter Lillies***

### ***\$25 Donation for Easter Lillies*** *(Due Sunday, March 26)*

Easter Lillies in memory of loved ones to decorate the church and the tomb of Christ are sponsored by the following generous parishioners:

- ✠✠✠✠ *A bouquet of yellow roses will decorate the altar of the Blessed Mother in Memory of Helen Fielding by her husband Donald of Florida*
- ✠ *Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Louise H. Kourey, Sr., by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Family*
- ✠ *Rosine & Latif Thomas by Nellie Magyar and Family*
- ✠ *Sue, Frances & Joe Linton by Mike Linton*
- ✠ *Deceased members of the Bine and Gaudio Families by Shirley Bine*
- ✠ *Deceased members of the Chidiac Family by Msgr. Bakhos*
- ✠ *The Daniel & DiFabrizio Families by Rebecca & Michael DiFabrizio*
- ✠ *In Honor of Janet Shutler*
- ✠ *In Honor of Mike Linton*
- ✠ *In Honor of Shirley Bine*
- ✠ *In Honor of Jay & Liz Murad*
- ✠ *In Honor of Rex & Rita Strawn*
- ✠ *Deceased members of the Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families*
- ✠ *In Memory of Tom George & the George Family by Kathleen George and sons*
- ✠ *In Memory of Ralph & Mary J. Shipley, Robby Hunter & deceased Family by Thomasina Geimer*
- ✠ *Deceased members of the Schlog and Saseen Families by Bob & Fran Saseen*
- ✠ *In honor of John & Lillian Siebieda*
- ✠ *Deceased members of the Habdo & Dougherty Families by Bill & Carol Dougherty*
- ✠ *In loving memory of John T. & Cecilia John by Ron & Susan Burns*
- ✠ *In Loving memory of Tom & Sadie John and David & Tamamie Joseph by Ron & Susan Burns*
- ✠ *In loving memory of Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Sister Mary Thomasina John & Roland & Julia Tappe by Ron & Susan Burns*
- ✠ *In loving of Danny-Milly Manners by Nini Miller*
- ✠ *Msgr. Bakhos' parents Adib & Sadie, brother Nadim & sister Mona by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ✠ *Suzanne Linton by her husband Mike*
- ✠ *Frances & Joseph Linton by their sons Steve & Mike*
- ✠ *Deceased of our Parish by Steve & Mike Linton*

## ***Mother Week Masses (May 13-19)***

### ***Prayer for mothers***

O glorious Queen of Heaven and earth! You are the chosen patroness of all Christian mothers. Bless all mothers and inspire them to seek your protection and guidance so that they become truly Christian Mothers. O

most pure, most compassionate Mother of the Divine Savior and of all the children of the Heavenly Father who have been regenerated in the holy sacrament of Baptism.

**All Masses for the Deceased Mothers and Grandmothers:**

- ✠ *Pearl Shutler (mother) and great grandmother Isabelle Nolte by Janet Shutler*
- ✠ *Sadie Chidiac by her son Msgr. Bakhos*
- ✠ *Siham Frenn, LaVerne Thomas & Evelyn Hall by Dr. Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn*
- ✠ *Louise N. Khourey & Gladys Howard by children Lou & Charlotte & grandchildren Emmalena & Louie*
- ✠ *Emma Nader & Nabiha "Lena" Khourey by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey*
- ✠ *Minnie Church Riggs & Cassandra "Cassie" Howard by Lou, Charlotte, Emmalena & Louie Khourey*
- ✠ *Helen Fielding by her husband Don Fielding (FL)*
- ✠ *Helen Fielding and Mary Popovich by Joe & Nikki Popovich*
- ✠ *Rosella Saseen & her parents Nancepe & Helen & her grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen*
- ✠ *Deceased of the Thomas, Splatt & Nutter Families by John & Kathy Thomas (MN)*
- ✠ *Mary C. Ritts by her son John & Opal Ritts*
- ✠ *Georgette Joseph by Vickie, Lauren & Michael*
- ✠ *Margaret Simonetti by Mary Ryncarz*
- ✠ *Stella Ryncarz by Mary Ryncarz*
- ✠ *Nancy Jean Ferris Coffield by Michael & Lindsey Coffield*
- ✠ *Mary & grazia De Leonardis by Sylvia Long*
- ✠ *Grazia Condelli by Sylvia Long*
- ✠ *Catherine Artheu by her daughter Carol Burkhart*
- ✠ *Freda Josephs by Shawn & Cyndi Josephs-Tobias*
- ✠ *Charlotte George (MN) by Margaret George*
- ✠ *Maryanna George and Beatrice Stiles by Margaret George (MN)*
- ✠ *Anna Marie McGlumphy by Jerry McGlumphy & children*
- ✠ *Leslie A. McGlumphy by Jerry McGlumphy & children*
- ✠ *Frances Linton by her sons Steve & Mike*
- ✠
- ✠

**All Masses for the Living Mothers and grandmothers:**

- ✠ *Charlotte Khourey by her children Emmalena & Louie*
- ✠ *Diane Frenn by her husband Dr. Adel & children Andreah & Justin*
- ✠ *Shirley Bine by her son Kenny*
- ✠ *Nikki Jo Lenz by Joe & Nikki Popovich*
- ✠ *Nikki A. Popovich by Joe Popovich*
- ✠ *Joyce Josephs by Shawn & Cyndi Josephs-Tobias*
- ✠ *Rita Castle by Jerry McGlumphy*
- ✠ *Amanda Castle by Jerry McGlumphy*
- ✠

## ***Mahrajan News***

- This year we are preparing the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival. It will take place at Oglebay Park for two days:  
Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.  
Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from noon until 7:00 p.m. (outdoor Mass at 10:30 a.m.)
- All Mahrajan Sponsors will be listed in the bulletin and in the Ad Book at three levels: **Silver** (\$25 to \$49); **Gold** (\$50 to \$99); **Diamond** (\$100 and above). Please consider making a donation at one of these levels to support the Mahrajan, to help defray its expenses, and to insure its continuation for future generations.
- It is the dream of the Parish to have two dance troupes to perform at the Festival: one by the children (6-12) and by the young adults (13-20). We will provide Lebanese Folklore costumes and hats for everybody and two trainers to prepare the dancers around this time of the year so that they will be ready for the festival. If you have children or grandchildren please call Msgr. Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Thanks

## ***Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List***

### **Please Remember Those Hospitalized Recently in Your Prayers**

Mary Blum,

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

Rose Vargo, Bernadine Elias, Peggy Justice, Barb Sobota, Abbey Lattavo, Shirley and Jim George, Marge John, Diane Palotay, Virginia & Dolores Joseph, Jim Dellget, Betty Shia, Jim Thomas (father of Diane Frenn), Carrie Jane (Powell) Parodi

## ***Your Church Support Last Week***

\$1,474.00	Sunday Collection
2,465.00	Diocesan appeal
51.00	Candles
125.00	Easter Lillies
3,412.00	St. Maron dinner
60.00	Parking
50.00	Donation to Poor Families
<b>\$7,637.00</b>	<b>Total Deposits:</b> <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i>

## ***Calendar of Parish Events***

<b>Women Society Meeting</b>	<i>Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> after Mass</i>
<b>Palm Sunday, April 9</b>	<b>The Passion of the Lord</b>
<b>Easter Sunday, April 16</b>	<b>The Resurrection of the Lord</b>
<b><u>Lebanese Bake Sale</u></b>	–Sponsored by Women’s Society
Sunday, April 23 →→→→→ → →→	<b><u>Orders &amp; Payment Due</u> for Lebanese Bake Sale</b>
Sunday, April 30 →→→ → →→→→	<b>Spinach Preparation</b> – <i>starting after 10:30 a.m. Mass</i>
Monday-Thursday, May 1 & 2 →→→	<b>Baking Days</b> – <i>starting at 9 a.m. dough will be ready to shape &amp; fill</i>
Wednesday, May 3 →→→→→→→	<b>Order Pick-Up for Bake Sale</b> – <i>Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.</i>
Thursday, May 4 →→→→→→→→	<b>Order Pick-Up for Bake Sale</b> – <i>Thursday, from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</i>
<b>May Crowning &amp; First Communion</b>	<i>Sunday, May 7</i>
<b>Parish Rummage Sale</b>	<i>Saturday &amp; Sunday, June 10 &amp; 11 (see more info in future bulletins)</i>
<b>Cedar Hall Rental</b>	<i>Saturday, June 24</i>
<b>Cedar Hall Rental</b>	<i>Saturday, July 29 (tentatively)</i>
<b>Mahrajan New for 2017 - 2 day event</b>	<i>Saturday, August 12, &amp; Sunday, August 13</i>
<b>New: Parish Ladies Kibbee Sale</b>	<i>During Week of September 10<sup>th</sup> (see more info in future bulletins)</i>

## ***Stations of the Cross & Light Dinner*** (All Fridays during Lent after 5:30 p.m. Mass)

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Cross. The “*Stations of the Cross*” is a devotion which consists of following the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by recalling the fourteen prominent events that took place from the time of the trial under Pontius Pilate until His death and burial on Mount Calvary.

We thank the Cedar Club members who will sponsor the first Lenten Meal on Friday, March 3, and on Good Friday, April 14, after the Friday prayers. Also thanks to the generous families who will sponsor meals on other Fridays of Lent.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Volunteers Who Sponsor the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 24	Meal Sponsor: Kim Gibbons, Charlotte Khourey, Susan Saseen

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Volunteers Who Sponsor the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 31	Meal Sponsors: Chris & Jeannette Wakim
6 <sup>th</sup> Friday, April 7	Meal Sponsor: Carol Dougherty, Mike Linton & Msgr. Bakhos
<b>Good Friday, April 14</b>	Meal Sponsor: The Cedar Club & Parishioners

## ***Diocesan Appeal***

The Annual Lenten Appeal for the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon is now taking place. The Eparchy relies upon you to support our Maronite parishes, like this one, and train our future Maronite priests. Every family is asked to be generous and participate in the Appeal at a level which is meaningful for them. Your donation can be mailed to our church or in the collection basket. Our parish's goal for this year's Appeal is \$3,000.00. Please be generous and support your Eparchy. Thank you.

**Many Thanks for those who fulfilled their Easter Obligation for this year. May God reward you and bless your fasting.**

Dennis Albaugh, Nick & Judy Bedway, Shirley Bine, Mr. & Mrs. Michael N. Breit & Family (NC), Thomas Brock, Carol Burkhart, Ron & Susan Burns, Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Al Depto, Bill & Carol Dougherty, Earl & Linda Duffy, Frank & Anna Marie & Mike Duymich, Bernadine Elias, Millet & Susie Fadoul, Michael Fahey, Doanald E. Fielding (FL), Thomasina Geimer, Cathy Goodson (PA), Marge John, Larry & Kathy Josephs (MN), Catherine Gaudio, Patrick & Laurie Henry, Linda Hostutler, Dave & Greg John, Lou & Charlotte Khourey, Mary Rose Kukula, M/M Myron Law, Mike Linton, Sylvia Long, Angele Mansor, Jerry McGlumphy, John & Tulane Mensore, Veronica Mushet, Albert & Salam Naim (Memorial), Joe & Nikki Popovich, Chamse Rahi, Elsie Renzella, John & Opal Ritts, Rich & Mary Ryncarz, Bob & Fran Saseen, Mark Alan Schroeder, John & Dee Shiben, Janet Shutler, Larry & Lillian Siebieda, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka, Rex & Rita Strawn, Latif & Martha Thomas (SC), Dianna Vargo, Gary Weisner, George & Jean Weisner, Mary Beth Weisner, Randy Weisner, Ronald Weisner,

## ***May Queen and Attendants***

These are the attendants who will share in the May Queen procession this year with the May Queen who is Eva DeMuth: Eden DeMuth, Rosella DeMuth, Ava Murad, Addie Dierkes, Riley Robbins, Riyanna Robbins, Austin Robbins, Elyse Ashby, Zao Ashby, Gabriel Thomas, Zaylee Thomas, Lyiah Millard, Rayden Millard, and Mary. Jack, Josephine & Bridget Hendrickson,

## ***What's New?***

### ***Old Basement Restroom Project***

Dear parishioners,

For the last 60 years, the back area of the old basement of the church was never remodeled. After remodeling the old basement last year it was time to pay attention to that area where the restrooms, the storage area, and the vanity are located. The work started two weeks ago and it will be completed soon. An open house will be scheduled for all parishioners to see. This project will cost the church around \$15,000 or more. Many thanks for all those who donated toward this project and they wanted to remain anonymous. If you are blessed financially, please consider a tax-deductible donation to support the church. I guarantee you this is the last corner of the church that needs to be fixed. All things are new now. You deserve such a beautiful church.

### ***Pope Francis for Married Catholic Priests***

Pope Francis this week signaled receptiveness to appeals from bishops in the remote and overwhelmed corners of the Roman Catholic Church to combat a deepening shortage of priests by ordaining married men who are already committed to the church.

In an interview with a German newspaper, the pope made clear that he was not advocating an end to celibacy for current priests or those aspiring to join the clergy. But his seeming openness about the prospect of ordaining married men in places hardest hit by a dearth of priests was unusually explicit and brought the issue to the forefront.

“We need to think about whether ‘viri probati’ could be a possibility,” Francis, using the Latin phrase for such “tested” men, said in an interview with the newspaper, *Die Zeit*. “If so, we would need to determine what duties they could undertake, for example, in remote communities.”

For years, the pope has noted that an element of married clergy already exists in the church. Eastern Rite priests in union with Rome have married for centuries. In 1980, John Paul II created a provision by which some married Protestant ministers who converted to Catholicism could maintain their ministry. And historically, priests in the first centuries of the church were free to marry.

But monastic influences at the turn of the millennium led to the adoption of a celibacy requirement at the First Lateran Council of 1123, and that tradition has held ever since. It is not doctrine or dogma, but instead a code of canon law that essentially reasons that priests unburdened by spouses or children are both more reflective of Christ and devoted to pastoral demands.

Francis, who has made clear that he sees little possibility for allowing women to be priests, called the vocation crisis an “enormous problem.” The issue is less a question of theology than arithmetic.

In the United States, there are now about 2,500 Catholics per priest, compared with 851 per priest in 1972, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, which is affiliated with Georgetown University. The chasms are far wider in Africa, Asia and Latin America, where the faithful can go months without access to a priest and married deacons are increasingly called on to conduct the business of parishes. In Brazil, according to the center, there are roughly 8,000 Catholics per priest.

The Rev. Thomas J. Reese, a Jesuit priest and senior analyst for *The National Catholic Reporter*, said that in the face of such a crisis, the church had to decide whether upholding the celibacy rule was worth depriving the faithful of Mass and confession, which can only be performed by priests. He said that while the pontiff’s most recent predecessors had hoped for a turnaround in the diminishing numbers of priests, Francis seemed eager to push the issue.

“This is now an open topic in the church today,” Father Reese said, “whereas under John Paul II or Benedict, you could not talk about this.”

Before being chosen as pope in 2013, Francis — who was then Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio — said in remarks included in the book “*On Heaven and Earth*” that clerical celibacy was “a matter of discipline, not of faith. It can change.”

In 2014, as pope, he took a step that made it easier for married men to serve as priests, when he lifted a ban imposed in 1929 that had prohibited Eastern Catholic bishops from ordaining married men to the priesthood in Australia, Canada and the United States.

Until Francis made that change, the Eastern Rite churches could ordain married men only in their own territories.

Also in 2014, Bishop Erwin Krautler, of Xingu, Brazil, a territory where only 27 priests served 700,000 Catholics, brought up the issue with Francis. The bishop told an Austrian newspaper at the time that the pope had told him such a change could not be done by Francis in Rome, but that “local bishops, who are best acquainted with the needs of our faithful, should be courageous and make concrete suggestions.”

Soon after, in 2015, Bishop Leo O’Reilly of Kilmore, Ireland, said that the pope’s message to be creative in confronting priest shortages had led him to establish a commission on the possibility of ordaining married men. “I think the other bishops would be open to the idea,” he told the *Catholic Herald* newspaper.

Veteran observers of Francis have noted that the pope appears especially willing to broach the issue.

In August, the papal biographer Austen Ivereigh wrote on the Catholic news website *Crux* that “Francis has given many signals of his willingness to open up the question of ordaining married men, even encouraging local Churches to put forward proposals.”

Any formal discussion of changing the rule would surely engender opposition among a small but intense group of canon lawyers and traditionalists upset about Francis’ flexibility on issues of church law. In the meantime, the 80-year-old pope seems to be using the media to plant the idea directly with the faithful.

“The glacier is moving forward, but there are forces that want to move it back,” said Paul Bumbar, a former priest and the co-secretary of *Corpus*, an organization founded more than 40 years ago by men who had left the priesthood to marry. “And Francis has made it clear that he does not want to stop. I just pray his health holds out.”



## ***St. Maron Dinner detailed Income & Expenses:***

Dinners	50/50	Gift Basket	Bake Sales	Donations	Total
\$4,420.00	\$600.00	\$386.00	\$1,338.00	\$115.00	\$6,859.00

Expenses: \$1835.00

Net Profit: \$5,024.00

### ***St. Maron Dinner prize winner***

--the 50/50 winner was Lindsey Martin daughter of Paul Abraham. Her prize is \$300.00

--the Gift Basket winners were Lou & Charlotte Khourey

### ***St. Maron Dinner Thank You***

A big thank you to all of the great volunteers who helped make this years St. Maron's dinner a success. The wonderful ladies and gentlemen who worked hard as one team from the Front desk to the kitchen and serving areas did a marvelous job and received lot of compliments for their smiles and hospitality. We could not name the many volunteers lest we forget someone who worked behind the scene and made the difference. Many thanks for those who donated money and items to raise funds for the church. It is highly appreciated. As usual everyone did an excellent job and their sense of humor made the day fun. We appreciate all that you do and it's the efforts of our wonderful volunteers that make the events happen. --Carol Dougherty & Msgr. Bakhos

## ***Around Us***

### ***Sponsor a Cedar Tree in Lebanon***

The Maronite Church is encouraging emigrants to plant cedar trees in the mountains of Lebanon to preserve this treasure unique to world. King Solomon cut the cedar trees in order to build his Temple. A Memorial plaque will honor your names at the entrance of the cedar forest. Please see brochure with Msgr Bakhos.

Cost of 1 foot cedar tree is \$50.00 and that of 3 foot tree is \$100.00. Please call the office 304-233-1688

### ***Novena of Infant of Prague*** (begins Monday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.)

Where: Our Lady of the Peace, Mozart

## ***A Time to Laugh (172)***

### ***Truth***

A conductor was rehearsing with his orchestra and said to the trumpet player: *"I think this part calls for a more Wagnerian approach, if you get what I mean. Something more assertive, so to speak. More accentuated, with more body, more depth, more...."*

The trumpet player interrupted: *"Do you want it louder, sir?"* All that the poor conductor could say was: *"Yes, that's what I meant!"*

A disciple came to Maruf KARKHI, the Muslim Master, and said: *"I have been talking to people about you. The Jews say you are one of their own. The Christians consider you to be one of their saints. And the Muslims look upon you as a glory to Islam."*

Maruf replied: *"That's what they say here in when I lived in Jerusalem the Jews dubbed me a Christian; the Christians, a Muslim; and the Muslims, a Jew."*

*"Then what are we to think of you?"*

*"Think of me as a man who said this about himself: Those who do not understand me revere me. Those who revile me do not understand me either."*

### ***The Saints***

Nisterius the Great, one of the holy Fathers of the Egyptian Desert, was one day walking in the desert with a large number of disciples who revered him as a man of God. Suddenly a dragon appeared before them and they all ran away. Many years later, as Nisterius lay dying, one of the disciples said to him: *"Father, were you also frightened the day we saw the dragon?"* *"No,"* said the dying man. *"Then why did you run away with the rest of us?"* *"I thought it better to flee the dragon, so I would not have to flee from the spirit of vanity later."*

