The Maronite Miami Mosaic

OUR LADY OF LEBANON | CATHOLIC | MARONITE CHURCH NEWSPAPER

45TH Annual Miami Reflecting on the past, Embracing the Future Lebanese Festival

The succesful result of an amazing teamwork



Last weekend of January - 26th to the 28th, we had the pleasure of hosting our 45th Annual Miami Lebanese Festival. It was a great honor to receive more than 5,000 people who enjoyed a glimpse of Lebanese gastronomy and culture. We are convinced that the authenticity of our festival's gastronomy and entertainment is decisive in the success we obtain each year. But this success would not be possible to achieve without the help of an army of people who, months before, begin to prepare everything from logistics, security and permits to the typical dishes and desserts that will be served during the festival. With Father Manuel Rahmeh in charge, each committee is dedicated to the maximum to guarantee that each line is attended to and covered satisfactorily. Our Parishioners/Volunteers begin all the preparations weeks before and then cook from scratch the delicious recipes they brought from homes and ancestors in Lebanon. Meanwhile, the other committees are in charge of the necessary permits, logistics and security for the event and the market. All these activities before, during and after the festival are carried out by all the volunteers who tirelessly give their energy and effort to achieve success. We cannot leave aside the incredible and noble collaboration of our sponsors, without whom our annual festival would not be possible either. This year, always trying to improve by and for you, we changed the dynamics a little, setting up our food, market, and entertainment outside to improve comfort and speed of service. Thank God the result was successful! We managed to break records in attendance and sales, making it the best festival in the history of Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church in Miami. All Glory to God, Jesus, and Our Lady of Lebanon who blessed us with a gorgeous weather and a full moon that made the perfect setting for a beautiful Festival.

By Fr. Manuel Rahmeh

This year marks a significant milestone in the history of Our Lady of Lebanon as we proudly celebrate our 50th anniversary. It's a time to look back with gratitude appreciate the present, and eagerly anticipate the future.

A Journey Through Time

Fifty years ago, a small community gathered to establish Our Lady of Lebanon, a spiritual haven that has grown into a vibrant center of faith, love, and community. As we reminisce about the past, it's heartwarming to see the journey that brought us to this point.

Commemorative Events

To honor this momentous occasion, Our Lady of Lebanon has organized a series of commemorative events throughout the year. From special Mass services and cultural festivals to community outreach programs, these events are designed to bring parishioners together in celebration. Upcoming events include Sunday school, Easter Events, Men's Group, Ladies Sodality, MYA, MYO and more, promising a blend of spiritual enrichment, cultural celebration, and community bonding. We invite all parishioners to join us in making the events and groups memorable and impactful.

Gratitude to Our Generous Sponsors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous sponsors who have supported Our Lady of Lebanon throughout the years. Their commitment has played a pivotal role in maintaining the vibrancy of our church community.We proudly acknowledge and thank each of our sponsors for their invaluable contributions.

Embracing the Future

As we celebrate our rich history, we're also setting our sights on a dynamic and inclusive future. One exciting initiative on the horizon is the establishment of a Youth Center right here in Our Lady of Lebanon. This center will serve as a hub for our young parishioners, providing a safe and nurturing space for them to learn, grow, and connect.

Join Us in Celebration

We invite all parishioners, both longstanding and new, to join us in celebrating this significant milestone. Your presence and participation will make our parish life truly special. Here's to 50 years of faith, community, and shared memories at Our Lady of Lebanon in Miami!





Special Thanks to Our Parishioners, Volunteers and Sponsors.



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Back to Our Roots Looking Back and Forward

By William L. Barimo



For the past 50 years it has been a pleasure to have witnessed the formation, inception, progress and impact our church has had on the Lebanese community here in Miami. I clearly recall my mother and father, William and Diane Barimo, telling my brothers and I one Sunday morning that today we will be going to a new church. We arrived that morning, and to my surprise and perhaps others we entered a grocery store with the proverbial terrazzo floors, deli meat displays, and other grocery store equipment scattered amongst the few rows of folding chairs. As a young teenager at the time, this was somewhat confusing to me. After Mass, everyone was so happy, greeting each other, hugging, conversing, and telling their family stories. I was just a young teenager at the time, but I could see from that very first day that this gathering was something very special to this small group of people.

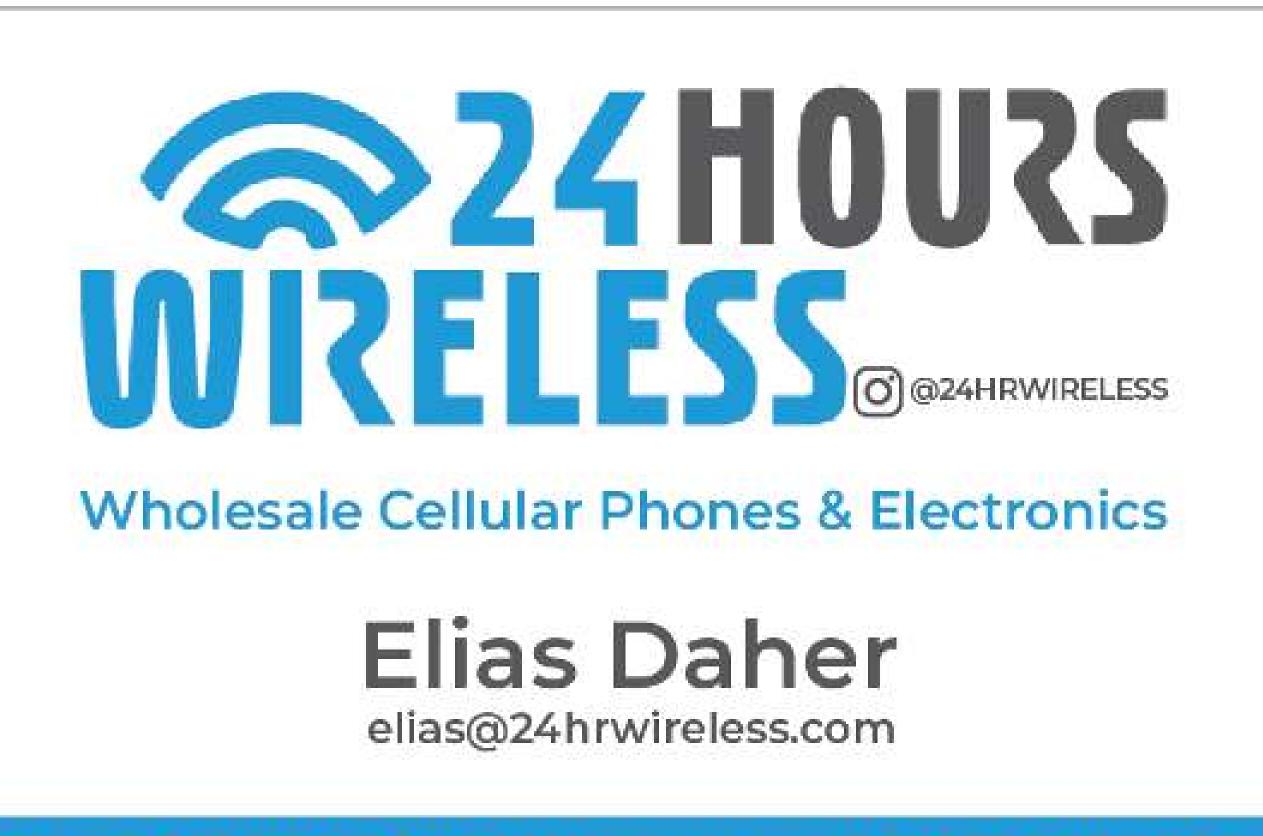
The acquisition of the grocery store property was the culmination of hard work and commitment by Clergy and local members of the Lebanese community. Although I didn't understand at the time, this was a major milestone in the history of this church. We now had a church of our own to serve the spiritual needs of the Lebanese community, providing not only a place of worship, but also a center for cultural and social gatherings.

The Lebanese community in Miami has a rich heritage deeply rooted in its religious and cultural traditions. Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church has become a focal point for preserving and celebrating these traditions while also integrating into the broader Catholic community of Miami. Over the years, the church has grown both in membership and influence, playing a significant role in the religious and social life of Lebanese-Americans and other Catholics in the region. Its clergy and parishioners have been actively involved in various charitable, educational, and outreach initiatives, contributing to the well-being of the community at large."

Throughout its history, Our Lady of Lebanon Church has undergone renovations and expansions to accommodate the needs of its growing congregation and to enhance its facilities for worship, education, and community activities. The church continues to thrive as a vibrant center of faith and culture, welcoming people of all backgrounds to come together in worship, fellowship, and service."

One of the highlights of the year involves an annual church festival that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Lebanon and the Catholic faith. The festival includes many activities, such as traditional Lebanese food, music and dance while attracting members of the Lebanese community and people from diverse backgrounds. The festival also provides a platform for the church to engage with the community to promote the understanding and appreciation of Lebanese culture.

My parents, as well as the many other Founders and Clergy shared a vision. Their vision has been realized, probably above and beyond their expectations. The mission however is never complete as we forge ahead with greater aspirations. The youth of the church have been energized and the congregation is growing. The future is bright. The Church's legacy serves as a testament to the strength of the Lebanese community in Miami, the commitment to the church by the many families in the congregation, along with the commitment to faith and tradition.



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In loving Memory of Radwan Mikhaël Mabjish By his wife, children and grandchildren

Tadoy you will be a better person than yesterday. The world will be on your side. Roberto Hanna, Isabelle & Family (1)

Edward Jones

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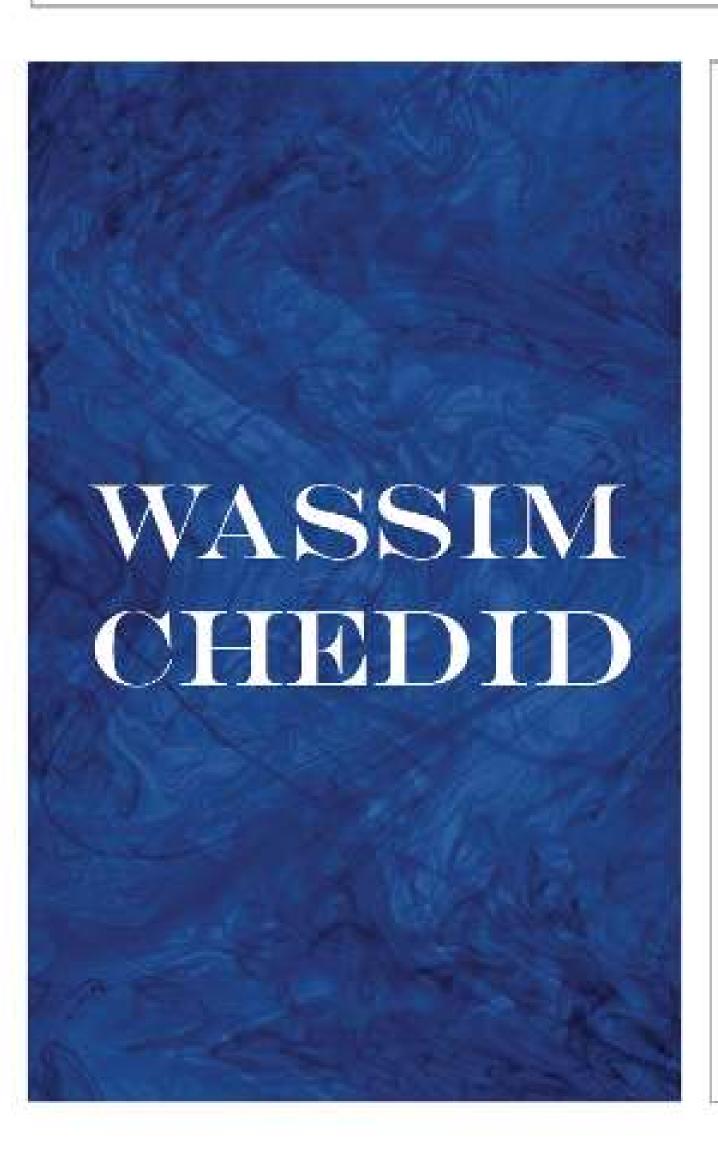
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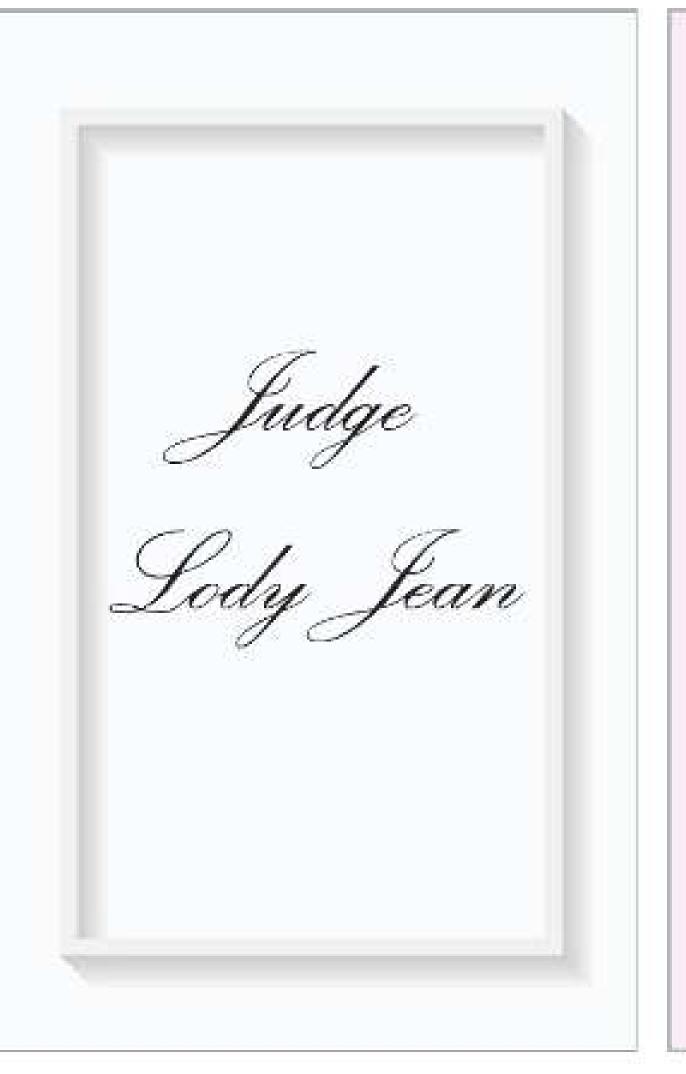


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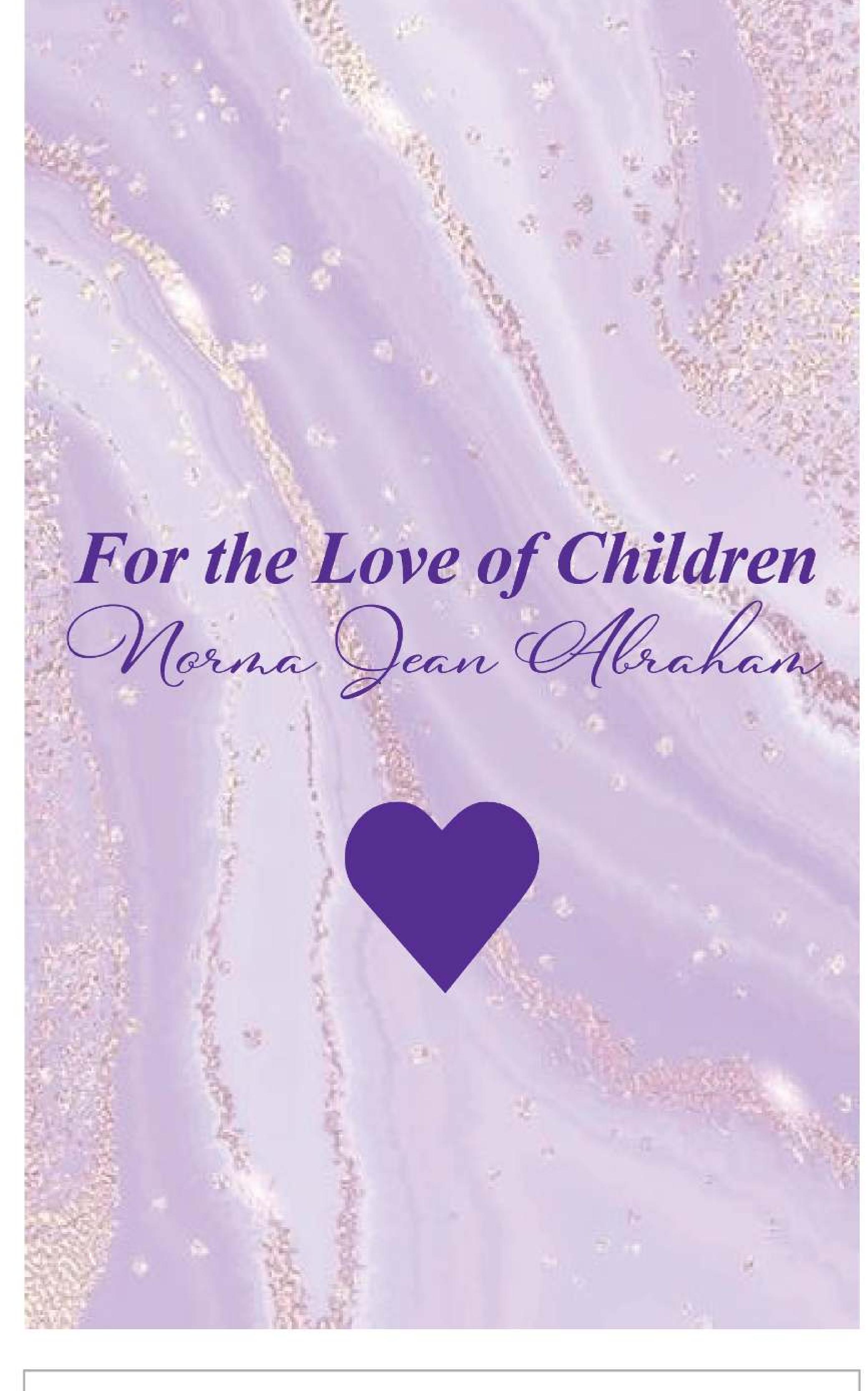
IN LOVING MEMORY of DR. & MRS. JOSEPH P. GEORGE

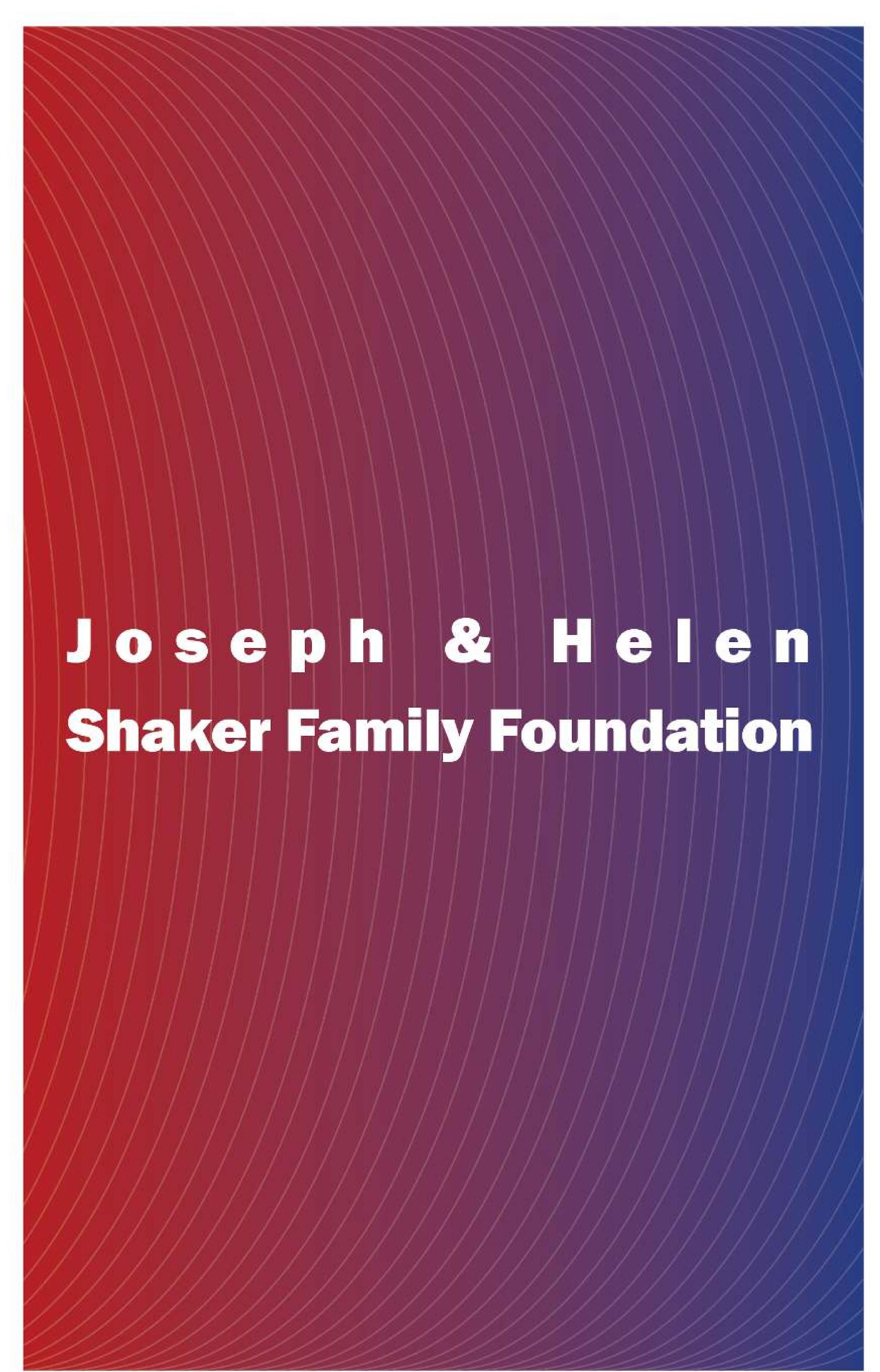
RESPECT OUR HERITAGE

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Elena George & Family

By Norma Jean Abraham

Since opening its doors 50 years ago on September 8th, 1973; Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church has become the home to the Many from Lebanon from the Middle Eastern countries and the Latin American countries. We have masses every Sunday at 11 AM by our pastor father Manuel Rahmeh, assisted by subdeacon Joseph Lahoud; we also have 6 to 8 altar boys from our parishioners who prepare the mass by lighting all the candles on the altar and dressing in white robes, with red sashes. We start the mass with a rosary, and then a reading by one of the parishioners of the mass of the day. The altar boys carry gold crosses with our pastor, and our subdeacon marching down the aisle towards the altar. Mass is in Arabic and English and a Choir that is part of the mass and which is in Arabic. Also selected parishioners every week are chosen to carry the gifts for the mass and given to father Manuel in front of the altar with his blessing when Father Manuel gives the gospel, and he speaks on a personal note to the parishioners about the message from the gospel when going down the aisle. For communion, Father Manuel requests that we cross our hands over our chests, and we do not touch the host. When the mass ends, Abouna Manuel speaks to the parishioners about the community's updates, then marches down, and a procession through the church and out of church before the parishioners are allowed to leave.







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OLOL The Maronite Rite

A Brief Introduction to our Maronite Catholic Church

Our History: Our Lady of Lebanon is a Roman Catholic Church of the Maronite Rite located in Miami, FL. It had its official beginnings on September 8, 1973, a day on which we celebrate two feasts of the Virgin Mary: Her Nativity and Her title as the Patroness of Cuba, the Virgin of Charity (La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre).

Maronite Rite: The Maronite church, one of the largest Eastern rite churches, is prominent especially in modern Lebanon. The church is in canonical communion with the Roman Catholic Church and is the only Eastern rite church that has no counterpart outside that union. The Maronites trace their origins to St. Maron, or Maro (Arabic: Mārūn), a Syrian hermit of the late 4th and early 5th centuries, and St. John Maron, or Joannes Maro (Arabic: Yühannā Mārūn), patriarch of Antioch in 685–707, under whose leadership the invading Byzantine armies of Justinian II were routed in 684, making the Maronites a fully independent people.

The immediate spiritual head of the Maronite church after the pope is the "patriarch of Antioch and all the East," residing in Bikirkī, near Beirut. The church retains the ancient West Syrian liturgy, often delivered in Syriac even though the vernacular tongue of the modern Maronites is Arabic.

Maronite Identity: Today, as before, our Church is striving to be loyal to the mystery (living the mystery of salvation through Jesus Christ and witnessing to Him in the Antiochene Domain and in the Countries of Expansion) from which it sets off and on which every genuine Christian identity is built in as much as these elements are tied to the person of Jesus Christ, who "is the same, yesterday, today and forever", (Hebrews 13:8) they take the place of a throbbing heart in the conscience of Maronites. It must not be remiss in the sons and daughters of the Maronite Church, as they seek to throw light upon the elements of their identity, that their Patriarchal Church is, before all else, the realization of the mystery of the One, Universal, Holy and Apostolic Church in the special environment in which they were called to bear witness to their Apostolic faith and to their evangelical values, and consequently not willing to be led, in their endeavor, into mere cultural, national or political considerations.

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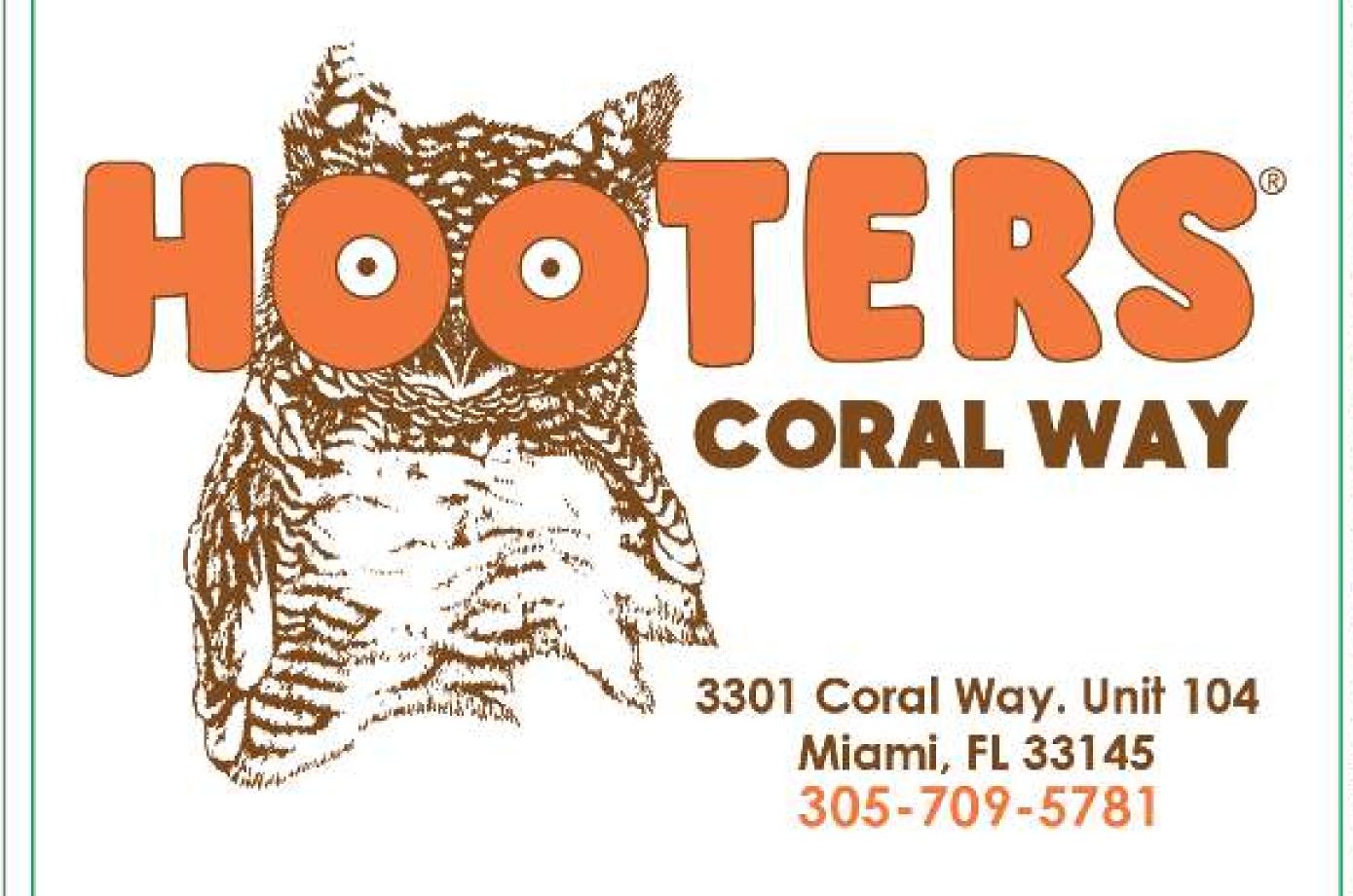
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Bible Study Sessions

By Alex Venot

It is said that the simplest way to begin reading the Bible is to start with the Gospels where we meet Christ, who is the Light, the Truth, and the Word of God. And what better way than to start by reading the Gospel according to Matthew, in which the words of Jesus are more numerous than in any of the other Gospels.

This is exactly what a group of our parishioners did when they dedicated their Monday nights to study the Book of Matthew, during the most recent Bible study session offered at Our Lady of Lebanon, under the guidance and teachings of Abouna Manuel and Father Michael.

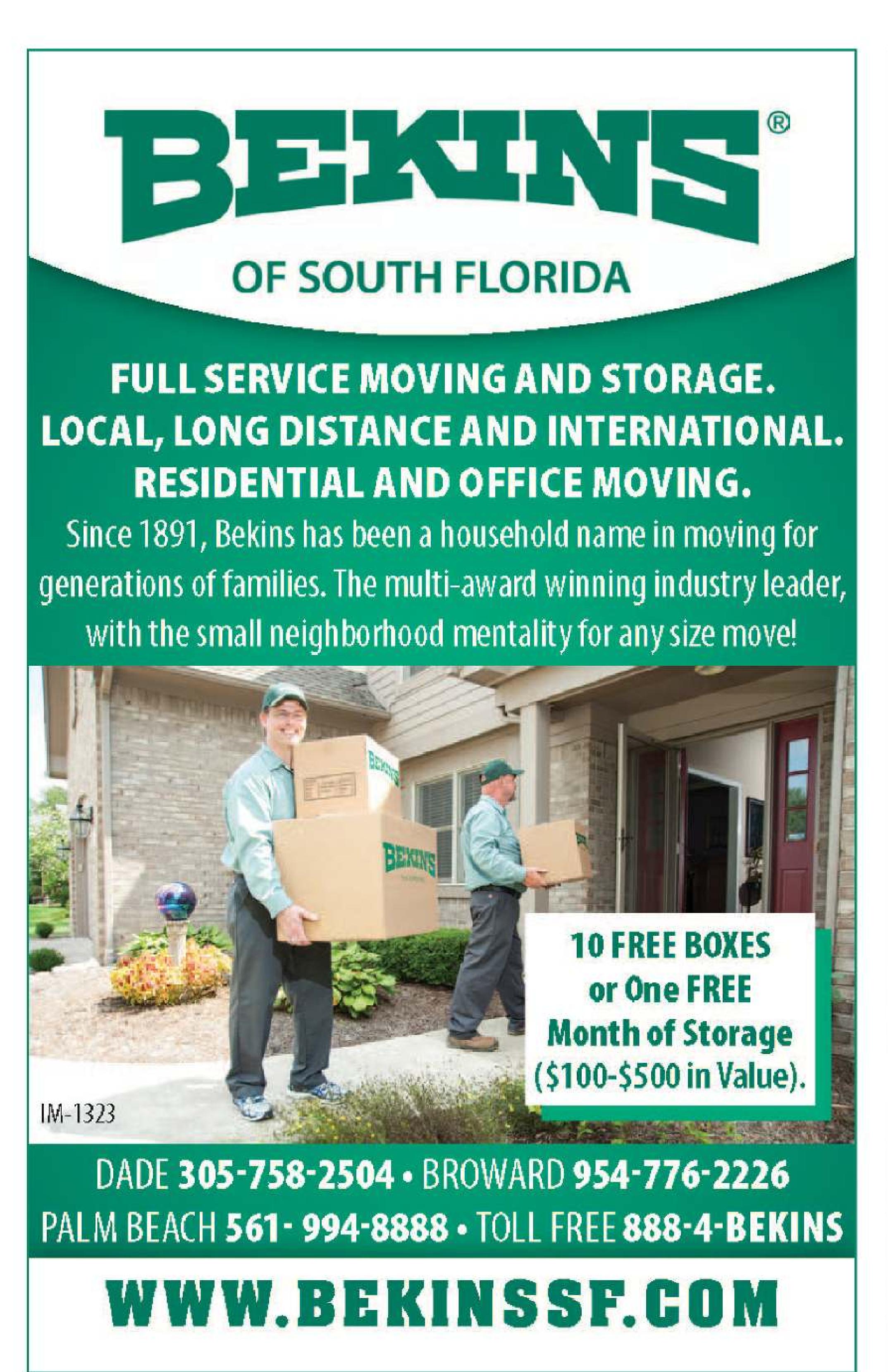
Reading the Bible and engaging in Bible study classes can be incredibly enriching for numerous reasons. Firstly, the Bible serves as a source of timeless wisdom and guidance. Its stories, teachings, and parables offer valuable insights into our human nature, morality, and spirituality.

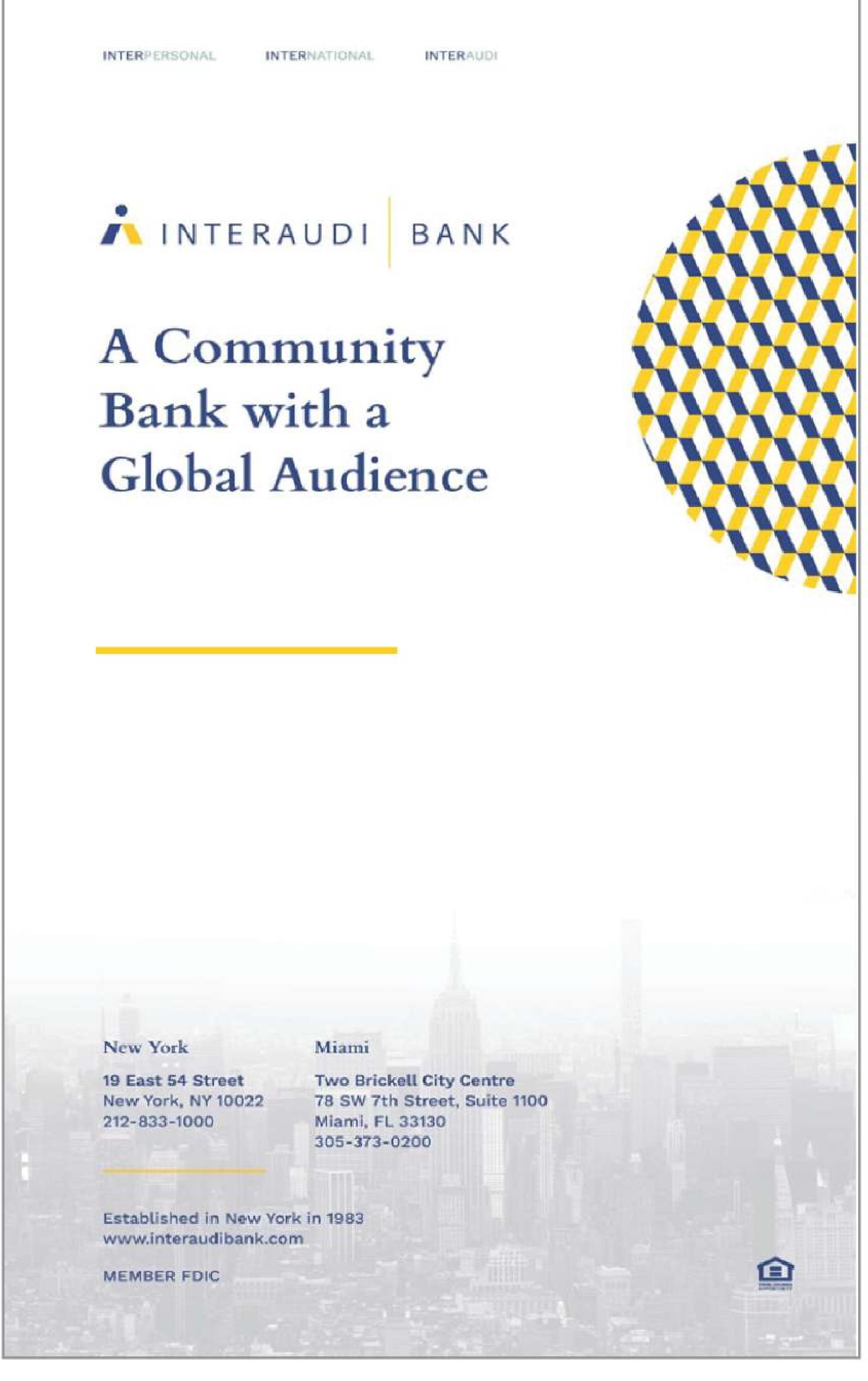
Studying the Bible as a group also fosters a deeper understanding of our faith and strengthens spiritual connections. Under the guidance of our parish priest, and through thoughtful analysis and discussion within the group, many participants in the most recent Bible study classes unpacked the complexities of biblical passages and discerned their meanings.

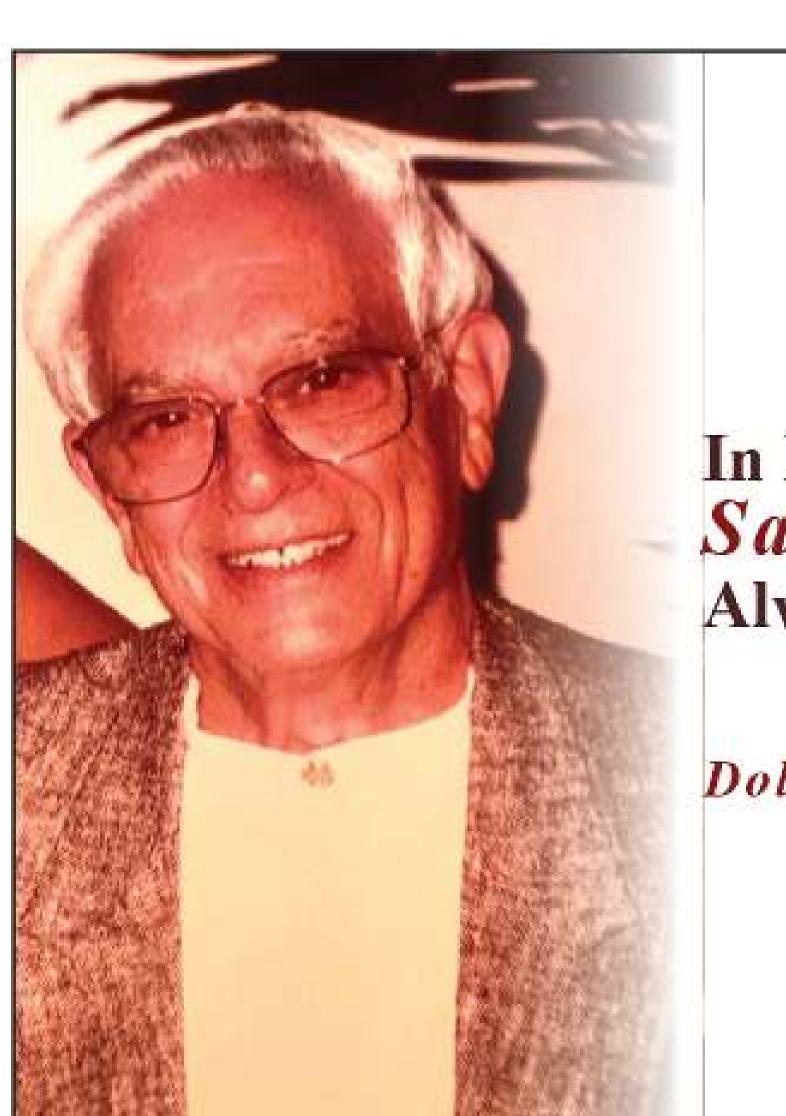
The Bible study classes provided a supportive platform where our parishioners could share their thoughts, questions, and struggles openly. This sense of fellowship fostered mutual encouragement, underlying accountability, and growth. As participants in the Bible study classes engaged in dialogue and reflection together, they learned from each other's perspectives and experiences, broadening their understanding of the Bible, and deepening their bonds with fellow believers from our Maronite community.

Through regular study and application of biblical principles, our community can strive to become more compassionate, empathetic, and morally grounded individuals, positively impacting both ourselves and the people around us.

Be sure to join our group of parishioners when Bible study classes resume very soon at Our Lady of Lebanon.

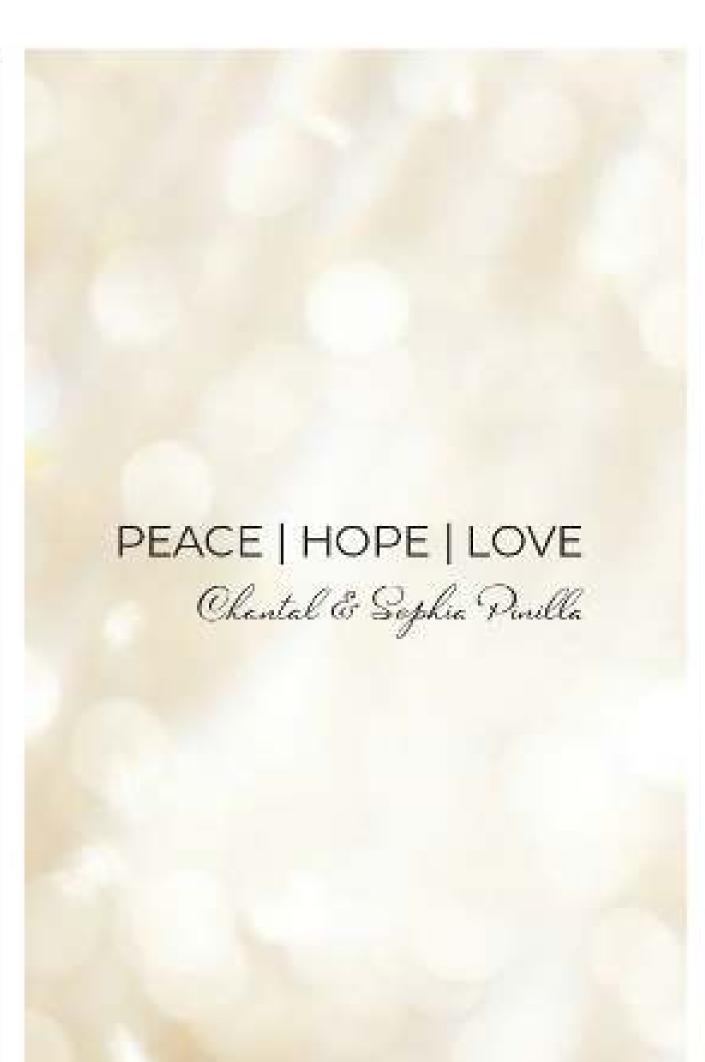


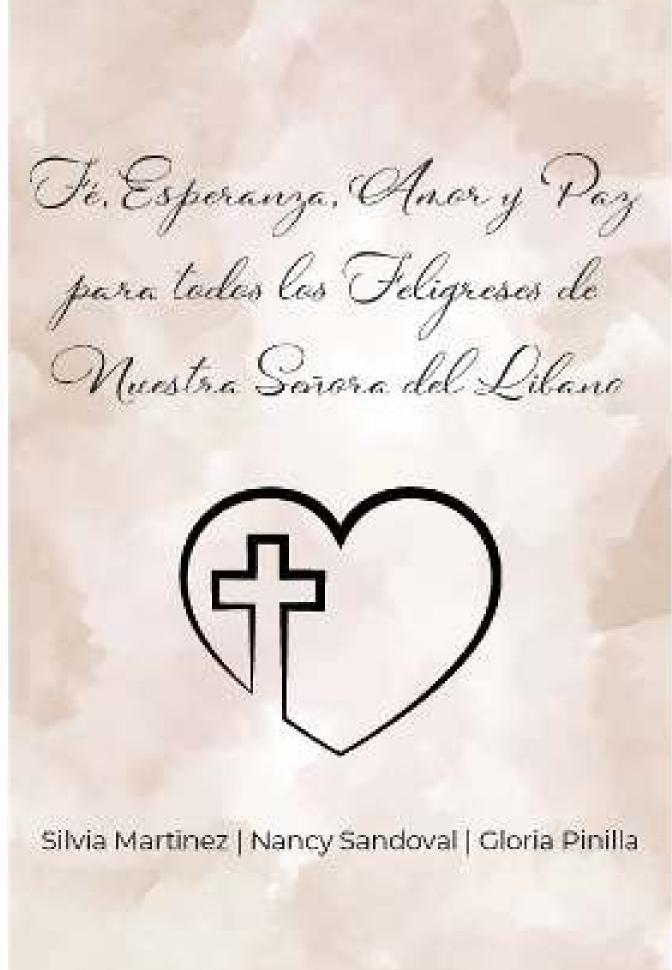


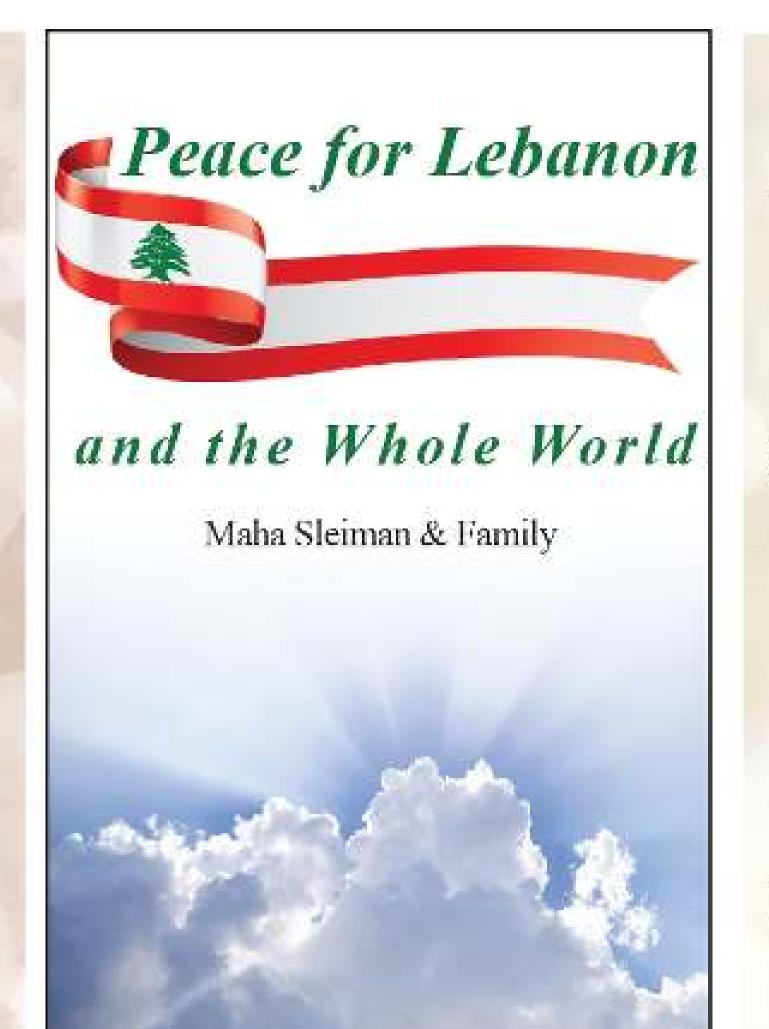


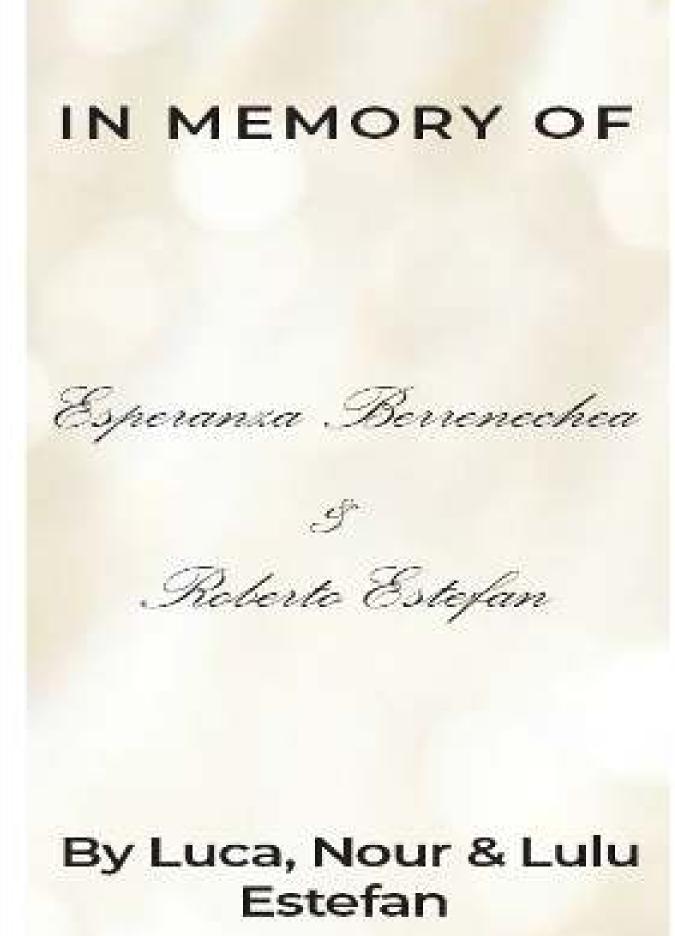
In Loving Memory of Sammie Sirgany Always in our Hearts

Dolores & Aleen Sirgany





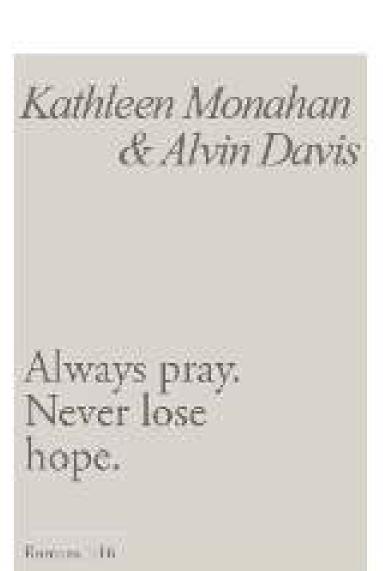


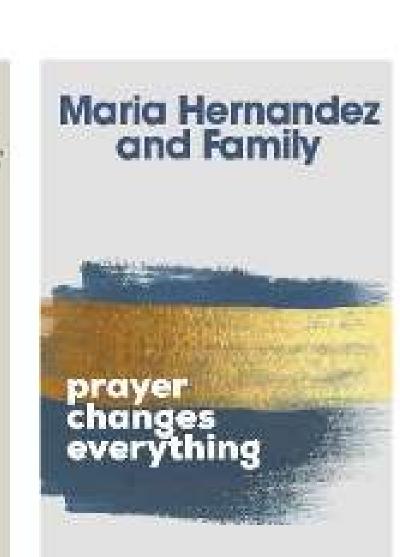


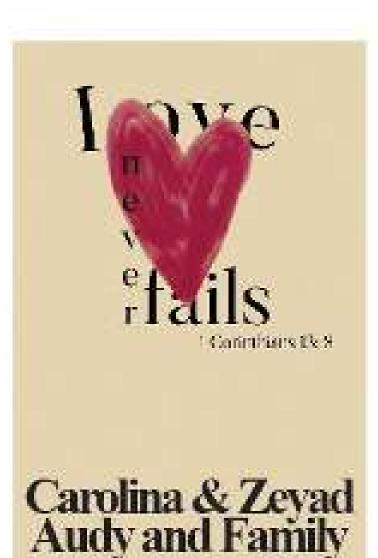
Choir By Imad Younes Choir By Imad Younes Choir By Imad Younes Mass

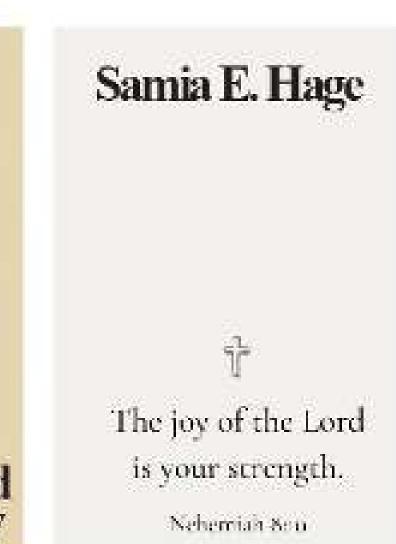
The choir of Our Lady of Lebanon is a group of 20 dedicated vocalists and musicians commenting to serve the 11:00 AM English and Arabic mass on Sundays, and all the yearly spiritual occasions, the choir's members gather their talents and voices to share their love and praise the Lord. The choir welcomes all musicians who are interested in joining the group.







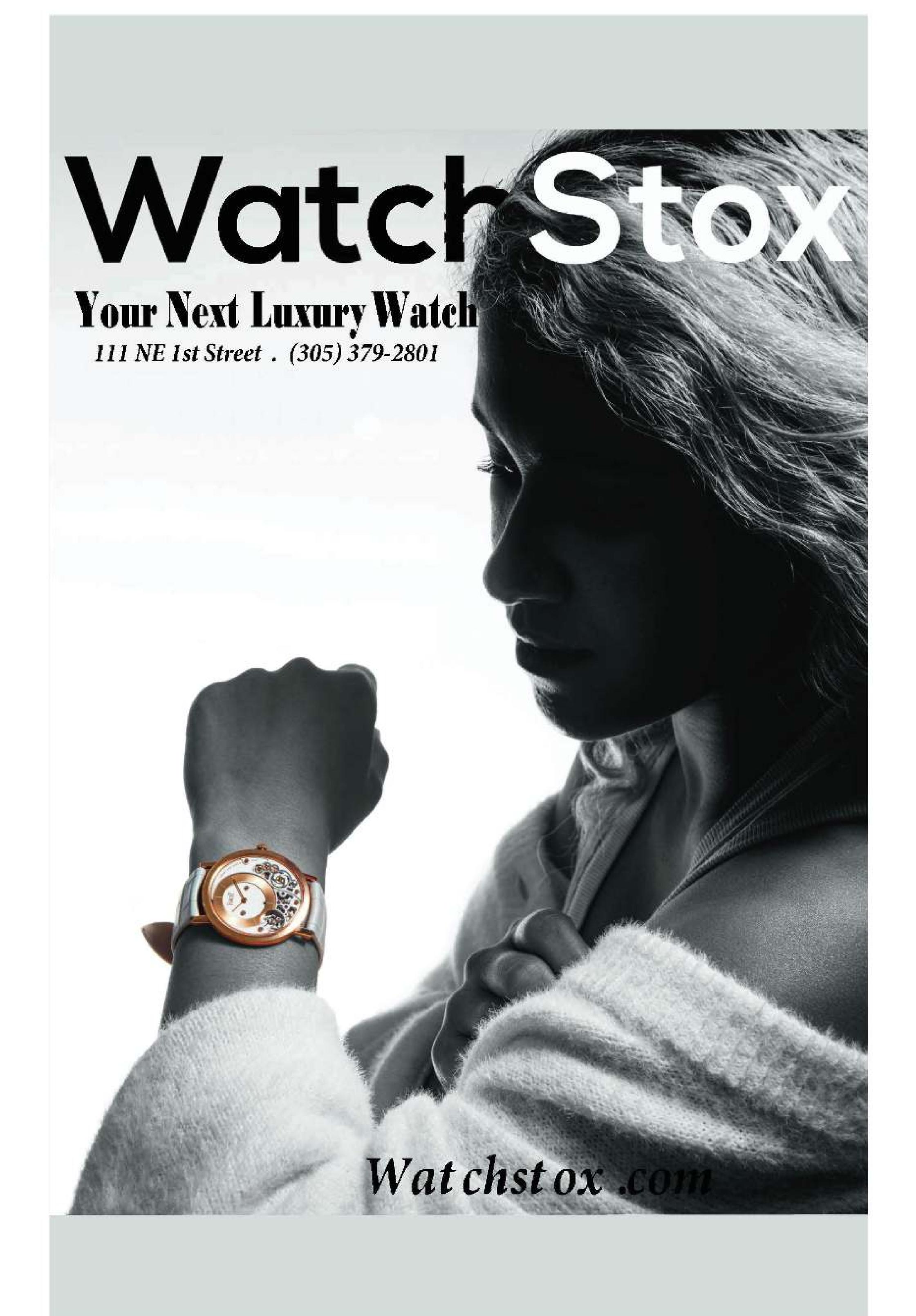




OLOL Men's Group

By Sary Mabjish

A new church group was recently formed, "OLOL Men's Group", which is intended mainly as a social group. The group plans social activities and meets about once a month. It is also a great way to network, chat and get to know other professionals from our church. The group had a successful get together in January 2024 at SAWA restaurant in Coral Gables with more than thirty attendees. A February get- together is planned to take place at Layali Miami restaurant in Doral. Father Manuel had started a WhatsApp group to further facilitate communications within the group, share information and provide updates about the group and its activities. Everyone is welcome to join "OLOL Men's Group" and participate in the activities. For those interested, please see Father Manuel for any questions and to be added to the WhatsApp group so that you can receive the group's future communications.





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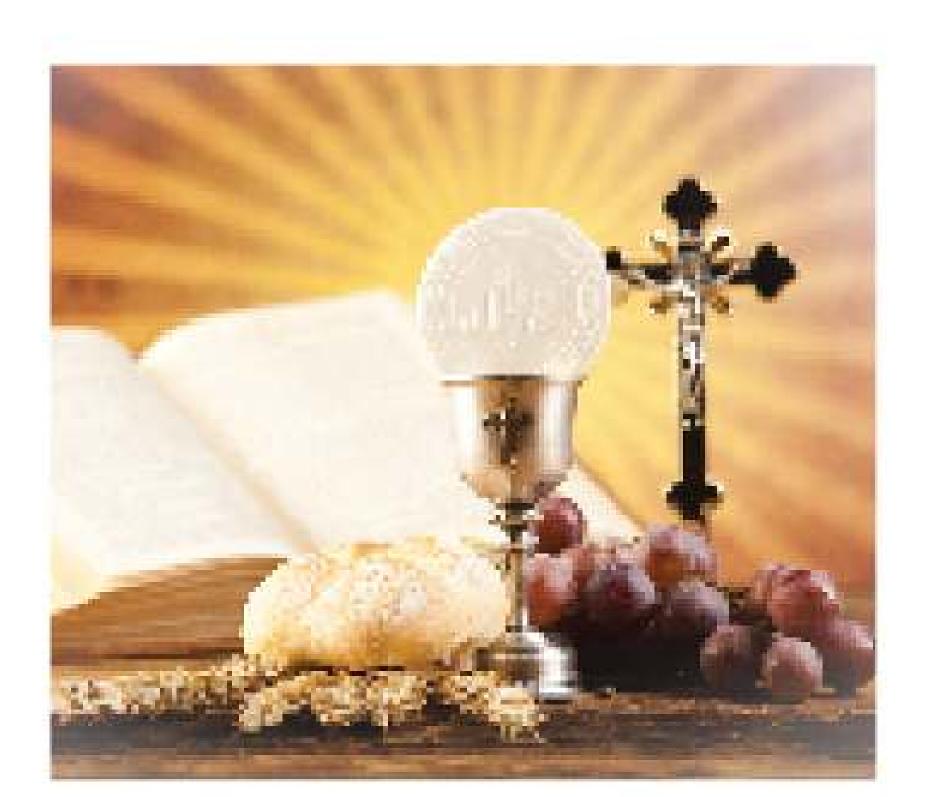


First Communion Program

By Charbel Heshema

First communion is just around the corner! On May 14 the little ones will open their mouths to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. I hope you all plan to be there to share their experience. I love to see some of the parents of the little ones attend the class with their children, especially the parents that were in my class 100 years ago!

All the Catholic Churches in Miami have a two-year program for their First Communion program but here we can do it in one year. Why? Would you ask, and the answer is: We have the smartest kids in town and a terrific teacher if I may say so! If you are a parent of one of my little ones and you have not yet spent some time in our class, I urge you to consider. Come check us out and you might learn something new! If you don't believe me here are some comments from the parents that do:

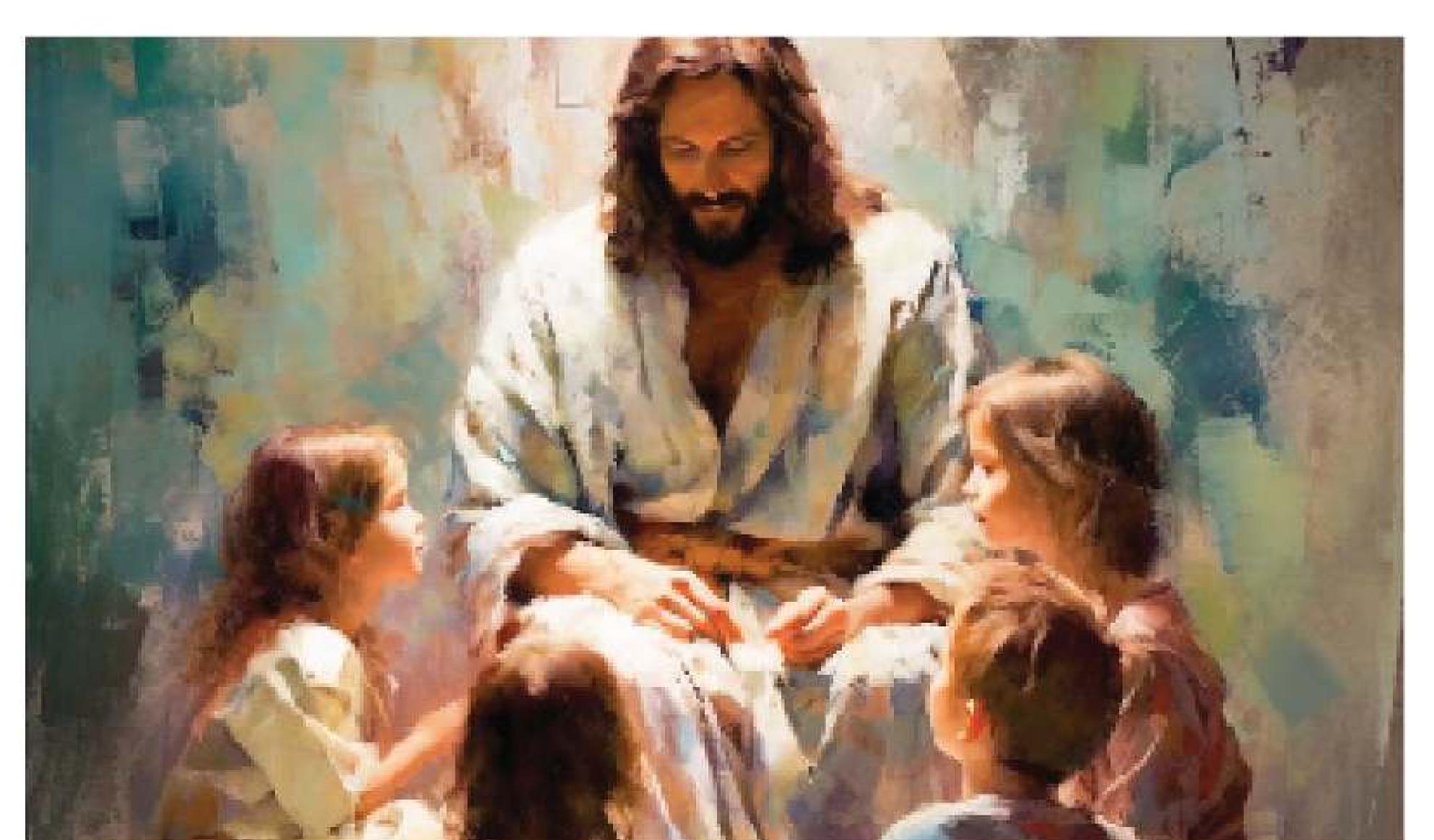




"We are grateful to see our daughters learning the way of the Lord in a church with such a tight-knit community and with Mr. Charbel leading the class and delivering the word to the kids in a way a child can understand".



"I am happy that my children have received their communion classes with Charbel, who is patient and motivates the children to the Christian faith".



Let the Children Come!

By Jonathan Vargas

What a gift; indescribable! The joy on a child's face when they learn something new about Our Father. Think when you saw this precious light in your child's eyes. (Admittedly for us with teenagers, that 'tenderness' might be a little harder to see when we want to throw them out a window! but even we —deeply—take joy knowing those moments come).

When I think of our little ones learning about Jesus....the mystery of why He created us; how God Loves us so much He wanted us to physically touch Him in the Eucharist; why do we pray and why go to Church.....to think of this brings such a smile to my face. Such beautifully simple, yet beautifully important, questions to ask. The greatest gift God gave us is our ability to reason. And as we all know: Kids ask a lot of questions!! It is our responsibility—"Yes," even for those without children—to make sure we teach, "these little ones." We must bring our kids to Holy Mass and allow opportunities to learn about God and encourage them to ask hard questions.

Our Lady of Lebanon is very happy to announce our new Sunday, catechetical program. To divide up the classes and assign necessary teaches, we need to know how many kids will come and their ages. Please do everything you can to sign up today or ask questions about the program:

OLAclasses@AllForChrist.net



"It's a blessing to see my daughters receive the same important lessons that I received as a child from Mr. Charbel"



"Joining communion classes with your children fosters a shared spiritual journey, deepening family bonds and reinforcing a strong foundation of faith together.

Thank you for all you do!"

Knights of the Altar | What it means for me to be an Altar Boy By Anthony Manuel Achaval

For the past four years, I've been serving as an altar boy at Our Lady of Lebanon in Miami Florida. In these past 4 years I've served in more masses than I can count, but the feeling never changes: Peace. When I get on the altar, and hear the opening prayers begin, it's as if the world melts around me, with my only focus being Our Lord Jesus Christ. The altar has not only been a sanctuary of peace for me in times of need, but also a place of healing and hope. Every altar boy at our church plays their part, even if it is the smallest job, it's a dedication to Christ. This dedication has not only helped me grow as an individual, but as a leader. I look forward to going to mass every Sunday, to share with my companions on the altar, to share with my family after mass, and most importantly, to Share time with the lord. Overall, these past 4 years as an altar boy have not only helped me mature more as a general human being in today's society, but also as a follower of Christ. It has been my honor and a privilege to serve at Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Maronite Church.

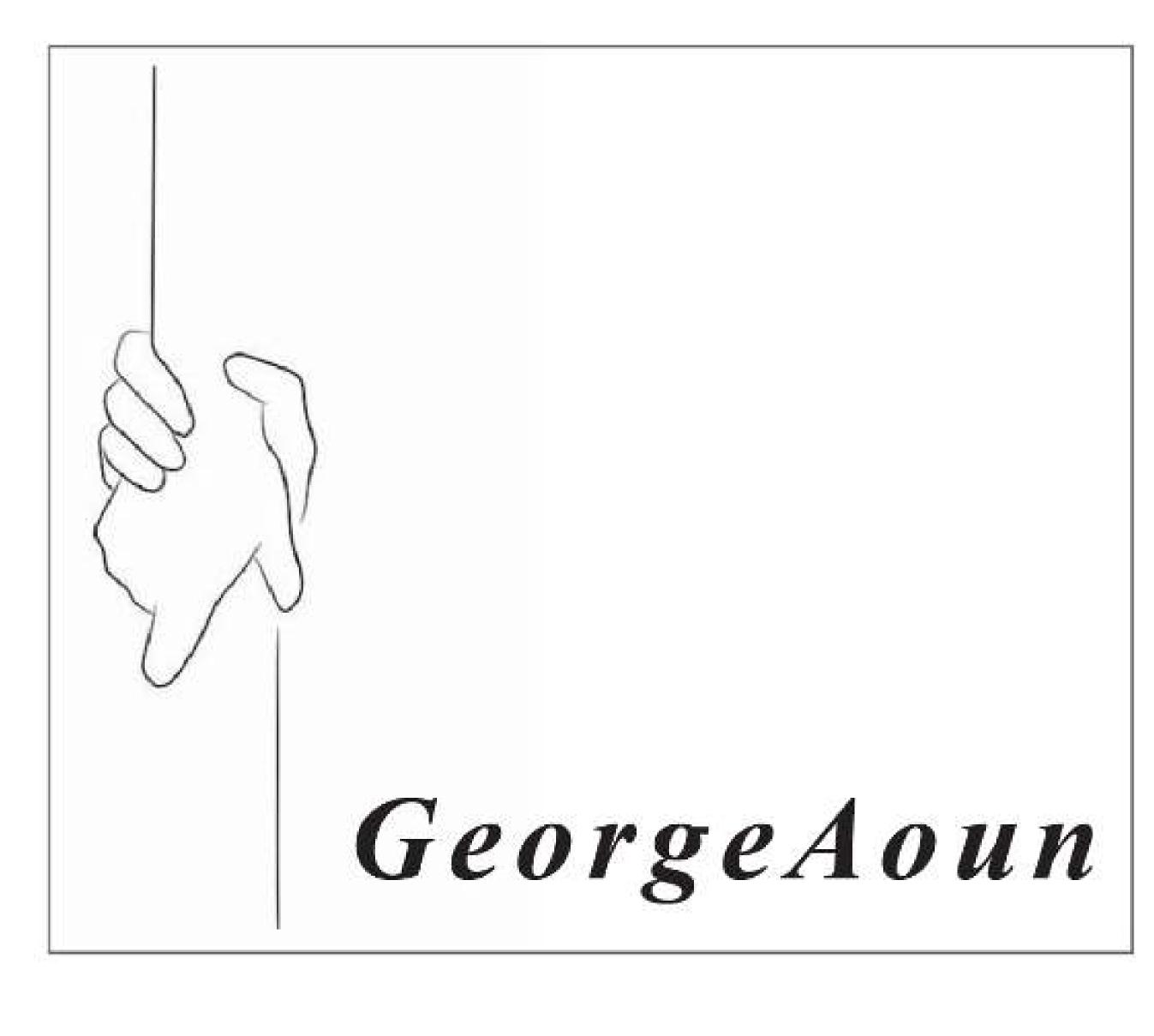


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Misa en Español

Por Maria Alzola

Los Maronitas tienen sus orígenes en San Marón, un ermitaño sirio de finales del siglo IV y principios del V. San Juan Marón sirvió como patriarca de Antioquía del año 685 al 707. Bajo el liderazgo de San Juan Marón, los maronitas lograron plena independencia convirtiéndose en un pueblo distinto. La Iglesia Maronita es una de las Iglesias Católicas Orientales en plena comunión con la Iglesia Católica Romana, y por tanto con la Santa Sede de Roma. Los maronitas afirman las enseñanzas del catolicismo romano y reconocen al Papa como cabeza de la Iglesia. Sin embargo, los Maronitas tienen la libertad de practicar su propio rito, que es único y distinto del rito romano y latino. Nuestra iglesia conserva la liturgia Siria Occidental, combinando raíces antiguas, independencia, y una rica herencia litúrgica dentro del contexto de su comunión con la Iglesia Católica Romana. La liturgia es distinta, y lleva a cabo una estructura aramea y eclesiástica. Los Maronitas enfatizan la Eucaristía y, a diferencia de la Eucaristía Católica Romana, la Eucaristía Maronita se centra más en la oración y la participación comunitaria, con gran énfasis en la Virgen María. Geográficamente, los maronitas se encuentran principalmente en el Líbano, Chipre, Egipto, y Siria, con poblaciones importantes en otros países como Estados Unidos, Argentina, Brasil, Australia, y Canadá. Cualquier católico puede asistir a la liturgia católica oriental, y cumplir con sus obligaciones canónicas. Durante las celebraciones, la liturgia es en árabe, arameo, español e inglés. Sin embargo, la consagración es solamente en arameo, y la comunión tiene q ser tomada oralmente, ya q se compone del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesús.





Coro en Español Por Mario Fayas

Las celebraciones de los ritos litúrgicos, comporta como sabemos, competencias diversas: acogida, lecturas, predicación, acciones rituales, canto, música, formulación de oraciones, presidencia de la asamblea, etc. En mérito al arte musical dentro de la santa misa, la necesidad de poseer una competencia satisfactoria en el ministerio del canto litúrgico dentro de la celebración comporta la dedicación en un continuo esfuerzo por parte del coro para sentirse preparado y desarrollar, con las herramientas necesarias, el propio servicio en modo que sea, lo más dignamente posible para el Señor, a quien está dirigida nuestra oración, y, por otra parte, en manera respetuosa hacia los hermanos a los cuales se entiende ofrecer una ayuda para rezar mejor a través de la música y el arte sonoro dentro de la liturgia. La finalidad del coro en las funciones litúrgicas no es más que cantar la fe cristiana. Los cantores entonces, son personas llamadas primariamente a profesar en la asamblea litúrgica su propia fe. En esta llamada ellos prestan "su servicio", un servicio precioso ayudando a la comunidad celebrante a manifestar a su vez la auténtica fe de la iglesia, ofreciendo en tal modo un magnífico refuerzo en la oración común, en la meditación como contribución determinante al decoro y a la belleza de la celebración. Para cantar en el coro de nuestra iglesia no es necesaria una preparación musical o canora específica; sirve solamente una voluntad y el deseo de participar. Somos un coro de iglesia y no tenemos ambiciones sino de cantar al Señor y ayudar al pueblo de Dios para rezar y contemplar con arte y belleza el misterio celebrado.

Mario Fayas

Director Musical - Organista

(para unirse al coro, por favor contactar los domingos después de la santa misa de 1:30 pm en español en "Our Lady Of Lebanon")

Louis Dessain & Meme Ferre



Nancy H Bailey No word from God

Luke 1:37

Mounir Maloof



EPHESIANS 5:2

put their trust in him.

Psalms 2:12

Dr. Hisham Merheb

Call to Me and I will answer you.

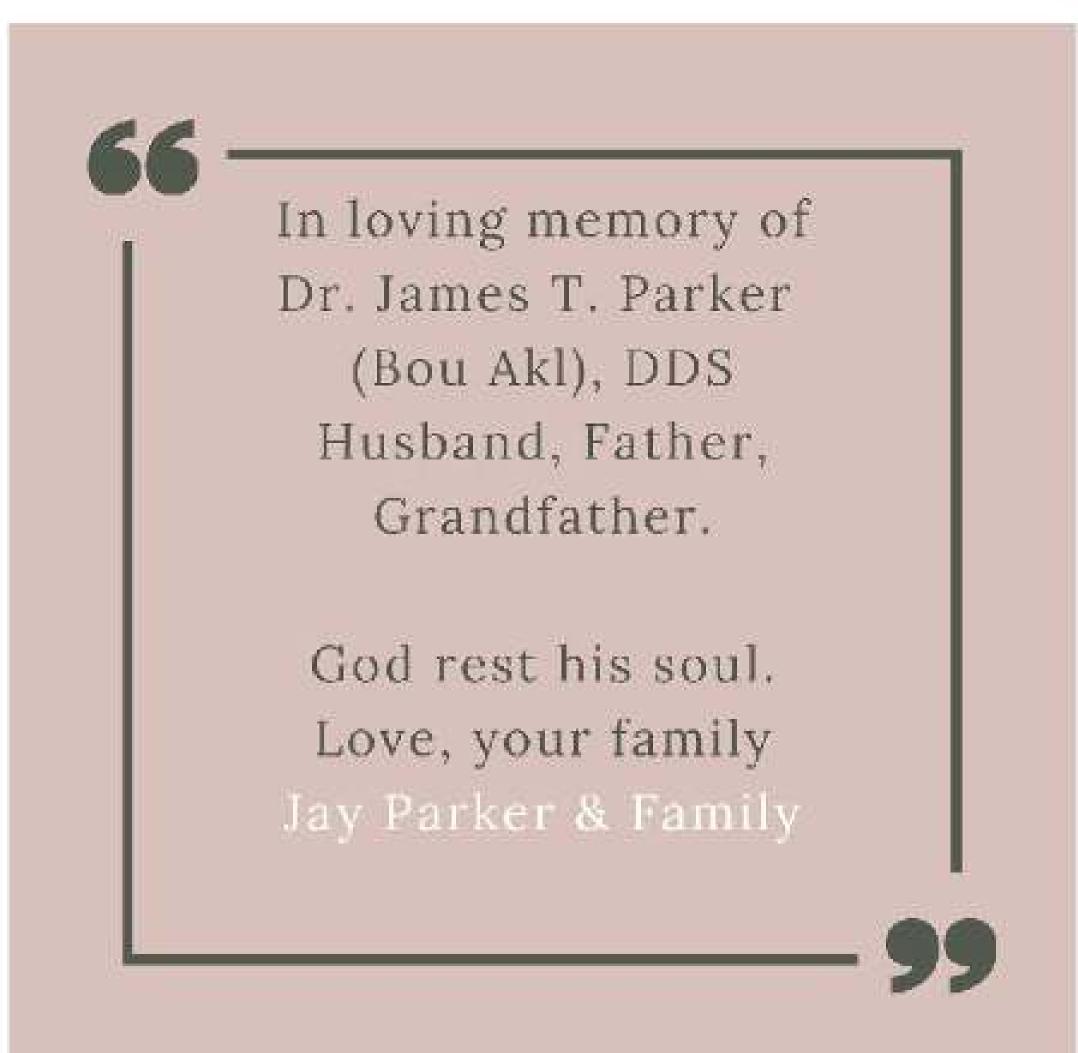
Jeremiah 33:3

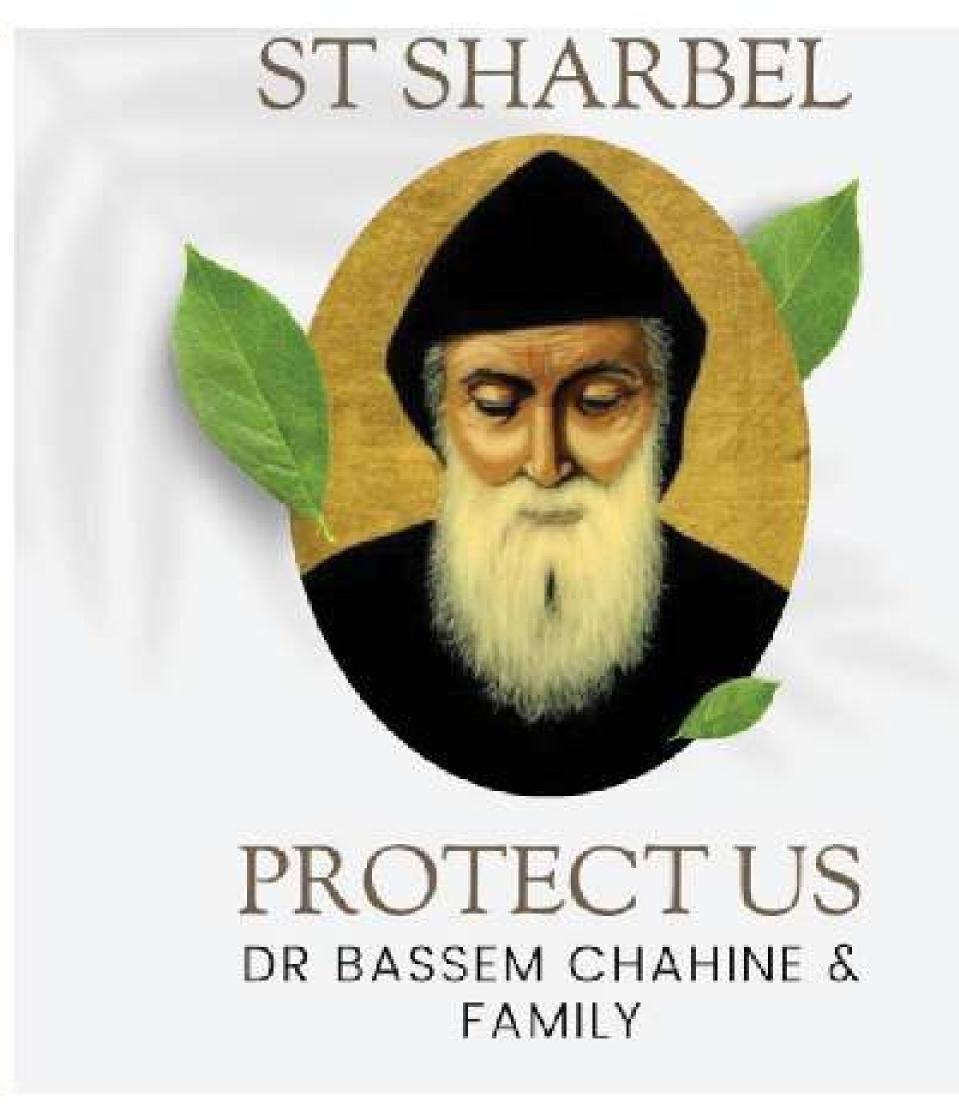
JOHN 3:16 💙 ENDING Abdo Mazloum

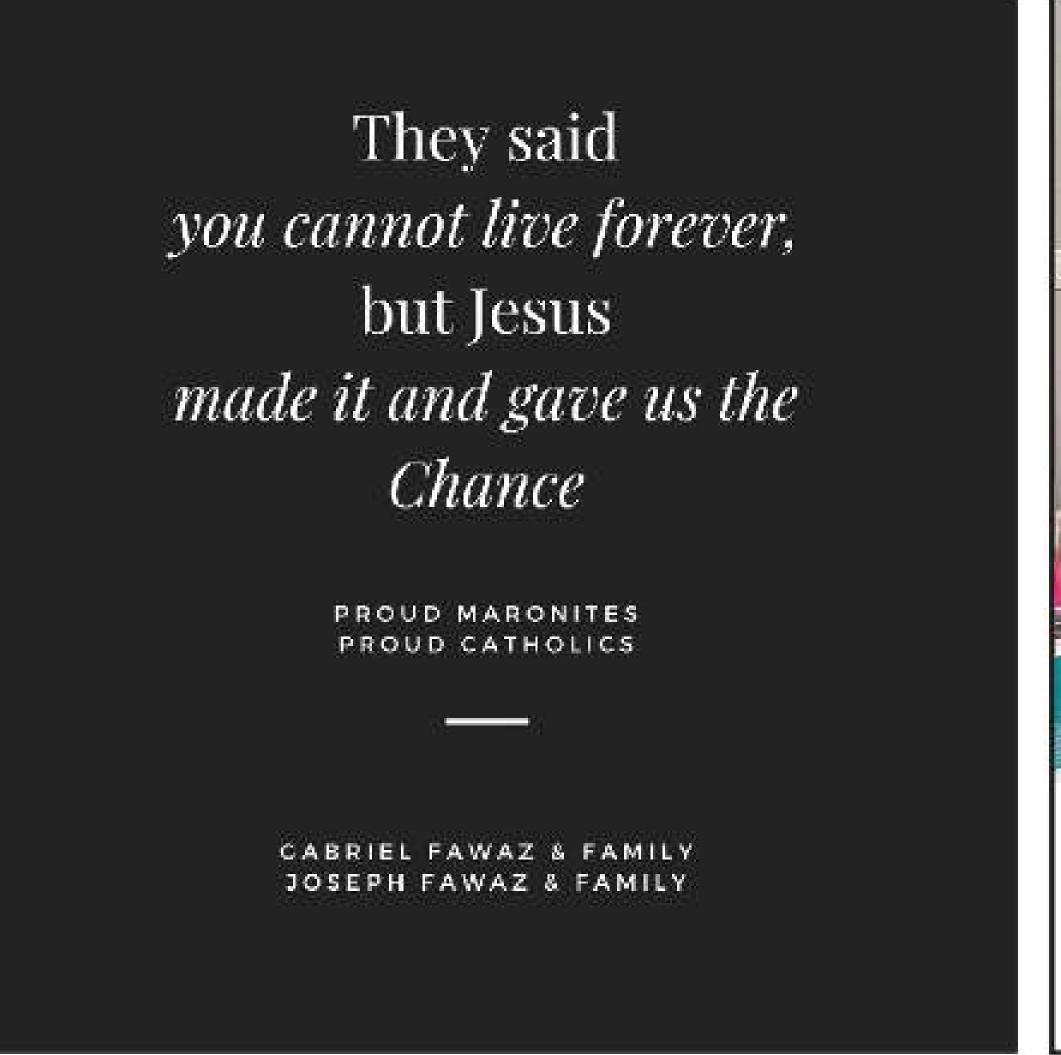
John Daly

COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, AND PATIENCE

COLOSSIANS 3:12

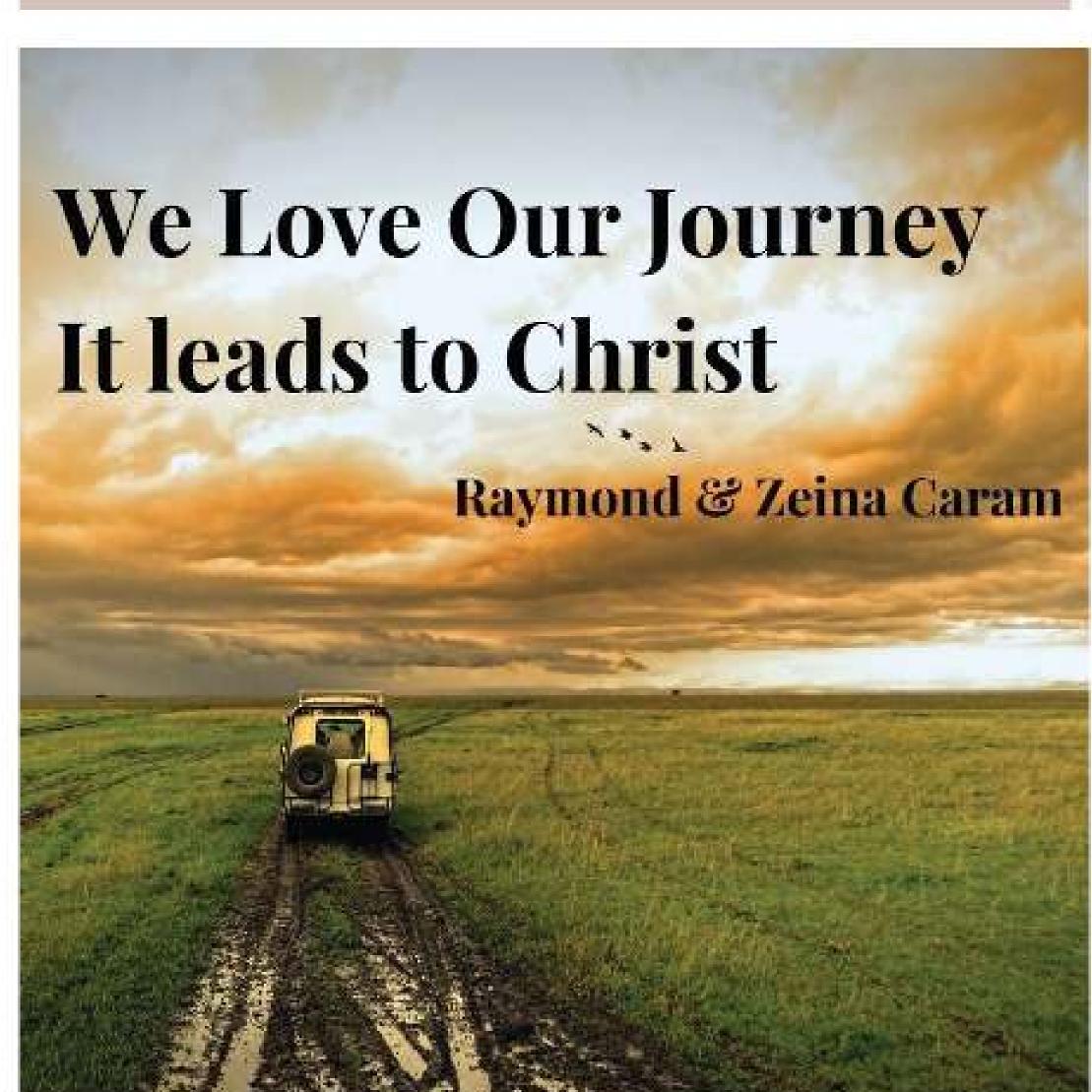








Dr. Daira, Charbel R., and Elena Marie

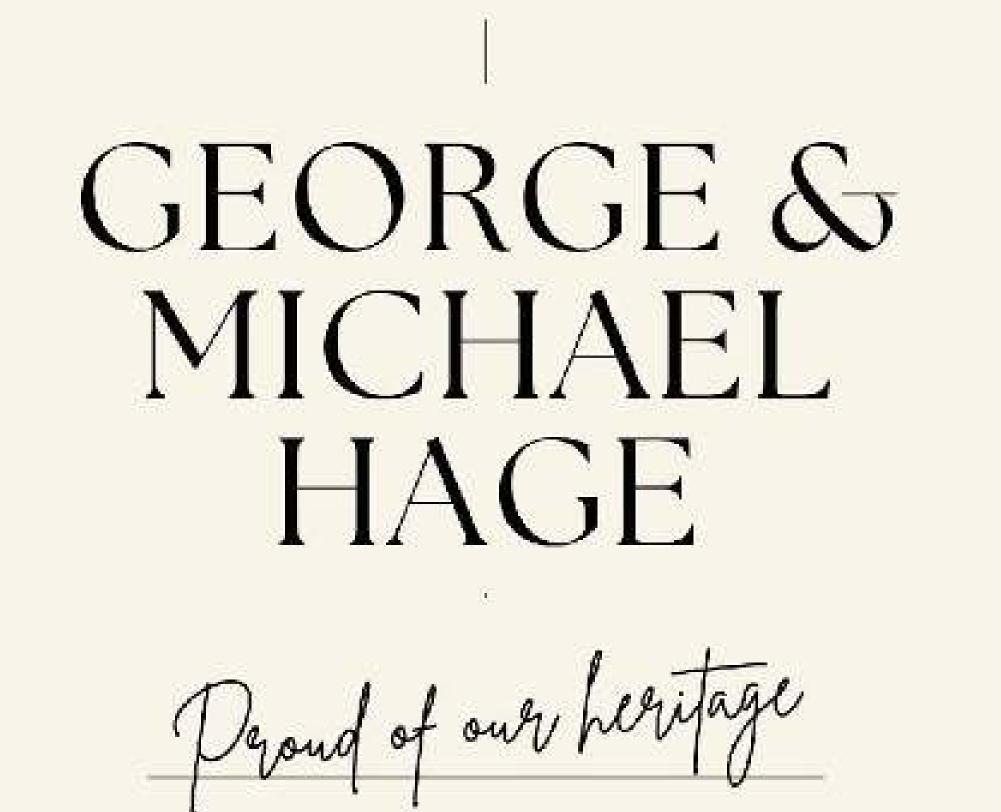




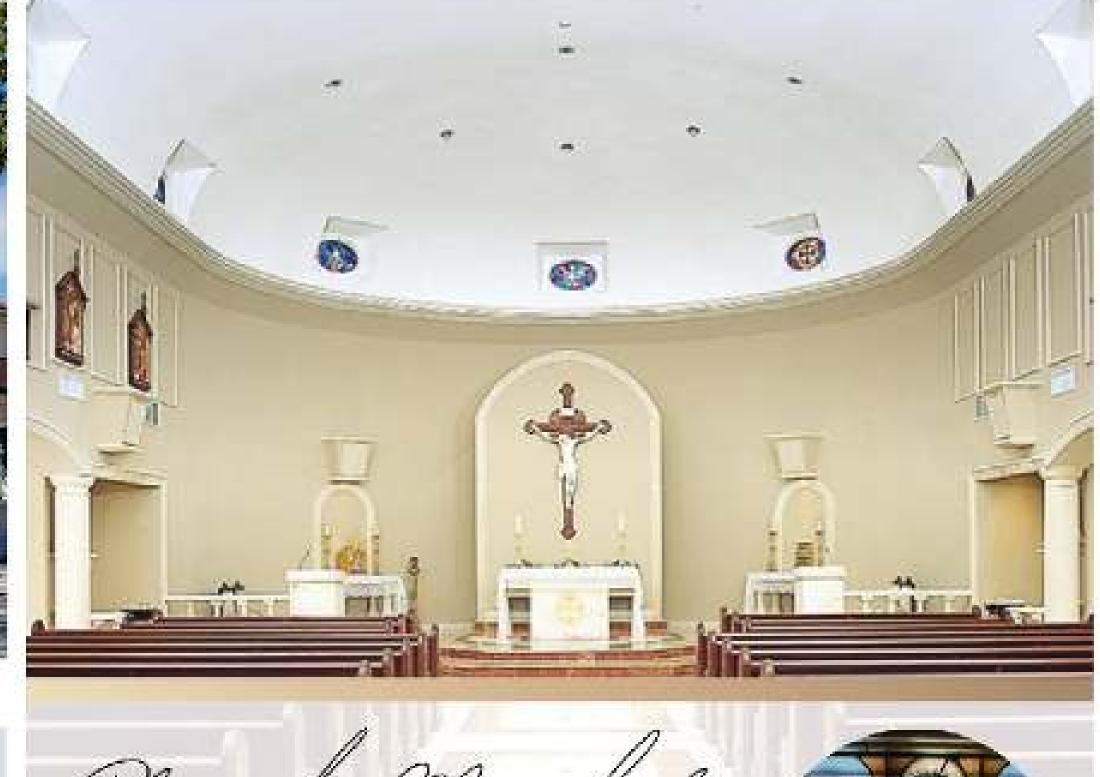
2030 S. Douglas Rd. Suite 113 Coral Gables, FL 33134

Tel: 305-444-6692 Fax: 305-444-6642 leemaloff@gmail.com www.leemaloffrealtors.com

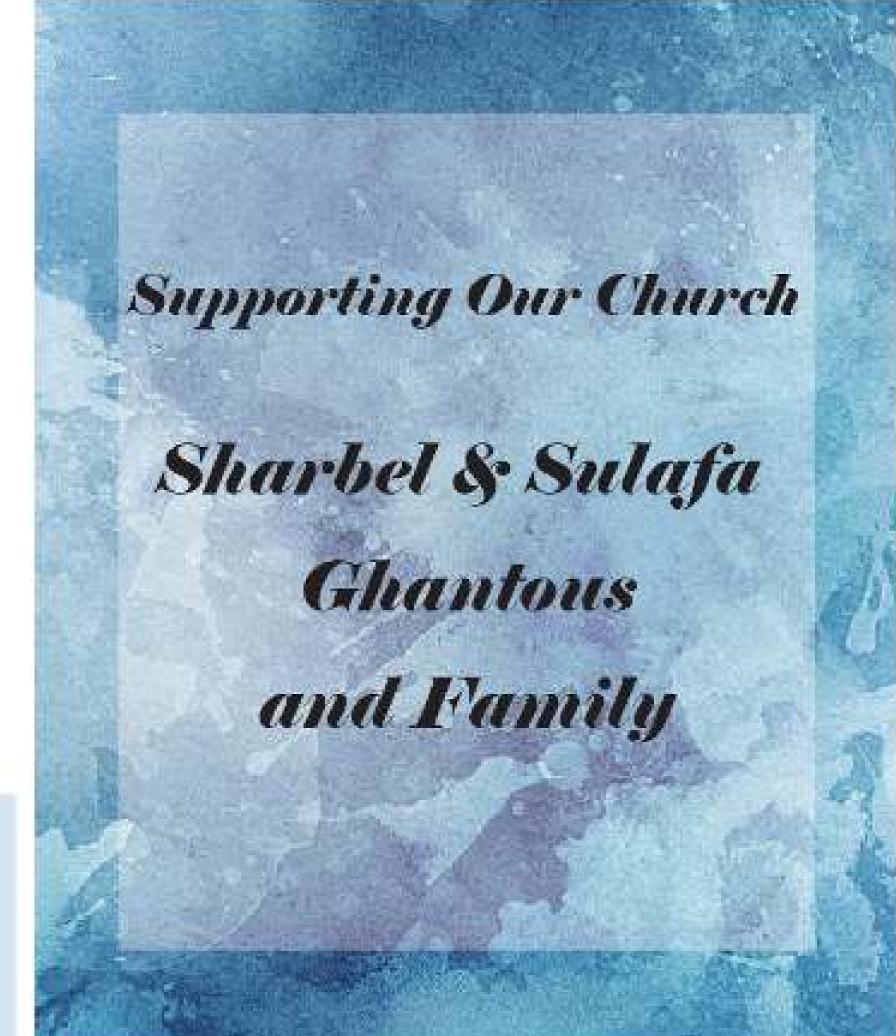










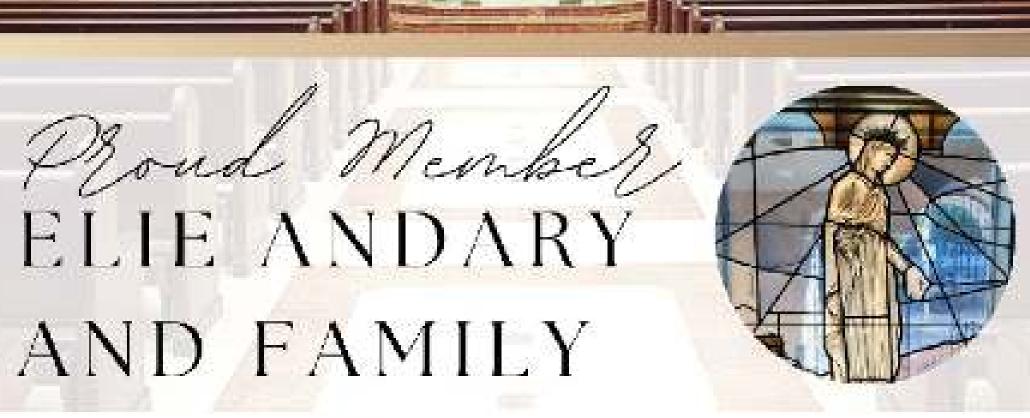




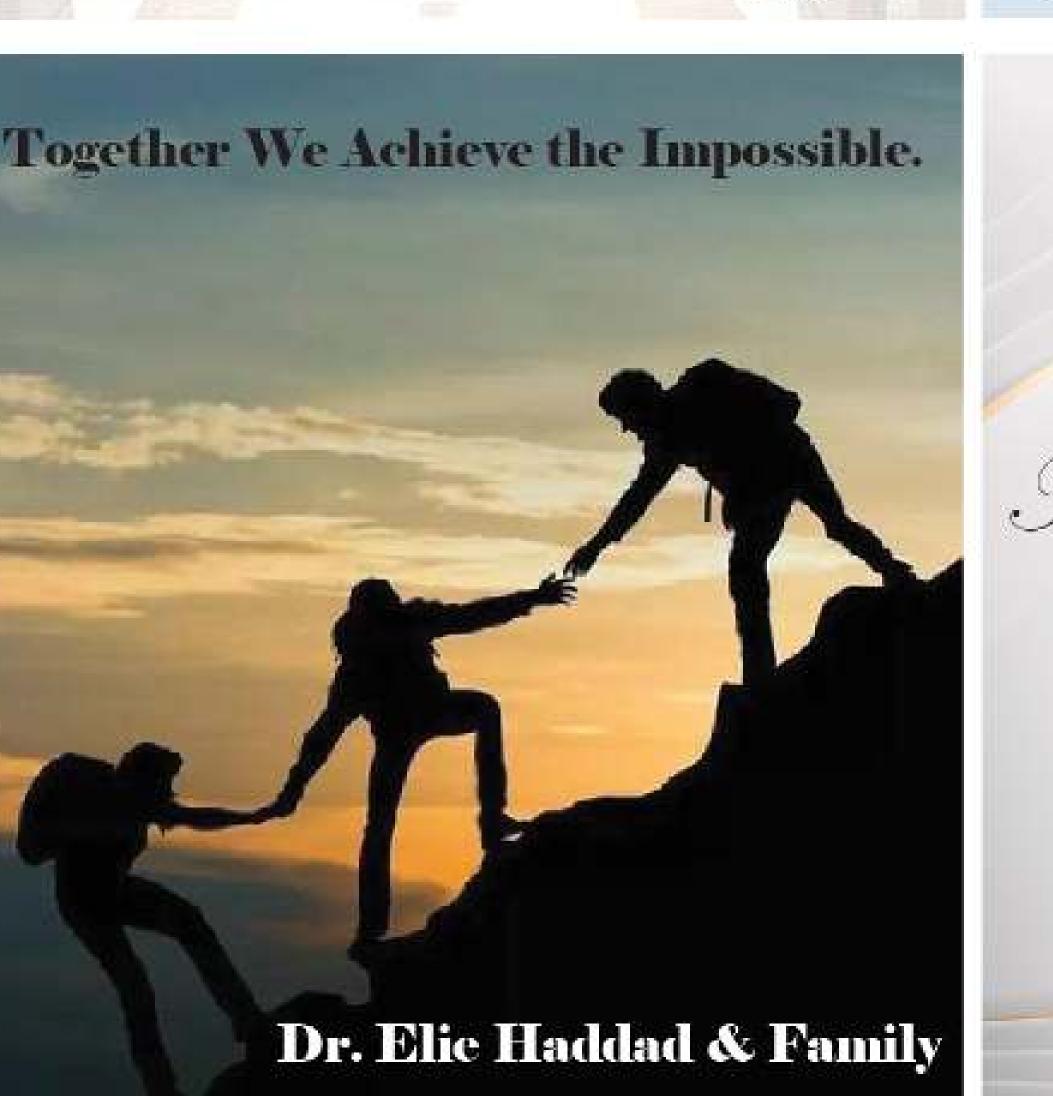
Dr. Joseph Mouhanna & Family

PROUD TO BELONG TO

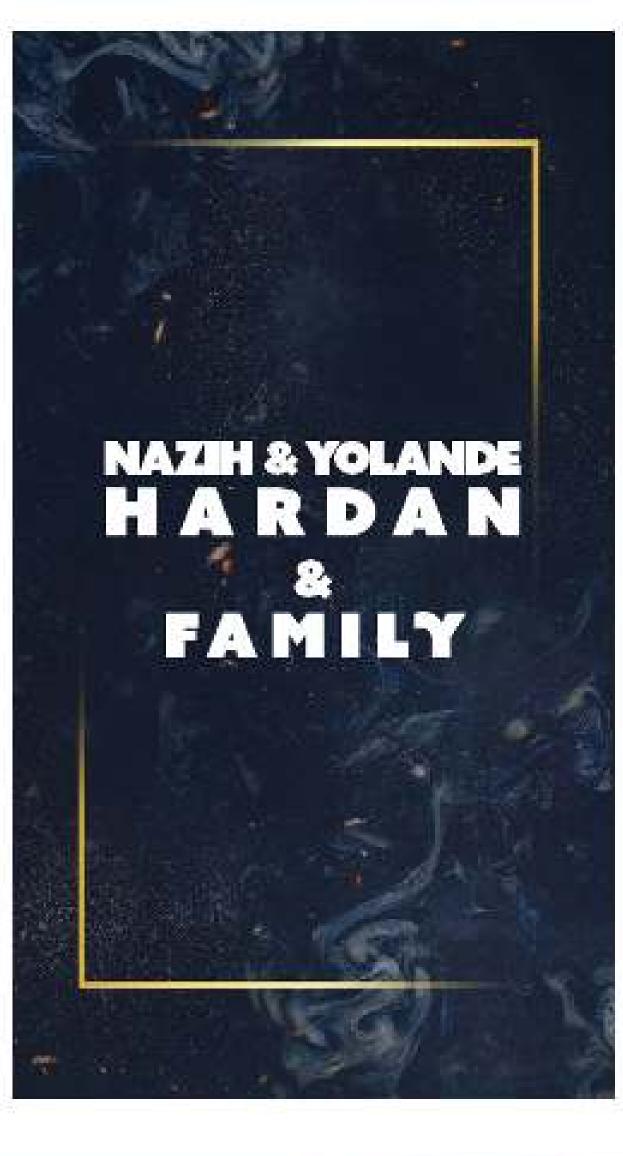
OUR LADY OF LEBANON













Scholarships Commitee

By Jimmy El Hokayem, Ph.D.

Throughout Maronite Catholic history, education has been a beacon guiding our path. From the earliest days of our church, knowledge has been cherished, preserved, and shared as a sacred duty. Our tradition reveres learning not merely as an academic pursuit, but as a means of deepening our understanding of God's wisdom and love. Maronite scholars have tirelessly contributed to the advancement of various fields, from theology and philosophy to science and literature. Their efforts have not only enriched our community but have also bridged cultures and fostered dialogue.

As we look to the future, the importance of education in our church remains paramount. In a rapidly changing world, well-informed individuals grounded in our faith are essential. By prioritizing education, we ensure future generations can navigate modern challenges while staying rooted in our traditions.

Let's commit to upholding our legacy of empowering minds, and nurturing the flame of knowledge in all who seek it. In doing so, we honor our past, enrich our present, and secure the future of our Maronite Catholic Church.

With prayers and gratitude,

Miriam Almer (Cuqui) the Lord is my shepherd

JESUS OVER THING Celia & Jorge Rouco

I DESIGNS INC. You can do things

Jose & Isabel Cancela love them anyway

Pink Luminous Advocacy Project Keep your attention on lesus. Marriew Hast

Fadi Aftimos The joy of the Lord is my strength. Netremiali Sem

By Marie Wehbe

The MYO is a Maronite youth organization for kids ages 12-18. We meet up once a month and we learn about God and do fun activities. With the MYO we have brought so many youths into our church with the encouragement to have fun and learn about God. The reason for this organization is to get closer to God but also to meet other youth in our culture and to express ourselves. During Summer, we go to a 6-day retreat, every year it's to a different state, and we meet hundreds of other Maronite youth in the whole US. It's an opportunity every youth should be able to experience. From beautiful adorations, to learning about God, to partying and meeting new people. It truly brings you closer to Jesus and gives you forever friendships. In Our Lady of Lebanon, our MYO participates in many ways: from altar serving every Sunday, we have 2 wonderful young ladies that take pictures of the mass, to helping with lunches after mass and many other activities. Along with that, we also perform our traditional Dabke Dances at Church Parties and Festivals. The MYO isn't just any type of organization, we are one big family and is the future of Our lady of Lebanon Maronite Church.

Jimmy El Hokayem, Ph.D.





Register in Our Parish: www.ololmiami.org/register-here

Mass Schedule / Horario de Misas:

Monday/Lunes: 12 pm
Tuesday/Martes: 12 pm
Wednesday/Miércoles: 12 pm
Thursday/Jueves: 12 pm & 8:00 pm
Adoration from 4:00 to 8:00 pm
Friday/Viernes: No Mass/No hay Misa
Saturday/Sábado: No Mass/No hay Misa
Sunday/Domingo: 11:00 am (English & Aramaic)
1:30 pm (Español)

Sunday & Weekend Intentions: Send an email to info@ololmiami.org

Our Staff

Pastor: Rev. Manuel Rahmeh - pastor@ololmiami.org

Baptism and Confirmation: One month in advance with the Pastor.

Marriage: 6 months prior to the Wedding Date.

Confession: Any time upon request.

Anointing of the Sick: Anytime upon request.

Rev. Jorge Perales | Mr. Joseph Lahoud - Subdeacon

Bautizmo y Confirmación: Un mes de anticipación con el Pastor.

Matrimonio: 6 Meses antes de la fecha de la Boda.

Confesión: En cualquier momento, previa solicitud.

Unción de enfermos: En cualquier momento, previa solicitud.

Support & Donate to Church:





Checks to be Mailed to 2055 Coral Way. Miami, FL 33145 or Contact us to info@ololmiami.org

For Online Donations visit our website www.ololmiami.org

