

Issue 34 | May 2025

Peace of Christ



May God Bless You

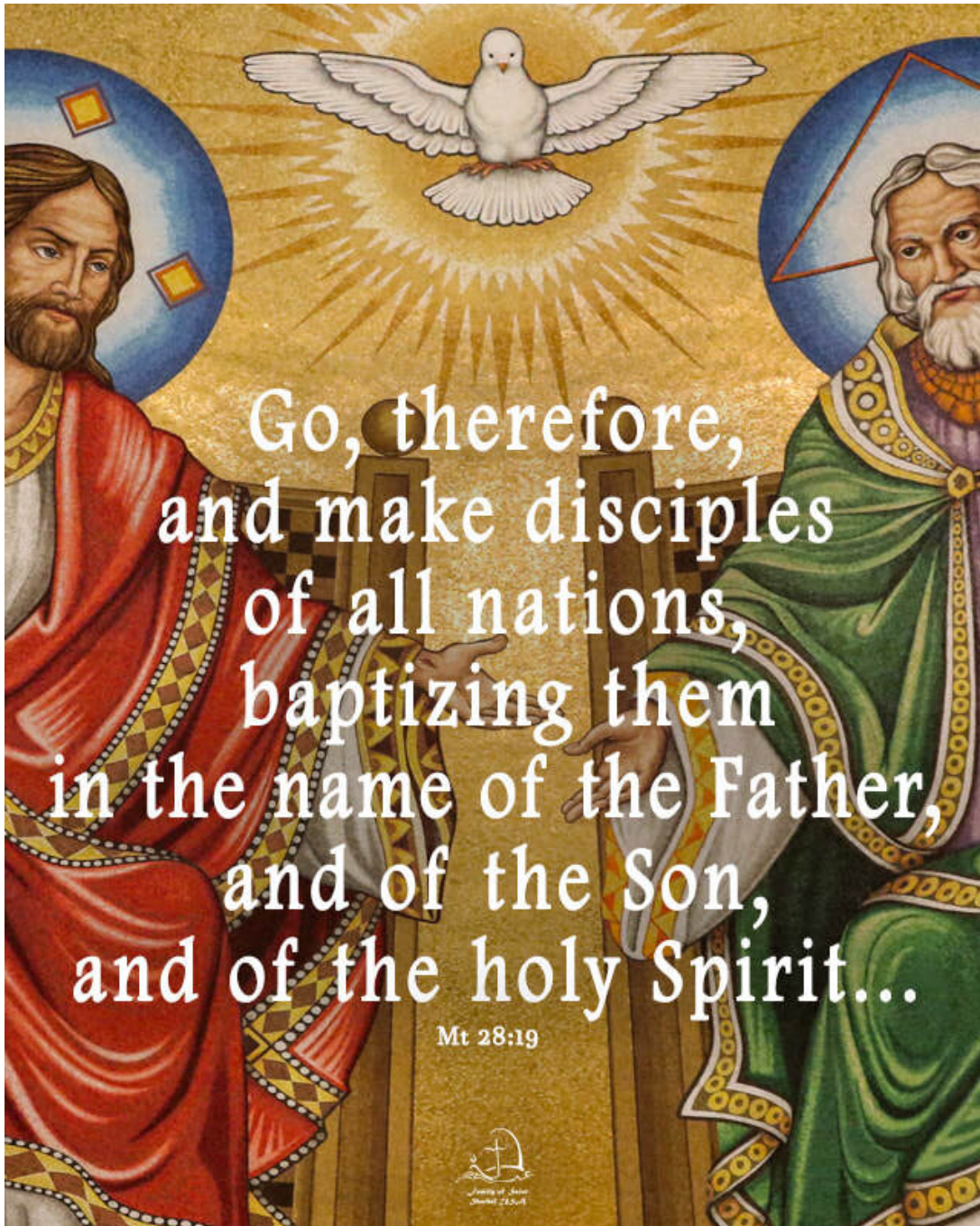
The Family of Saint Sharbel USA is grateful to share its **34th newsletter** with you. **Please share this newsletter and keep us in your prayers**—we are praying for you daily!

Find us online! Click this image to be directed to our website in English.

Contemplation Corner

The Feast of Pentecost in the Maronite Catholic Church

By **Deacon George Geagea**, St. Ephrem Maronite Church (El Cajon, CA)



“Pentecost, celebrated fifty days after Easter, is one of the most significant feasts in the liturgical calendar of the Maronite Catholic Church. Known as the “Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit,” it commemorates the moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and Mary, fulfilling the promise Jesus made before His Ascension. For Maronites, as for all Christians, Pentecost marks both a powerful spiritual renewal and the birth of the Church....”

[Click here](#) to read the full article!

[Click here](#) to view more of our spiritual designs.

Current & Coming Up

Save the Date: Feast of St. Sharbel Celebration



Celebrate the Feast of St. Sharbel!

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA invites you to celebrate the Feast of St. Sharbel Makhoul!

JULY 12TH

Where:

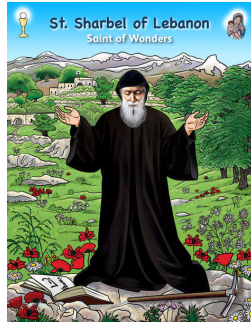
National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes
16330 Grotto Road Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Phone: 301-447-5318

Schedule:

Adoration & Confession: 10:45am - 11:45am
Holy Mass: 12:00pm
followed by a blessing with St. Sharbel's blessed oil and relic,
concluding with the veneration of the relic.

Save the date! The Family of Saint Sharbel USA and the **National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** invite you to join them in celebrating the Feast of St. Sharbel Makhoul on **Saturday, July 12th**. The actual date of St. Sharbel's feast is the 3rd Sunday of July in the Maronite Church and July 24th in the Latin Rite. See the flyer for details!

Leave Us a Review! St. Sharbel Illustrated Book



Have you read our illustrated book, *St. Sharbel of Lebanon: Saint of Wonders* (pictured)? If so, we would appreciate your honest feedback!

Please click the button link below to leave a review.

[Leave a Review!](#)

60th Annual NAM Convention



The **National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM)**, the Maronite Church in the USA's official lay apostolate, is hosting its 60th annual convention in **Raleigh, North Carolina** from **July 3rd-6th** this year. This year's theme is "Faith Ignited - Hope Renewed" and St. Sharbel Maronite Church in Raleigh, NC will be its host parish. Click the button link below to learn more!

[Learn More | Register](#)

Saturday Morning Speaker Series

SAINT SHARBEL SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER

SATURDAY MORNING
Speaker Series

2025 SUMMER

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| <p>APR 05</p> |  | <p>PAULINE CALABRESE Love & Responsibility: Examining an Ancient Sacrifice and the Family in a Modern World</p> |
| <p>MAY 03</p> |  | <p>DR. PAUL KENGOR The Stigmatists: Their Gifts, Their Revelations, Their Warnings</p> |
| <p>JUN 07</p> |  | <p>BISHOP WILLIAM WALTERSHEID The Holy Eucharist: The Beating Heart of the Church</p> |
| <p>JUL 05</p> |  | <p>DR. GEORGE ISAIW Blessed Nicholas Kossov: Heroic Virtue in Modern Times</p> |
| <p>AUG 16</p> |  | <p>BISHOP GREGORY MANSOUR The Beauty of the Interior Life</p> |
| <p>SEPT 06</p> |  | <p>BOOTH AT FOOD FESTIVAL We will not have a speaker in September since we will have a booth that weekend at the Annual Lebanese Food Festival next door to the Center at Our Lady of Victory Maronite Catholic Church. Stop by and see us!</p> |

For more information and to register, go to
SaintSharbelCenter.org
 820 Crane Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216 • info@SaintSharbelCenter.org

The **St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center** in Pittsburgh, PA has planned a summer speaker series for 2025! Take a look at the flyer below to view their schedule. Their next talk, "**The Holy Eucharist: The Beating Heart of the Church**" by Bishop William Waltersheid, has been scheduled to take place on **June 7th!**

Can't attend in person? [Click here](#) to view recorded talks online!

Center Homepage

Come and See! Maronite Servants of Christ the Light



Image from the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light's website.

The **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** are religious sisters in Dartmouth, MA. They would like to invite **young adult women aged 18-39** to explore their order! The sisters have planned a few discernment events throughout 2025, including two "**Come and See**" retreats and two **Prayer & Supper evenings** at the convent to help young women get to know them and discern their vocation. They also offer guidance and community through a monthly vocational discernment group! Their next

discernment event is a "Come and See" weekend at the convent from **June 6th-8th**.
Click the button link below to learn more!

[Learn More](#)

Highlight: Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family - California, USA



A handful of Maronite religious communities have formed in the United States, and they play a vital role in sharing the love of Christ among us. This month, we would like to highlight the **Congregation of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family**, a religious missionary congregation of sisters located in **Murrietta, CA**.

Origins: This order was established in 1895 and now serves in Lebanon, Syria, Australia, and the USA.

Charism: Service of the Church, family and society according to the needs of the time.

US Community: Focuses on Pastoral Care and Parish Ministry.

To learn more, click the button link below to view their website, [click here](#) to view the community on Facebook, or [click here](#) to contact the order!

[MSHF USA Website](#)

Saint Sharbel Events in the USA

Explore the links below to find an event near you.

Please email or call the parish, mission, or center to verify the dates and times listed below!

Masses followed by St. Sharbel Prayer Services:

Include blessing with and/or veneration of the relic and/or oil of Saint Sharbel

St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, Phoenix, Arizona

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Mission of Stockton, California

Our Lady of Lebanon, Miami, Florida

National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Emmitsburg, Maryland

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church, Clinton Township, Michigan

St. Maron Maronite Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Our Lady Star of the East Maronite Catholic Church, Pleasantville, New Jersey

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Astoria, New York

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church, Norman, Oklahoma

St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Sharbel Mission, El Paso, Texas

St. George Maronite Church, San Antonio, Texas

St. Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Holy Hours in Honor of St. Sharbel:

Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Brooklyn, New York

Recent News

St. Sharbel's Birthday Celebration

On May 10th, a group gathered at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, MD for a day of prayer in honor of our patron Saint's birthday! During this day, participants had opportunities to adore the Blessed Sacrament, receive the sacrament of reconciliation, celebrate Mass, and receive blessings with the holy oil

and first-class relic of St. Sharbel. Click the button link below to learn more!



Relic and icon of St. Sharbel at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Divine liturgy in Mary's Chapel at the National Shrine Grotto.



Attendees participate in prayers.

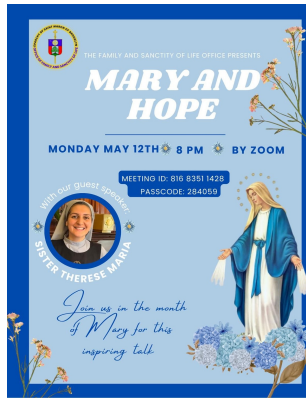
[Learn More](#)

Pope Leo XIV's Inauguration

On **Sunday, May 18th**, Pope Leo XIV was officially inaugurated to the Petrine Ministry (the papacy). During the inauguration liturgy, the new pope encouraged Christians to let the Holy Spirit enlighten them--to let God build a Church founded on His love through us. Click the button link below to read more or to watch the inauguration Mass, and please pray for our pope!

[Learn More | Watch the Mass](#)

Talk: Mary and Hope



During this May, the Month of Mary, **Sr. Therese Maria Touma** of the **Maronite Servants of Christ the Light** gave a talk titled **"The Gift of Mary and Hope"** for the **Family and Sanctity of Life Office of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn!** Click the button link below to watch the recording on YouTube.

[Watch Here](#)

A Call to Monthly Commitment

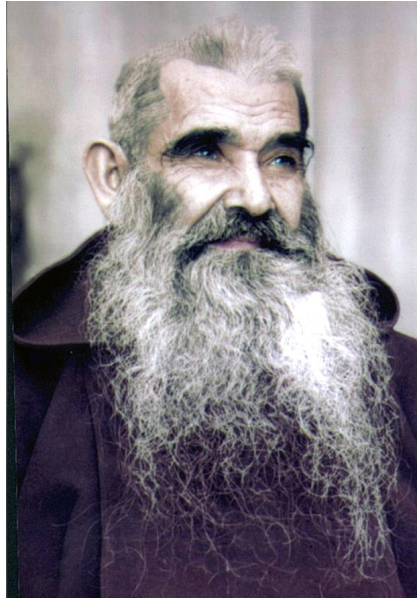


We still need your help! Donations support every aspect of the Family of Saint Sharbel's operation from routine printing of materials (prayer cards, books, novenas) and shop and media upkeep to funding special projects and a small staff. In hopes of **increasing the stability of our organization's management**, we've created a fundraising campaign titled "A Call to Monthly Commitment" to help us reach \$20,000 in recurrent monthly donations. Click the button link below to learn more or contribute - no amount is too small!

[Learn More](#) | [Donate](#)

Saint Spotlight

Blessed Yaacoub (Jacques) El-Haddad



Feast Day: June 26th

Fr. Jacques El-Haddad (christened Khalil Haddad) was born on February 1st, 1875 in Ghazir, Lebanon. When he was 16, after a period of studies, he started teaching Arabic in Alexandria, Egypt. While in Egypt, two things struck him: one priest's poor example, which pointed to the Church's need for loving shepherds, and the story of a Capuchin friar's honorable death, which inspired him. Motivated by these observations, Khalil embraced consecrated life among the Capuchin friars at age 19. He received the name "Jacques" while he was a novice at the Convent of Saint Anthony of Padua in Lebanon. After being ordained a priest in 1901, Fr. Jacques was appointed director of the Capuchin Friars' schools in Lebanon (1905), where he emphasized small schools and class sizes where intentionality could thrive. God gave him a great gift for preaching and, eventually, organizing various religious celebrations, trips, and organizations. He founded numerous schools, hospitals, religious congregations, and even a monthly magazine ("The Friend of the Family" - a magazine for the Fransiscan Third Order in Beirut, which he also founded) for the service of others, especially those who were suffering. He passed away on June 26th, 1954 after 80 fruitful years of life. Click the button link below to learn more!

Abouna Jacques, pray for us!

[Learn More](#)

Reading Nook

Pope Leo XIV to Eastern Catholics: The Church Needs You

By **Christopher Wells**



Pope Leo XIV at the Jubilee of the Eastern Churches on May 14th, 2025 (CNS Photo, Lola Gomez)

"Pope Leo XIV welcomed Eastern Catholics to the Vatican with the traditional Easter greeting, "Christ is risen! He is truly risen!"

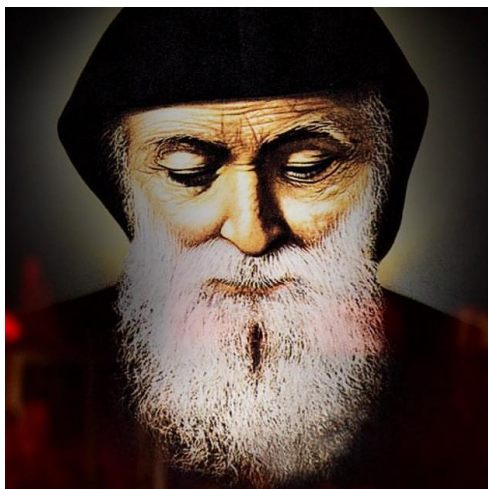
Addressing the faithful from the 23 sui iuris Churches in full communion with Rome, the Holy Father said, "You are precious in God's eyes," and expressed his happiness at being able to devote one of the first encounters of his pontificate to the Eastern faithful.

"Looking at you," he said, "I think of the diversity of your origins, your glorious history, and the bitter sufferings that many of your communities have endured or continue to endure...."

Click the button link below to read the full article!

[Read More Here](#)

New Testimonials



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/testimonials.html>

Periodically, we receive stories from people around the globe who have experienced the work of God through St. Sharbel's intercession. We would like to share the most recent testimonies we've received with you below! Click on a title to read the full story; all posted testimonies have been shared with permission.

[Healing Testimony of Marise Anton Salameh](#)

[Healing Testimony of Saba Youssef Nohra](#)

[Healing Testimony of Nader Ahmad Al-Sawwaf Zantout](#)

[Healing Testimony of Janet Al-Banna](#)

You can read more personal testimonials on our Testimonials page **[HERE](#)**.

Disclaimer: All testimonials posted on the Family of Saint Sharbel's website are based solely on person-to-person accounts. Unlike Vatican-approved miracles, the claims within these testimonies have not been subjected to extensive scientific review.

[Editor's Pick: FORMED Resource](#)

PURE FATHERHOOD

DEVIN SCHADT



Click the image above (copied from the FORMED online streaming platform) to be directed to "Pure Fatherhood," a talk by Devin Schadt.

The Family of Saint Sharbel offers its readers a FREE subscription to FORMED, an online Catholic platform containing thousands of resources for spiritual growth!

This Month's Highlighted FORMED Resource:

In the United States, **Father's Day takes place on Sunday, June 15th** this year! To honor fathers and the vocation of fatherhood, we would like to share Devin Schadt's reflective talk, "**Pure Fatherhood**", with you. Click the button link below to listen!

[Listen Here](#)

To access this resource and many others for free:

1. **Go to:**
<https://formed.org/signup>
2. **Enter:**
"Family of Saint Sharbel"
3. **Enter your name and email address.**

FORMED is also on social media!

* *Instagram:* formedcatholic
* *Facebook:* FORMEDCatholic
YouTube: Augustine Institute

Find Us Online!

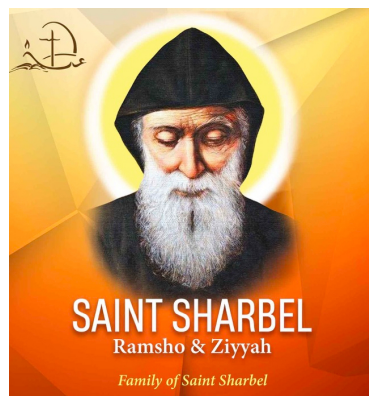


Family of Saint Sharbel on TikTok

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA is now on TikTok! Click the button link below to view our profile. **Please like and share to help our Catholic content reach a broader audience!**

FSS TikTok

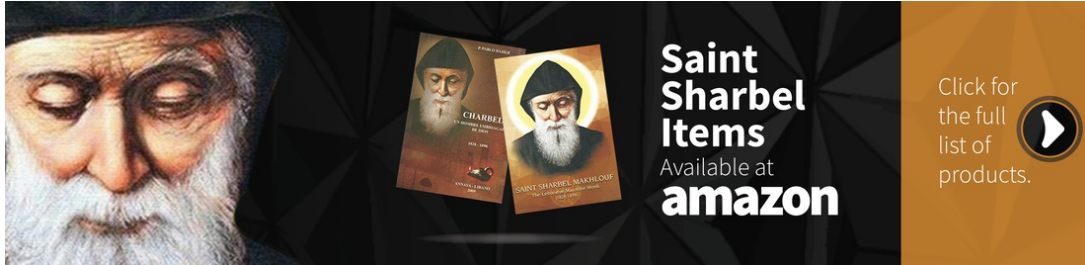
Family of Saint Sharbel on Apple Music, Spotify, and More!



Last year, the Family of Saint Sharbel published its **first musical production**, a sung Arabic rendition of St. Sharbel Ramsho & Ziyah hymns. This album is now available on **our podcast**, **Apple Music**, and **Spotify**! Click below or search “Family of Saint Sharbel” on your app of preference to listen.

[Listen Online](#)

Family of Saint Sharbel Shops



Click this image to view our Amazon shop!

The Family of Saint Sharbel is on **Amazon** and **Shopify**! On these two platforms, books, novenas, prayer cards, and sacramentals related to St. Sharbel and Catholic spirituality are available for order, including works created by the Family of Saint Sharbel. Click the linked text above to explore!

Family of Saint Sharbel YouTube & Podcasts



Image from the Family of St. Sharbel's Miracles and Healings channel. Click to view!

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA (FSS) is on YouTube and has published podcasts in English and Arabic! For more content including talks, testimonies, and event recordings, visit any of our three YouTube channels or listen to our podcast below.

[St. Sharbel's Miracles & Healings - YouTube](#)

[Maronite Saints & Blesseds - YouTube](#)

[Family of Saint Sharbel USA - YouTube](#)

[FSS Podcast](#)

Zoom Prayer Gathering - Arabic



[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

Other Useful Links

[English Website](#)

[Spanish Website](#)

[Portuguese Website](#)

[Tagalog Website](#)

[St. Sharbel Shrine - Emmitsburg, MD](#)

[FSS Facebook](#)

[FSS Instagram](#)

[FSS TikTok](#)

[Sanctuary of St. Sharbel in Lebanon](#)

Questions or Comments?

Email communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org to let us know!

God Bless,

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA



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