



March 16, 2025

Bulletin #11

## *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](mailto:ololwv@comcast.net) • Web Site: [www.ololwv.com](http://www.ololwv.com)

Monsignor Bakhos Chidiac, Pastor

Mary Lee Porter, Ed.D. Organist



## *Sunday of the Hemorrhaging Woman*

- \***Weekend Masses:** Saturdays: Mass at 4:00 p.m. and 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Susan (John) Burns, Mark McLaughlin, Liz Murad, Gary Weisner.
- \***Choir Members:** Lou Khourey, Robert Harris, Joe Simon, Shelly Hancher, Holly Stahl.
- \***Bulletin Coordinator:** Thomasina Geimer
- \***Altar Server:** Joe Roxby
- \***Altar Boy:** Christopher AlKhoury
- \***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.

## *Lenten Meditation*

**“They will respect my son.”** (Matthew 21:37)

There is always a tendency to think that the words of the Gospel are addressed only to people who lived long ago. But the very reason we read the Gospels every year in our churches is to allow the words to be addressed to us in our own times. The story of the vineyard is the story of the Church that Christ has “planted.” And we must be ever vigilant that we do not reject the one who “planted” us.

There is little danger that we will reject Christ in so many words. But we may give lip service to Jesus and give our hearts and minds to something else: our nation, our social class, the economic privilege we enjoy or pleasure itself.

Even the Church itself must never become more important to us than the Lord who gives it meaning. All priests, all sacraments, all laws, all traditions mean nothing if Christ has not saved us. None of them can ever be placed in a position of greater importance than our God revealed in Jesus. Resisted in his own time by his own people, Jesus can be resisted in our times as well, even by those who call themselves Catholic or Christian. Let us pray that we be people who bear the fruit of faith and not be unworthy of the cornerstone we have been given.

## *Sunday of the Hemorrhaging Woman*

Readings: Num 15:37-41; 2Cor 7:4-11 and Lk 8:40-56

The story of the healing hemorrhaging woman is reported by the three Synoptic evangelists: Matthew, Mark and Luke. (Mt 9:20-22, Mk 5:25-34, Lk 8:43-48). Mark’s text contains more detail than the others. The woman was cured of an issue of blood, and Jesus said to her, **“Daughter it is your faith that has cured you. Go in peace and be free of this illness.”** (Mark 5:34).

Particularly curious in this case of healing is that the hemorrhaging woman did not make a request of Jesus for healing. In general, sick people approached Jesus and asked him to cure them; or they were brought to him by others who made the request for them. In this case, the woman came up behind Jesus and touched His cloak, and immediately she was cured (Mark 5:27-28).

Her case was humanly hopeless. Several doctors tried in vain to cure her, and **“she exhausted her savings in the process, yet she got no relief; on the contrary, she only grew worse.”** (Mark 5:26). Then she heard about Jesus and put her faith in Him to restore her total health.

Faith can be alive and strong, even in complete silence. Both active and contemplative religious orders please God. Often, we ignore the reason why the sick woman did not face Jesus and openly petition the miracle. None of the three evangelists provides us with an answer to this question. It may be her shyness or her feminine decency; in all probability, she did not want to reveal publicly her gynecological illness. Perhaps she also feared that she would be rejected by the public since according to Jewish law (Leviticus 13: 1-2 and 44-46), her bleeding condition rendered her ritually impure. But this is only speculation. The important thing is that she had strong faith in Jesus. Sober and reserved in her belief, she wished only to **“touch His clothing.”** (Mark 5:28). No need for her to make a long speech, no need for ostentation.

**Her attitude tells us that we must also deal delicately and discretely with delicate matters. Jesus granted her wish and praised this faith of hers; faith and decency go together, and Jesus appreciates both.**

The healing of the hemorrhaging woman reveals Jesus’ power over incurable diseases and His sensitive concern for everyone in need. Jesus is both healer and savior of mankind. When He sent His disciples to preach the Gospel He commanded them to **“heal the sick”** (Matthew 9:8).

God created the human person healthy in body and soul. But sin, the mortal sickness of the soul brought sickness to the body as its consequence. Every person became basically sick. Christ came to heal all our sicknesses, as Isaiah the prophet says: **“It was our infirmities that He bore our sufferings that He endured.”** (Isaiah 53:4). Jesus became, so to speak, **“sinner”** and **“ill”** for our sakes, in order that we may have health in soul and body. Without Jesus we all remain sinners and sick. Only in, with, and through Him can we become completely whole.

**In conclusion, Jesus forgives us all our sins, even those for which we are humanly ashamed!**

## ***Turn off your cellular phone before you enter the church***

It is a Common Sense that people silence or turn off their cellular phone before entering the church to pray and focus on prayers. Many public places display signs asking "Turn off your cell phone." It is the right of every worshiper not to be disturbed while praying. Two signs are posted inside our church to this regard. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding. –Monsignor Bakhos

### ***This Weekend, March 15-16:***

### ***Sunday of the Hemorrhaging Woman***

#### **Saturday, March 15; Mass at 4:00 pm:**

- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ Louise J. Gary by Melanie & William Fox Family

#### **Sunday, March 16; Mass at 10:30 am:**

- ✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

### ***This Weekdays Mass Schedule***

#### **Monday, March 17: No Mass. Pastor's day off.**

#### **Tuesday, March 18; Mass at noon**

- ✠ Robert J. Shutler, Sr. (Anniversary) by his daughter Janet Shutler
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her last Will
- ✠ Janis & George Thomas (Ohio) by their last will

#### **Wednesday, March 19; No Mass. Office work.**

#### **Thursday, March 20; Mass at noon:**

- ✠ Earl Ragase (Anniversary) by Mary Ragase
- ✠ Joe & Ina Palsinelli by Rosalie Conti
- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will

#### **Friday, March 21; Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction**

- ✠ Intention of Dr. Nabel & Nisrine Alkhouri and Family for sponsoring the Lenten Meal
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby

### ***Next Weekend, March 22-23: Sunday of the Prodigal Son***

#### **Saturday, March 22; Mass at 4:00 pm:**

- ✠ Thanksgiving Mass for healing of Mary Ragase
- ✠ Deceased Family members of the Roxby Family by Joe Roxby
- ✠ John Shibben by his wife Dee Shibben

#### **Sunday, March 23; Mass at 10:30 am:**

- ✠ Michael & Annette & Gene Howard by Lou & Charlotte Khourey and Family
- ✠ Mary Zaid Stees, Elizabeth A. Magnone, Tom Ferris by Libby G. Magnone
- ✠ George and Sonja Shia by their daughter Michelle and Family

### ***Coming Parish Events***

Sunday, March 16	Cedar Club Meeting after 10:30 a.m. Mass
Friday, March 21 Stations of the Cross	5:30 pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross, Spiritual Reflection, and Benediction. Then social hour sponsored by Susan & Ron Burns
Friday, March 28	5:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the altar for adoration. This adoration is upon the request of his holiness Pope Francis. Confessions are

	available before the Stations of the Cross. Please come early and silently pray the Rosary while adoring the Blessed Sacrament. Mass starts at 5:30 p.m.
Holy Week schedule April 14-17	Monday thru Thursday, April 14-17: Mass at 5:30 pm every day. (no noon Masses)
Good Friday, April 18	Solemn Burial of the Lord at 5:30 pm followed by Meatless dinner prepared by the Cedar Club.
Easter, Sunday, April 20	10:30 am Easter Mass
Sunday, May 4	May Procession. Ma'lia Shia will be the May Queen.
May 10-May 18	Masses for the Deceased and Living Mothers and grandmothers. Please submit your Mass Form to Msgr. Bakhos to publish your intentions.
Sunday, May 11	Mother Day
Spring Bake Sale	Kibbee baking: Wednesday, May 14 Meat pie baking: Thursday, May 15 Order pick-up: Saturday, May 17
Sunday, June 15	Father's Day
Mahrajan (Festival)	Sunday, August 10, 2025. Outdoor Mass at Oglebay at 10:00 a.m. Booths open after Mass.
Thanksgiving Bake Sale	???????

## ***Stations of the Cross***

Every Friday during Lent, we celebrate the Mass at 5:30 p.m. It will be followed by the Stations of the Cross and 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. Many Thanks to these generous families who sponsored light Lenten meal dinners for social hour after the Stations of the Cross. If any other family wants to participate in the meal for social hour, please ask and join the families listed below.

Date:	Volunteers Who are sponsoring the Light Meals on Fridays during Lent:
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday, March 21	Meal Sponsors: Dr. Nabil & Nisrine Alkhouri
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, March 28	Meal Sponsors: Liz & Jay Murad
5 <sup>th</sup> Friday, April 4	Meal Sponsors: Janet Shutler, Randy Weisner and Msgr. Bakhos
6 <sup>th</sup> Friday, April 11	Meal Sponsors: George & Susan Saseen & the Frenn Family
Good Friday, April 18	Meal Sponsors: The Cedar Club & Parishioners
Easter Sunday, April 20	Happy Easter

## ***Easter Lillies Donated in Memory of:***

Please donate \$25.00 to sponsor a lilly or a hyacinth toward decoration the Tomb and the altar of the church at Easter. Please mention on your note: "In Loving Memory of..." May God reward you many folds.

- ✠ Gladys Howard & Louise N. & Lois H. Khourey, Sr. by Lou & Charlotte Khourey & Family
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Tom & Mary K. Ferris by their daughter Denise Ferris
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Mary Stees by Denise Ferris
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Mary Zaid Stees by Jay & Liz Murad
- ✠ Adib & Sadie (parents), Nadim (brother), Mona (sister) by Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac
- ✠ In Loving Memory of the Shutler & Nolte Families by Janet Shutler
- ✠ In Loving Memory of the Rahi and Peklinsky Families by Alicia Peklinsky
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ In Loving Memory of beloved parents John & Cecilia John & D. William Burns and grandparents Tom & Sadie John, David & Tamamie Joseph & Sarah Burns by Susan & Ron Burns
- ✠ In Loving Memory of aunts & uncles: Louis & Cecilia Ammar, Fred & Rita John, Sister Mary Thomasina John & Roland & Julia Tappe by Susan & Ron Burns

- ✠ In Loving Memory of Elias & Selma Joseph Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin Family by Mark & Barb McLaughlin
- ✠ In Loving Memory of our mother & dear brother David Frey by their loving Family
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Nimon & Mariam Joseph Family by the Joseph & Weisner Families
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Shirley Elias Nickerson & deceased members of the Elias Family by Tammy Strong
- ✠ In Loving Memory of George & Martha Saseen & Steve & Elizabeth Harasuik by George & Susan Saseen
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Phillip Geimer & my deceased family members by Thomasina Geimer
- ✠ In Honor of Janet Shutler
- ✠ In Honor of Jean & Mary Beth Weisner
- ✠ In Honor of Chris & Jeannette Wakim
- ✠ In Honor of Larry & Lillian Siebieda
- ✠ In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Nabil Alkhouri & Family
- ✠ In Honor of Michael Duymich

## ***Diocesan Appeal Fulfilled***

Many Thanks for all the following generous parishioners who fulfilled their Easter Obligations so far. Our church's Quota is \$3,000 to be sent to our Diocese to help paying the cost of different projects mainly educating our seminarians to be our future priests. May the Lord who sees in secret accept your fasting and almsgiving and forgive your sins during this Lenten Season:

- Msgr. Bakhos Chidiac in Memory of his deceased family members
- Rusty & Annette Wetzel in Memory of Edgar & Ellen Dennis
- Ron & Susan Burns in Memory of our beloved parents John & Cecilia John & D.William & Carol Burns
- Anna Bris in Memory of Ronald, Tom and Ronald Jr.
- Tom & Sharon Beatty in Memory of Susie Fadoul
- Marge John in Memory of Louis John Family
- John & Opal Ritts in Memory of John & Mary Ritts
- Larry & Becky Ferrera in Memory of Lawrence & Teresa Ferrera & George & Betty Joseph
- Ron & Kim Gibbons in Memory of the Gibbons & Otterbeck Families
- In Honor of Joe Roxby
- Jean Weisner in Memory of Nimon & Mariam Joseph
- Millet Louis Fadoul & Family in Memory of Susie Marie Fadoul
- Dave & Debbie Sengewalt in Memory of Bob Sengewalt
- Mark Schroeder in Memory of Helen & Al Schroeder
- Carol Burkhart in Memory of Dana Burkhart
- Frank & Anna Marie Duymich in Memory of parents Frank Sr. & Mary Lou Duymich
- In Honor of Kenneth & Nancy Joseph
- Thomasina Geimer in Memory of my beloved deceased family members
- Larry Siebieda in Memory of Costentino & Delia Cetorelli
- Jeannette & Chris Wakim in Memory of Blanche & Tom Wakim
- Mark & Barb McLaughlin in Memory of Sara (Joseph) McLaughlin Family
- Dennis & Mary Lee Porter in Memory of the Deceased of the Porter & Schweizer Families
- Elsie Renzella in Memory of Nicola & Filomena Renzella & Family
- Dee Shiben in Memory of John E. Shiben
- Veronica Mushet in Memory of our Beloved Brother David Frey
- Ron Weisner in Memory of the Deceased members of the Weisner & Joseph Families
- Maryann Carl in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. John T. John
- David & Greg John in Memory of John T. & Cecilia John
- Debbie Huffman in Memory of the Huffman & Oser Families
- Rosalie Conti in Memory of Herman E. Conti Jr.
- Angele Mansor in Memory of the Mansor Family
- In Honor of Mike & Judy Sofka

--In Honor of Randy P. Weisner

--Dr. Adel, Diane & Justin Frenn in Memory of the Frenn & Thomas Families

--Sue Jochum in Memory of the Shia & Jochum Families

--Denise Ferris in Memory of Tom & Mary K. Ferris

## ***Festival News***

### ***Lebanese Festival Photographs Needed:***

The Lebanese Festival Committee is asking for any exceptional photographs you have from the 2024 festival. The committee would like to use the photographs to update the brochure and other advertising materials. We are specifically looking for photos of families enjoying the festival, guests dancing, and the OLOL Dance Troupe dancing. Please contact Monsignor Bakhos or Susan John if you have photographs that you would be willing to share for publication.

### **EXCITING NEWS!!! The Lebanese Festival 50/50 RAFFLE Tickets are now ON-SALE!**

...The festival 50/50 Raffle tickets are now on-sale for \$20 per ticket! We have only printed 1,000 tickets. If all tickets are sold, there is an opportunity to win \$10,000 Cash! Tickets can be purchased from Monsignor Bakhos at 304-233-1688. Once received, Monsignor will fill-out the raffle ticket and mail the stub to the buyer.

THANK YOU for helping us achieve our 50/50 Raffle goal!

### ***Birthdays Wishes in the Coming Month***

March 16: Mia Ferrera  
 March 18: Kenny Imer, Bill Stees, Patrick Petros  
 March 21: Caroline Stees McDowell  
 March 22: Jennifer Imer  
 March 26: Joseph John  
 March 30: Greg John  
 April 1: Patrick Sengewalt  
 April 6: Ronald Weisner  
 April 8: Jesse John  
 April 11: Randy Weisner  
 April 12: Justin Frenn  
 April 13: Adel Frenn  
 April 14: Mark McLaughlin, Lori Chickos

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

\$2,371.00	Sunday Collection
1,175.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> collection: Diocesan Appeal
54.00	Candles
11.00	Coffee hour
10.00	Easter Lillies
20.00	Utilities
\$3,641.00	Total Deposits: May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home! Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Susan Burns, Liz Murad, Mark McLaughlin

### ***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)

Earl & Linda Duffy, Julia Schiess (daughter of Leo Bleifus), Mary Ragase, Becky Ferrera, Gavin Hancher, Monroe DeLuca, Sally Sengewalt, Mary Zigler (sister of Lillian Siebieda), Dolores Oser, Anthony Wakim, Fran Saseen, Sandra DeMuth, Justin Frenn, Elia Frenn, Patty Fahey, Patty Olinsky, Fred Schweizer (brother of our organist Mary Lee Porter), Denny Albaugh, Rita Rae Sage,

## *What's New?*

### *Welcome New Parishioners*

We welcome every Christian and every Family into our church. We are happy that you are benefiting spiritually from our rich eastern catholic faith and tradition. We will be honored to serve you in all your needs. Please write your address on a sheet of paper and drop it in the collection basket so that we can mail you information about our events. Thanks you for your cooperation. —Monsignor Bakhos

### *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 Building Insurance of our church which exceeds \$22,000. Any donation is accepted and helpful. We will open the basement door for you anytime. Please call 304-233-1688

## *Our Diocese Events*

### *Maronite Academy*

The Maronite Academy is an initiative, undertaken by the Maronite Foundation, aimed at introducing young Lebanese immigrants around the world to their country of origin, Lebanon.

The Foundation is proud to announce, the opening of the 8th consecutive session of the Maronite Academy in honor of the late H. E. Michel Eddé, Founder and honorary President of the Maronite Foundation.

The candidates should be descendants of Lebanese Ancestors, aged between 20 and 30, and should undergo online courses to build their knowledge about Lebanon and the Maronite Heritage.

To increase their chances of being selected, the candidates must also complete the form on the website <https://maronitefoundation.org/LebaneseCitizenship/en> to learn more about their roots and to check if they are eligible to get their Lebanese Citizenship.

After successfully completing their online courses, the candidates will benefit from an organized two-week trip to Lebanon (August 2 to 17, 2025), hosted by the Maronite Foundation.

During their stay in Lebanon, the candidates will get to bond with their roots and explore the history of Lebanon and the Maronite Heritage through specialized seminars given by prominent figures and various site visits.

Please spread the word about the Maronite Academy program among your friends and family to register before the end of April 2025 and join the Maronite Academy!

\*Candidates must be fluent in English

We are expecting your visit soon! Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!



The Maronite Foundation in the World [maronitefoundation.org](https://maronitefoundation.org)

### *MYA Midwest Regional Conference (April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)*

Where: St. Sharbel Church, 43888 Hayes Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48038

When: April 4th - 6th.

Information: Fr. Tony Massad 810-691-7055

Activities, meetings, and presentations will take place at the parish.

**Hotel address:** Hilton Garden Inn Detroit Utica 44700 Hayes Road Clinton Township, MI 48038

The theme for our conference this year will focus on the Jubilee Year in the Church. We will explain the biblical foundation of the Jubilee year, when and why it became a tradition in the Catholic Church, and how we can incorporate the blessings of this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope with a focus and meditation on praying and living the Lord's Prayer "Our Father".

Registration is open: <https://www.ololmya.org/event-details/midwest-mya-regional-conference>



Schedule: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fOyPJM0q5w965q-fhFgiicoDQTTSAUOrp8vfjzStp2Q/edit?usp=sharing>

## ***Maronite National Youth Conference*** (June 23-28)

Where: La Roche University, Pittsburgh

Age groups: 12-18 year old

Registration starts on: January 17, 2025

Information: [www.maroniteyouth.org](http://www.maroniteyouth.org)! Questions: [office@maroniteyouth.org](mailto:office@maroniteyouth.org)

## ***NAM awarness***

Our Diocese needs two parishioners interested to be the liason of the National Apostolate of Maronites Convention. Please call Msgr Bakhos at 304-233-1688 to be appointed. Thanks for your cooperation If anyone like to join the National Apostolate of the Maronites, please call Msgr Bakhos.

## ***Pilgrimage to Rome & Sicily*** (August 25 to September 4)

On the occasion of the Jubilee Year 2025, our Diocese is planning a pilgrimage trip to Rome and Sicily.

When: From August 25 until September 4

Package includes: stay at 4 star hotels, meals, visit important sites, English speaking guide, bus transportations.

Cost: \$3,900 for double occupancy per person. Additional \$1,000 supplement for single occupancy.

Reservation due date: May 31, 2025. There are only 50 spots open. First come, first serve.

Reservation: please call Ivette Jackson 323-336-3168 or Jamileh Koury 918-626-9193 [info@eparchy.org](mailto:info@eparchy.org)

## ***Trivia Teaser***

Answers of puzzle #1 that was published in the previous bulletin

1- Bedtime Story; 2- Beehive State; 3- Belmont Stakes; 4- Bee Sting; 5- Bering Strait; 6- Ben Stiller; 7- Bethlehem Steel; 8- Beer Stein; 9- Belie Starr; 10- Beale Street; 11- Bear Stearns; 12- Bell Stand.

Puzzle # 2

Try this:

Grab a calculator. (You won't be able to do this one in your head)

Key in the first three digits of your phone number (NOT the area code)

Multiply by 80

Add 1

Multiply by 250

Add the last 4 digits of your phone number

Add the last 4 digits of your phone number again

Subtract 250

Divide number by 2

Do you recognize the answer?

## ***Question & Answer (#6)***

**Question #6: "What does God look like?" Rachel P., 13**

Answer: God the Father is a pure spirit, which means He has no body. We can't then really describe what He "looks like" because that phrase assumes God the Father has a body like ours that we could "look at." Because it is hard for us to think of a being without a body, God has given us images or descriptions of Himself which help us picture what He is like. For example, we can think of God as a loving Father who cares for and cherishes His children.

The best "picture" of God, however, is Jesus Himself Who said, "Whoever who has seen Me, has seen the Father" (John 14:9). As God the Son, Jesus showed us what God the Father is like. He also showed us the Father's perfect love by teaching people, healing the sick, forgiving sins, and, most of all, dying for our sins on the cross. Jesus promised us that, if we love God, one day we will "see" Him in the Beatific Vision, which means that our hearts and minds will be perfectly united with God in heaven. In this "vision of God," we will be completely happy and at peace: We will want nothing.



## ***Giving in Scriptures: God Commands Us to Give***

### ***(Examples in Giving)***

--Whenever the chest was brought in by the Levites to the king's officials and they saw that there was a large amount of money, the royal secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and carry it back to its place. They did this regularly and collected a great amount of money. The king and Jehoiada gave it to the men who carried out the work required for the temple of the LORD. They hired masons and carpenters to restore the Lord's temple, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the temple. The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it. When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the Lord's temple: articles for the service and for the burnt offerings, and also dishes and other objects of gold and silver. As long as Jehoiada lived, burnt offerings were presented continually in the temple of the LORD. (II Chronicles 24:1 1-14)

--All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. (Acts 2:44-45)

--Then Peter said, Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk. (Acts 3:6)

--All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. (Acts 4:32-37)

--In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: it is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:3 5)

--And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

--For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

--Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. (Philippians 4:15-16)

## ***Spirituality: Redemption***

The tormented minds of today are not the products of our tormented world. Rather, it is our upset minds that have upset the world. There is no such thing as the problem of the atomic bomb; there is, rather, the problem of those who make and use it. Only men and nations whose personalities were already atomized could join forces with external nature to use an atomic bomb in an attack on human existence. Man, by attempting to exist either apart from God or defiant of God, has made the world as delirious as his own mind is neurotic. The crisis today is so deep in its causes that all social and political attempts to deal with it are bound to be as ineffective as talcum powder in curing jaundice. It is man who has to be remade *first*; then society will be remade by the restored new man. The dictators that have been cast upon the shores of the twentieth century are not the creators of the disorder, but rather its creatures. They are symptoms, not causes, of the universal breakdown of a moral order in the heart of humanity. The constant refusal of man to allow a suprahistoric Divine Power to break into his closed mind is the pride that prepares catastrophe. Most people are intuitively

aware that no change other than a spiritual change will be enough: The extreme sensitiveness and ready anger of those who urge revolutions against society and morality as their remedy are proof of the insecurity of their very position. The violence of their opposition to all criticism is a sure sign of the defenselessness of their own position; even they suspect that mankind stands less in need of revolution than redemption.

*Bishop Fulton SHEEN, Peace of Soul, 1949, pp.259-260*

## ***Wisdom: Today & Tomorrow***

This is the beginning of a new day, God has given me this day to do as I will.

I can waste it or grow in it's light, and be of service to others.

But what I do this day is important, because I have exchanged a day of my life for it.

When tomorrow comes, today will be gone forever, I hope I will not regret the price I paid for it.

## ***Story: Magnolias***

I spent the week before my daughter's June wedding running last-minute trips to the caterer, florist, tuxedo shop, and the church about forty miles away. As happy as I was that Patsy was marrying a good Christian young man, I felt laden with responsibilities as I watched my budget dwindle . . . so many details, so many bills, and so little time.

My son Jack was away at college, but he said he would be there to walk his younger sister down the aisle, taking the place of his dad who had died a few years before. He teased Patsy, saying he'd wanted to give her away since she was about three years old!

To save money, I gathered blossoms from several friends who had large magnolia trees. Their luscious, creamy-white blooms and slick green leaves would make beautiful arrangements against the rich dark wood inside the church.

After the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, we banked the podium area and choir loft with magnolias. As we left just before midnight, I felt tired but satisfied this would be the best wedding any bride had ever had! The music, the ceremony, the reception – and especially the flowers - would be remembered for years.

The big day arrived - the busiest day of my life - and while her bridesmaids helped Patsy to dress, her fiancée Tim, walked with me to the sanctuary to do a final check. When we opened the door and felt a rush of hot air, I almost fainted; and then I saw them - all the beautiful white flowers were black. Funeral black. An electrical storm during the night had knocked out the air conditioning system, and on that hot summer day, the flowers had wilted and died.

I panicked, knowing I didn't have time to drive back to our hometown, gather more flowers, and return in time for the wedding. Tim turned to me. "Edna, can you get more flowers? I'll throw away these dead ones and put fresh flowers in these arrangements."

I mumbled, "Sure," as he be-bopped down the hall to put on his cuff links.

Alone in the large sanctuary, I looked up at the dark wooden beams in the arched ceiling "Lord," I prayed, "please help me. I don't know anyone in this town. Help me find someone willing to give me flowers - in a hurry!" I scurried out praying for four things: the blessing of white magnolias, courage to find them in an unfamiliar yard, safety from any dog that may bite my leg, and a nice person who would not get out a shotgun when I asked to cut his tree to shreds.

As I left the church, I saw magnolia trees in the distance. I approached a house ... no dog in sight. I knocked on the door and an older man answered. So far so good ... no shotgun. When I stated my plea the man beamed, "I'd be happy to!"

He climbed a stepladder and cut large boughs and handed them down to me. Minutes later, as I lifted the last armload into my car trunk, I said, "Sir, you've made the mother of a bride happy today."

"No, Ma'am," he said. "You don't understand what's happening here."

"What?" I asked.

"You see, my wife of sixty-seven years died on Monday. On Tuesday I received friends at the funeral home, and on Wednesday ... He paused. I saw tears welling up in his eyes. "On Wednesday I buried her."

He looked away. "On Thursday most of my out-of-town relatives went back home, and on Friday - yesterday - my children left.

I nodded. "This morning," he continued, "I was sitting in my den crying out loud. I miss her so much. For the last sixteen years, as her health got worse, she needed me. But now nobody needs me. This morning I cried, "Who needs an eighty-six-year-old wore-out man? Nobody!" I began to cry louder. 'Nobody needs me!' About that time, you knocked, and said, "Sir, I need you."

I stood with my mouth open.

He asked, "Are you an angel? The way the light shone around your head into my dark living room." I assured him I was no angel.

He smiled. "Do you know what I was thinking when I handed you those magnolias?" "No."

"I decided I'm needed. My flowers are needed. Why, I might have a flower ministry! I could give them to everyone! Some caskets at the funeral home have no flowers. People need flowers at times like that and I have lots of them. They're all over the backyard! I can give them to hospitals, churches - all sorts of places. You know what I'm going to do? I'm going to serve the Lord until the day He calls me home!"

I drove back to the church, filled with wonder. On Patsy's wedding day, if anyone had asked me to encourage someone who was hurting, would have said, "Forget it! It's my only daughter's wedding, for goodness' sake! There is no way I can minister to anyone today."

But God found a way through dead flowers.

"Life is not the way it's supposed to be. It's the way it is. The way you cope with it is what makes the difference.

## Jokes (158)

### **Love**

*"My friend isn't back from the battlefield, Sir. I request permission to go out and get him."*

*"Permission refused," said the officer. "I don't want you to risk your life for a man who is probably dead."*

The soldier went, all the same, and, an hour later, came back mortally wounded, carrying the corpse of his friend. The officer was furious. *"I told you he was dead. Now I've lost both of you. Tell me, was it worth going out there to bring in a corpse?"* The dying man replied, *"Oh, it was, sir. When I got to him he was still alive. And he said to me, 'Jack, I was sure you'd come.'"*

### **Awareness**

An oyster saw a loose pearl that had fallen into the crevice of a rock on the ocean bed. After great effort she managed to retrieve the pearl and place it just beside her on a leaf. She knew that humans searched for pearls and thought, *"This pearl will tempt them, so they will take it and let me be."*

When a pearl diver showed up, however, his eyes were conditioned to look for oysters and not for pearls resting on leaves. So he grabbed the oyster which did not happen to have a pearl and allowed the real pearl to roll back into the crevice in the rock.

### **Prayer**

A pious old man prayed five times a day while his business partner never set foot in church. And now, on his eightieth birthday he prayed thus:

*"Oh Lord our God! Since I was a youth not a day have I allowed to pass without going to church in the morning and saying my prayers at the five specified times. Not a single move, not one decision, important or trifling did I make without first invoking Your name. And now, in my old age, I have doubled my exercises of piety and pray to You ceaselessly, night and day. Yet here I am, poor as a church mouse. But look at my business partner. He drinks and gambles and, even at his advanced age, consorts with women of questionable character yet he's rolling in wealth. I wonder if a single prayer has ever crossed his lips. Now, Lord, I do not ask that he be punished, for that would be unchristian. But please tell me: why, why, why... have You let him prosper and why do You treat me thus?"*