



They devoted themselves to the teaching
of the apostles and to the communal life,
to the breaking of the bread
and to the prayers.

ACTS 2:42

Issue 24 | July 2024

Peace of Christ



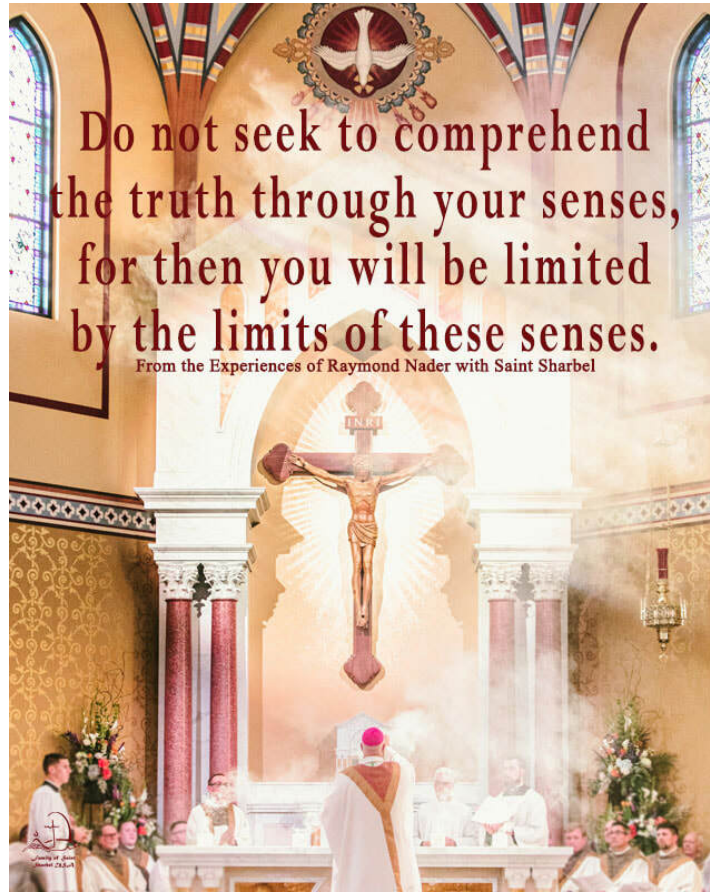
*Family of Saint
Sharbel USA*

May Joy Be Your Companion

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA happily presents its 24th Newsletter. We are thankful and glad to be walking with you, and we ask for your prayers as our community of faith continues to grow! **Please spread the word; we would love to have you all join us.**

Contemplation Corner

A Reflection by Fr. George El-Andari



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/spiritual-designs/do-not-seek-to-comprehend-the-truth-through-your-senses>

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is understood by the whole Church as the term for which the Blessed Virgin soon after her death, was taken up body and soul to heaven to be forever throned above the angels and Saints. The word assumption derives from the Latin word “assūptiō,” meaning taking up. She was lifted up by God to the degree of glory for which she had been predestined. The Assumption of Mary is the fourth dogma of the Marian Dogmas of the Catholic Church. It is also known as one of the two Modern Marian Dogmas that the Catholic Church has declared in modern times besides the Immaculate Conception dogma. They are called the Modern Marian dogmas to distinguish

them from the old dogmas (Divine Motherhood and Perpetual Virginity) because these two are specific to the Catholic Church and are not binding on the Orthodox Church or other Churches. The dogma of the Assumption was declared by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950, which states that: “Mary immaculate Mother of God ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up in body and soul to heavenly glory.”

Click here to read Fr. George's full reflection.

Click here to view more of our spiritual designs.

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 times listed below, especially as the feast of Saint Sharbel takes place this month!

Masses in Honor of St. Sharbel:

St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, Phoenix, Arizona

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Mission of Stockton, California

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

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church, Clinton Township, Michigan

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

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Astoria, New York

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

St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Sharbel Mission, El Paso, Texas

St. Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Recent News

Saint Sharbel's Feast Day at the National Shrine Grotto

On Saturday, July 13th, 2024, the **National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** (Emmitsburg, MD) and the Family of Saint Sharbel USA celebrated the Feast of Saint Sharbel with a day of prayer, including a **talk** from our President, Raymond Nader! Click the button link below to learn more.



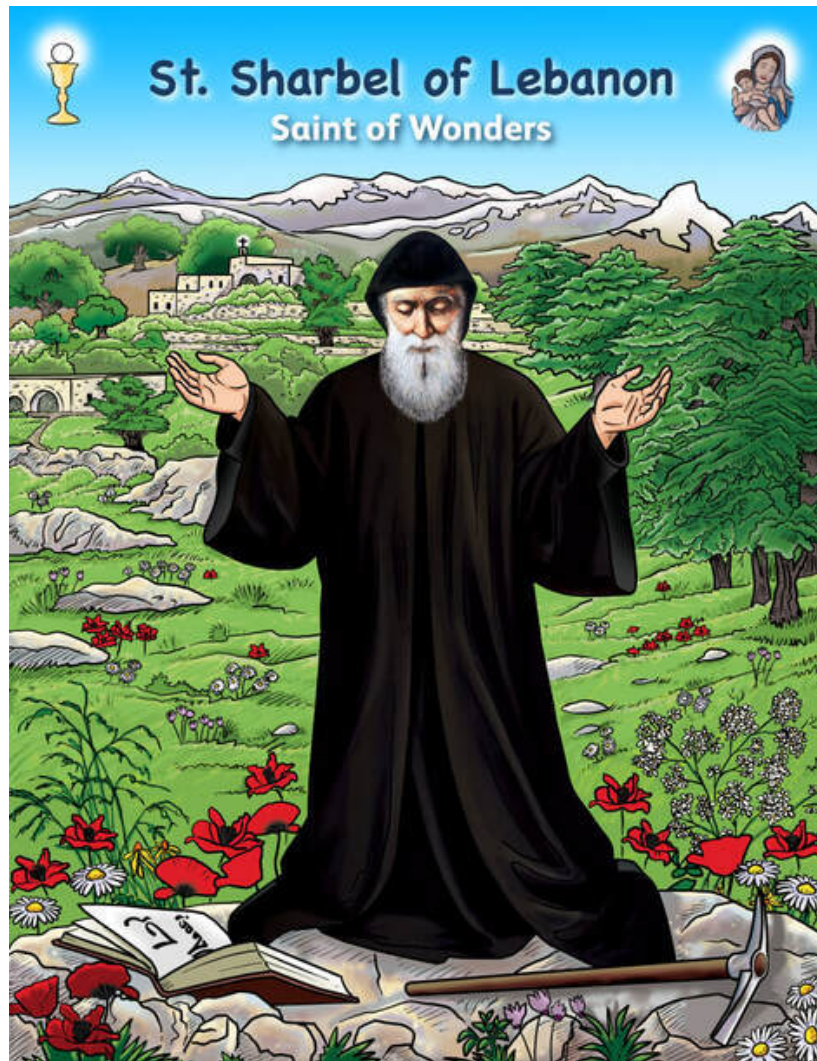
[Learn More](#)

Dc. Michael Chirichella & Mary Guidice's Testimonies of Healing

Deacon Michael Chirichella and Mary Guidice (Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church - Brooklyn, NY) were recently given an opportunity to share their testimonies on Currents News! **Click below to view the video on YouTube.**

[Watch Here](#)

NEW! St. Sharbel Illustrated Book - Now Available!



St. Sharbel of Lebanon: Saint of Wonders is one of the Family of Saint Sharbel's latest projects! **Available in English and Arabic*, this illustrated book recounts the life of Saint Sharbel in context, beginning with a brief history of the Maronite Church and the Lebanese Maronite Order and ending with the legacy left behind by Christ's work in this Saint, including the formation of the Family of Saint Sharbel. Click the links below to read more or purchase this book in Arabic or English!*

[Order Online - Arabic](#)

[Order Online - English](#)

Saint Spotlight

The Assumption of Mary: Full of Grace

by Fr. David A. Fisher (published in the Maronite Voice, Aug. 2019)



An icon of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary takes place on August

15th each year! The article below explains the theology of our faith in the Assumption as featured in the Maronite Voice (a publication of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, NY) in 2019. Click the button below to access the full text online!

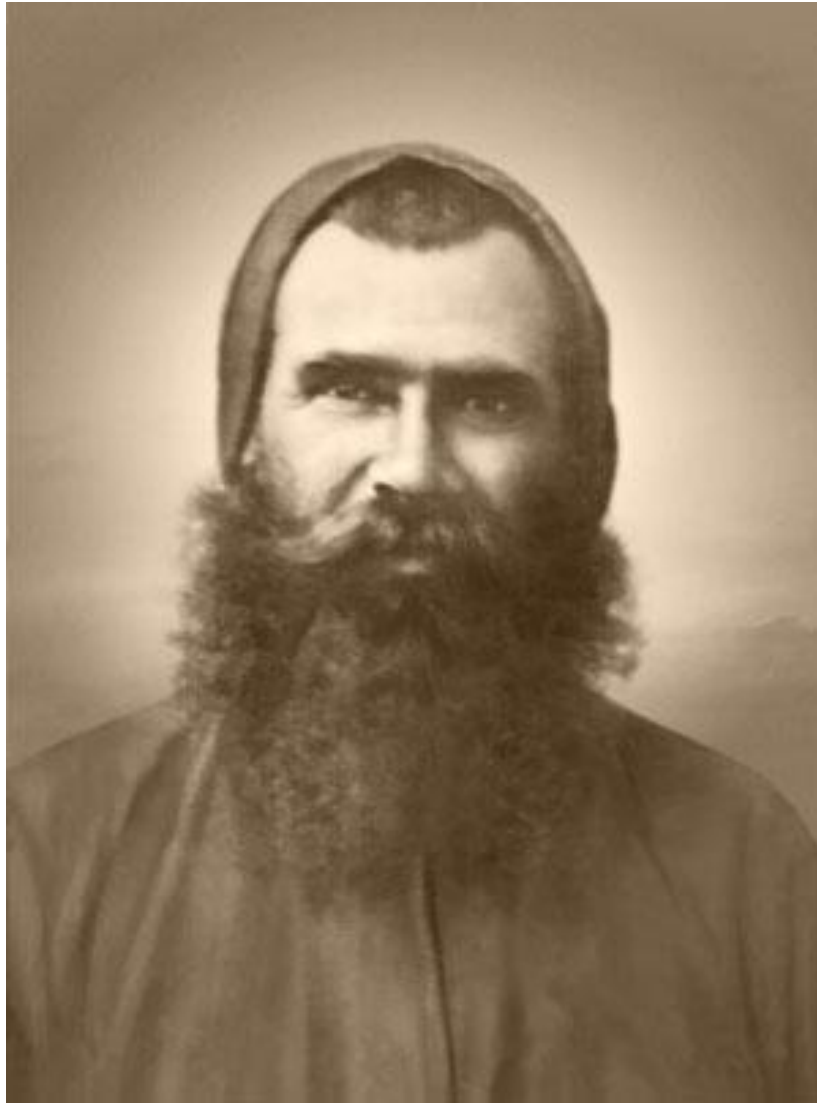
Introduction

Every year, on 15 August, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption or Dormition of the All-Holy Mother of God. In remembering the “falling asleep” and bodily assumption of Mary, the Church calls us to contemplate the power and majesty of God’s grace in the greatest of our race, the Holy Virgin of Nazareth.

Like John the Baptizer, Mary’s life never pointed toward herself but to her Son and Lord, Jesus Christ. As the Mother of the Word-Made-Flesh, she is the Mother of the Church, which is the Body of Christ on earth. From the time of the early Church, Christians have realized that she alone represents what a life “full of grace” can achieve: death without bodily corruption and fullness of life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

[Read More Here](#)

Bl. Brother Estephan Nehme



Feast Day: August 30

Adapted from The Family of St. Sharbel's webpage: "Brother Estephan Nehme was born to a Maronite family in Lehfed, Lebanon on March 8th, 1889. His parents were Estephan Bou Haykal Nehme and Christine Badawi Hanna Khaled. He was baptized on March 15th, 1889 at Our Lady Church of Lehfed by Father Gerges Fadel and was given the name Youssef.

Youssef was the youngest among three boys and two girls and was called the angel of the family. He learned basic reading, writing and Christian teachings under the trees near the Church of Saint Estephan. From childhood on, he was not sociable and not interested in parties, even among family, and he would pray late at night, repeating, "God can see me."

In 1905, when he was 16 years old, Youssef left his house and headed to the Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justine in Kfifane where he took the name "Estephanos." On August 23rd, 1907, the Superior, Father Youssef Saker from

Kfoun, blessed the vows of Brother Estephan who wore the novice's cassock.

Brother Estephan spent 31 years in the monastic life...[He] was a "worker monk" responsible for the field. He learned carpentry when he was in Mayfouk, and he was good in construction since he was robust and sturdy.

He died on Tuesday, August 30th, 1938 at 7 PM, but his body was later found incorrupt."

[Click Here](#) to read more!

Reading Nook

The Enduring Faith of St. Charbel: Thousands Celebrate in Lebanon

by Marguerita Kallassy



Photo: A drone shot from the Eucharistic procession leading to the St. Charbel Hermitage Site and the monastery of St. Maroun Annaya, where Mass was then celebrated on July 22, 2024. Credit: Father Chadi Bechara, Sourced from Catholic News Agency (CNA)

"On July 22, the historic St. Maroun Monastery in Annaya, Lebanon, became a gathering place for Catholics as hundreds of pilgrims — Lebanese and expatriates — flocked to the monastery, filling the roads leading to Annaya at sunrise.

This outpouring of faith culminated in a Eucharistic procession — the highlight of a three-day celebration honoring St. Charbel Makhoul, whose feast is celebrated July 24 in the Latin Church but on the third Sunday of July in the

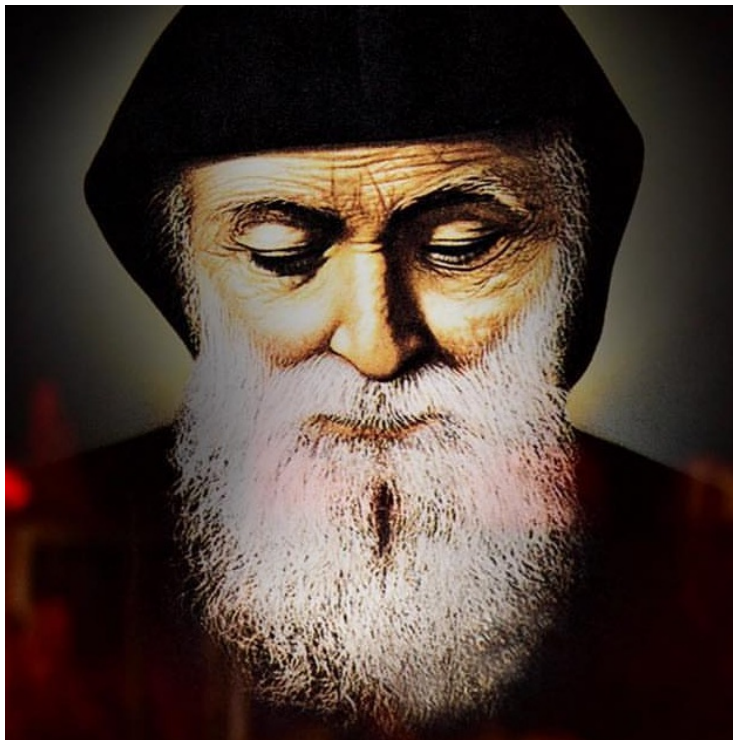
Maronite Church.

St. Charbel, a revered saint in the Maronite Catholic Church, was known for his deep dedication to the Eucharist. This devotion resonated deeply with the faithful who participated in the procession. Many pilgrims speak of life-changing experiences after spending time in prayer at the monastery for the feast of St. Charbel year after year..."

[Read More Here](#)

Articles and More

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 the intercession of St. Sharbel. 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 the author's permission.

Healing Testimony for the young man Yaacoub (Jacob) Borovik
Healing Testimony for the Druze Child Adam Marwan Yazbek
Healing Testimony for the Child Christa Maria Bassam Rizk
Healing Testimony for the Child Cyril Simon Baayno

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



Click the image above (copied from the FORMED online streaming platform) to be directed to Teenage Mental Health with Sr. Josephine Garrett!

The Family of Saint Sharbel offers you a FREE subscription to FORMED, an online Catholic platform that contains thousands of resources for spiritual growth!

This Month's Highlighted FORMED Resource:

As youth and young adults in many areas prepare to return to school, we would like to highlight **Teenage Mental Health**, a video series by Taylor Kemp and Sr. Josephine Garrett! Sr. Josephine is a licensed mental health counselor and a religious sister with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, and her work here explains the current state of teenage mental health (particularly in the US)

and ways we can support young people from a Catholic perspective.

Click the button link below to watch!

[Watch Here](#)

To view this resource and many others, sign up for FORMED **FOR FREE** by following these simple steps:

- (1) **Go to:** <https://formed.org/signup>
- (2) **Enter:** Family of Saint Sharbel
- (3) **Enter** your name and email address and you're in!

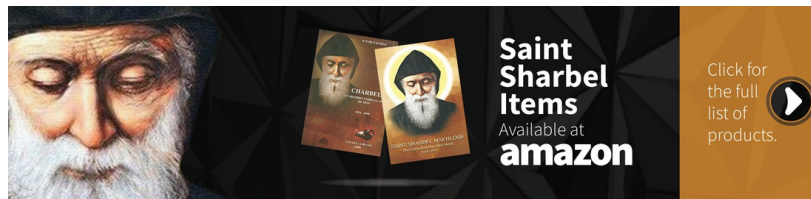
Below are the links to FORMED on social media:

Instagram: [formedcatholic](#)

Facebook: [FORMEDCatholic](#)

YouTube: [Augustine Institute](#)

Family of Saint Sharbel Shops



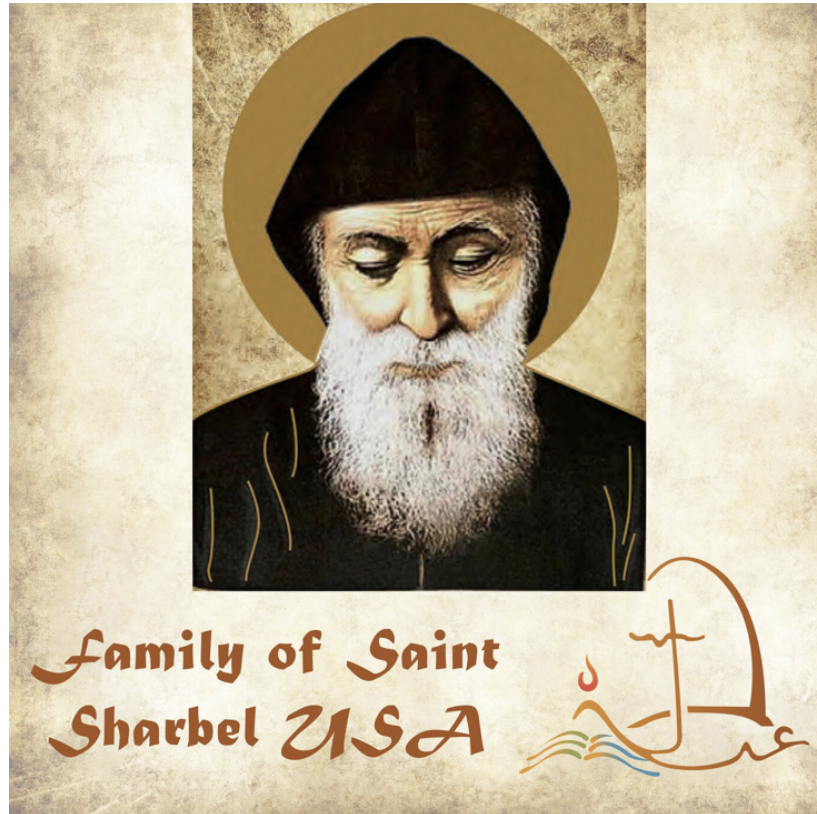
Click this image to view our Amazon shop!

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 buttons below to explore!

[Amazon](#)

[Shopify](#)

Family of Saint Sharbel Podcast



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/podcast>

The Family of Saint Sharbel (FSS) Podcast is now available in English and Arabic! Episodes currently include talks on the Maronite Divine Liturgy, Syriac Spirituality, the Silence of God, and more. Listen at the link below or through your podcast app of preference, and please feel free to share!

[Listen Now](#)

Zoom Prayer Gathering - Arabic



[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

Questions or Comments?

Email communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org to let us know!

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- [Instagram](#)
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**God Bless,
The Family of Saint Sharbel USA**



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