



# The Message of Light



Issue 37

A Weekly Newsletter

August 14th– 20th, 2009

## Noursat on the Footsteps of the Oriental Churches in the World

### St Sharbel Church, Las Vegas A Message of light in the darkness of sin

**Las Vegas** is the city of noise and nightlife. Sins lurk in its streets. However, the light certainly eliminates darkness. That's how **St Sharbel Church** started a journey of peace, love and faith facing moral perversion.

After renting homes and halls to meet and pray, the Lebanese Maronites decided to build their own church in **Las Vegas**. Under the auspices and with the blessing of **Bishop Robert Shahine**, they bought the land in 2001. Many priests contributed in the life of the mission including **Fr. Youssef Mwannes** and **Fr. Nabil Mwannes**, parish of **San Diego** in **California**. With great cooperation, the project was accomplished in 2008. The Holy See in the **Vatican** and the **Maronite patriarch Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir** congratulated the Lebanese for this achievement in the current situation.

In July 2008, **Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid** became the pastor of the church, and continues, with God's help, the mission he began, and turned the wooden building into a church, shrine and hermitage of **St Sharbel**. He built an altar like the Lebanese Maronite traditional church. The place became holy and the believers visit it to pray, adore the Eucharist and honor **Our Lady the Virgin**. It contains 250 persons.

Outside the church, a 2-meter statue of **St Sharbel** coming from **Lebanon** was lately erected.

A full- equipped huge hall of 1200 m<sup>2</sup> for ceremonies and meetings was established, in addition to administrative offices subsidiary to the church.

Today, and after being about 40, the parishioners reach 300 persons including not only Lebanese Maronite but also Chaldeans, Assyrians, Catholic, Orthodox and Syriac. The parish is rich by its different confessions and nationalities including Syrian, Jordanian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Egyptian, Italian, Mexican and American believers. **Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid** celebrates the mass in English and Arabic and soon in Spanish.



Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid, the good shepherd of St Sharbel parish, Las Vegas



The church Front: The altar, the tabernacle, the stone building such as the Lebanese Maronite churches.



St Sharbel parishioners

To be continued on p.4

# Highlighted programs of the week

## Friday August 14

### Mary in the Old Testament 10.00– 7.00 GMT

From **Our Lady of Tamich Convent**, the hermit **Fr. Youhanna Khawand** meditates upon the Virgin Mary in the Old Testament on the Assumption Feast.

### An evening on Our Lady's Feast 11.20– 8.20 GMT

Pray with the singer **Johnny Awwad** and the guitarist **Anthony Maksoudian** in an evening of peace and love that includes poems of **May Mansour** from **Kalaa Convent- Beit Mery**.



### النور من إيطاليا

### 19.00– 16.00 GMT

**Fr. Roukoz Abou Zeid** highlights, from Rome, **Our Lady Catholic Roman Melkite Church**, and its important history.

### The Light from Canada



### 20.30– 17.30 GMT

Visit the convent of **Our Lady of Consolation** in Canada, that oasis of peace and learn more about the spiritual rules respected by the sisters who are glorifying the Lord through prayer and action. A documentary with **Marie- Therese Kreidya** and **Rita Karam**.

### A Spiritual National Concert 21.00– 18.00 GMT

**Qadisha choir** presented Marian and national hymns on the **Assumption Feast** in an evening organized in the Patriarchal See- **Diman** and attended by **His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir**.

## Saturday August 15

### Your Assumption is Ours 10.00– 7.00 GMT

On the Assumption feast of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, the hermit **Youhanna Khawand** meditates, from **Our Lady of Tamich Convent**, upon verses of the Bible: **Qana's Wedding**, the **Road to Golgotha**, the **Woman in the Revelation**.

### Mary in the life of God's people 11.00– 8.00 GMT

An operetta embodies the role of the **Virgin Mary** in the salvation plan with the youth of **Our Lady of the Hill, Deir Qamar**, and the seminarists of the **Maronite Mariamite Order**.

### Mary in the Holy Land



### 15.00– 12.00 GMT

Visit the blessed sites in the **Holy Land** revealing **Mary** in the way to salvation, like **Nazareth, Ain Karrem...**

### A Mass from Bekfaya 19.30– 16.30 GMT LIVE



On the occasion of the **Virgin Mary Assumption**, we present a mass from the **Armenian Orthodox Church of Our Lady Mary in Bekfaya** celebrated by **Catholicos Aram I** and followed by the blessing of the grapes.

### Pray for peace 21.00– 18.00 GMT

Join us in a Marian concert from **St John the Baptist Church, Zgharta** with the **Lebanese Cedar choir** and the singers: **Guitta Harb, Abir Nehme, Rania Mrad** and **Marcel Badawy**.

## Sunday August 16

### The Light from Australia



### 10.30– 7.30 GMT

Celebrate the feast of **Our Mother Mary** with the singer **Nizar Fares** from **Our Lady of Lebanon Church- Sydney** in the attendance of the **Lebanese community** in Australia.

### Marian Prayers

On the Assumption Feast of **Our Lady the Virgin Mary**, we present exclusive documentaries about **Lebanese Marian** various churches and convents.

### The Hermitage of Miracles

### The Hermitage of Our Lady Bet Chabeb 13.00- 10.00 GMT

### Our Lady of Mayfouq and Ilij Convent 14.15- 11.15 GMT

### Mary the sweetest hymn 16.00- 13.00 GMT

Wonderful poems honoring the **Virgin Mary** with the poets **William Haswany** and **Rafiq Rouhana**, the guitarist **Joseph Sead** and the violinist **Maguy Abi Lamea**, from the **Cedars Forest**.  
With **May Mansour**.

### Masterpieces Our Lady of Qannoubine 22.00- 19.00 GMT

### Orthodox Church of Our Lady, Chouayfat 22.05- 19.05 GMT

Monday August 17



19.00 – 16.00 GMT

Fr. Joseph Naffaa, and Marie- Therese Hnein meditate upon “the Flood” and its symbols. Let’s discover why God chose Noah to be saved from puniton.

Clara the plant of Francis

19.30– 16.30 GMT

The Capuchin Priest Tony Haddad highlights St Clara convent, Our Lady of Unity convent at Yarze, and its foundation with Mother Marina Sarrou.



20.30 – 17.30 GMT  
LIVE

What is the crisis faced by the private hospitals with the social security in Lebanon? Khalil Sassi raises a new dilemma highlighting the patients suffering in various circumstances



22.30– 19.30 GMT

The relation of Patriarch Estfan Dueihy with Rome is strong and old and grew with time. Learn more with Elie Issa and Fr. Boutros Wehbe Dueihy.

Tuesday August 18



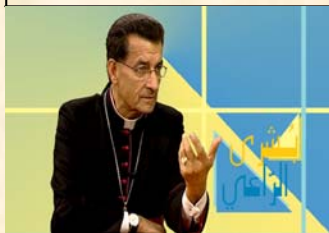
19.00 – 16.00 GMT

Do you need a healthy diet? Join the nutritionist Eliane Moawad in this new episode.



19.30 – 16.30 GMT

Dr. George Labaky hosts Fr. Hanna Iskandar and highlights the life of Fr. Neemtallah Hardini and the wonders that were accomplished by his intercession.



20.30 - 17.30 GMT

We know, tell and live the Word of God with Bishop Bechara Rai.

An Evening of Spiritual Songs



21.30- 18.30 GMT

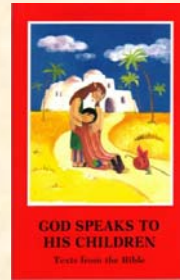
From Syria, Joumana Mdawar praises the Soufanya Virgin in an evening attended by Bishop Joseph Absy, Mirna Akhras and her family in addition to a large audience.

Wednesday August 19

Pictures of the Christian Heritage  
19.00– 16.00 GMT

Learn more about Hosn Fortress in Nassara Valley, L’Odicia in Latakia, Saydnaya, Maaloula... With May Mansour and Richard Chahine.

Till the End of Earth



19.45- 16.45 GMT

This program shows God speaking with his children in 98 stories special for kids and extracted from the Bible. Its goal is bringing them closer to Jesus.



20.30 – 17.30 GMT

Parents’ separation is increasing in the societies. Roula Elia highlights the negative effects of this decision on children and their suffering.

An Evening of Prayers and Hymns  
22.00- 19.00 GMT

The Franciscan monks present an evening from St Elias Church, Ain Aar and pray for the healing of the family, opposing abortion.

Thursday August 20



13.00- 10.00 GMT



20.30 – 17.30 GMT  
LIVE

Each one has a cross. Whoever wants to follow Jesus has to bear his cross without any condition. Learn more about God’s promises with Fr. Marwan Khoury and Therese El Hagg.

Aya Sophia the East  
22.00- 19.00 GMT

A documentary highlighting the foundation of St Paul Basilica- Harissa, architecture, icons and symbols.

With Rania Zahra



22.30 – 19.30 GMT

Self- confidence is necessary for youth and helps them to achieve success. How is it acquired?

Through her...  
He revealed Himself  
23.00- 20.00 GMT

We present an evening from Our Lady of Zahle and Bekaa including hymns with the singer Hala Zarzour and Msgr. Mansour Labaky in addition to a life testimony given by the artist George Khabbaz.

The parish organizes educational activities. There are volunteers who give lessons in Arabic each Saturday to 80 students. The Arab community including Muslims and Druze can also participate in these classes in addition to the Christian Teaching and the preparations for the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

Entertaining activities are also organized through the American Lebanese Festival that will be revived next October. All American residents, Arab and foreign communities meet with joy the parish which **Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid** is forming to continue his mission. As well, social activities are organized allowing families and youth to meet together.

A year after the foundation of **St Sharbel in Las Vegas**, **Tele Lumiere** visited it and filmed a documentary showing this event. Interviews with the parishioners were filmed in addition to the Divine Liturgy that will be broadcast soon on **Tele Lumiere**.



A memorial photo of Tele Lumiere delegation with the parishioners

**For more information, visit the following website:**  
[www.stsharbel-lv.org](http://www.stsharbel-lv.org)

**Edited by Rita Karam**  
**Translated by Eliane Aoun**



A procession to the oratory

### The Transfiguration at Mount Tabor

**Thursday August 20th 7.00- 4.00 GMT**

On **Mount Tabor**, this holy Mount, the Lord appeared to his disciples. Following the footsteps of **Jesus** and the apostles, the **Franciscan Monks in the Holy Land** participated at the Mass celebrated by the Custos of the Holy Land **Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa**, the guardian of the monastery at Mount Tabor **Fr. Wojciech Boloz**, the guardian of Nazareth **Fr. Riccardo Maria Bustos**, and 30 other priests. Later, the believers joined the procession from the Basilica of **Mount Tabor** down to **Descentibus** chapel.



The Franciscan Friars reviving the memory of the transfiguration on Mount Tabor



Fr. Youssef Abou Zed carrying Tele Lumiere's flag in Italy.



Interview with the prior of the convent of St Benedict in Monte Cassino.

### Noursat in Italy

**Tele Lumiere** and **Noursat** visited **Italy** from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of last June. It came back to **Lebanon** with a spiritual treasure:

- The relic of **Maria Goretti**
- The relic of **Paolo Elisabeta Cerioli**
- Documentaries about the sites, convents and churches of many saints
- A gathering with the Iraqi youth who came especially from **Sweden** to revive **Fr. Raghid Day**.
- Divine Liturgies.
- Interviews with the Lebanese who live in **Italy**

**Program with Catherine Moussa and Fr. Roukoz Abou Zeid**

**Each Friday 19.00– 16.00 GMT**



Catherine Moussa in an exclusive interview in Laverna



Receiving the relics of Saint Giuseppe Da Copertino.