



FR. BADAOU'S WELCOME SPEECH - 10 MAY 2008

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

It is with great honour and pleasure that I, as the Superior of the Maronite Mission in South Africa, with my brother priests serving the Lebanese and Maronite community stand here this evening to welcome Your Eminence, Our Father Patriarch, Mar Nasrallah Peter Sfeir.

I join with myself all the members of our Church communities as well as many Lebanese residing in South Africa in saying: "Ahla Wsahala! Sawubona! Welcome to this beautiful land of South Africa!"

Beatitude, your presence amongst us is a source of grace, joy and happiness so we gather around you here this evening to rejoice and celebrate, proclaiming in one voice: "Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord. Blessed is the one who brings with him blessings and the gift of peace."

With your Beatitude, allow me to welcome to this event their Excellencies and Graces:

- ✠ The Apostolic Nuncio to South Africa, his Excellency Archbishop James Patrick Green
- ✠ The Ambassador of South Africa to Syria and Lebanon, his Excellency Mr Mohammed Dangor
- ✠ The Ambassador of Lebanon to South Africa, his Excellency Mr Michel Katra

I would like to acknowledge the presence of

- ✠ His Grace Archbishop Roland Abou Jaoude, the Patriarchal General Vicar
- ✠ His Grace Archbishop Buti Tlhagale, Archbishop of Johannesburg
- ✠ His Grace Bishop Mvemve, Bishop of Klerksdorp
- ✠ His Grace Bishop Steven Brislin, Bishop of Kroonstad
- ✠ Most Reverend Father Elie Madi, Superior General of the Congregation of the Lebanese Maronite Missionaries
- ✠ Mr Jimmy Douaihy, Consul General of Lebanon to South Africa
- ✠ The prominent media personalities travelling with his Beatitude

Finally, I would like to recognise every member of our community present here. You make this gathering the success it is and I am gratefully proud of serving you.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the main objective of our Patriarch's visit to South Africa is to consecrate the shrine of Our Lady and the beautiful church of Our Lady of Lebanon in Mulbarton that serves not only the Maronite Community living in the south of Johannesburg but also our brothers the Portuguese, Italian, African and other communities.

At this instance, it is simply appropriate to thank all who helped and assisted in making this dream come true.

A deep thanks coming from the heart goes to everyone who helped in the building of the Church with their time, talents and treasures - from those who donated through the "Bricks of Love" to those who offered a glass of water. May your names and the

names of your loved ones be written not only on a tablet of stone but in the Kingdom above in the Heart of God.

Allow me first to thank our congregation, the Lebanese Maronite Missionaries represented by our General Superior, Father Elie Madi, and Father Marwan Tabet, the ex-Superior of the Mission who bought and paid off the land, and initiated the architectural plans to achieve this dream. We thank also Father Pierre Albalaa who began the construction.

However, a special thank you from the heart goes to Father Nadim Abou Zeid who continued the building and played a key role in raising funds and bringing to completion the construction of the Church. Thank your Father Nadim as I am confident that the community will not forget your efforts to bring this project to its actual status.

I seize this opportunity to thank as well, all my brother priests who served in the past, Fr. Bechara Trad, Fr. Pierre Khoury, Fr. Bassem Zaynoun and those who are serving now at Our Lady of Lebanon, Fr. Maurice Chidiac and Fr. Abdo Skayem. You are hauling much on your shoulders, may the Lord reward you with a hundredfold.

This function as well as our Patriarch's visit would not be as wonderful as it is without the help, support and high preparation of the organising committees. We thank you all!

Allow me to thank the government of South Africa for taking care of the safety of our beloved Patriarch, in particular His Excellency Mr Mohammed Dangor, the South African Ambassador to Lebanon and Syria, and His Excellency Mr Michel Katra, the Lebanese Ambassador to South Africa.

Lastly, thank you to our trustees and secretaries at both churches and everyone of you here present tonight. You make this occasion the joyful event it is.

Brothers and Sisters, on the first day that our Patriarch set his feet on the ground of South Africa it was the 58th Anniversary of his ordination to priesthood and before he leaves, on the 15th of May, we are going to celebrate his 88th Birthday. Beatitude, we pray that God will give you grace, blessings and health during these happy occasions.

God bless you and thank you



FATHER BADAOUT HABIB
SUPERIOR OF THE SA MARONITE MISSION

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tor:

Jeraldene Coleman

Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid M.L.M

FAMILY CLUB





THE MARONITE PATRIARCH'S HISTORICAL VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA IN PICTURES - 7 MAY



EARLY MORNING, 7 MAY 2008, FR. BADAQUI, FR. MAURICE AND THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR, MR & MRS MICHEL KATRA WELCOME HIS EMINENCE AND ENTOURAGE, HIS GRACE ROLAND ABOU JAUDE AND FR. ELIE MADI TO SOUTH AFRICA AT OR TAMBO INT.



FIRST HOLY MASS WITH THE CONGREGATION.



DURING HIS EMINENCE'S LAST VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, A CEDAR TREE WAS PLANTED IN OLC. HERE FR. MARWAN TABET, EDDIE EMMANUEL, FOUAD DIAB, FR. ELIE MADI, HIS GRACE ARCH-BISHOP ROLAND ABOU JAOUDE, FR. NADIM ABOU ZEID, ANTOUN ANTOUN & GEORGE SALIBA STAND WITH THE PATRIARCH BEFORE THIS LOVELY CEDAR.



THEN ROSARY & A COCKTAIL DINNER WAS ENJOYED BY HIS BEAUTITUDE AND EMINENCE WITH MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COMMITTEES IN THE EVENING AT OLC.





THE MARONITE PATRIARCH'S HISTORICAL VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA IN PICTURES - 8 MAY



MEETING WITH WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION AT CEDAR HOTEL



LUNCH WITH OFFICIALS AND DIGNITARIES AT SHERATON HOTEL, PRETORIA



RECEPTION WITH COMMUNITY IN PRETORIA AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE MR MICHEL KATRA, GROENKLOOF.

L-R: FR. MAURICE CHIDIAC, FR. GEORGE KAIROUZ, FR. BADAOUI HABIB (SUPERIOR OF MISSION SA), FR. MARWAN TABET, MRS KATRA, MR MICHEL KATRA (LEBANESE AMBASSADOR), HIS BEATITUDE AND EMINENCE PATRIARCH SFEIR, HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP ROLAND ABOU JAOUDE, FR. ELI MADI (SUPERIOR OF MLM), FR. NADIM ABOU ZEID, FR. ABDO SKAYEM & FR. CHARBEL HABCHI.





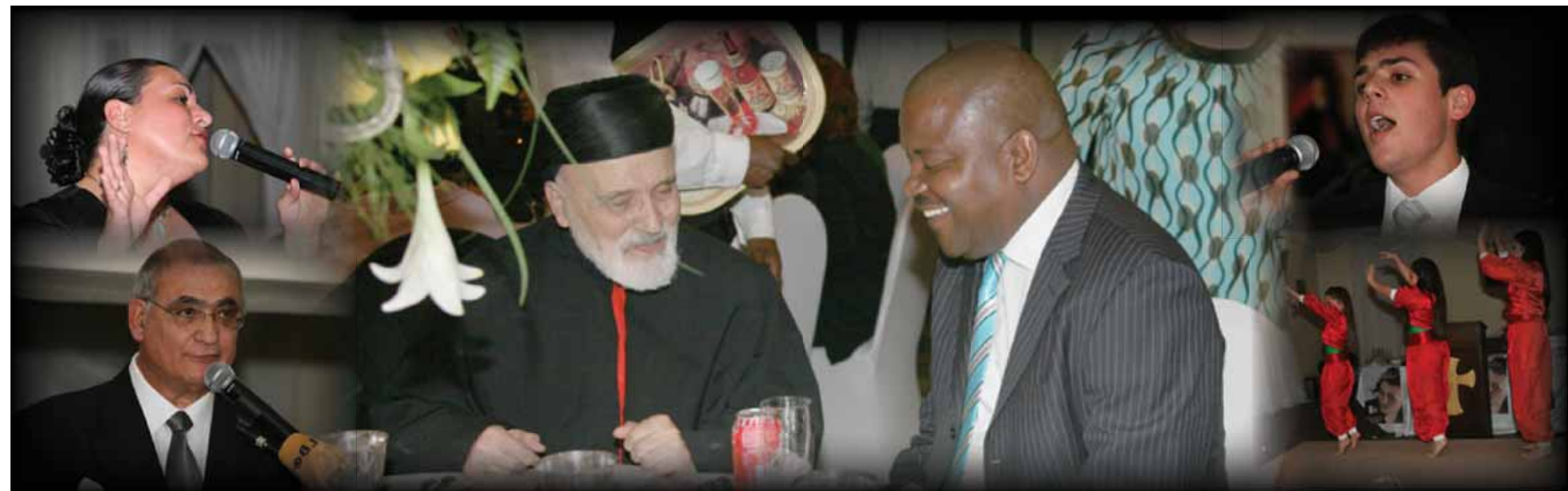
THE MARONITE PATRIARCH'S HISTORICAL VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA IN PICTURES - 9 MAY



MEETING ARCHBISHOP BUTI TLHAGALE



MEETING JOHANNESBURG'S PRIESTS AND NUN



BLESSING & DINNER WITH COMMUNITY IN KRUGERSDORP





THE MARONITE PATRIARCH'S HISTORICAL VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA IN PICTURES - 10 MAY



AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, MR THABO MBEKI AT UNION BUILDINGS



PENTECOST VIGIL MASS



GALA BANQUET FUNDRAISER, WOODMEAD



THE MARONITE PATRIARCH'S HISTORICAL VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA IN PICTURES - 11 MAY



UNVEILING OF OUR LADY'S STATUE

CONSECRATION OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON

BLESSING OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY-ORDAINED ASSISTANTS OF THE LEBANESE MARONITE MISSIONARIES:

- Tyrone Azar
- Delon Farah
- Anthony Kalil
- Deiter Kreisel
- Gareth Peters
- Alan Rahme
- Daryl Stewart



MAY FESTIVAL AND CONSECRATION CELEBRATIONS



FAREWELL TO FR. NADIM ABOU ZEID 1994 - 2008

It is with great sadness that we wish our beloved priest, Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid, farewell, many blessings and happiness in his new mission in Las Vegas.

You are invited to join us on the following farewell Masses:

- **OLL 25 May 10 AM Mass**
- **OLC 1 June 9:30 AM Mass**

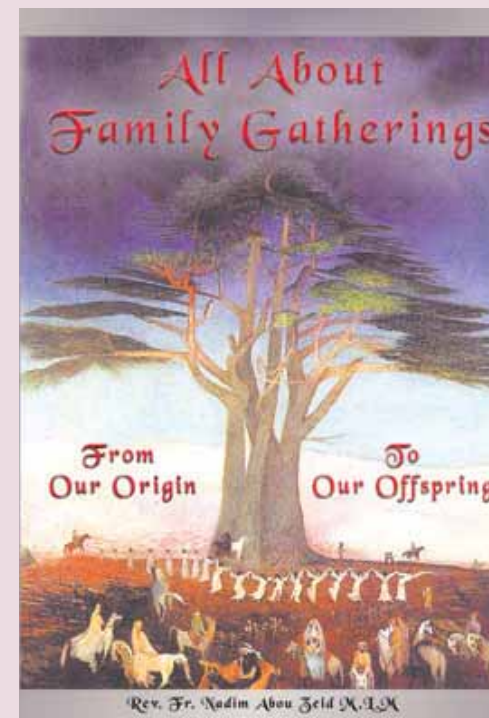
Followed by refreshments in the hall.



Family Club Publications



By Rev. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid



A workbook that will guide you in everything you need to know about organising one of the most memorable and momentous days in your family's history that will celebrate its origin to our offspring and cement its familial relationships in closeness, love and faithfulness.





MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY 18 MAY

The most fundamental affirmation of the Holy Trinity is the invocation known as the doxology, a prayer of praise: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit*, accompanied by the Sign of the Cross. Even very small children can learn to make the Sign of the Cross.

THERE ARE THREE CLEAR TRUTHS ABOUT GOD, THE TRINITY, REVEALED IN THE BIBLE

- 1) THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD: Deut.6:4, 4:39, Is.43:10-11, 44:6,8,24, 45:5-6, 46:9, Mk.12:29, James 2:19.
- 2) THE FATHER IS GOD; THE SON IS GOD; THE SPIRIT IS GOD: Jn.1:1-3, Colos.1:15-17, Acts 5:3-4, Rom.9:5, 2Cor.3:17-18, 1Cor.2:11, 2Pet.1:1,17, Tit.2:13, Heb.1:8.
- 3) THE FATHER IS NOT THE SON NOR THE SPIRIT; THE SON IS NOT THE SPIRIT: Mt.3:16-17, 12:32, 13:41-43, Jn.6:38, 7:16, 14:28, 15:26, 1Cor.15:27-28.

The Mystery of the Trinity was expressed in the Person, words and actions of Jesus Christ. Jesus told us the “Good News” of salvation. By His Words and Actions, and especially in His holy Person, Jesus made known the deepest truths about God. The Blessed Trinity is the deepest of all mysteries.

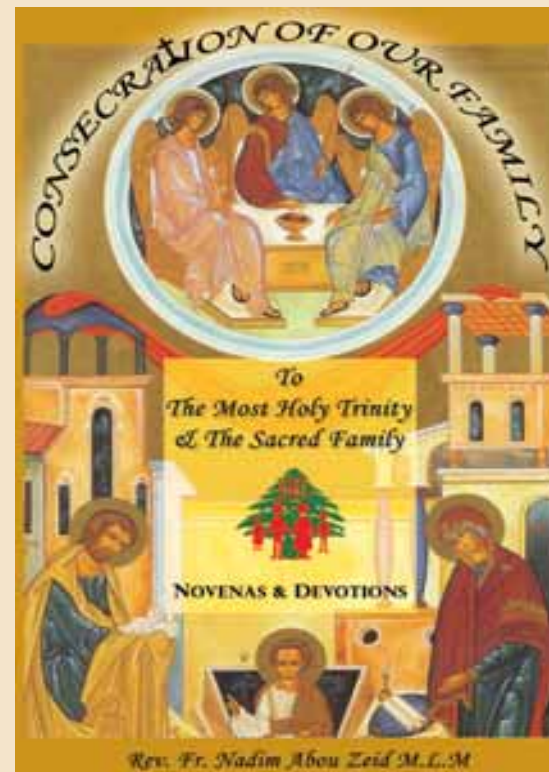
Jesus taught us that in the One God there are Three Persons, Each equal to each Other. He told us the names of these Three Divine Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We honour the Blessed Trinity by trying to remember the Presence of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in our souls and to understand, as much as we can through faith, that through our Baptism we are called to a close union of love with the Three Divine Persons.

MOST HOLY TRINITY MARONITE HYMN BO’OOTH MAR YA’AKOOB

Hidden	Father,	the	Creator,	has sent His Son,
The Good	Master	and great	Saviour	who forgave sin.
S a n c t i f i e r	and	Comforter	on us came down.	
Glory,	power	and all	honour;	the Three in One!



Family Club Publications By Rev. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid



Journey into the heart of the Most Holy Trinity Family - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and the Sacred Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph - and consecrate your family into their tender care, sure protection and loving embrace through this little booklet of heartfelt novenas and devotions.



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SACRED HEART FEAST & WORLD PRIEST DAY

30 MAY

Pope Clement XIII commanded that the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus should be solemnly celebrated throughout the Church every year, on the first Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi.

On the eighth day after Corpus Christi, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, was deeply engaged in devotions before the Blessed Sacrament, when the divine Saviour appeared to her, showed her His Heart burning with love, and said:

“Behold this Heart, which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming itself, in order to testify its love. In return I receive from the greater part only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this sacrament of love. And what is most painful to Me is that they are hearts consecrated to Me. It is for this reason I ask thee that the first Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi be appropriated to a special feast to honour My Heart by communicating on that day and making reparation for the indignity that it has received. And I promise that My Heart shall dilate to pour out abundantly the influences of its love on all that will render it this honour or procure its being rendered.”

Family Activities for the Feast of the Sacred Heart

1. Attend Mass together and say the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
2. Help the children make a small “shrine” with a statue or picture of the Sacred Heart. Allow them to decorate it with flowers or candles.
3. Bake a heart-shaped cake or cookies. Let the children help and have a conversation about the love and sacrifice of Jesus.
4. Let the children make a list of several acts of charity and mercy, representing Jesus’ love for us, and write them on cut-out hearts.

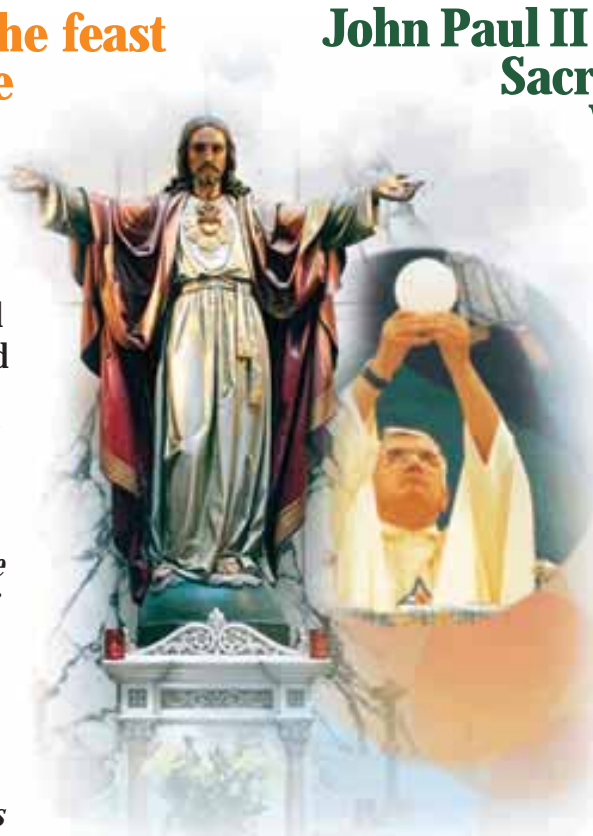
John Paul II established that on the Feast of the Sacred Heart the Church will observe the World Day of prayer for the Sanctification of Priests.

30 May is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on God’s great gift to His people - the priesthood and its generous individuals who have devoted their lives in bringing His Presence amongst the midst of us through the Sacraments and their good example.

We invite you on this day, to attend Mass at your parish and to offer prayers and thanks for your priests on the holy hour of 3pm, that they may continue to be blessed with God’s blessings so that they may stand firm to their vocation, courageous in times of hardship and faithful in times of temptation. The Maronite Church has printed prayer pamphlets entitled “Praying for our Father Priests”. Please take one the next time you visit us. And we encourage you everyday to say these prayers on behalf of our priests.

The feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has not been chosen without good reason for the World Priest Day. It is the feast of the humanity of God incarnate. It reveals to us the very heart of Jesus, beating with love for all people of all times. Priests are called to listen to that heartbeat and become ‘other Christs’ among God’s people. They truly need our prayers as we need theirs.

As the Maronite Memo, we would love to hear your stories about our priests, about how their presence, deeds, sacrifices, homilies and private words have affected your lives. Please send these to info@lebanesefamilyclub.co.za.





CELEBRATING MAY WITH MARY

May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. Since medieval times, we have had the combination between Mary and the month of May.

WAYS TO CELEBRATE MARY'S MONTH WITH THE FAMILY

1. SAY THE ROSARY
2. CROWN A SPECIAL STATUE OF MARY IN THE HOME
(The crown will last only a day, but it will be beautiful! The children will ALL have crowned, and it will have been a joyful time for them.)
 - Create a simple wreath with wire.
 - Get the children to pick flowers from the garden. Most little children know the joy of bringing mom a gift of a bouquet. The little bouquet stands for the love the child has for mom. This also applies to our love for Mary, Jesus' mother and our mother. When Jesus was a little boy, he probably picked his mother flowers, too - just as we do - and brought them to Mary!
 - Explain that every flower is different! Every flower is God's gift. This one reminds us of this, and that of that. There truly is no one single symbolic meaning to any flower.
 - Take your Mary statue (or icon/picture) - the ideal is one that also has Jesus on it - Mother and Child undivided - and explain that the reason we thank Mary is that she brought Jesus to us. We thank Mary and love her because she loved Jesus! She also loves us and wants to do everything possible to bring us to Jesus.
 - Crown the statue by saying the following prayer.



DAD: We look at the Blessed Mother, she is the hope of the fathers and mothers among us. With the mother who guides and educates we dare to let our children go out onto the stormy ocean of public and social life. We know they need a mother, a model and a sure refuge.

MOM: Blessed Mother, if you go into the battle of life with us and our children, we will dare to take up the struggle again and again. While on earth, you showed us how to master life, so we trust that we and our children will be blessed with victory over sin and the darkness of evil.

CHILD 1: We look at the Blessed Mother, our young men and women, admit their need. With the protection and guidance of Mary's immaculate heart it will be possible to enter life with an undefiled heart and a pure, strong ability to love faithfully.

CHILD 2: We look at the Blessed Mother, the children call out in their happy children's voices. With her care and wise education we can grow in body and soul. Our journey of faith, too, will benefit if we look time and again at the Holy Family's faith.

DAD/MOM: Mary, you are a queen! The most Blessed Trinity has confidently placed the welfare of the Church into your powerful and gentle motherly hands. You will lead the pilgrim people of God home to his infinite loving heart. Giving you the crown is a symbolic way to entrust to you once more the full responsibility for this task.

(All family members help crown Mary)

ALL: Yes, Mary, this is what it means when we give you a crown!

The crown symbolises all the dignity and beauty that God Himself has bestowed upon you!

The crown also symbolises your right to act as a Queen and Leader, as a Mother and Educator, here in our family and for all the kingdom of God on earth.

Mary, Mother and Queen, accept our crown!

Message of Medjugorje April 25 08



Dear children! Also today, I call all of you to grow in God's love as a flower which feels the warm rays of spring. In this way, also you, little children, grow in God's love and carry it to all those who are far from God. Seek God's will and do good to those whom God has put on your way, and be light and joy. Thank you for having responded to my call.

This following prayer is based on the ancient lament of St. Bernard





SAINT RITA

PATRON OF DESPERATE CAUSES, MOTHERHOOD AND DIFFICULT MARRIAGES - FEAST DAY 22 MAY

EFFACIOUS NOVENA PRAYER TO SAINT RITA

Glorious St. Rita, Patroness of those in need, your intercession with our Lord is most powerful. Through the favours obtained by your prayers you have been called Advocate of hopeless and even impossible cases. St. Rita, humble and pure; patient and compassionate lover of Christ Crucified, we have confidence that everyone who has recourse to you, will find comfort and relief. Listen to our petitions and show your power with God on our behalf. Obtain our petitions for us if they are for the greater honour of God, and for our good. We promise when our petitions are granted, to make known your favour, and to glorify God for His Gift. Relying on your power with the merciful Saviour, we ask of you ... (mention your request)

R: OBTAIN OUR REQUEST FOR US

By the singular merits of your childhood, R/ By your perfect union with the Divine Will, R/ By your acceptance of troubles in your married life, R/ By the anguish felt at the murder of your husband, R/ By the surrender of your children, rather than have them offend God, R/ By your miraculous entrance into the convent, R/ By your daily penance and fasting, R/ By your courage and joy in bearing the mark of the Crucified Saviour, R/ By the Divine Love which consumed your life, R/ By your devotion in receiving the Blessed Sacrament, R/ By the happiness you felt in leaving this life for union with Christ, R/ By the example you have given to people of every state of life, R/

Pray for us, St. Rita, that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Heavenly Father! In Your infinite Love and Mercy You heed the prayer of Your beloved servant, Rita. You graciously grant favours through her intercession, which are considered impossible to human skill and effort. Relying on her compassionate love, we ask You to assist us in our trials and difficulties. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



ST RITA'S LIFE OF SACRIFICE AND MIRACLES

St. Rita of Cascia, was born at Rocca Porena, Italy of elderly parents. Being alone in years, they did not want to see their only child alone in life and so they opposed her desire to become a nun and persuaded her to marry a man against her will at the age of 18. After eighteen abusive years, her husband was killed in a brawl but not before Rita had converted him from his evil ways. To obtain his conversion, she added severe penance to prayer. From this marriage, she had two sons. After the death of her husband, Rita's two sons resolved to take revenge, but through her prayers and devotion, asking God to rather take her sons from her than let them commit mortal sin, they repented and died soon after.

Rita then applied several times for admission into the Augustinian Convent at Cascia, but was refused each time. One day she miraculously appeared in the convent and was then allowed to enter, where she remained for 42 years. She became known for her austerities, penance's and concern for others, and brought many back to their religion with her prayers.

Upon hearing an ardent sermon about Christ's passion, Rita prayed to God that He might share with her at least part of His Pains. Slowly one of the Thorns from the Crucifix was loosened, and implanted itself so deeply into Rita's forehead that she fainted. Her wound became putrid and fetid. She was banished to a small room where she remained cheerfully for 15 years while the wound grew steadily painful.

At the moment of her death, May 22 1457, the nuns around her bed noticed a wonderful fragrance had filled the room. Rita's wound was healed and her face glowed with an eternal smile.

Till today her body remains incorrupt and many miracles have been recorded through her intercession.

Saints celebrated in May's Maronite Calendar

Day	FEAST	LETTER	GOSPEL
6	St Dominic of Savio (Confessor)	Heb. 3:12-13	Jn 15:1-8
8	St John the Evangelist	1 Cor. 1:26-31	Jn 21:20-25
9	The Prophet Isaiah	Rom. 9:26-33	Lk. 4:14-21
15	Our Lady of the Harvest	Heb. 7:1-7	Mk 3:31-4:9
22	St Rita (Confessor)	Rom. 15:25-33	Lk. 18:31-34





CHOOSE LIFE!

ARCHBISHOP BUTI TLHAGALE'S CALL

“Thou shalt not kill” says the Commandment of God. But rather, “love your neighbour as yourself” (Mt. 19.19). Pope John Paul II points out that the message of the New Testament “culminates in the positive commandment which obliges us to be responsible for our neighbour as for ourselves” (Evangelium Vitae 40.2).

Those involved in the taking of the life of the unborn baby must take responsibility for their action. Often it is the mother who makes that decision. Neglect on the part of the father might lead the mother to commit abortion.

In such cases the father shares the moral guilt. But the responsibility equally falls on the law-makers who design and approve abortion laws; on the pharmaceuticals whose products are aimed at facilitating abortions; on nurses and doctors who perform abortions, and finally, on institutions and lobby groups who promote the legalisation of abortion. This is truly a conspiracy against the most vulnerable and most defenceless human beings. This represents a headlong assault on the “civilization of love” and a shameless promotion of the “culture of death” with its disastrous consequences. But God remains the ultimate defender of life “from man with regard to his fellowman, I will demand an accounting for human life” (Gen 9.5)

It is incumbent upon all Christians and people of goodwill to promote courageously and fearlessly the value of life from conception. It is imperative to promote a culture that appreciates the logical, that life begins at conception, and that the unborn baby is a person with inalienable right to life.

Source: Sermon at Pro-Life Miss, Victory Park, Feb 2008



STOP ABORTION!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN JHB

Earlier this year, Archbishop Buti Tlhagale called for the launching of a campaign aimed at courageously and fearlessly promoting the value of life from conception, enhancing the dignity of persons and to strengthen the culture of life, and cultivating compassion towards women who find themselves in difficult circumstances with the following recommendations:

1. that the Archdiocese of Johannesburg set aside a Pro-life Sunday in its calendar, and a month-long programme of activities aimed at promoting respect for the value of life.
2. that a team of committed persons be put in place to drive a Pro-life campaign.
3. that this team coordinates with other organisations involved in Pro-life activities.
4. that the SABC be requested to set aside a Pro-life Sunday, and a month-long programme of activities.
5. that parishes appoint a coordinator for Life Issues and that John Paul's Gospel for Life be considered as vademecum for the youth of the Archdiocese.
6. that a long-term campaign strategy be drawn up.

In response to Archbishop Buti Tlhagale's call for all Christians to get involved in the solution to end abortion in our country, you are invited to join our committee at the next meeting:

DATE: 20 MAY 2008

VENUE: ROSEBANK CATHOLIC CHURCH

GUEST SPEAKER: FR. MASSIMO

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT MICHELLE JOSEPH ON 011 648 5860

**PLEASE JOIN US –
YOU REALLY DO MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.
AND TRY TO BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU!**





“THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH.” (PART THREE)

BY BISHOP SAMUEL AQUILA

THE CULTURE OF DEATH

We turn to the culture of death in which we find ourselves as Catholics today. In “Evangelium Vitae,” No. 3, John Paul II cites the Second Vatican Council’s Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, “*Guadium et Spes*,” and its strong condemnation of attacks against the dignity of human life.

Though the quote is lengthy, it helps us to understand that the culture of death existed even in 1965, and indeed well before then, and has only grown deeper in our times.

The Council Fathers stated: “Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or willful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others like them are infamies indeed.

“They poison human society, and they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer from the injury.

“Moreover, they are a supreme dishonour to the Creator” (No. 27).

John Paul II acknowledged, “We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the ‘culture of death’ and the

‘culture of life.’ We find ourselves not only ‘faced with’ but necessarily ‘in the midst of’ this conflict: We are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life” (“*Evangelium Vitae*,” No. 28).

*“We are facing
an enormous and dramatic clash
between good and evil,
death and life,
the ‘culture of death’ and the ‘culture of life.’*

*We find ourselves
not only ‘faced with’
but necessarily ‘in the midst of’
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We are all involved
and we all share in it,
with the inescapable responsibility
of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life.”*

“Evangelium Vitae”, John Paul II

separated from truth, the loss of the sense of God, and a misunderstanding of conscience.

He calls us as Catholics, true to the faith we have received, to be “unconditionally pro-life” and to accept this responsibility no matter what the cost.

We can observe that the attacks against life have only grown over the 40-plus years since Vatican II. Today in [most parts of the world] abortion is legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy, euthanasia is actively promoted and embryonic stem-cell research occurs with great pressure to support it with government funds.

Globally we observe the plight of the unjust distribution of resources, human trafficking, drug trafficking, the presence of radical jihadism and terrorism, and worst of all, the contradiction of professed Catholics and Christians taking public positions against human life.

The culture of death has grown to a far greater magnitude than ever imagined by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council.

John Paul II in his encyclical cites four causes for the culture of death: a misunderstanding of the person, a false idea of freedom which has become

NEXT ISSUE: THE FOUR CAUSES FOR THE CULTURE OF DEATH





AN ICONIC JOURNEY - MAYFOUQ (PART 2)

BY JAN FITZGERALD

It was still raining as we wound our way from the Church of Our Lady of Ilige to the monastery of Our Lady of Mayfouq where the restored 10th century Syriac icon of Our Lady of Ilige is displayed in the monastery's tiny chapel.

Well-lit within a glass enclosure, it is breathtaking in its beauty but Elie, my guide/interpreter and I couldn't help wondering if it was the real deal or not. Through idle conversation we had been led to entertain the possibility that the authentic icon was secreted elsewhere – like the vaults of USEK (Holy Spirit university at Kaslik).

That was a question for another day. Now we stood within what is probably the oldest monastery in Lebanon. Dating back to 850 AD, the stone monastery has undergone various renovations and is famous for its arcades, colonnades and barrel vaulting.

One of its walls bears the inscription in Karshouni (the old practice of writing Arabic in the Syriac script) saying “he who was a slave for the Virgin will never know doom”.

The name ‘Mayfouq’ derives from the Syriac language and means ‘water spring’. The area is rich in spiritual history dating back to pagan times.

The monastery itself was the second seat of the Maronite Patriarch in Lebanon. Close by is the cave where Saint Charbel, who spent part of his novitiate there in 1850 and 1851, practiced his spiritual meditation.

Surviving the passage and ravages of time, in 1766 the monastery was given to the Lebanese Maronite monks by the ruling Emir Yousef Chehab.

We arrived on the feast day of St N'amtallah (December 14, 2007) to be greeted by a group of young boys who swiftly escorted us to the office of Father Naji Abi Salloum, who heads up the college which was established in 1922 to serve the local villages.

No child, of whatever persuasion, is turned away. So there were 225 boarders, sleeping like sardines in the various dormitories, and another 125 who walked to school daily.

Survival is very real here. The first thing Father Naji did when he arrived a year previously was to buy four cows – milk for the children. Then he bought a clutch of hens – eggs for the children. Vegetables and grapes grow organically so the monastery is 30% self-sufficient.

But, when you consider that it requires 30,000 litres of diesel a year just for heating, you can understand that the monastery needs funds additional to those allocated by the government for each child.

The district is poor, so there are no tuition fees for the children.

The roof is leaking into one of the top dormitories and badly needs maintenance.

I asked Father Naji how on earth he coped with the feeding, sleeping and clothing needs of all these kids.

First of all he said “Jesus Christ is my Lord and I see Jesus in every child's eyes”.

Then, he added “somehow, on every occasion that we really need money or food badly, someone knocks at our door and gives us what we need”.

Elie and I had arrived on his doorstep that day. So I asked Father Naji what would he do if he were given \$50. His response was swift. “A huge round of cheese for the children.

“And, if he were given \$100?” “The same cheese plus vests for the children.”

I pulled out a \$100 note and put it on his desk. “Thank you” he said and disappeared into another room, returning with a statue of the Madonna and child – one of the most beautiful madonnas I had ever seen.

As we were leaving he sent one of the older boys to pluck a huge bunch of grapes for us. Elie and I had never eaten sweeter.

...we stood within what is probably the oldest monastery in Lebanon...

One of its walls bears the inscription in Karshouni (the old practice of writing Arabic in the Syriac script) saying, “he who was a slave for the Virgin will never know doom”.





MARONITE MEMO TURNS ONE!!!

The Maronite Memo has grown from strength to strength, beginning as an 8 page e-memo, it now numbers over 3 times as much; from 200 email addresses we now reach over 1000 addresses and approx 3000 readers. Filled with news from our community members in South Africa to Lebanon, from Ecclesiastical matters to those concerning family and day-to-day life we have become a favourite community read.

We will soon be publishing a book with all our issues and encourage you to get one. However, one of our weaknesses is that due to financial limitations we cannot yet publish monthly in print and therefore we do not reach those who no computer or internet access.

**Therefore, for the first time,
we appeal to the community:
now that you have seen the quality and passion
we put into every publication,
help sponsor our growth into print
through a much-appreciated donation.**

Our Banking details are as follows:

NAME	:	OUR LADY OF CEDARS
BANK	:	NEDBANK
BRANCH	:	THE WEDGE
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Alternatively, if you would like to advertise in our publication please contact us on

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EMAIL	:	info@lebanesefamilyclub.co.za

**We thank you all for your support
and encourage you to get more involved with the Memo
by sending us your family news.
We love to hear it and spread it!**

Debutantes of 1978 raise R6,050 for Charities

Nadia Auby is top debutante

The highlight of the 'Club 18' social calendar is the Debutantes Ball. Fourteen young Lebanese ladies and their handsome escorts helped to make this function a memorable occasion.

The setting a well-decorated Cedar Park Country Club. The mood, cosy comfortable and warm inside on a cold May 13th, Saturday evening. This function was the culmination of months of hard work by parents, 'Club 18' members, the Debutantes and their escorts.

Sincere vote of thanks to Mona Mason Zogbhy who for the ninth year in succession has trained and groomed debutantes for presentation at their first public function. Also to Lorraine Khouri, secretary of 'Club 18' and assistant to Mona.

The Debutantes Ball gives the youth of the Lebanese community an opportunity to obtain a deeper insight into the plight of the underprivileged and the needy. It further helps to develop confidence in our youth. It enables boy to meet girl. For the 'Club 18' committee it gives them an opportunity to develop their individuality and experience in leadership.

Top debutante is Nadia Auby who raised R2010. She wins a

return trip to either Lebanon or Brazil — all expenses paid and partly sponsored by Cumming Travel, Johannesburg.

Second is Lynn Hanna who raised R800.

Third is Dianne Auby who raised R680.

Present at the Ball and Guests of Honour were the Mayor and Mayoress of Sandton, Councillor and Mrs Peter Bennett, Rev. Father Michael Chebli.

Mr and Mrs Tony Samra, Chairman of Cedar Park Country Club.

The Chairman of 'Club 18' Mr Peter Khouri welcomed the guests.

Mr Jack Chami, Honorary President of 'Club 18' and originator of the Annual Debutantes Ball said that because of the economic situation the community was finding it increasing difficult to give; but was confident that the function would again be held next year.

Charitable organisations that will benefit from the Debutantes Ball are:

Easter Stamp Fund for cripples; Maronite St Vincent de Paul Society, Boys on the Border Fund, Sandton Mobile Hospital, Nazareth House and Lebanese Youth Club.



Nadia Auby



Lynn Hanna



Diane Auby



Enzina Vigliotta



Debra Khoury



Ingrid Karam



Left to right: Joyce Hanna, Mae Samra, Councillor Bennett, Mrs Bennet and Rev. Michael Chebli



Bottom left to right: Jerome and Paul Khoury, Cedric Zogbhy, Gary Mancer
Top left to right: Joe Simon, Marius Khoury, Brian Fagri



Bottom left to right: Mich. Simpson, Rickey Habib, Lionel Tehini, Jos. Lebos
Top left to right: Mark Lewis, Michael Anthony, Gregory Farrah



Antoinette Bakos



Alice Khoury



Cheryl-Ann Aube



Debbie Lebenon



Antoinette Peters



Beverley Kadou



Glenda Rahme



Vanessa Chemaly



“LEBANON - ITS TWO WINGS”

BY KEN HANNA

In this article the Hon. Editor and Publisher of the “Cedar Leaf” looks at the two wings of Lebanon. Whilst there are the wings of Lebanon/America or Lebanon/Brazil or even Lebanon/Ireland - in fact anywhere where the Lebanese have settled - we will concentrate on the Lebanon/South Africa “wings”.

Quotation: ‘Lebanon will remain as our ancestors built it, united by its two wings, without which it cannot rise. These two wings must continue to work together and cooperate in the interests of Lebanon, so that it may remain a unity of two parts, resident and emigrant.’ *His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Lebanon, Sleiman Franjieh in 1972.*

Much water has flown along the Nahr el Kalb since these memorable words were uttered, including the long protracted war, the Syrian occupation, and the 2006 war with Israel. Lebanon - bruised, battered and struggling - remains. South Africa, with all its successes and failures, remains.

The two wings, which the late President refers to, is those of the bird the “Phoenix” with its beautiful gold and red plumage in ancient Phoenician Mythology. The Phoenix is a central figure in Lebanese ancient and modern cultures as the Lebanese are the descendants of the Phoenicians and often claim themselves as sons and daughters of the Phoenix. Lebanon, and Beirut in particular, is often depicted symbolically as a Phoenix bird having been destroyed and rebuilt seven times during its long history.

In recent days much has occurred to substantiate the good President’s words. Firstly, the visit of His Beatitude and Eminence, Cardinal Nasrallah Boutrous Sfeir, to his flock amongst the Lebanese South African community. His Beatitude is leader and shepherd of approx. 20 million Maronites worldwide. Secondly, in Lebanon, the invitation to Professor Alex Boraine, former deputy Chairman of

the South African “Truth and Reconciliation” commission.

Who can forget Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Chairperson) breaking down and crying at the injustices expounded in a “Cathartic” manner to heal the South African Nation. It may be described as “One large open Confession” (my words.) Professor Alex Boraine, is now the Chairperson of the International Centre of Transitional Justice. He was attending a conference in Beirut at Hamra’s Crown Plaza Hotel during April 2008. He was asked for his comments on Lebanon.

South Africans know Professor Boraine, as an intelligent, honest and patriotic South African. He is, in no way, prescriptive. He is respected by both the black and white communities in our country. His comments and observations were both touching and very sad. More so in the light of us personally knowing some of the personalities mentioned.

“Lebanon can learn lessons from South Africa’s post Apartheid reconciliation process. It must come to terms with conflict that ended nearly 20 years ago. You can’t turn the page until you have read it” says Alex Boraine.

He was deeply touched by Lebanese Prime Minister H.E.Fouad Siniora. “He is a very lonely man”. This comment touches us all very profoundly, and as a community, we have a charitable mission to help alleviate this loneliness. Let us forget the politics. Let’s look at the man - a fellow human being. He is lonely because he is serving his country.

He mentions Nayla Mouawad, the Social Affairs Minister. Nayla Mouawad is well known to us here in South Africa. She visited us a few years ago, and spoke to the leaders of our community. She has known both great joy, as when here husband H.E.Renee Mouawad was elected President of the Republic of Lebanon; and also great sorrow, when he was prematurely assassinated. According to Professor Boraine, she lives in a beautiful house, but all the blinds were drawn, like a wake. ‘Lebanese politicians are living like birds in a cage’, he says. It is so sad that a woman of Nayla’s caliber is not allowed to display her true leadership and human potential.

Says Boraine: “Lebanon is like the National dish. You can’t have mezze without a diverse collection of dishes .By removing one, the whole is diminished.”



MARONITE MOTHERS CELEBRATE WITH OUR LADY

Mother's Day, 11 May 2008, will be remembered for many years by our families as one of the most touching and beautiful events in our Church. Like one large family, a few thousand of us gathered at the base of the chapel of Our Lady Mulbarton with our Father Patriarch and with bated breath watched as the metres of red material veiling the Statue of Our Lady, was unravelled.

Our Mother Mary, standing tall and elegant, shining brightly with her child Jesus, was a moment of great inner warmth as one contemplated Our Lady, an inestimable gift from God - the Mother of us all.

Our Lady, sculpted by Lebanese artist, Nayef Alwan, stands 7 metres tall and can be seen by the Kliprivier Rd. In her left arm she hold the child Jesus and in her right arm, cradles His Hand, sharing in the blessing of all who cast their eyes towards the Maronite Church. To all our Maronite mothers, we thank you and your families for sharing this special day with us and we pray that all Mothers may be blessed with the virtues of Our Lady, - her great love, forgiveness, faith and courage - following her example and being honoured by their children as Jesus honoured His Mother.



PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return. Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children. Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MONICA PATRON OF MOTHERS



Exemplary Mother of the great Augustine, you perseveringly pursued your wayward son not with wild threats but with prayerful cries to heaven. Intercede for all mothers in our day so that they may learn to draw their children to God. Teach them how to remain close to their children, even the prodigal sons and daughters who have sadly gone astray. Amen.

ST MONICA

Kong and roast – twin delights



Hi Lebanese Family Club

I just wanted to send this article to you about my brother Tony Koen, my mom is an Azar – Nora Azar. My brother is a well established chef and has always been and this month there was an article about him in The Citizen.

We are very proud of his achievements as a well renowned chef of Lebanese descent. He goes back a long way with Father Nadim.

Thank you
Ancilla G Teixeira

**WE WOULD LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU TOO!**

**SEND US YOUR
FAMILY NEWS TO
info@lebanesefamilyclub.co.za**

SITUATED in The Buzz Shopping Centre, corner Witkoppen and Douglas Road, kong and roast offers diners two unique restaurants, each catering specifically to the sophisticated palates of both east and west.

Unique to South Africa, the concept presents patrons with a choice in specialised Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese and Japanese cuisines, as well as western comfort grills and seafood.

Owner Ernst Fischer firmly believes the restaurant duo will find a loyal base of patrons in search of a reliable and relaxed choice in two up-market venues in which to conduct business, as well as enjoy a pleasurable meal with friends and family.

Kong seats more people due to the restaurant group's acclaimed chain of successful Asian-influenced eateries including Orient, Wangthai, Saigon and Soi.

The restaurants share a covered, spacious patio which overlooks Dainfern, and is perfect for enjoying exotic sundowners.

In creating a harmonious environment, basic Feng Shui principles were employed to promote prosperity, good health and a sense of general wellbeing.

Kong employs eight Asian chefs, sourced directly from Bangkok. Roast employs 12 chefs. Kong boasts a menu of more than 70 items and roast 40.

Kong's signature dish is seared salmon on black sticky rice served with a ginger butter cream sauce.

At roast the signature dishes to be sampled are pan-fried fillet in roast bordelaise sauce with nuggets of bone marrow or sesame crusted

Snip

At roast the signature dishes to be sampled are pan-fried fillet in roast bordelaise sauce with nuggets of bone marrow or sesame crusted salmon plated on pan-fried red onion and green beans and served with a creamy soy-sesame sauce.

salmon plated on pan-fried red onion and green beans and served with a creamy soy-sesame sauce.

Fresh sushi can be ordered in both restaurants.

One dessert menu is available and shared between kong and roast for those with a sweet tooth.

Wine lovers can enjoy a well-balanced selection of more full-bodied wines such as cabernet and shiraz, to complement the meaty western-style dishes from roast.

For kong, food and beverage manager Julian Cohen has listed off-dry fruity wines such as riesling, gewürztraminer and buketraube, as well as sauvignon blanc, chardonnay and chenin blanc, wooded and unwooded, which work well with the complexity of the spicy Asian flavours.

Diners can order a selection of wine by the glass, allowing wines to be selected per course and savoured by matching specific dishes and core flavours.

Chefs in the City asked Tony Koen, head chef of roast, a few questions:

Did you cook growing up?
Yes, I was cooking at home from the age of around 13.

Best piece of advice?

Just relax when cooking. There exists no food god that will punish you if you add a little too much of this or too little of that.

Favourite gadget?

I love cooking with my Weber. It's so versatile!

Favourite food to cook with?

I adore cooking with pulses of every shape, size and form.

When at home, what do you like to eat?

Pasta, because most restaurants struggle to get it right.

Your favourite cookbook?

Definitely *Yim* by Terry Durack.

Who is your all-time favourite chef and why?

I would have to say Claudia Roden. I met her a while back, and I just loved her humility and non-pretentious approach to food.

And your favourite TV chef?

The two fat ladies Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright.

If you were hosting your "dream" dinner party at home – who would be on the guest list?

All my favourite food writers and chefs like Terry Durack, Jeffrey Steingarten, Jennifer Paterson, Clarissa Dickson Wright, Mark Kurlansky and Keith Floyd.

And what food would you serve on that night?

Just good, unpretentious food. Foods that chefs eat.

Name a few of your favourite restaurants.

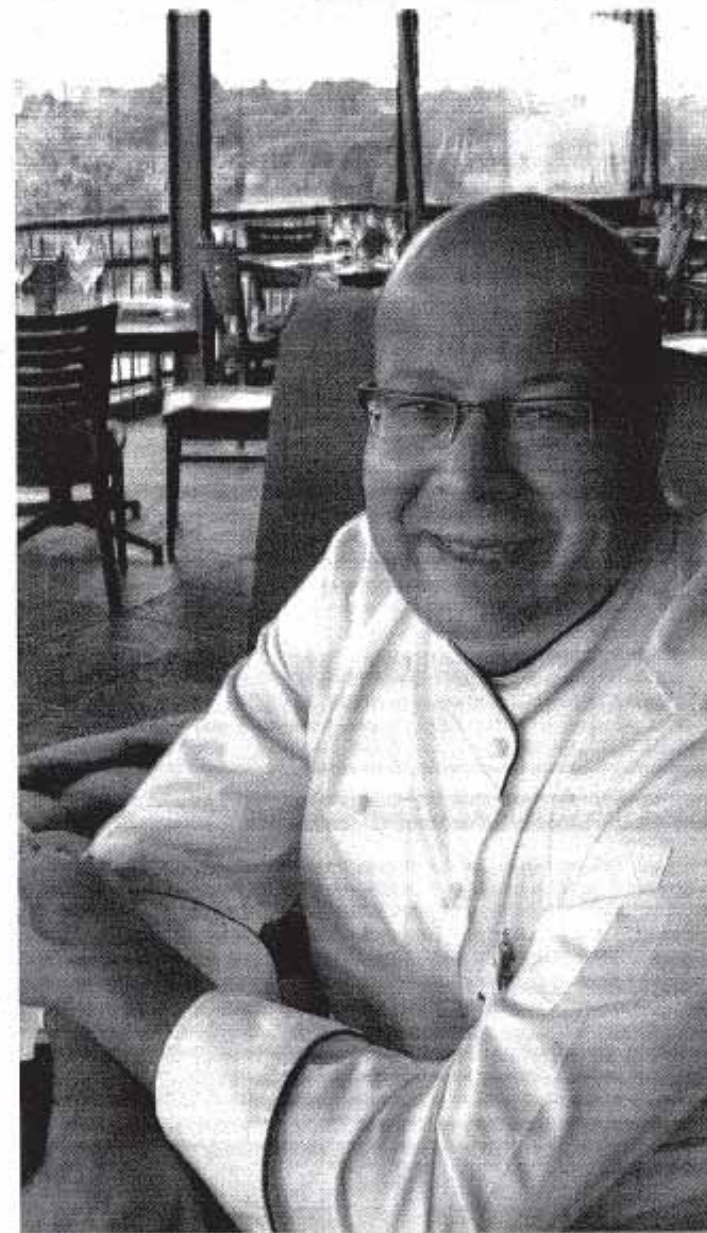
Banjaara and Rootz.

Best Vegetable?

Garlic, what would we do or be without of it?

Best Herbs?

I adore thyme, rosemary and basil.



Tony Koen, head chef of roast.

Best Oils?

Extra-virgin olive oil, nothing beats it!

A visitor coming to your house from overseas wants a meal that represents South African food –

what would you serve?

A lovely outdoor braai which encompasses our whole culture.

What do you consider your greatest career accomplishment?
Cooking for Madiba.



POPE URGES LEBANESE TO SHUN VIOLENCE

VATICAN CITY, MAY 11, 2008 - Benedict XVI is urging the Lebanese to abandon violence so that the nation can be an example of peaceful coexistence for the world.

The Pope expressed his hopes for a peaceful Lebanon on Pentecost Sunday.

Fighting began in Lebanon last Wednesday, resulting in the deaths of 38 people. The fighting today moved beyond the capital.

The Holy Father said he has been following the situation “with great concern in recent days [...] where, political initiatives having stalled, verbal violence and then armed confrontations followed, with many dead and wounded. Even if in these last hours the tensions have slackened, I believe that it is a duty today to exhort the Lebanese to abandon every argument for aggressive opposition that would cause their country irreparable damage,” the Pontiff said. He continued: “Dialogue, mutual understanding and the search for reasonable compromise are the only way to restore to Lebanon its institutions, and to the people, the necessary security for a daily life that is dignified and rich with hope for tomorrow.

“MAY LEBANON, THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON, KNOW HOW TO RESPOND WITH COURAGE TO ITS VOCATION OF BEING, FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND FOR THE WHOLE WORLD, A SIGN OF THE REAL POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTIVE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AMONG PEOPLE.

“The different communities that make up Lebanon, as the postsynodal exhortation ‘A New Hope for Lebanon’ observed, are at the same time ‘a richness, an originality and a difficulty. But bringing Lebanon to life is a common task for all of its inhabitants.’”

Benedict XVI prayed through the intercession of Mary, “the Virgin in prayer at Pentecost,” that God would give “an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of unity and concord, who inspires inspirations of peace and reconciliation in all.”

Lebanon has not been able to elect a president since last November due to fighting between the government and the opposition Hezbollah movement.

Source: www.zenit.org

LEBANON MARKS WAR'S 33RD ANNIVERSARY

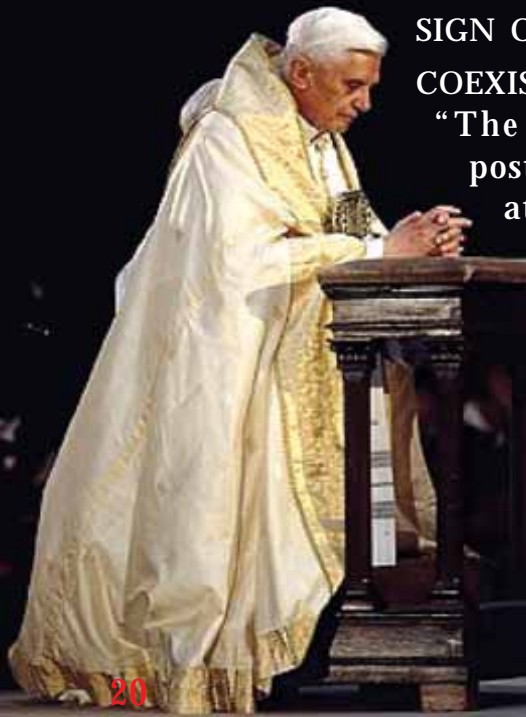


BEIRUT, Lebanon — Hundreds of Lebanese marked the 33rd anniversary of the start of their country’s civil war with a march on 18 April along the line that divided Beirut into two sectors during the bloody conflict.

The march came as Lebanon is mired in its worst political crisis since the 1975-1990 war, which claimed about 150,000 lives. The country has been without a president for nearly five months, and many fear Lebanon could once again slide into war. Many in the crowd carried banners reading: “Our unity. Our salvation.”

“After 33 years of wounds, we are still suffering and we haven’t recovered from its effects, pains and memories,” Prime Minister Fuad Saniora said in televised remarks to the nation.

Source: *The Associated Press*



LEBANESE DOCTOR RECEIVES USA'S HIGHEST AWARD



Lebanese-born, Dr. Michael E. DeBakey was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow, on 24 April.

“The recipients of this medal who have come from the world of science are few, but they are iconic - they include Thomas Edison, Walter Reed and Jonas Salk,”

said President George W. Bush. “Today we gather to recognise that Michael DeBakey’s name belongs among them.”

“Dr. DeBakey’s contributions to cardiovascular medicine have improved the health of millions of American citizens and people around the world. His extraordinary talents as a surgeon, inventor, educator and medical statesman make him a true medical legend,” said Frankie Trull, President of FBR.

DeBakey’s innovations have led to pioneering treatments and surgical techniques used in operating rooms around the world.

The first successful coronary bypass, performed by DeBakey in 1964, triggered the most dynamic era in modern cardiac surgery.

Two years later, he made medical history again by becoming the first person to successfully use a partial artificial heart (left ventricular bypass pump) to help patients who could not be weaned from a heart-lung machine following open-heart surgery.

Upon receiving the award, the 99-year old DeBakey said, “Again, let me come back to my sense of gratitude and because of my sense of high treasure I have for my citizenship, since receiving this award, my cup runneth over.”

Source: US Newswire

FOSSIL LEBANESE SNAKE FOUND WITH TWO LEGS!



WHAT WAS LOST TENS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO IS NOW FOUND.

A fossil animal locked in Lebanese limestone unearthed near the village of al-Nammoura has been shown to be an extremely precious discovery - a snake with two legs.

Researchers in France, used intense X-rays to confirm that a creature imprinted on a rock, and with one visible leg, had another appendage buried just under the surface of the slab.

“We were sure he had two legs but it was great to see it, and we hope to find other characteristics that we couldn’t see on the other limb,” said Alexandra Houssaye from the National Museum of Natural History, Paris.

The 85cm-long (33in) creature, known as *Eupodophis descouensi*, comes from the Late Cretaceous, about 92 million years ago.

Source: BBC



RESPOND to the words of God in writing! Let us know that you wish to receive all issues of **BURNING HEARTS**

By answering in a few words to anyone of the phrases followed by a question mark present in our texts, in any issue, you may join us from your place and help with us God's work! Names not published! So you don't have to worry!

EXPRESS YOUR FAITH IN WRITTEN WORDS ofstbarnabas@yahoo.com

The New Testament

God's new Covenant (agreement) with us in Jesus Christ

'... this generosity of God is meant to bring you to repentance...'
Romans 2:4

John the Baptist was the last Prophet of a series of Prophets since Moses whose Mosaic Law had failed to bring people to salvation, although it did prepare and help them to see what was sin and the necessity of divine grace. And John was the first who called in the NT for the baptism of repentance and foretold the baptism into the grace of Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit... How significant then is the act of repentance

in bringing people to salvation? How necessary is repentance for our baptism through Jesus Christ unto the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Church? Could it be the beginning of our response to the call of God who wants everybody to be saved?

Jesus himself began his mission on earth with the message,
"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand." Mt. 4:17

And if you are already baptized, you may respond to the initiative of the Holy Spirit, recall your baptism in your memory, repent, and receive Holy Communion, the gate to the kingdom of the Holy Trinity. Taste the divine Kingdom now, until you have it in full in heaven, in the vision of the Holy Trinity!



DIALOGUES IN THE WORLD.

Some say :

"We are not ready yet, now it is time only for preparation" and "there will be time for confession before death" and "anyway, God knows our needs, we don't have to ask or do anything!"

And we say:

"This kind of talk, trying to be clever or arguing without knowing enough, and without caring to practically and immediately apply the will of God, will only bring us to the verge of the most terrible sense of too-lateness!" We insist then, that faith in God the Trinity, the teaching of that Christ who lived two thousand years ago and which is preserved for us by the Church in the Bible, is the most reasonable and wise way to live our lives!

E-V-A-N-G-E-L-I-S-E!

Proclamation of the Gospel and catechesis are parts of evangelisation.

We need to pursue them not only for the sake of those who hear the Gospel for the first time, but also for the baptized. Read The Parable of the Sower in the Gospel as a helpful basis for evangelising! Do you think that our world is near to the point of becoming a Christian world?

Church Leaders B.H.2

Jesus asked his apostles, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist. Others say he is Elijah. Still others say he is Jeremiah or one of the prophets". Jesus said, "But who do you say I am?" Simon answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to Simon in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And I say to you, you are Peter! (meaning rock). And upon this rock I will build my church. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven". Matthew 16:13-19. Why did Jesus choose Peter? Probably because he believed that Peter would be a good leader. Peter was characterized by his enthusiasm, hard work to spread the good news, humility and admission of wrongdoing, but above all by his faith. He believed that Jesus was the Son of God! And so we must follow our Church leader, who follows Peter, and guides us with the Holy Spirit on the right path of faith!

CATECHESIS FOR YOUR CHILDREN

TEN

By neglecting to provide your children with continuity of information and practice on matters of faith, you simply deny them one basic option—the most authentic philosophy of life—which could be kept standby inside them until the moment they may feel the need to freely opt for it! After the First Communion you still need to keep confirming to the children the basic truths of the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Our dear young friend,

This is our tenth letter to you! Please read, memorize and understand it. Someone else may also help you with it, help you form ideas how to please God who loves you, so that He may will to please you and make the world a better place for you to live in, and for those who help you through with the letter. **But Remember!** Reading from the Old Testament is like a good prayer and it reminds us of what we have learned in catechesis about the promises of God who created us out of love to save us. About the commandments God gave our ancestors through Moses, marking our way back to a good relationship with Him after the Original Sin by our First Parents, Adam and Eve; and about the right ways to worship and thank Him. Also, reading from the Gospels and the other books of the New Testament will justify that God has out of love finally sent us, through His only Son, new commandments and His Holy Spirit to help us understand them, to make sure that we can be saved. **You must know!** That Jesus Christ taught us that with the help of the Holy Spirit we can pray to His and Our Father, and like His Apostles continue their work in the Church where we were baptized, and communicate with Him in the Holy Communion. **Repeat this:** As a baptized Christian I believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in the Church I can become worthy to receive the Holy Communion for the salvation of my soul! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... Amen! **GOODBYE FOR NOW!**

End of letter

CATECHESIS

FAITH B.H.2

The Christian religion has been founded on FAITH. Without faith we cannot please and thank God. Just like a human being needs to breathe to stay alive so a Christian needs to believe so as to preserve his spiritual life. Every one who comes to God needs to believe. Whatever we need to achieve, we need to believe that God will help us, apply God's word and do good works. Then we will hear the words of God, "Your faith has saved you!" Let us remember Abraham who was taking his son for slaughter but believed in God all the way. Let us remember Job who lost everything, his property, his children, his health but still believed in God. In the end both of them won! Let us also remember Peter who believed that God was the Son of God. And he became the foundation of our Church. Following their example we can preserve our faith! Believing in God we can and must do good works, as faith alone cannot save us!

ABOUT OUR PUBLICATION

This is issue fifteen. We hope that in three cycles of ten issues each, we will develop something like a method of evangelisation for all ages! That is, a best and shortest way of saying the basic themes of the teaching of Jesus! The baptized need to be spiritually reborn and renew their baptismal faith and the non-Christians need to hear the teaching of Jesus. For the sake of the Trinity's Love we need at the same time to gather around our evangelical publication an adequate number of people who in faith treat our effort with respect and pray for its success! Are we too ambitious?

Psalm 11

OLD TESTAMENT B.H.4

Confidence in the LORD

I trust in the LORD for safety. How foolish of you to say to me, "Fly away like a bird to the mountains, because the wicked have drawn their bows and aimed their arrows to shoot at good men in the darkness. There is nothing a good man can do when everything falls apart."

The LORD is in His holy Temple; He has His Throne in Heaven. He watches people everywhere and knows what they are doing. He examines the good and the wicked alike; the lawless He hates with all His Heart. He sends down flaming coals and burning sulphur on the wicked; He punishes them with scorching winds. The LORD is righteous and loves good deeds; those who do them will live in His Presence.



Family Message of the Month

REQUEST: BEFRIEND THE FAMILY
"Of Freedom and Democracy"

BY TONI ROWLAND

It always fascinated me that the theme chosen by the UN was "Building the smallest democracy at the heart of society."

Is a family a democracy and what do we really understand by "democracy" a term bandied about with great abandon in South Africa at all possible opportunities? It is still usually referred to as "our new democracy" which began with elections in 1994. This democracy is now already a teenager and is maybe presenting some of the problems of growing up and having to take greater personal responsibility. Democracy is not only applicable to government or others in authority, but must surely filter down to all levels of society. Crime, fraud, rape, economic successes and hardships, successes and failures in education and health care surely demand or result from co-responsibility.

Using a model of a family as the smallest democracy is interesting as it displays clearly that while every person has equal rights and dignity (except in our and other countries the unborn) we are not equal when it comes to capabilities and resources and this is inherently one of the weaknesses of democracy. At the same time a family displays that, being interconnected, we have the common good at heart.

The African Synod of 1994 adopting the model of Church as Family for Africa is also interesting. In the document *Ecclesia in Africa* this model is described as appropriate because of the qualities inherent in a family that, while not always the reality, should ideally be lived out and promoted; warmth in human relationships, trust, dialogue and hospitality. Is this not also essentially addressing the common good? Freedom and democracy are in a symbiotic relationship with the common good. Freedom is not the right to do whatever one pleases, but to be able to choose what is right, for the majority or the minority, the strong or the vulnerable.

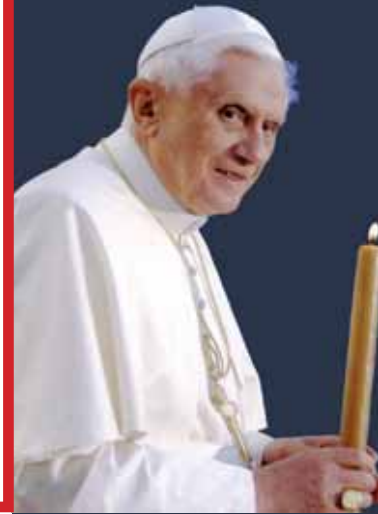
www.marfam.org.za

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a jubilee year marking the 2,000th anniversary of Paul's birth from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009.

In celebration of its start,
you and your loved ones are invited to the Talk on
PAUL AND HIS MISSION FOR TODAY

By Fr. Nicholas King, SJ

Date: 19 July 2008
Time: 11.00am to 12.00am
Venue: Pauline Books & Media Centre
181 Queen Street crn Cumberland Rd
Kensington
Enquiries: Tel: 011 622 5195 / 011 622 5189



For more info
about Saint Paul
and the Pauline Year visit the
Daughters of Saint Paul on

www.paulinesa.co.za





PHOENICIAN GOLF



<http://www.phoeniciangolf.co.za/>

BATTLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST



OUR PHOENICIAN BOYS PROUDLY REPRESENTED THE CLUB AT THE BATTLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST. ALTHOUGH THE GAME WAS LOST 5 - 7, NOT ONE OF THE PHOENICIAN PAIRINGS LOST THEIR BETTERBALL GAME. WELL DONE GUYS!



RACE HORSEING



Firebird Rising like a phoenix



LEBANESE JOCKEY, DERRICK DAVID, ON FIREBIRD RISING - VICTOR OF AN APPRENTICE HANDICAP AT TURFFONTEIN ON 14.04.08, WITH OWNER RAJESH RAGHUNUNDHUN (LEFT) AND HIS BROTHER DHARAN AND COUSIN PRAVESH BHAGWANDEEN (RIGHT). THIS IS DERRICK'S 27TH WIN! CONGRATULATIONS!



CALLING ALL LEBANESE SPORT COMMENTATORS
THE MARONITE MEMO NEEDS YOU TO BE OUR JOURNALIST IN THE REALMS OF YOUR PREFERRED COMMUNITY SPORT.
IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT US ON 011 804-7566.





REMINDING ALL

AUBE/AUBY,
JOSEPH,
SHAM

ZAKI/ZACKEY
FAMILY MEMBERS

To continue working on their family stories
and when complete to email them to
info@lebanesefamilyclub.co.za
in order to continue plans for
their most memorable family day!

If you are not yet part of the relevant family committee
and would like to be involved please contact
the Family Club Office on (011) 804 - 7566.

Congratulations to

BERNARD AND ARGELIA SAMRA ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR WEDDING
ON 13 APRIL 2008, LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA.



FAMILY FACT FILE

BERNARD IS THE YOUNGEST SON OF THE
LATE TONY AND MAE SAMRA OF LINDEN,
JOHANNESBURG.

HIS FATHER TONY SAMRA WAS THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE CEDAR PARK BOWLING
CLUB AND DID MUCH OF ELECTRICAL WORK FOR
THE CHURCH. MOTHER MAE OF THE PIONEER
HANNA FAMILY WAS A DAILY SACRISTANT AT
THE CHURCH.

HIS GRANDMOTHER, KHOLA OF BETT
TOUCH, THE LARGEST CLAN IN BECHARRE
WAS MARRIED TO KAHIL HANNA SCHEHADIE
KAIROUZ.

HE HAS STRONG FAMILY TIES WITH
BOTH KARTABA AND BECHARRE, MOUNT
LEBANON.



Bring the divine scent of our
beloved Lebanon and its Cedar forests
into your home.

Divine Cedar Handwash

Available in the Maronite Repository and Family Club Office
Email: info@lebanesefamilyclub.co.za Website: www.lebanesefamilyclub.co.za

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

CONGRATULATIONS and blessings to the following members who were baptised or married:

Baptised	Parents	Godparents
Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon - Woodmead		
SASHA TEREZ ALEXANDER	Gary Mark & Mary Alexander	Dean Alexander & Nicol Kalil
GAVIN ANTONIE	Eddie & Theresa Antonie	Mark Vasconellos & Pamela Joseph
MAKAYLA PAIGE BERRY	Sean Anthony & Nicola Dawn Berry	Mark Leischer & Deidre Toweel
AMBER JAGGA DE BOIS	Nicholas & Bernadette Du Bois	Michael & Deborah Wachter
THEO JORGE DIAS	Paulo & Laura Dias	Bradley Broskie & Kim Scholtz
MARIA ANNE GERMANUS	Brett & Elizabeth Germanus	Dean Catano and Lisa Marie Germanus
LUKE JAMES GERMANUS	Quintin Thomas & Sharne Germanus	Grant & Caren Germanus
CHRISTIAN NICHOLAS KARAM	Derek & Adele Karam	Dean Bakos & Maureen Karam
TRISTAN ANTHONY MUSTAPHA	Jason Mustapha & Bianca Milosevich	Byron Koutsoudis & Kaschka Farrar
DOMIQUE NOBREGA	John Paul & Ursula Nobrega	Jerome Andrews & Tanya Reid
LIA ANA STRAVINO	Luigi & Philippa Stravino	Luke & Giulia Chandler
CHRISTIAN MICHAEL THOMAS	Michael & Lisa Thomas	Jonathan Bakos & Candice Merriman
ANDISWA SAMUKELO THWALA	Mgcini Desmond & Nompumelelo Thwala	Bernard Mheli & Sibongile Khanyile
JORDAN GINO UYS	Neville & Sandra Uys	Sino & Tanya Cervo
JUAN PIERRE VAN DER MERWE	Juan Pierre & Janet Van Der Merwe	James & Nadim Van Der Merwe
DIEGO VELUDO	Jose Veludo & Bernice Govender	Fernando & Albertina Veludo

Baptised	Parents	Godparents
Our Lady of Lebanon - Mulbarton		
GISELLE DE ABREU	Joao & Arminda De Abreu	John and Theresa Gouveia
LESEDI RAMADOANE	Neville and Poppie Ramadoane	Mary Meselakgomo
ANGEL IYRA BANDA	Percy & Nomvuyo Banda	I tumeleng Tshehle & Nombuyisel Banda
MADISON ROBERTSON	Matthew & Tandi Robertson	Clinton and Taryn Paterson
JAYDEN FRASER	Robert & Ronell Fraser	Norman and Janine Tambourlas
ELEKTRA ZAKI	Dominic and Beverley Zaki	Luke Zaki and Dalores Leisher
CRISTIANO DA SILVA	Fernando & Jacqueline Da Silva	Raul and Tresenha Amaral
ANNABELLA DOLAN	Philip Dolan and Charlene Tambourlas	Brian Macmillan and Beverley Groenewald
BENJAMIN RUPERTO	Alan & Barbara Ruperto	Stefano Ruperto and Sandra Leicher

Weddings

Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon - Woodmead

- ✠ JOHAN VAN DER MERWE & DIANE KHOURY - 12 APRIL 2008
- ✠ WARRICK VAN GOOL & SAMANTHA RENNISON - 27 APRIL 2008
- ✠ MTHUNZI MASHABA & GUGULETHU ZONDO - 3 MAY 2008
- ✠ GRAHAM SOLOMON & ALEXIS FARRY - 3 MAY 2008

Our Lady of Lebanon - Mulbarton

- ✠ MICHAEL AZAR & STEPHANIE MAGUA - 5 APRIL 08
- ✠ PAUL JACOB & SONIA BORGES - 12 APRIL 08
- ✠ ROBERT WILLIAMSON & CLAIRE BUNYARD - 12 APRIL 08
- ✠ STUART WOODS & LORRAINE KALIL - 26 APRIL 08
- ✠ NELSON DE OLIVEIRA & SUSANA TAVARES - 27 APRIL 08

OBITUARIES †

May our merciful Lord grant pardon and peace to these, our faithful departed:

OUR LADY OF CEDARS

† JULIET SFIER
6/05/52-06/02/08

† MAUREEN JOSEPH
28/09/34-24/02/08

† NASRA THOMAS
28/01/41-02/04/08

† MICHAEL CHIDRAWI
10/01/57-04/04/08

† TILLY BAKOS
26/05/1924-09/04/08

† CLARA VITALE
06/11/23-09/04/08

† BARBARA SEBREGTS
20/10/50-25/04/08

OUR LADY OF LEBANON

† JIMMY ROBERTSON
1/04/08

† ALZIRO HENRIQUES
17/04/08

† FERNANDO TORRES

Share your special times, stories and photos with us from the happy times of baptisms and weddings to the sad times we mourn the departing of our beloved ones, and all the times in between.

011 804 7566 or
info@lebanesefamilyclub.co.za