

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

6th Sunday of Lent Bartimaeus the Blind Man

April
2019



"Teacher, I want to see!" Mk 10:51

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**St. Sharbel
Pray for us!**

Our Services HOLY MASSES

DAILY: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.
English

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:30 p.m. English

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. English
& 11:30 AM Arabic/Aramaic/English

1st Sunday : 4:30pm
Rosario y la Misa en Español

Sunday Catechism

(Classes are Sept – June)

1st SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. & 11:30am

Youth Mass

*For confessions,
baptism, engagements,
weddings, blessings of
your home or business,
visiting the sick and the
elderly, please contact
our office*

702 .616.-6902

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Office hours

Mon – Fri 9:00 – 3:00

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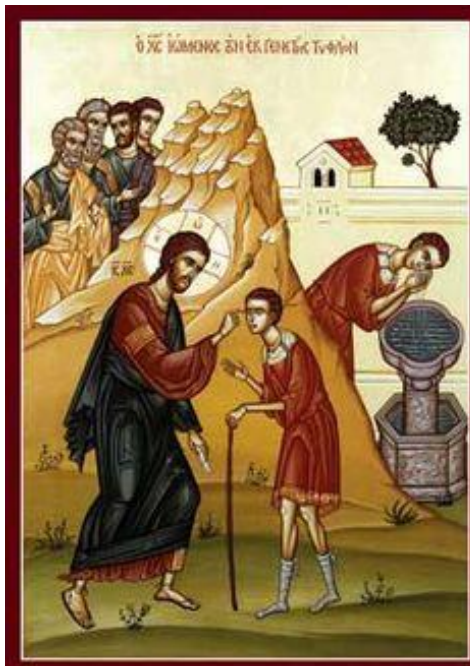
6TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT BARTIMAEUS THE BLIND

We recall Bartimaeus, the blind man who wanted to behold the light of the world. Jesus and the crowds around him were approaching the gate of the city, where a blind beggar was sitting. He heard the trampling of feet and the noise of the crowd and asked who was passing by. When he heard that it was Jesus, he began to shout and make a noise in order to attract Jesus' attention. Everyone who was trying to listen to the Master was offended and tried to silence the beggar. But this was the beggar's only chance to escape from his world of darkness: Jesus heard him and called him. The attitude of the crowd changed, they told the blind beggar: "Take courage, get up, He is calling you", then he threw off his cloak and rushed to the Lord.

That was not the end of Bartimaeus' story: it was just the beginning! Because he followed Jesus along the road (Mk 10:52). In many ways we are called to be like the beggar. Certain opportunities come only once. When the Lord calls us, we must throw off anything that will hinder us and run to Jesus. God is the one who moves us to ask something of Him. The blind man understands that if he lets this opportunity go by, there will be no other chance, and that is why he shouts all the more while the rest are trying to silence him. The blind man knew what he wanted: he wanted light, and faith.

Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

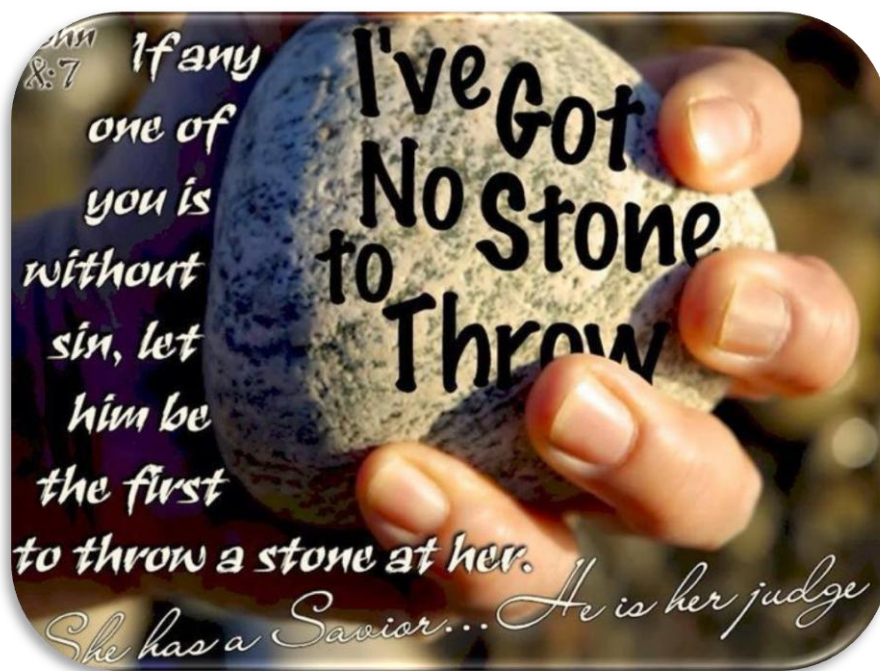
LET US PRAY: "I came into this world, so that those who do not see Me may see." (Jn 9:39) Open our eyes to see You, enlighten our minds and heart to follow You as You said: "I am the Light of the world, whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (Jn 8:12) Amen.



READING
2
Corinthians
10:1-7
GOSPEL:
Mark
10:46-52

When Love Becomes Forgiveness

That day, Jerusalem was set to witness the public execution of a woman caught in adultery. The case was clear. The punishment was known to all: death by stoning. (See Lv 20:10ff and Dt 22:22ff.) But that day, the zealous scribes and Pharisees were determined to catch two birds with a stone – the adulteress and Jesus. The same stone could be used for both, since Jesus, too – in their view – had gone against the law, and more than once. The trap was set. (See Jn 8:5f.) It was just a matter of delaying the execution by a short while – until Jesus expressed his view, thus causing his own ruin . . . There was an icy silence after the initial shouts. The silence of the woman was understandable. She could offer no justification, and any pleading for mercy would have fallen on deaf ears. The silence of Jesus, however, was both unexpected and provocative. His enemies demanded an answer. But when the answer came, they regretted it. Then finally Jesus spoke up, it was the turn of his rowdy enemies to grow speechless. Their angry voices fell silent; their faces dropped; the stones landed quietly on the ground. All the scribes and Pharisees present made an about-turn, and then strode off like a routed army. Only Jesus and the adulteress remained. As the woman heard the voice of her defender, all her fright vanished and was replaced by a confident trust in God's mercy. God's forgiveness had made her "new," alive once again and free – free from sin and from the fear of human condemnation and mercilessness. There is much of that woman in us, though our sins may be of a different kind. We, too, may have experienced the terror that our sins might be known, and thereby we might lose our reputation at the hands of the many who enjoy exposing the failings of others . . . But God is different from us. He is "one of a kind," even when it is a matter of judging our sins.



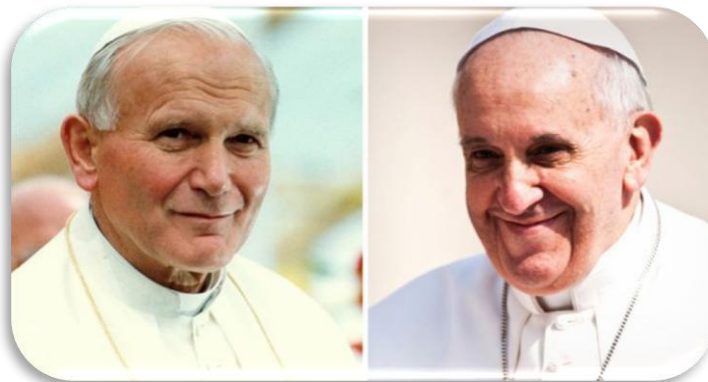
We see His attitude revealed in Christ who stands discreetly by us as we recoil in shame and fear. He shows Himself to be infinitely more understanding than human beings can be. His readiness to forgive should not be interpreted as an encouragement to continue sinning. His forgiveness is always accompanied by the invitation/command to avoid sin in the future. (See the last verse in today's Gospel passage.) When God touches us with His forgiving love, He heals us thoroughly and gives us peace. He sets us free not only from our past sins, but also from our fears. With His loving presence He strengthens us, and makes us determined to live as we should, even when there are no human judges to condemn us.

'Christus Vivit' — Our Holy Father Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Document on Young People, Published on April 2, the Memorial of the Death of Pope John Paul II

Apostolic Exhortation Following 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, Was Offered to Mary In Her 'Holy House' in Loreto

On March 25th, marking the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Pope Francis visited the Italian hilltown of Loreto, on the Adriatic Sea, a popular pilgrimage site for the Basilica of the Holy House of Mary, where Mary is believed to have grown up. On the occasion, Francis offered the Virgin Mary the Post-Synodal Exhortation of the Synod of Bishops on the theme: "Youth, faith and vocational discernment", held in the Vatican from Oct. 3-28, 2018. During the visit, the Pope celebrated Mass in the Holy House. At its conclusion, Francis signed the original Spanish Post-Synodal Letter to the Youth, titled: '*Vive Cristo, esperanza nuestra.*'

Vive Cristo, esperanza nuestra is the opening of the original text in Spanish of the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, whose text was subsequently published today, April 2, with the signature of March 25.



It was announced by Director of the Holy See Press Office, Alessandro Gisotti, that the Exhortation named "Christus Vivit," would be published on April 2, "the memorial of the death of John Paul II."

The wish, he expressed during a briefing in Loreto, was "to link together the two pontificates, so loved by and close to the younger generations." Pope John Paul II had been the first Pope to address a letter to young people in 1985 and he was the Pope who began the World Youth Days.

Today, April 2, the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation was released for the first time. The full English text of the Exhortation can be read at <https://zenit.org/articles/christus-vivit-full-text/>.

OUR Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Bechara El Rai intervenes in the debate on the recognition of civil marriage

The Maronite Patriarch Boutros Bechara Rai intervened in the debate which reopened in Lebanese society on the legal recognition of civil marriage, and the interlocutory expressions used by him are interpreted by many as a sign of readiness to deepen the discussion without prejudice. In his statements, after a meeting between the Patriarch Rai and Lebanese President Michel Aoun, the Primate of the Maronite Church reported not to be absolutely against a law that recognizes marriage as a civil bond. If civil marriage became law, then it would be mandatory for all. "We are not against civil marriage completely, but show us one law in Lebanon or in the world that is optional. Laws are binding", remarked Patriarch Rai. "If instead we introduce a mandatory law to attest and sanction the nature of marriage - and of every marriage - as a civil bond, "then it would be my duty as Patriarch - added the Primate of the Maronite Church" to explain to the Maronites, that marriage is one of the seven sacraments of the church, to be celebrated if they want to live their Christianity in an authentic way". And this is because everyone has the responsibility to make his own decisions in conscience before God, since "it is God, not me, who judges actions". Also in the past, on several occasions, Patriarch Rai - created Cardinal in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI - had expressed his opinion in favor of a law on "mandatory civil marriage" in order to recognize the civil effects of all the Lebanese conjugal unions, regardless of the religious confession of belonging. In his new statements, the Patriarch also rejected the controversy of those who argue that Lebanese religious hierarchies oppose the legal regulation of civil marriage in order not to have to renounce the economic contributions collected to celebrate and register religious marriages. The possible approval of a law on civil marriage in Lebanon would necessarily imply an amendment to Article 9 of the Constitution, according to which the personal status of each Lebanese is regulated according to the legal provisions and practices of their own religious community.

As reported by Fides (see Fides 21/2/2019) the debate on civil marriage has stirred tensions in Lebanon after the newly appointed interior minister, Raya Hassan, reignited the issue for its recognition by religious authorities. But several religious and political leaders have already expressed their opposition to the prospect of a legal recognition of civil marriage. Lebanon's highest Sunni authority, Dar Al Fatwa, published a statement to express its "absolute rejection" of the idea saying that it contradicts Islamic law. Also Father Abdo Abou Kassem, the Catholic Church's spokesman, argued that an optional civil marriage is "wrong" and "confusing" and reaffirmed that on this point Lebanese Christians and Muslims are united, and that the Catholic Church does not support civil marriage because it contradicts the concept of the 'sacrament of marriage. Much of Lebanese civil law, including personal status matters such as marriage, divorce and inheritance, is applied according to the relevant religious sect. Lebanon has 18 recognized Muslim and Christian sects. So far, Lebanese couples who want to celebrate their civil marriage resort to the stratagem of civilly marrying in Cyprus and then register their union in Lebanon.



A MIRACULOUS VISIT FROM SAINT CHARBEL

It was a beautiful spring day when I visited the Baaklini family in Harrisburg, Penn. The enthusiastic crowd sang hymns and organized a procession for Our Lady of Fatima on entering the home. After crowning Our Lady, I looked around the living room at several images of saints, some of who were unfamiliar to me. After they told me about certain Lebanese saints displayed, I pointed to an image of Saint Charbel Makhoul in the corner, exclaiming, "I know Saint Charbel!"

Overjoyed to find a fellow devotee of the great saint, one of the gentlemen began to tell a story. It involved family friends of his in Lebanon, and was a clear example of Saint Charbel's miraculous intercession.

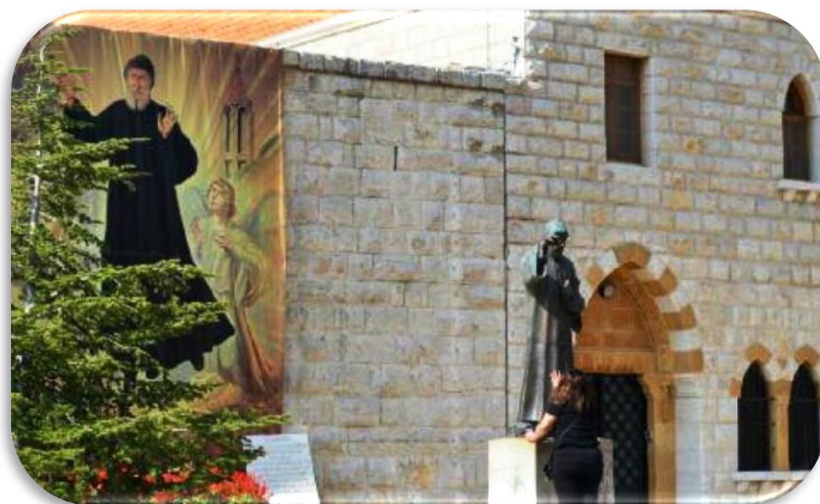
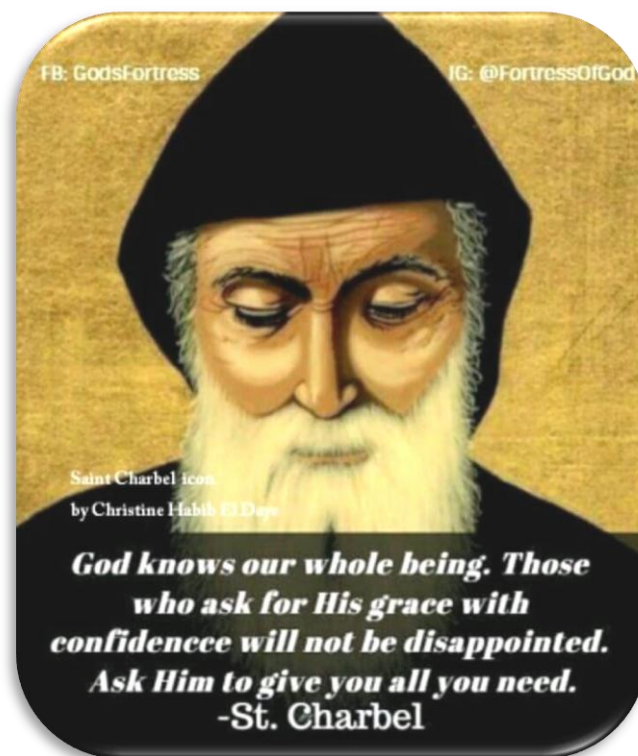
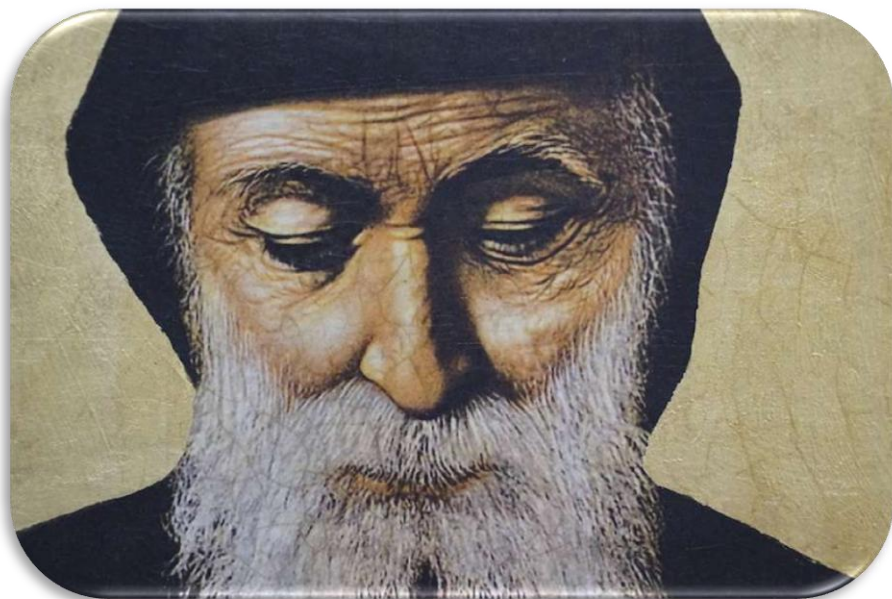
It was the fall of 2014, and this Lebanese family had hired a live-in nanny to care for their children. The nanny was soon troubled to hear news that her mother in the Philippines was dying from cancer. The family she worked for could not afford to give her the money to travel to the Philippines. And if she made the long journey from Lebanon to the Philippines, her employers would have to hire someone else to take her place. The father of this family told the nanny one morning, "We are going to the monastery where the relics of Saint Charbel are kept. Come with us and pray before the remains of Saint Charbel. When we return, call your mother and we will see what can be arranged."

Still troubled about her mother's illness, they all traveled together the next day to pray before Saint Charbel.

Upon returning, the nanny called her mother in the Philippines, eager for updates about her illness. Despite the time difference, her mother answered right away, so excited she could barely contain herself: "Tell the family you work for something for me. Tell them thank you! Thank them for the doctor they sent over yesterday!"

**The righteous man
will flourish like
the palm tree,
He will grow like
a cedar in Lebanon.**

Psalm 92:12



Needless to say, the daughter was confused. "Doctor? What doctor?"

"The doctor they sent yesterday! He gave me this juice to drink, and I haven't felt this good in years! I can't believe it!"

Still confused, the nanny persisted: "Doctor? Mom, who was this doctor?"

"Well, I don't remember his name..." Here she proceeded to describe the man who visited her, giving the exact physical description of Saint Charbel. As the mother in the Philippines related this story, her daughter halfway around the world started to cry. She realized it was a heavenly visitor who had cured her mother, none other than Saint Charbel himself!

The mother was examined by several Filipino doctors in the days that followed. They were astounded at the total disappearance of her cancer. Those who had tracked her illness could hardly believe it was the same woman had they not known her before.

As I listened to the story, I marveled at Saint Charbel, by whom God has worked so many wonders. This was not a story from centuries ago, but from our own day. Everyone involved is still living, and spreading devotion to Saint Charbel around the world. May Saint Charbel continue to work great miracles for those who call on him, to bring healing to both body and soul.

Beautiful Faces to remember



On behalf of Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church,

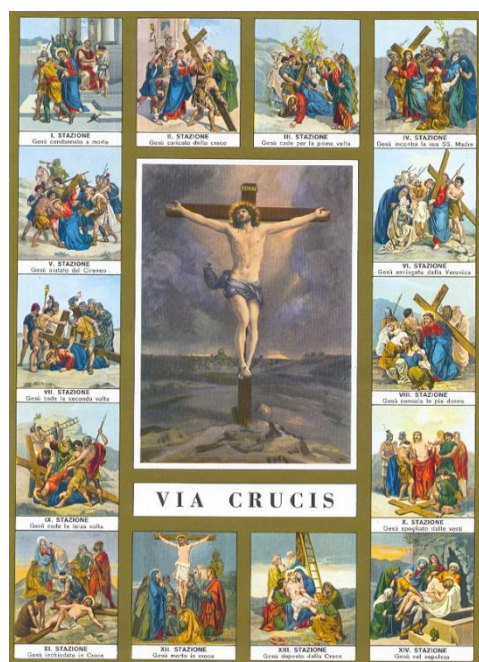
It is with sorrow that I share the passing of our dear friend and promoter of the Volto Santo, Holy Face of Jesus (Manoppello) after it was translated to Arabic & distributed over 30,000 copies to Parishes & refugees in Lebanon. Daisy passed away on Friday, March 29 at 9:32pm from her fight with cancer and finally leukaemia. She finally fulfilled her dream of having the Volto Santo enthroned in her parish after years of rejection. It was soon after that she succumbed to her cancer.

*May Her dear soul rest in peace.+
Father Nadim Abou Zeid*

1. **Palm Sunday (Shaanini)** : April 14 Decorated Candles are available for Procession.
2. **Tuesday Divine Mercy Seminar** @ 6 PM Rosary & Chaplet, Guest Speaker on Confession Fr. Nick Assi
3. **Lenten Appeal:** 2nd Collection for the Needy.
4. **Raffle tickets** - Last Supper & other prizes for \$5 ticket (drawing Easter Sunday).



NEW MOVIE
Must watch!



**Station of
the Cross**
Friday
6 pm
Arabic &
7 pm
English



Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation. All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest ...

The message of the Virgin Mary in Medjogorie to Mirjana on April 2, 2019

" my loved children, cam knows her children, I know you are crowned to my son. I know that you are crowned to the truth, and to peace, and to what is pure and non-fake. That's why I, as a mother, through the love of God, address you and invite you, even, through prayer and pure and open heart within you, you come to know my son - to know his love and his heart. My son has seen beauty in all things. He is looking for good in all souls - even what is small and hidden - to forgive evil. Therefore, my children, o messengers of my love, I invite you to worship him, and until you doubt him uninterrupted, and to be worthy. Because it is your word with divine words, the word of God, the word that is for all and forever. Therefore, my children, relive the joy, the radiation, the loneliness, and the mutual love. This is what you need in today's world. This way, you will be messengers of my love. That way, they're going to be my son the right way. Thank you."

Here are 7 Saints to Help You Out In Your Daily Financial Needs!

A lot of times we are financially in need. It could be due to an unexpected job loss, lack of education, reliable transportation. Or it could be from an illness, health condition or overwhelming debt or responsibilities. It could even be from honest mistakes we've made. No matter what the causes are, we sometimes need financial help.

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus cautions His disciples about money. He tells them that it is impossible for one to serve two masters at a time. In that case, You cannot serve God and wealth because not heeding His warnings leads to greed.

However, Both individual and corporate greed has so far destroyed careers, relationships, families, marriages, communities, the environment and life itself. For the fact we give in to the temptation of greed, we also find it much more difficult to do God's Will. How can we even hope to follow God's command to love one another and God above all else if we become focused on accumulating more wealth, acquiring more things and living lives of luxury?

Despite this, since we know that God wants us to call upon Him whenever in need and because we know we should pray about any important decisions, it's vital that we first ask God, in prayer, to help us find positive solutions to our financial problems. Additionally, we can also ask saints for their intercession. Because they are holy saints already living in Heaven and their generous prayers strengthen ours. They can intercede for you!

THESE ARE 7 SAINTS YOU CAN TURN TO FOR FINANCIAL AID

(1) Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph, being the patron saint of the Universal Church and the patron of fathers, is also the patron of all workers. He had constant faithfulness to God's will and the unconditional love and protection he gave to Our Blessed Mother and Jesus, Our Savior, has always provided men with an excellent example of how to be a good husband and father. His dedicated, hard-working, humble attitude also provides a shining example for all workers, including those who find themselves temporarily unemployed or underemployed. Those who are in need of financial help as a result of unemployment or underemployment might consider joining the many Christians who seek his help in finding a good job.

Dear Saint Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety over my present inability to support my family. Please help me to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from my heart and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement, so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

(2) Saint Cajetan

Saint Cajetan, the patron saint of the unemployed, gamblers, workers and job seekers is another saint whose intercession can be sought by people with serious financial problems. In addition to being the patron saint of several countries, he is the patron saint of them all.

Saint Cajetan in the early 1500s, was as disgusted with the immorality within the Catholic Church as Martin Luther, so he tried to change it from within the Church. He contributed in reviving a brotherhood called the Oratory of the Divine Love, and he founded an order for members of the clergy, known as Theatines Clerks Regular, that sought to live holy lives for Jesus by studying Scripture, leading moral lives, caring for people's spiritual needs and caring for the poor and the sick.

Prayer to Saint Cajetan:

O glorious St. Cajetan, you studied to be a lawyer, but when you felt that the Lord was calling you to his service, you abandoned everything and became a priest. You excelled in virtues, shunning all material rewards for your labor, helping the many unemployed people of your time. You provided loans without interest and you attracted a lot of benefactors who donated to your resources so that you could go on with your activities. Look on us with mercy. We wish to find employment that could help us and our families live with dignity. Listen to our petitions, dear saint; you, who could easily give up the food on your table for the needy, bring our petitions to Jesus (here make your request). Amen.

(3) Saint Anthony of Padua

Due to his devotion to Jesus, he is known as the "Wonder Worker" because his intercession has resulted in so many miracles. Originally from Portugal, this humble Franciscan friar preached and taught the Gospel with such integrity, zeal and simplicity, and many heretics were converted. But while Saint Anthony is frequently called upon to find lost objects, people could also call upon him to find lost income, lost savings, lost resources, or they could also call upon him to find suitable employment.

One prayer to St. Anthony for employment:

Blessed St. Anthony, who in life was ever mindful of the needs of the afflicted, consuming yourself in the service of God and for the good of souls, who was the enemy of idleness and a tireless worker in the vineyard of the Lord, beseech God to grant me a suitable job, which may procure for me and my loved ones a decent livelihood, and be at the same time a means of personal sanctification and of real service to others. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...St. Anthony, helper in all necessities, pray for us.

(4) Saint Matthew

Lots of people might be surprised to learn that there is a patron saint of finances and there is! However, that designation belongs to the Apostle Matthew. He is one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus, Saint Matthew was a tax collector for the Romans. The saint, who was the author of the first Gospel, was sitting at a tax booth when Jesus called him to become one of His Apostles. Without hesitation, St. Matthew followed Him, spread Christianity and was eventually martyred.

One prayer to St. Matthew that could be combined with a personal request for the saint's intercession concerning financial hardships :

O Glorious St. Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant. Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth so that we may live forever with him in Heaven.

(5) Saint Jude Thaddeus

He is another Apostle who can be always called upon to help in times of helpless financial crises. Saint Jude is the patron saint of hope, desperate causes and the impossible – who was so devoted to Jesus to the extent of being martyred just like St. Matthew. His intercession for Danny Thomas, when he was in need of financial aid and employment, inspired the actor to build St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in his honor.

Popular prayer to this saint is:

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant, and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hope: Please intercede on my behalf. Make use of that particular privilege given to you to bring hope, comfort, and help where they are needed most. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven as I work with my challenges, particularly (here make your request). I praise God with you and all the saints forever. I promise, blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen.

(6) Saint Bernadette

Among other things, Saint Bernadette is the patron saint of illness and poverty. She is an ideal saint to turn to for people who are living in poverty and those who are struggling financially due to illness. She was born into a poor family and was ill for most of her 35 years of life. She became a devout nun after having many holy encounters – as a teenager – with an apparition of Blessed Mother at a grotto in Lourdes, France. However, because she followed Blessed Mother's instructions, the grotto's muddy waters were miraculously cleansed, and more than 60 people were determined to have been miraculously healed there.

Prayer to this saint:

St. Bernadette, pure and simple child, you who were privileged to behold the beauty of Mary Immaculate and to be the recipient of her confidence eighteen times at Lourdes; you who did desire from then on to hide yourself in the cloister of Nevers and there live and die as a victim of sinners, obtain for us that spirit of purity, which will lead us also to the glorious vision of God and of Mary in Heaven. Amen

(7) Saint Nicholas

In addition to being considered a protector of children and sailors and a patron saint of many people, places and things, Saint Nicholas is also considered a protector of the poor. It is believed that he once saved a man and his three daughters from living sinful lives. Because the man couldn't provide dowries for his daughters, the daughters were going to be sold into slavery. To save them from that fate, the saint went to their home on three nights and threw a bag of gold into the home for each of the girls, providing them all with dowries. A legend states that the gold landed in some stockings (or shoes) that were hanging by the fireplace.

A Prayer to Saint Nicholas:

Glorious St. Nicholas, my special patron, from thy throne in glory, where thou dost enjoy the presence of God, turn thine eyes in pity upon me and obtain for me from our Lord the graces and helps that I need in my spiritual and temporal necessities (and especially this favor [mention your request], provided that it be profitable to my salvation). Be mindful, likewise, O glorious and saintly Bishop, of our Sovereign Pontiff, of Holy Church, and of all Christian people. Bring back to the right way of salvation all those who are living steeped in sin and blinded by the darkness of ignorance, error, and heresy. Comfort the afflicted, provide for the needy, strengthen the fearful, defend the oppressed, give health to the infirm; cause all men to experience the effects of thy powerful intercession with the supreme Giver of every good and perfect gift. Amen.

As we seek for financial help, it's also necessary to reflect on the words of Jesus in Matthew 6. Not only do His words remind us to ask for help and not wealth, but the rest of the verse also reminds us that we shouldn't worry about material things while neglecting our faith. He tells us, essentially, to be more concerned with the things of Heaven and less with those of the world, however, Jesus tells us that God will provide.

SAINT SHARBEL YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

EQUIPPING TEENS TO BE FAITHFUL YOUNG ADULTS

Having been involved in both youth and young adult ministry, I've had a lot of time and opportunity to observe the "young adult problem" in the Church, from multiple angles. For many reasons, young adults get lost in the shuffle, particularly so if they are not in the demographic that college campus ministry programs typically serve.

Most of the time, solutions focus on creating parish young adult groups, theology on tap events, and social "mixers." All of these are worthy ideas and projects, but I would like to argue that the real solution starts earlier – **while they are still in our high school youth groups.** After having observed, and run, many youth ministry projects, I think that all of us, myself included, have missed a key piece in the spiritual formation of our youth.

Teenagers live in the moment. This is normal to their stage of development. But I think we as youth ministers have a tendency to live in the moment as well. It's easy to become so absorbed in their current crises, and reaching them there, that we can forget to have a vision for the future. *We get so wrapped up in meeting them where they are that we forget to think about where we want to take them.*

I believe this is why so many young adults, even those who were active in their youth ministry, later become disengaged and even alienated from the church. Or, if they stay active, they often have an immature and experience-dependent faith. Thus you will find some young adults even in their late 20s and mid-thirties who still (exclusively) attend the Lifeteen Mass, prefer going to their campus ministry for worship rather than involving themselves in a parish, or are uncomfortable joining a prayer-group or bible study that is not specifically geared toward young adults.

So, what can we do to help our teens grow to be active, faith-filled young adults?

BROADER EXPOSURE TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY

As youth ministers, we need to be the bridge, and advocate for our teens' active participation in parish life. This is not easy sometimes; not only because our teens might be disinclined to venture outside the youth group, but because the parish community itself might not value or welcome them. However, it's vitally important. While youth group is a great "home base," we need to facilitate their participation in other events, such as the Parish Lenten Mission, for example. Set aside times in your ministry's calendar to attend these instead of regular youth group activities. Your youth will gradually become more comfortable outside their peer environment; your parish will become more aware of their presence, and you can take advantage of the already-existing programming and cut down on some planning time. Win-win-win!

SERVICE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Mission trips are great. But, they are yet another structured activity that doesn't necessarily prepare youth to take the initiative after high school. Try to get them involved in local service as well, whether in the parish (as a lector, for example, and not just at the youth Mass), or in the wider community (volunteering at the nursing home or food bank etc). These don't have to be yet another thing you must organize. You can simply provide the information on options for service, and support/encourage the teens to make the first contact. (This could perhaps be an initiative for summers where they have more free time).

Help them take responsibility for their group as well. In the first youth ministry where I volunteered, the priest who served as the youth minister had one of his teens on the parish council. She acted as liaison between the group and the council. If the parish as a whole had a complaint about the youth group, or a need the youth group could fill, she brought that to her peers for discussion and they came up with constructive solutions together. Vice-versa – if the youth group had a concern or need, she brought that to the attention of the rest of the council. Experiences like this build the skills needed for successful Church involvement later in life.

DIVERSIFY YOUR CORE TEAM

The advantage to having a young, hip core team is that you create a safe space where teens find it easier to explore and make their faith their own, apart from their parents. This is critically important. However, it is also important to mix that experience up a bit – otherwise you run the risk of your teens being unable to envision what a life-long faith journey looks like (particularly if they already lack that example at home).

Try to make your core team a mix of younger and older. Yes, keep the recent college graduates and young professionals. But also look among the retired people in your parish, or the middle-aged who don't have teens in the group. Again, keep in mind not only where your teens are, but where they are going. They need to see role models from all stages of life.

IT DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE "EPIC"

Youth Ministry (and young adult ministry) focus a lot on engaging the emotions, and creating an experience. **Again, these are important and not to be dismissed.** Adolescence is a very emotional time of life, and if you don't engage these aspects, you'll lose your audience. However, once again, keep in mind not simply where they are, but where they are going. **The faith journey is not a sprint, but a marathon.** While an experiential encounter with Christ is foundational, they need to shore up that foundation with more tools. Make sure that you provide talks and teaching about walking through the ups and downs of life, praying through the dry times, keeping on when the going gets rough. While you want to inspire them by lifting them out of their daily routine (taking them to youth conferences, trips, etc.), don't forget to help them find God in the daily part too.

Yes, it's important to teach them to shoot high for sainthood. To see on-fire speakers who show them what truly amazing things are possible if we give our lives to God. But it's also important to remind them that, for most people, fame and sainthood don't go together. Most of the saints in heaven are people we don't even know, but nonetheless achieved great holiness and made a lasting difference in the world. So yes, let them have exposure to the rock stars in youth ministry, if that will help them see the dynamism of a life of faith. But make sure they also see the retired priest in your diocese, who quietly fills in where he is needed, always has time to listen, and has learned to maintain his peace despite the chaos that comes and goes in the Church. Make sure they get to know the couple with the handicapped child, who aren't seen around the parish much, but lead a beautiful life of dedication. Introduce them to the widow who quietly refills the candles in the church; and makes use of her new state in life to find more time to pray.

They might not appreciate these examples in the moment. But later, when they are away from home, struggling to find ways to "feed the fire," these are the roots that will save their faith. Because in the back of their mind, they will know it doesn't always have to be epic. Sometimes God is pleased with us just putting one foot in front of the other.

FILIPINO NEWS

Youngest bishop in the Philippines ordained, installed

Bishop Rex Andrew Alarcon went back to his hometown in Daet, Camarines Norte on Wednesday, not for a short visit, but to assume a vacant seat. In a ceremony, the Daet diocese welcomed its fourth bishop, as well as the youngest in the Philippines. Alarcon will now lead more than half-a-million Catholics in 30 parishes that reside in Camarines Norte province. The installation took place before around 2,000 people at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity. "I want to accompany you. May we walk together in the spirit of synodality in the heart of the Church," Alarcon told the congregation. The installation took place a day after his episcopal ordination held at the St. John the Evangelist Metropolitan Cathedral in Naga City. Around a dozen bishops attended the ceremony led by Archbishop Gabrielle Caccia, the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, and Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia. Top local and national government leaders were also in attendance led by Vice President Leni Robredo. Pope Francis appointed Alarcon as the bishop of Daet on Jan. 2. He succeeded Archbishop Gilbert Garcera who was transferred to the Archdiocese of Lipa in February 2017.



Bishop Rex Andre Alarcon receives the pastoral staff during his episcopal ordination at the Naga Cathedral, March 19

After his theology studies at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Alarcon was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Caceres in 1996. In 2001, he obtained his licentiate in Church history at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Since 2013, he has held the office of superintendent of the Catholic schools of Caceres, member of the college of consultors, and spokesman of the archdiocese. At 48, Alarcon is the youngest member of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). There are two Filipino bishops younger than Alarcon but they are based in other countries. They are Bishop Ryan Jimenez, 47, of Chalan Kanoa in Saipan, and Bishop Pedro Baquero, 48, of Kerema in Papua New Guinea.

Pope Francis names 2nd Filipino bishop in U.S.

Monsignor Alejandro Aclan of Pasay City is appointed auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Pope Francis on Tuesday, March 5, named Monsignor Alejandro Aclan of Pasay City as the newest auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, making him the second Filipino-American bishop in the United States.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles confirmed Aclan's appointment on Tuesday. Aclan, 68, has served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for the past 25 years, according to the Catholic news website Angelus News.

Aclan left the Philippines for Southern California in 1982 "as an immigrant seeking a better future," Angelus News reported.

A medical technology graduate, he first worked in electronic data processing and got employed in San Miguel and Citibank, until he migrated to the United States when he was 31. There, he worked for Union Bank in Los Angeles, according to Angelus News.

At 35, Aclan started discerning whether to enter the priesthood, then entered the seminary in 1988. He was ordained a priest 5 years later.

The bishop-elect was born on February 9, 1951, in Pasay City, and is the third of 8 children.

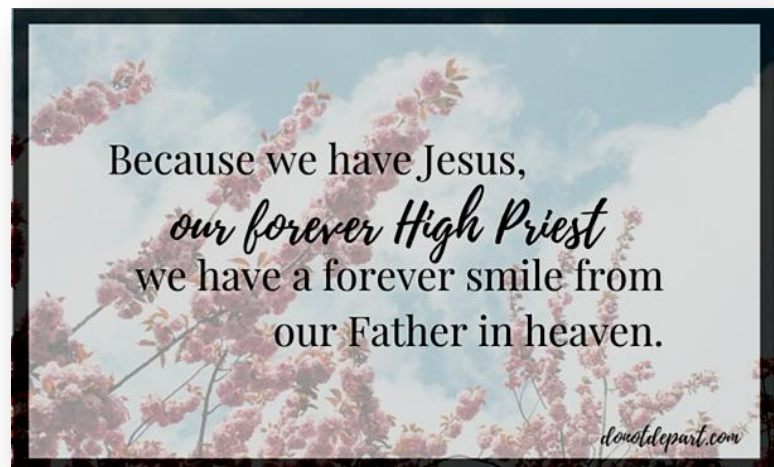
"Aclan's nomination makes him the second Filipino-American priest to be named bishop in the US. The first was Bishop Oscar Solis, who served as an auxiliary bishop in Los Angeles from 2004 until 2017, before Pope Francis named him Bishop of Salt Lake City. The Los Angeles area is home to the largest Filipino immigrant community in the United States," Angelus News said.

Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez hailed Aclan's appointment as auxiliary bishop.

"Bishop-elect Aclan is a man of prayer and he has a true heart for Jesus – and a deep concern for the people he is called to serve. And I know he will be a voice for Filipino Catholics, who are a beautiful sign of growth and renewal in our Church here in Los Angeles and throughout the country," Gomez said.



HOLY FATHER. Pope Francis names Monsignor Alejandro Aclan as the newest auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.



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HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**WEEKEND****Saturday 4:30pm****April 6**

+Janet Moss – 1 year

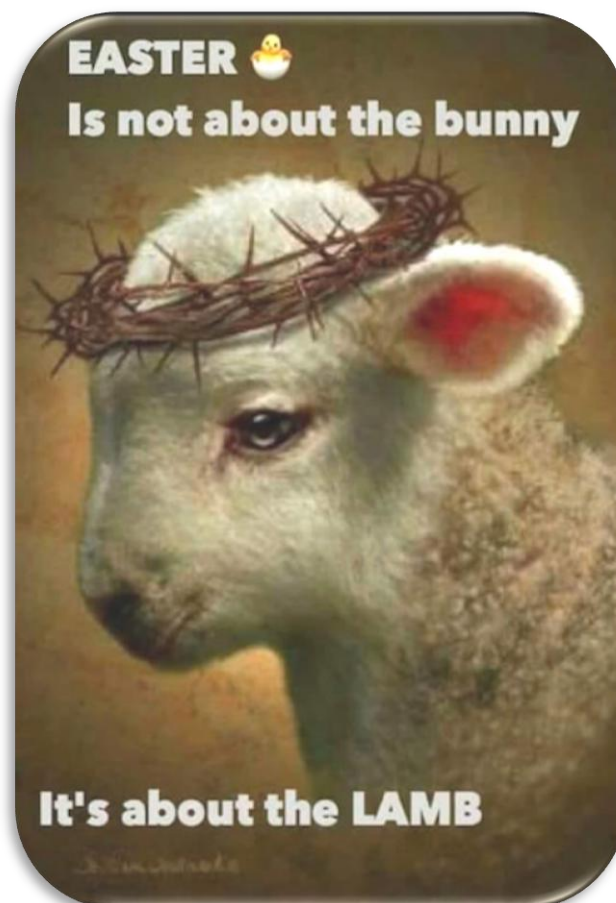
+Bob Massi

+Gregorio Tolentino
(40 days)**Sunday 9:30am April 7**

+Felisa Reyes Sales

Sunday 11:30 am

Christians Martyrs

Sunday 4:30 pm**Spanish**Víctimas del Terrorismo
en el Mundo**PRAY FOR THE SICK****DAILY 8AM****MONDAY April 8**

Healing of the Sick

TUESDAY April 9

Unborn Babies

WEDNESDAY April 10

Peace in the World

THURSDAY April 11

Conversion of Sinners

FRIDAY April 12

Unity of Families

Worship & Fellowship**Tuesday** 6-8 pm Rosary &
Praise & Worship-English.**Wednesday** 10 a.m.Rosary In Arabic (1stWednesday Young @ Heart
Potluck following Rosary)**Eucharistic****Adoration****DAILY****7 AM - 6 PM**

Eucharistic



Adoration

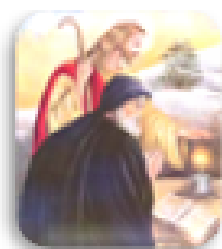
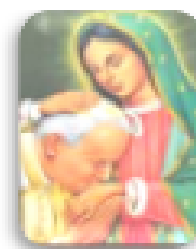
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celebran elprimer domingo cada
mes comenzado,

DIA: Domingo 7 de Abril

HORA: Rosario 4:30pm Misa

DONDE: Iglesia Catolica de
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a una pequeña recepcion donde compartiremos: café,
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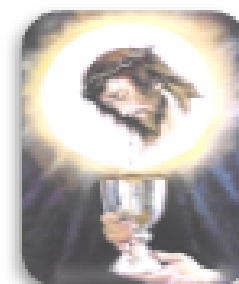
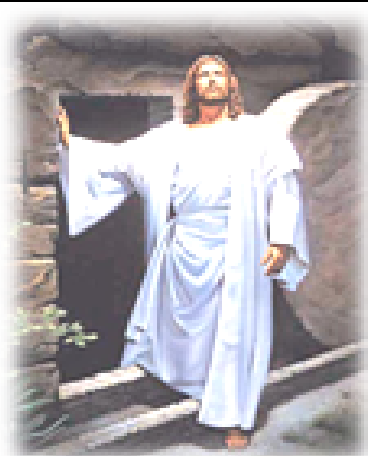
**SAINT SHARBEL MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH****HOLY WEEK & EASTER****SCHEDULE-MISSION****APRIL 2019****PALM SUNDAY (Shanini)**Saturday, April 13, 4:30 PM Mass EnglishSunday, April 14, 9:30 AM Mass English & ProcessionSunday, April 14, 11:30 AM Mass Arabic & Procession

Please, bring kids in white clothe & decorated candles available at Church

***CONFESSION:** Sacrament of Reconciliation, daily 5:00 PMMonday of the Passion, April 15 @ 6 PM MassTuesday of the Passion, April 16 @ 6 PM Holy Rosary & AdorationWednesday, Rite of Lamp April 17 @ 6 PM **HEALING PRAYER****HOLY THURSDAY** of the MysteriesApril 18 @ 6PM Washing of the Feet

Mass of the Last Supper

(Benediction & Holy Hour Until Midnight)

**GOOD FRIDAY**April 19, @ 8 AM Signing of the Chalice Mass (Pre-Consecrated)@ 3:00 PM Solemn Burial of Our Lord - Arabic@ 6:00 PM Station of the Cross - English**EASTER WEEKEND**Saturday, April 20 @ 10:00 AM Confession & Noon PrayerSaturday, April 20 @ 4:30 PM Vigil Mass, English& 11:00 PM Midnight Mass (Al-Hajmeh) English & Arabic**EASTER SUNDAY**April 21, @ 9:30 AM English & 11:30 AM Arabic**Easter Monday** of Apparition of Our Lord, **April 22 , 8 AM** Mass**Sunday, April 28**, Feast of the Divine Mercy & Blessing with of St. Faustina's Relics9:30 AM English Mass & 11:30 AM Arabic Mass**Daily weekday Masses @ 8 am****CHRIST IS
RISEN!
TRULY RISEN
ALLELUIA!**