



November 5, 2023

Bulletin #45

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

2216 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

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

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Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



Consecration of the Church

- *Weekend Masses: Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m.
Sundays: Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- *Weekday Masses: Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays: No Mass. Pastor's office work.
Tuesdays and Thursdays Mass at 12:00 Noon
- *Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: Every 1st Saturday and Sunday of the month after 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, Mary Stees, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad.
- *Choir Members: Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
- *Bulletin Coordinator: Thomasina Geimer
- *Altar Server: Earl Duffy and Joe Roxby
- *Altar Boy: Christopher AlKhouri
- *Cedar Club: Linda Duffy, President
- *Women's Society: Jeannette Wakim, President



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

Consecration of the church

Readings: Is 54:1-10; Heb 9:1-12 and Mt 16:13-20

There is one God, and one Christ, and his Church one, and the faith one, and a people joined in solid oneness of body by a cementing concord. Unity cannot be sundered, nor can one body be divided by a dissolution of its structure, nor be cast piecemeal abroad with vitals torn and lacerated. Parted from the womb, nothing can live and breathe in its separated state; it loses its principle of health. The Holy Spirit warns us and says, *“What man is he that lusted to live, and would fain see good days? Refrain your tongue from evil and your lips that they speak no guile. Eschew evil and do good, seek peace and ensue it.”* Peace ought the son of peace to seek and to ensue; he who understands and cherishes the bond of charity, should refrain his tongue from the evil of dissent. Among his divine commands and saving instructions, the Lord now nigh to passion spoke this beside, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you.”* This is the legacy that Christ has given us; all the gifts and rewards that he foretokens to us, he promises to the preserving of peace. If we are Christ’s heirs, let us abide in the peace of Christ; if we are sons of God we ought to be peacemakers; *“Blessed,”* he says, *“are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.”* The sons of God ought to be peacemakers, mild in heart, simple in word, agreed in feelings, faithfully entwining one with another by links of unanimity. Under the apostles of old there was this oneness of mind; it was thus that the new congregation of believers, keeping the commandments of the Lord, preserved its charity. Divine scripture proves it, which says, *“The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.”* and again; *“These all continued with one mind in prayer with the women, and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”* Therefore they prayed with effectual prayers, and were with confidence enabled to obtain whatsoever they required of the Lord’s mercy.

(St Cyprian, *On the Unity of the Church.*)

Sponsor a Christian Student in Lebanon’s Catholic Schools

Dear Parishioners,

Please read the attached letter of our Bishop Elias Zaidan concerning sponsoring a student in the Christian catholic schools of Lebanon. **Cost: \$150.00.** We will have a second collection on Saturday and Sunday, November 4th and 5th for this purpose. May your good deeds shine like the sun in the kingdom of heaven. We will forward all your donations to our chancery in Los Angeles.

We are overwhelmed by the quick response to this appeal by many generous benefactors in our parish. We will publish other names in the next bulletin. May their good deeds open the gates of heaven for them: Lou & Charlotte Khourey, Nick Ghaphery, Jean Weisner, Gary Weisner, Mary Beth Weisner, Ron Weisner, Dennis Albaugh, Ron & Kim Gibbons, --Msgr Bakhos

Jesus performed 37 Miracles.

We will publish them weekly in order to strengthen our faith that Jesus is indeed the Son of God who has divine power to heal and raise the dead by a Word from his mouth. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Him.

The 35th miracle of Jesus when he made a Fig Tree Dry Up

Early in the morning, Jesus was on his way back to Jerusalem. He was hungry. He saw a fig tree by the road. He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Right away the tree dried up. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree dry up so quickly?” they asked. Jesus replied, “What I’m about to tell you is true. You must have faith and not doubt. Then you can do what was done to the fig tree. And you can say to this mountain, ‘Go and throw yourself into the sea.’ It will be done. If you believe, you will receive what you ask for when you pray.” (Matthew 21:18-22)

Creating your legacy

How can you manage your charitable giving more efficiently to benefit the charities you love and support, like our church established by our ancestors since 1906? The Parish Council opened an Endowment Fund Account designated exclusively for the church maintenance for years to come. All donations are tax deductible. Please let us keep our beautiful church well maintained and donate anytime toward this account or put the church in

writing in your last will. To donate, please call the church office at 304-233-1688. May the Blessed Mother reward you in this life and in the next.

--Monsignor Bakhos, pastor.

All Souls Masses thru Thursday, November 9th

† Special Prayers during this week to:

Wednesday, November 1st: † Charlotte George (Birthday) by Margaret George (MN)

Tuesday, November 7th to: † Libby G. Magnone (Birthday) by her sister Mary Zaid Stees

Thursday, November 9th: † Elizabeth Ferris Magnone (Birthday) by her daughters Mary Stees & Libby G. Magnone

† Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol (Ok)

† Deceased of Zaidan Chahine by Youssef & Jocelyne Chahine (PA)

† Deceased of the Chidiac Family by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac

† Catherine Arthur by her daughter Carol Burkhart

† Deceased of the Kourey & Howard Families by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Emmalena & Louie

† Virginia Kourey Bryan & Deceased of the Nabihah & Habib Kourey Family by the Kourey Family

† Deceased of the Nader Family by Lou & Charlotte Kourey & Emmalena & Louie

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

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

† Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

† Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

† John Wilson by Judy Wilson & Family

† Rudy Hodulik, Theodore Hodulik and Wayne Wilson by Judy Wilson

† Julia Hodulik, Filka Hodulik by Judy Wilson

† Alice Wilson by Judy Wilson & Family

† Tom Ferris by his nieces Mary Stees and Libby G. Magnone

† Zaid Hawa Ferris by her granddaughters Mary Stees & Libby G. Magnone

† Albert & Annette Togliatti by GiGi Rice

† Sadie Bouharb & Mary Harb by GiGi Rice

† Khalil & Sadie & Maria Harb & Annette & Al Togliatti by Jamil Harb (Troy, MI)

† Sarah Harb (sister of Benefactor Jamil Harb) by the Family

† Mike & Sue Linton & their parents Joe & Frances Linton by Steve Linton

† Deceased of Tom & Judy Brock, Jr.

† Chamse Rahi by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm & Rahi Families

† Deceased of the Rouhana Family by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm & Rahi Families

† Tina Rahi by the Peklinsky, Howarth, Storm & Rahi Families

† Mary K. Ferris by her daughter Denise Ferris

† George & Martha Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family

† Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen & Family

† Debbie Saseen by George & Susan Saseen & Family

† Paul Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter

† Patty Ross Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter

† Christopher Hankish by Rose Hankish Carpenter

† Deceased of Gus & Anna Shia by the Family

† Tim, Ginny & Martha Shia by the Family

† Tom Jochum by his Family

† George, Dolores and Bert Fahey by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Philip & Betty Lou Petros by Jackie & Pat Petros

† Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt

† Ray, Sara, Mick and Gary McLaughlin by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

† John & Mary Miller by Mark & Barb McLaughlin

- † Elias & Selma, Edward & Edith, George & Betty Joseph by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- † Deceased of the Daniel and DiFabrizio Families by Rebecca & Michael DiFabrizio
- † Mike Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Alphonse Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Georgette Joseph by Vickie Joseph
- † Sam & Bernadine Elias & Deceased Family members by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Alphonse & Violet Golebiewski & Deceased Family members by Mike & Terri Golebiewski
- † Elias & Siham Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Zack, Andrea and Christian Riedel
- † Jim & LaVerne Thomas by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn and Zack, Andrea and Christian Riedel
- † Fouad Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn & Zack, Andrea & Christian Riedel
- † Rose Ann & Angelo Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- † Katheryn & Hermon E. Conti by Rosalie Conti
- † Herman E. Conti Jr, & Tony Matesic by Rosalie Conti
- † Bill Dougherty by his wife Carol Dougherty (OK)
- † Deceased of the Habdo Family by Carol Dougherty
- † Emily Vince by her Children & grandchildren
- † Donald Vince by his Children & grandchildren
- † Patricia Gompers by Matt & Vickie Gompers
- † George Alan Weisner by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Deceased of the Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Deceased of the Maroon & Mary Catherine Habeb Families by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Deceased of the Weisner, Bishop & Schmeichel Families by the Weisner & Joseph Families
- † Betty Abraham, Clara Carter & Evelyn Goodson by Jean Weisner & Family
- † Forgotten Souls in Purgatory by Jean Weisner
- † Betty Coram Purpura by Jean Weisner
- † Mary Thomas by Jean Weisner
- † Sophie Moses by Jim Moses
- † John G. Moses by Jim Moses
- † Jeffery Moses by Jim Moses
- † Loved Ones of the Bine, Gaudio & Paesani Families by Shirley Bine
- † Deceased of the Fadoul & Duffy Families by Earl & Linda Duffy
- † Robert “Herk” Henry by Patrick Henry
- † Rosemary Henry by Patrick Henry
- † Alma Erbachen by Patrick Henry
- † Barbara Wenskey by Patrick Henry
- † Don Wensyel by Patrick Henry
- † Paul & Anna Orr & Jim Orr by Patrick Henry
- † Camille & Selma Rohanna by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Harry Charles Seabright by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Frank Lish by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Louis C. Seabright by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Louise S. Gladkowski by Kim & Jan Seabright
- † Walter Elwartoski by his son Richard Elwartoski
- † Lottie Elwartoski by her son Richard Elwartoski
- † Elizabeth “Betty” Purpura by Robert & Sandra Coram
- † Noel Foreman by his wife Anne Foreman
- † Rose Maxwell Hazlett by her daughter Anne Foreman
- † Rose McKennan Hazlett by her sister Anne Foreman
- † Helen & Al Schroeder by Mark Schroeder & Jane Wine
- † Frank Schroeder by Mark Schroeder
- † Shirley Elias Nickerson & Deceased members of the Elias Family by their Loving Family

- † Donald Nickerson Sr. & Deceased members of the Nickerson Family by their Loving Family
- † Cathy Sharp-Howard by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- † Betty Jane Fadoul by Millet Fadoul & Family
- † Susie Marie Fadoul by Millet Fadoul & Family
- † Our parents John & Cecilia John & D. William Burns by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Our grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph & Sarah Burns by Ron & Susan Burns
- † Our Aunts & Uncles, Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sister Mary Thomasina John & Roland & Julia Tappe by Ron & Susan Burns
- † All deceased of The Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus by Ron and Susan Burns
- † Deceased of the Gibbons & Otterbeck Families by Ron & Kim Gibbons
- † Robert Hunter Jr., & Robby Hunter III by Thomasina Geimer
- † Ralph & Mary (Joseph) Shipley by Thomasina Geimer
- † Phillip Geimer by his wife Thomasina Geimer
- † Deceased of the Namon & Salema (Awed) Joseph Family by Thomasina Geimer
- † Andrew Sr. & Mary Demsko by their daughter Rosemary
- † Andrew Demsko Jr. by his sister Rose
- † Rhoda Marie Perilli “Ginger Perilli” by Diana Gavin and Paula Perilli
- † Silvio “Joe” Perilli by Diana Gavin and Paula Perilli
- † Evelyn Goodson by her daughter Cathy Goodson
- † Albert & Annette Togliatti by GiGi Rice
- † Khalil, Sadie & Agatha Harb by GiGi Rice
- † Sarah Volk by GiGi Rice
- † Noel Foreman by his wife Anne and Family
- † Robert & Pearl Shutler by their daughter Janet Shutler
- † Robert J. Jr. & William F. Shutler by their sister Janet Shutler
- † Harry J. Nolte by his granddaughter Janet Shutler
- † Harry F. & Isabelle Nolte by their great-granddaughter Janet Shutler
- † Fred & Clara Shutler by their granddaughter Janet Shutler
- † Isaac & Bertha Nolte by their great niece Janet Shutler
- † Charles & Bettie Nolte by Janet Shutler
- † William T. Breit by the Michael Breit Family
- † Aurora Doris Lantagne by the Michael Breit Family
- † Elizabeth Ann Parsons by the Michael Breit Family
- † Bernard Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Marie Connell by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Abdoo Saseen by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Dorothy Saseen by Jim & Pat Saseen-Connell
- † Deceased of Dr. & Mrs Nabil AlKhouri Family
- † Matthew Siebieda by Larry & Lillian Siebieda and Family
- † Constantino Cetorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda and Family
- † Delia Contorti Cetorelli by Larry & Lillian Siebieda and Family
- † Orval Blake by Larry & Lillian Blake Siebieda and Family
- † Elena Blake by Larry & Lillian Blake Siebieda and Family
- † Donnie Sigler (brother-in-law) by Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- † Albert & Anita Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Nimon & Mariam Joseph by Mary Beth Weisner
- † George Alan Weisner & Robert A. Weisner by Mary Beth Weisner
- † My mother’s siblings – Joseph Family by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Bryce Luginbill by Mary Beth Weisner
- † Deceased of the Sofka Family by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka
- † Deceased of the Stanton and Sayre Families by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka

- † Deceased of the Sofka Family by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sofka
 † Dolores Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
 † Ryzso Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
 † Diane Palotay by the Palotay and Jarrett Families
 † Jerrie Williams Palotay by the Palotay & Jarrett Families
 † Lawrence & Teresa Ferrera; Mary Jean Comas; Janet Ferrera, Joann Slack; James Ferrera by Larry & Becky Ferrera
 † George & Betty Joseph; Selma & Elias Joseph; Edward & Edith Joseph, Sara & Ray McLaughlin; Gerard & Tessa Joseph; Gary & Mickey McLaughlin by Larry & Becky Ferrera
 † Jack Harsan by Larry & Becky Ferrera
 † Edgar & Ellen Dennis by Annette Wetzel
 † V. Jeannette Yeater by the Wakim Family
 † John Wakim (brother) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
 † John Wakim (uncle) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
 † Emma Wakim by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
 † Robert Wakim (nephew) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
 † Kayla Yeater (niece) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
 † Stephen Wakim (brother) by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
 † Deceased of the Wakim & Yeater Families by Chris & Jeannette Wakim
 † Rosemary Coury by her husband Richard Coury
 † Marianna Khoury by her son Richard Coury
 † Eva M. Coury by Richard Coury
 † Louanna Maroon by Dick Coury
 † Attorney Edward Khoury by Dick Coury
 † Samuel Khoury by Richard Coury
 †

Next Weekend: Sat.-Sun., Nov. 11-12: Renewal of the church

Saturday, November 11, Mass at 4:00 p.m.:

- † Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will
 † Noel Foreman by his wife Anne
 † Deceased of the Roxby & Olinski Families by Joe Roxby

Sunday, November 12, Mass at 10:30 a.m.:

- † Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin (Anniversary) by Mark & barb McLaughlin
 † Mike & Sue Linton and their parents Joe and Frances Linton by Steve Linton
 † John Shiben by Denna O. Shiben (FL)

Coming Parish Events

Sat-Sunday, Nov. 4 & 5	2 nd collection to sponsor a catholic student in Lebanon.
Thanksgiving Masses	Thanksgiving Eve: Wednesday, November 22: Mass at 5:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 23: Mass at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 3 rd	Christmas Dinner after 10:30 am Mass (Dinner will be served at noon)
Christmas Novena	Every Saturday and Sunday during December after Communion No Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament during December

Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month:

- November 8: Mark Wilson
 November 9: Liz Murad, Cindy Thomas
 November 11: Ryan Murad
 November 24: Rex Strawn

November 26: Mary Lish

December 3: Joey John

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,869.00	Sunday Collection
360.00	Bulletin Ads
54.00	Candles
42.00	Coffee hour
90.00	Christmas Dinner
200.00	Donation to the church
2,865.50	Bake sale
100.00	Donation from mercy meal
\$5,580.50	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy, Susan Burns, Liz Murad

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)

Anthony Wakim, Frank Duymich, Earl Duffy, Fran Saseen, Mary Stees, Rex Strawn, Sandra DeMuth, Ken Imer, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Jamie Stoneking (nephew of Charlotte and Lou Khourey), Patty Olinsky, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Earl Ragase, Patrick Sengewalt, Renee Beabout (daughter of Marge John), Jack Hogan (infant son of Mark & Michaela Hogan & great nephew of Lou Khourey), Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter),

What's New?

Bulletin Ad Page

We are preparing the ad page at the back of our weekly bulletin. It is a good way to advertise your business and to support the church in defraying the cost of printing the bulletins. Please call Msgr Bakhos or Charlotte at 304-639-1372 if you would like to place a personal or business ad. Cost is \$120.00 for a single space ad (2.5 inches x 1.5 inches) for the entire year. You can purchase more adjacent ads.

Christmas Gift from our Church Gift Shop

Order your Christmas Gifts to your family and friends from our Gift Shop. Please call 304-233-1688

Aprons	\$25.00
Born & Raised T-shirt	\$25.00
Heartbeat T-shirt	\$25.00
Dry Fit Festival T-shirt (youth)	\$25.00
Dry Fit Festival T-shirt (adult)	\$30.00
Festival Golf Shirt (youth)	\$35.00
Festival Golf Shirt (adult)	\$40.00

Rummage Sale Items Drop off all Year Long

Please bring with you to the church all the items you wish to donate toward the Rummage Sale. Items are accepted all year long. The Cedar Club and the Women Society raise funds to cover the expensive Building Insurance of our church. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

<i>Spirituality: Examination of Conscience</i>

Repentance is not self-regarding, but God-regarding. It is not self-loathing, but God-loving. Christianity bids us to accept ourselves as we really are, with all our faults and our failings and our sins. In other religions, one has to be good to come to God -in Christianity, one does not. Christianity might be described as a “*come as you are*” party. It bids us stop worrying about ourselves, stop concentrating on our faults and our failings, and thrust them upon the Savior with a firm resolve of amendment. The examination of conscience never induces despair, always hope. Some psychologists, by the proper use of their method, have brought mental peace to individuals, but only because they have found a safety valve from mental pressure. They have let off steam, but they have not repaired the boiler. That is the business of the Church.

Because examination of conscience is done in the light of God’s love, it begins with a prayer to the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds. A soul then acts toward the Spirit of God as toward a watchmaker who will fix our watch. We put a watch in his hands because we know he will not force it, and we put our souls in God’s hands because we know that if God inspects them regularly, they will work as they should.

It is true, the closer we get to God, the more we see our defects. A painting reveals few defects under candlelight, but the sunlight may reveal it as a daub. The very good never believe themselves very good, because they are judging themselves by the Ideal. In perfect innocence each soul, like the Apostles at the Last Supper, cries out: “*Is it I, Lord*” (Mt.26:22).

(...) Why is there more joy in Heaven for the repentant sinner than for the righteous? Because God’s attitude is not judgment but *love*. In judgment, one is not as joyful after doing wrong as before; but in love, there is joy because the danger and worry of losing that soul is past. He who is sick is loved more than he who is well, because he *needs* it more. Some will feign sickness to solicit love and pretend wounds in order that the beloved may bind them. --Bishop Fulton SHEEN, *Peace of Soul*, pp.110-111.

Wisdom

“The Old Paths”

I liked the old paths, when moms were at home. Dads were at work. Brothers went into the army.

And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay; Hard work did; And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook; Dads would work; Children would behave.

Husbands were loving; Wives were supportive; And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry; And Men wore the pants.

Women looked like ladies; Men looked like gentlemen; And children looked decent.

People loved the truth, and hated a lie.

They came to church to get IN, not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded GODLY; Sermons sounded helpful; Rejoicing sounded normal; And crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked; Drugs were for illness.

The flag was honored; America was beautiful; And GOD was welcome!

We read the Bible in public; Prayed in school; And preached from house to house.

To be called an American was worth dying for; To be called an American was worth living for;

To be called a traitor was a shame!

I still like the old paths the best!

“The Old Paths” was written by a retired minister who lives in Tennessee.

Story: Pledge of Allegiance

In light of the recent appeals court ruling in California, with respect to the Pledge of Allegiance, the following recollection from Senator John McCain is very appropriate:

“The Pledge of Allegiance” - Senator John McCain

As you may know, I spent five-and-one-half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room.

This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing.

Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it.

That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then, they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could.

The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room. As I said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to Pledge our allegiance to our flag and country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world.

You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation **under God** indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

A Time to Laugh (86)

Funny Quote

"I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them.

There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves." (John Wayne)

Finely Tuned Body

Your body is a great deal like a finely tuned automobile: Even if you take good care of it, eventually it will break down anyway.

Smooth Cupcakes

A man was visiting his brother and sister-in-law and found his young nephew helping them bake cupcakes. The parents went into the living room and let the boy finish frosting the cupcakes by himself. When the boy finished, he brought the cupcakes into the living room and served them to his parents and his uncle.

"These cupcakes look wonderful!" his uncle exclaimed. He then took a couple more bites while looking at the other cupcakes. "And they are delicious too."

The boy's parents were still eating their first cupcake when the uncle had finished, so he took another. As he began his second cupcake, he thanked his nephew again and asked, "How did you get the icing to spread so smoothly?"

His nephew answered, "I licked them."

Candor by the Dentist

A dentist was overheard speaking to his patient as he bent over him with a hypodermic needle in hand: "You might feel a little sting. On the other hand, it might feel as though you've been kicked in the mouth by a mule."

Ethics Test

A young woman was soaking up the sun's rays on a Florida beach when a little boy in his swimming trunks, carrying a towel, came up to her and asked her, "Do you believe in God?"

She was surprised by the question but replied, "Why, yes, I do."

Then he asked her, "Do you go to church every Sunday?"

Again, her answer was "Yes!"

Then he asked, "Do you read your Bible and pray every day?"

Again, she said, "Yes!" But by now her curiosity was very much aroused. At last the boy sighed and said with obvious relief, "Will you hold my quarter while I go in swimming?"

Relative Honesty

A school teacher was trying to impress her students with the importance of honesty. She asked her class, "Suppose you found a briefcase with a half million dollars in it. What would you do?"

Johnny raised his hand immediately and replied, "If it belonged to a poor family, I'd return it."

False Hope

Nothing gives you more false hope than the first day of a diet.

Hard Dress to Iron

A little girl went up to the front of the church to listen to the pastor's children's sermon. The pastor gathered the children around himself and noticed the beautiful new dress on this little girl. The pastor complimented the girl for her pretty dress and asked if it was new.

The little girl leaned toward the pastor and spoke directly into his lapel microphone: "Yes, pastor, this is my brand-new dress. And my mommy says that it is even harder to iron this dress than to listen to one of your sermons."