



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

6TH SUNDAY OF THE GLORIOUS
RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD 2018

May
2018

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**St. Sharbel
Pray for us!**

This is the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon built on 1904 in honor of the Immaculate Conception.

We have many miniatures: two in South Africa, one In Canada, one in the Jacksonville, Ohio, and in Houston, Texas.

***"Come with me from Lebanon,
my bride, Come with me
from Lebanon."***

Songs of Solomon 4:8



**Cedar of Lebanon,
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

stsharbel.lv@gmail.com

Office hours

Mon – Fri 9:00 – 3:00

10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD. LAS VEGAS NV 89183

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Peace Be With You!



“While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’... ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at My hands and My feet. It is I, Myself!’ (Lk 4:36-39)

In the seventh Sunday of the Resurrection Jesus continues appearing to His apostles. He stood with them, encouraging them with His peaceful Words. The present narrative stresses that Jesus’ Resurrection is real. The disciples touched Him, the marks of the Passion are visible in His hands and feet; He eats with the disciples.

Jesus is alive, He was already in the Father’s glory, but He wanted to be with His disciples on various occasions in order to convince them that His new condition was not a lesser life, or something ghostly, but rather a super life.

“Everything written about Me had to be fulfilled, what the prophets had announced about a Savior who would be rejected by His people and take the sin of His nation upon Himself, had to be fulfilled.”

LET US PRAY:

*Jesus, I believe that You are alive, every time
You appear to us in the midst of our
community through the celebration of the
Eucharist. Make us worthy to celebrate Your
Holy Banquet. Open our minds to understand
the Scriptures. Amen.*

6th Sunday After the Resurrection

Reading: **Romans 10:1-13**

Gospel: **Luke 24:36-48**

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC PRIEST FROM INDIA AMONG SAINTHOOD CAUSES ADVANCED BY POPE FRANCIS

Father Varghese Payyappilly Palakkappilly was noted for his punctuality, discipline, piety and fraternal charity.

Pope Francis has approved the advancement of the causes of eight “Servants of God,” all priests and religious, including Father Varghese Payyappilly of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, based in Kerala, India. The Pope met April 14 with the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Cardinal Angelo Amato, giving his approval for the holy people to be recognized as “Venerable.”

One of these causes was Father Varghese Payyappilly Palakkappilly, who was born in Perumanoor, India, Aug. 8, 1876.

Father Payyappilly was a priest for the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, which is a Church *sui iuris* — an autonomous Church with its specific rite, but in communion with Rome and subject to the governance of the Pope.

Ordained a priest Dec. 21, 1907, while serving at Marth Mariam Syro-Malabar Catholic Forane Church in Arakuzha, he started St. Mary’s Higher Secondary School.



He managed the school for 14 years, during which time priestly vocations at the school flourished, according to one of the priest’s former pupils.

Father Payyappilly was considered a good mediator and was sought after for solutions to problems. He was also held in great esteem by both Church and government officials and was noted for his punctuality, discipline, piety and fraternal charity.

His concern for the poor led him to establish a congregation called the Sisters of the Destitute in 1927 as a way to continue what he considered Christ’s redemptive mission among the poor.

POPE ASKS CATHOLICS TO PRAY THE ROSARY FOR PEACE EACH DAY IN MAY

'I pray to the Lord that the hopes for a future of peace and more brotherly friendship will not be disappointed'

Pope Francis prayed that the hopes for peace strengthened by the meeting of the leaders of North and South Korea will not be dashed, and he urged Catholics during the month of May to pray the rosary for peace.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in made a "courageous commitment" April 27 to ongoing dialogue to achieve "a Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons," Pope Francis said April 29 after leading some 30,000 people in praying the "Regina Coeli."

"I pray to the Lord that the hopes for a future of peace and more brotherly friendship will not be disappointed and that the collaboration may continue bringing good fruits for the beloved Korean people and the whole world," the pope said.

Noting that May is a month the Catholic Church dedicates to Mary in a special way, Pope Francis told the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square that he would begin the month with a visit to Rome's Shrine of Divine Love and lead a recitation of the rosary there.

"We will recite the rosary praying particularly for peace in Syria and the whole world," the pope said. "I invite you to spiritually join me and to prolong for the whole month of May praying the rosary for peace."



South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meet inside the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas April 27

OUR MARONITE PATRIARCH CARDINAL BECHARA EL RAI lays foundation stone for Qatar's first Maronite church

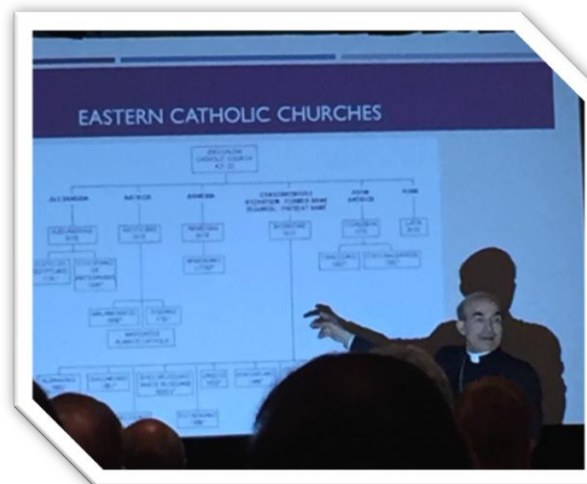


Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Beshara Rai attends a memorial ceremony for victims killed in a militant attack on the Our Lady of Salvation Church in 2010, at the Church in Baghdad

Maronite Patriarch Beshara Rai Friday morning laid the foundation stone for a Maronite church to be constructed in Doha, Qatar – which Lebanese news outlets report will be the first Maronite house of worship in the Gulf.

A crowd gathered around Rai as he placed the stone at the construction site of what will eventually be Doha's Mar Charbel Church, named after a Lebanese-born monk revered by Maronites. Rai arrived in Doha Thursday for an official visit, during which he was scheduled to meet with Qatari government officials.

Plight of Christian Refugees in the Middle East - the Most Rev. Abdullah Elias Zaidan (Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles), Presbyteral Assembly-Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas



Congratulations



1st Communion Class

May 13

Ezryellah Gomez Cruz
Damian Kelechi Nnaji
Dior Amihan Scharf
Levi Himala Scharf
Carlos Aleman
Ivan Aleman
Dominic Ceejay Battung
Myles Andrei Belarmino
Alejandra Bonilla-Diaz
Ferdinand Bungay III
Alberto Angel Silvesre Cisneros
Julian Luis Contreras
Emilio Cortes
Guillermo Diaz
Ysabella Felix
Angel Flores
Levi Freeman
Ellie Hernandez
Angel Gabriel Leon
David Leon Jr.
Hannah C. Maralit
Justin Mayhew
Kyle Mayhew
Michael Mayhew
Ryan Angelo Meneses
Giselle K. Alcala
Anthony Sarti
Camila Sarti
Brittany Karina Sequeira
Joseph Horacio Sequeira
Aaron Paul Tan
Iliani Workman

Confirmation Class

May 20

Carla Aleman
Silvia Aleman
Emily Amezcua
Claudette H. Garcia
Juan Carlos Gutierrez
Alex Ortiz
Frederick Suong
Sheyla M. Tovar
Gayle Robison



BEAUTIFUL FACES & PLACES



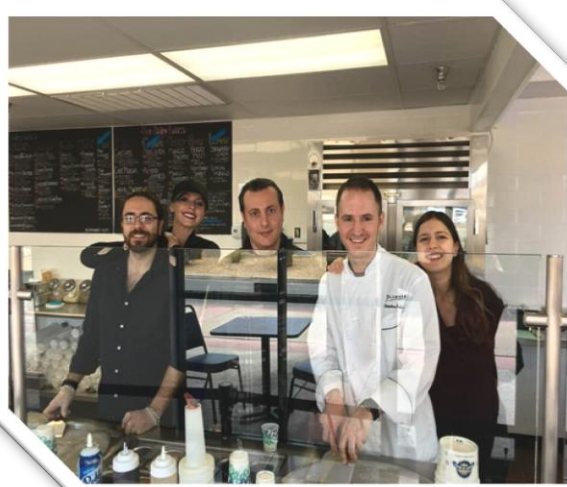
Congratulations to Gilbert & Karen Feghali on the Baptism of their son Kevin.



Teacher appreciation Retreat & Luncheon.

Congratulations on Grand Opening of the new Ice Cream shop called **Frost N' Roll**

On 2605 S. Decatur Blvd #101. All are welcome!



Marian Apparitions



1531, Guadalupe, Mexico



1830, Paris, France



1846, La Salette, France



1858, Lourdes, France



1871, Pontmain, France



1879, Knock, Ireland



1917, Fatima, Portugal



1932, Beauraing, Belgium



1933, Banneux, Belgium



Happy 82nd Birthday Wadih Hanache.



BOOK YOUR AGENDA: ST. SHARBEL COMMUNITY LIFE

➤ **Tuesday Movie 5/8 at 6 pm Saint Bernadette**

➤ **Sunday 5/13 First Communion Celebration**
at 9:30 am

➤ **Sunday 5/20 Confirmation Celebration**
at 9:30 am



ARE CATHOLIC
CANONIZATIONS OF SAINTS
INFALLIBLE? YES by Dr. Taylor
Marshall

On the interwebs you sometimes bump into a few Catholics that assert that canonizations are not infallible or are reversible. They will cite saints who are allegedly un-sainted (eg. St George, St Christopher, St Philomena – I explain why they are NOT un-sainted in this podcast) or they will object to canonized saints that they don't like (eg, St John XIII or St Josemaria).

Canonizations are Infallible. Here's why:

Concerning the Potential Problem of "Damned Saints":

When a person is damned, he hates and curses God forever in Hell. That's what damnation is. It's a decision to reject God and His love. The damned person lacks all charity toward God. As Thomas Aquinas, would say, he belongs to the Kingdom of Satan. He is officially anti-Christ.

If the Church mistakenly were to canonize a damned man, then that means monks and nuns would be praying the Liturgy of the Hours and commemorating a man who currently curses God – and doing so annually in the liturgical cycle. Moreover, this would entail that priests are celebrating Masses in honor of a man who is literally diabolical. Even more so, churches, chapels, and cathedrals would be erected and consecrated in honor a man who hates God. No doubt, the devil would love all of this. So canonizations are infallible.

Concerning the Potential Problem of "Make-Believe Saints"

The same goes saints who are claimed to not have existed. If someone were to say that St George or St Christopher were make-believe people, then you have the Liturgy of Hours and Holy Mass celebrated to what amount to cartoon characters. It would be like celebrating Mass in honor of Luke Skywalker. It's a mockery of true religion.

We can grant that the legends and hagiography about certain saints are exaggerated or embellished, but we cannot say that the Church formally venerates imaginary people, celebrated Mass in honor of imaginary people, or that there are Churches dedicated to imaginary people.

If so, the devil would love all of this. So canonizations are infallible. It's also worth noting that when a Pope canonizes a saint he invokes his authority as Vicar of Christ and successor to Saints Peter and Paul in a way similar to declaring dogmas infallible.

Prayer For Saint Sharbel

O Lord,
infinitely Holy and Glorified in Your Saints,
You have inspired Sharbel, the saint monk,
to lead the perfect life of a hermit.
We thank You for granting him
the blessing and the strength
to detach himself from the world
so that the heroism of the monastic virtues of
poverty, obedience, and chastity,
could triumph in his hermitage.

We beseech You
to grant us the grace of loving and serving You,
following his example.

Almighty God, Who has manifested
the power of St. Sharbel's intercession
through his countless miracles and favors,
grant us... (State your intention here...)
through his intercession.

Amen.

Our Father...; Hail Mary...; Glory Be...

Saint Sharbel, pray for us.

5 EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES THAT LEFT PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Catholics believe that Jesus Christ is really, truly, and substantially present in the Eucharist. There are many stories of miracles throughout Church history that seem to confirm this important teaching.

It's important to note that no Catholic is required to believe any of these stories. Even if they have been investigated and approved by the Church, the Church does not give any absolute guarantee to their authenticity. Nor does the Catholic dogma of transubstantiation depend on the authenticity of these stories (it is based on Scripture and Tradition).

Nonetheless, these stories are particularly noteworthy since you can still go see evidence of the miracles today.

1) Miracle of Lanciano – 8th century

In the 8th century, a priest in Lanciano, Italy was experiencing doubts about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. In the middle of saying Mass, he said the words of consecration ("This is my body," "This is my blood") and saw the bread and wine transform into real human flesh and blood. The blood coagulated into five globules (later believed to be representative of the five wounds of Christ). Word of the miracle quickly spread, the local archbishop launched an investigation, and the Church approved the miracle.

The flesh is still preserved to this day. Professor of anatomy Odoardo Linoli conducted a scientific analysis of the flesh in 1971 and concluded that the flesh was cardiac tissue, the blood appeared to be fresh blood (as opposed to blood that was 1200 years old), and there was no trace of preservatives.

You can visit the miraculous flesh and blood in the Church of San Francesco in Lanciano, Italy.

2) The Corporal of Bolsena – 13th century

A priest who had been experiencing doubts about transubstantiation was celebrating mass in Orvieto, Italy. Soon after he had consecrated the Eucharist, the host started bleeding onto the corporal (a liturgical cloth) on the altar. The priest, the story goes, ran to the pope who was visiting the town and confessed his sin of doubt. The corporal remains on display in the Cathedral of Orvieto.

Some historians, however, question the veracity of the story, since the first accounts of it don't appear until about a hundred years after the miracle supposedly took place. Nonetheless, the corporal remains an object of veneration.

3) The Hosts of Siena, Italy – 18th century

On August 14th, 1730, while the Catholics of Siena, Italy were attending a special festival for the eve of the feast of the Assumption, thieves entered the Church of St. Francis and stole a golden ciborium containing hundreds of a consecrated hosts.

Two days later, someone noticed something white protruding from the offering box at another church in Siena. The priests opened the box and found the missing hosts inside, entangled in cobwebs and dirt. After being cleaned as much as possible, the hosts were placed in a new ciborium and taken back to the Church of St. Francis for prayers of reparation and veneration.

Since the hosts were dirty, the priests decided not to consume them but let them simply deteriorate. Over the next few decades, everyone was amazed to see that the hosts did not deteriorate, but actually appeared fresh.

The hosts remain in this state today, 285 years later, and can still be seen in the (now) Basilica of St. Francis in Siena, Italy.



4) The Miracle of Chirattakonam, India – 21st century

On April 28th, 2001, there was Eucharistic adoration at St. Mary's parish in Chirattakonam, India, when suddenly three red stains materialized on the host. The priest didn't know what to do and placed the host back into the tabernacle.

A few days later he retrieved the host to examine it again, and the red stains had arranged themselves to look like the face of a man (Jesus?). He quickly found a photographer and had pictures taken of the host.

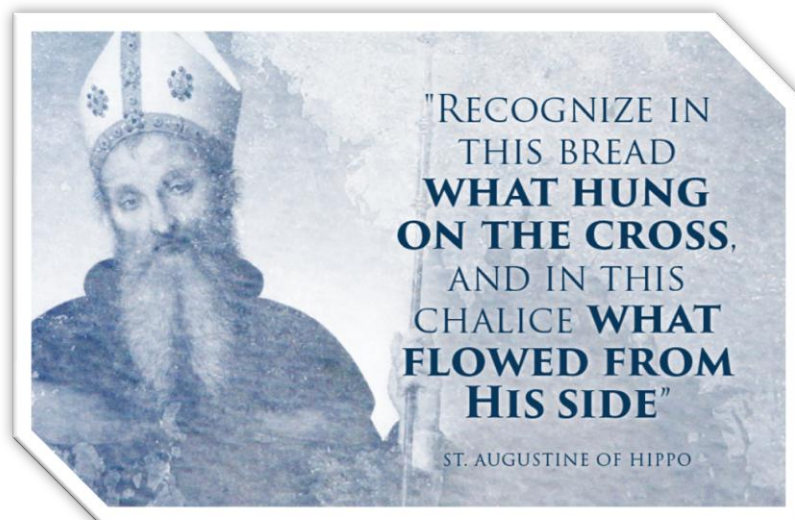
5) The Eucharistic Miracle of Santarém – 13th century

A woman living in Santarém, Portugal in the 13th was distressed that her husband was unfaithful to her, and she decided to consult a sorceress for help. The sorceress told her the price of her services was a consecrated host.

She went to Mass at the Church of St. Stephen and received the Eucharist on her tongue, removed the Eucharist from her mouth, wrapped it in her veil, and headed to the door of the church. But before she got out, the host began to bleed.

When she got home, she put the bloodied host in a trunk. That night, a miraculous light emanated from the trunk. She repented of what she had done and the next morning confessed to her priest. Her priest came and retrieved the host and took it back to the church.

After an investigation and approval of the miracle, the church was renamed Church of the Holy Miracle, and the bloodied host remains on display to this day.



Lebanon is a land of exceptional beauty and history. Situated on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea, the Lebanon mountain range rises majestically from the sea to snow-capped mountain peaks that reach over 10,000 feet. Nestled in the mountains in the north are the famous Cedars of Lebanon, often referred to in the Bible, such as in the Books of Kings, Psalms, Song of Songs, and the Prophet Isaiah.

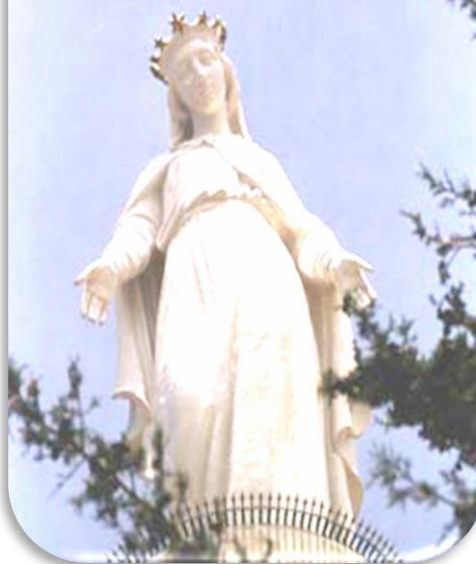
Jesus and **Mary** visited Lebanon during his public ministry.

Lebanon has a special devotion to the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, the Mother of Jesus, and she has become known there as Our Lady of Lebanon. For, while she was living, she visited there with her Son! There is a sanctuary in the south of Lebanon dedicated to the Virgin of **Mantara**, a place where Mary stayed awaiting her Son, when Jesus went to Tyre and Sidon. The Basilica of Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church is located in **Harissa**, a small town about thirty minutes north of Beirut, the capital city. The Blessed Virgin Mary was named the Queen of Lebanon by the Maronite Patriarch in 1908 upon completion of the Basilica. The Shrine was visited by Pope John Paul II in May of 1997 in his effort to support Eastern Catholicism and to evangelize the youth. Located between Jounieh on the coast and Bkerke, Harissa is surrounded by numerous churches and monasteries.

Jesus Christ was the first to evangelize the Gentiles when he visited Tyre and performed a miracle for the Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter, as noted in Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30. He then went by way of Sidon on to the Sea of Galilee (Mark 7:31). The Gospel of John 2:1-12 describes Jesus performing his first miracle, when he turned water into wine at the request of his mother Mary at the wedding feast of Cana in Galilee. The Cana southwest of Tyre in Lebanon today was located in the region of Galilee at the time of Jesus. The church historian Eusebius of Caesarea in 339 wrote that Cana of Galilee is the Cana south of Sidon. No one can say for sure in which of the towns named Cana the miracle of the wedding feast took place. But the fact that Jesus went *down* to Capernaum (John 2:12) suggests the wedding at Cana took place in Cana of Lebanon, for Cana of Palestine is south of Capernaum, and Jesus would have had to go *up* to Capernaum were it Cana of Palestine! There is a grotto in Qana, Lebanon with large stone water jars as well as a sculpture symbolic of Jesus and the Twelve Apostles.

May 5: FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON

*Mother of Jesus,
be my Mother
today*



Lebanon is the crossroads of the East and West. The Lebanese people are noted for their adaptability and hospitality. The population is both Christian and Muslim. Arabic, French, and English newspapers flourish in Beirut, as many Lebanese speak all three languages. The Lebanese people have migrated all over the world, reflecting their Phoenician heritage. The intellectual ties to the West are reflected in the presence of two major universities, the American University of Beirut, founded in 1866, and L'Université Saint Joseph, founded in 1870. Lebanon is the birthplace of Kahlil Gibran, the author of *The Prophet*, a book of poetry that has sold nearly ten million copies in twenty languages worldwide. The country is unique, for one can go skiing in the mountains in the morning, and swimming in the Mediterranean in the afternoon. All share in traditional Lebanese cuisine, which represents the classic Mediterranean diet. Famous for their health benefits, Lebanese prepared dishes such as grape leaves, kibbeh, tabooli, hummus, falafel, baba ghanouj, and baklava are enjoyed the world over!

March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady, has become a National Holiday in Lebanon, as the Virgin Mary, who is revered by Christians and Muslims alike, provides unity among Lebanese of every faith.

The Eastern Catholic **Maronite** Church of Lebanon originated from St. Maron, a monk in the fourth century who left Antioch for the Orontes River to lead an ascetic life. He soon had many followers that adopted his monastic life. Following the death of St. Maron in 410, his disciples built a monastery in his memory and formed the nucleus of the Maronite Church. The martyrdom of 350 monks, for remaining true to Rome and the Council of Chalcedon (451), led the Maronites to seek refuge in the mountains of Lebanon. The Crusader Raymond of Toulouse discovered the Maronites near the **Cedars of Lebanon** on his way to Jerusalem in 1099. The Maronites, because of their monastic origin, have been able to withstand intense pressure and persecution to preserve their Church and maintain the Christian culture of Lebanon - right to the present day. The Patriarch of the Maronite Church resides in Bkerke, near Harissa, leading his worldwide flock of over three million faithful, in countries such as Lebanon, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The Maronite liturgy still celebrates the Mass in **Aramaic**, the language of Jesus.

Jesus Christ commissioned his Apostles to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). St. Paul stayed a week in Tyre after his return from his third missionary journey (Acts 21:2-3), and also stopped in Sidon on his fourth missionary trip to Rome (Acts 27:3). The land was still known as Phoenicia at the time Jesus Christ lived.



**Our Lady of Lebanon, please
pray for peace, peace in our
hearts,
peace in our family,
peace in our land,
and peace throughout
the world.**

SAINT SHARBEL YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

8 Things Holiness is NOT Written By Ruth Baker

I remember a day when I woke up and decided I was going to be holy. Sounds good, doesn't it? The problem was, I didn't think I could be holy enough as myself. So I looked at the people around me who I felt were holy and tried to be like them. Of course, it was a disaster. I couldn't sustain the act of not being myself. *Of course* it's good and wonderful to be inspired by other people and to allow ourselves to grow closer to God through them. But when we begin to lose who we are, we struggle to find God.

We all may, at different times, have different misconceptions about holiness. Here are a few (though not exhaustible!) myths busted about holiness.

1. Holiness is Not an Absence of Feeling

Feelings can feel bad – hatred, laziness, lust. We know it's not good to live entirely directed by our feelings, or to be under the control of them constantly. But the other way – to treat them entirely as a direct route to sin, is a sure step to living an internally fractured life. Becoming holy does not mean you should aim to feel nothing, or to feel numb. Feelings need to be acknowledged. If they are good, we can celebrate. If they are feelings that would lead us to sin, we should also acknowledge them, but investigate the root causes of them, not just recoil from them and bury them away. That way, we can grapple with them, engage with them, and with help and support, seek forgiveness and healing for the times we have acted on them. Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, explains this well when he writes:

"It's easy to mistake depression for sanctity, sentimentality for piety, rigidity for orthodoxy, narrow sectarianism for loyalty, repressed sexuality for wholeness, and denial of one's complexity for stability... I say this sympathetically. None of us are free from these struggles. But, with that being confessed, we shouldn't be fooled by false sanctity. Depression, sentimentality, fearfulness, narrowness, rigidity, and repression drain the energy from a room. Real sanctity, piety, orthodoxy, loyalty, wholeness, and stability bring energy into a room and don't make you swallow hard and feel guilty because your own blood is filled with a more robust energy. The presence of real sanctity sets you free and gives you permission to feel good about your humanity, no matter how red your blood. Real sanctity attracts and radiates life; it doesn't unconsciously beg you to play the Good Samaritan to cheer it up."

Holiness is being whole and acknowledging all that we feel.

2. Holiness is Not Being Solemn and Serious all the Time

Holiness does not mean you stop having fun or enjoying the finer things in life. *"I figured, if God was calling me to be a priest, he was calling me to be a priest,"* says Fr John Muir in his excellent 'Day in a Life of' video, which shows him going for his morning run, rocking out to his favorite music in the car and laughing and joking with his friends. Our hobbies and interests only become a problem if they eclipse the friendship we have with God. Have hobbies, have interests, do things that add color and richness to your life. To widen the experiences and understanding of your life is to widen your understanding of God.

"Run, jump, have all the fun you want at the right time, but, for heaven's sake, do not commit sin!" (Don Bosco, from St. Philip Neri). *Holiness is living life in all its fullness.*

3. Holiness is Not Doing an Unreasonable Amount of Prayer or Fasting

Okay let me get this one straight! Of course, our whole lives can be an offering to God; we can pray our way through the day and be with God at any time. Fridays and Lent can be special times of fasting too. Fasting and living more somber times are important – they help us focus more closely on God, lose the distractions and rejoice more in the celebration when it comes. But holiness is not a competition in how much we can pray or fast. We need to live our daily lives and do the things – work, studying, looking after our family – that are required of us. As St. Teresa of Avila said, 'God is to be found among the pots and pans' – not just spending hours in the chapel. There is a beautiful line to be found in Psalm 127:2 which says, *"It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep."*

Yes, faith does require work and perseverance, but there is a sense also that we can relax. God has got it. He doesn't require us to put hours of energy in in order for Him to grant us some unattainable level of holiness. He just requires us to *be*, and to let Him love us, and to find Him in us and us in Him.

Holiness is living balanced and consistent lives, walking ever closer in friendship to God.

4. Holiness is Not Judging Other People

The command to 'judge not' causes a lot of controversy. Is the Lord giving us *carte blanche* to allow the people around us to do whatever they like without being checked? Does it mean we can never speak out about wrongs, particularly when they are closely connected with the behavior and actions of another person? No. There must be times when we correct others, when we try to educate others, when we speak out against injustices or even stand up for ourselves in unfair situations. However, judging is the attitude of "I would never ever do that myself!". How do we know that?! Given other circumstances, less support, a different upbringing, maybe we would! We never know how weak we are until we face temptation, which can come sometimes completely out of the blue. Temptation can surprise us by its complete disregard for how good we already feel we are. With this in mind, holiness is not a state where we can feel comfortably better than other people. Neither is it a place where we can hammer out our truths to other people without any compassion. We all carry pain and brokenness. We need to reach out to people from a place where we genuinely acknowledge our own sin and what the Lord has done for us.

Holiness is walking alongside others, knowing that we are all struggling to walk the path towards heaven.

5. Holiness is Not Trying to be Someone Else Whom You Admire

This is more complex than simply saying 'be yourself.' What if you think of yourself as not holy enough?! Of course, it is necessary and great to have role models, people to look up to, people who can give us advice, but this becomes an issue when we go out of our way to bend and change our personality.

If you're a naturally gregarious and energetic person, don't try and become constantly still and silent because you have seen someone else who is holy and is like that. If you're the quieter one, don't worry about feeling like you need to get all fiery and loud about your faith. God needs all types of personalities, and is not hindered by who we are, or by our struggles or the things we think aren't good enough. After all, He *created* us that way. It's been hard to find the attribution to this quote, (let me know in the comments below if you know who said it!) but it's great all the same: *"When you get to heaven God won't ask you why you weren't more like Mother Teresa, he'll ask you why you weren't more like you."*

*Holiness is *really* being you.*

6. Holiness is Not Being Motivated by Fear

Another unhealthy approach to holiness is to think 'I must be good otherwise bad things will happen'. There is no life in this, no joy. Being motivated by fear may work, but it does not allow us our freedom. Being *good* should not be our single aim. Growing in our relationship with the One who is *goodness itself*, should be our aim, allowing us to grapple with God, wrestle with our doubts, and ask all our questions. When we are motivated to be good for God out of fear, then it colors all our interactions with everyone around us. It stifles love.

For a clear explanation of the difference between being afraid of God and a healthy 'fear of the Lord', check out this excellent homily from Fr Stephen Wang.

Holiness is trusting that God has your life in His hands.

7. Holiness is not Easy

Of course, even with a good understanding of what holiness is and isn't, it still isn't easy! Nothing worth it was ever easy. It can't be attained in a day. It is a life-long marathon, not a sprint. Holiness requires us to leave our comfort zone, to engage in a battle that we might keep losing for a very long time. **Perhaps the hardest part of holiness is picking ourselves up again and again and again – and admitting that we can't do it all on our own.** After the Apostle Peter writes about resisting the devil and temptation, he writes: "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." So, *"be patient with all things, but first of all with yourself"* (St Francis de Sales).

Holiness is a lifelong journey to your destination, which means you might fail but also you can decide to begin again.

8. Holiness is not a Hiding Your Faults to Appear Perfect

Sometimes I can look at others and think, 'they're so holy! Would they be shocked if they knew *everything* about me?' The truth is, there's no hierarchy to holiness. Attempting to hide our faults probably takes more time, effort, and energy than just holding our hands up and saying we're not perfect and are in need of God's grace and other people's support. This is why it is so important to cultivate a world where we are *all* aware that we are in need of God's and each other's forgiveness – because that leads to compassion, and in an atmosphere of compassion we can be real about ourselves and strive to find healing. Seriously. Support each other. Be gentle with one another's weaknesses. If someone opens up and shows their wounds and scars and failings, don't trample all over them. Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful.

Holiness is being real and authentic.

FILIPINO NEWS

The story of the 26 year-old Filipino Jesuit on the road to sainthood

Brother Richie Fernando was a 26 year-old Jesuit seminarian from the Philippines when in 1996 he died protecting his Cambodian students from a hand grenade. He is now on the road to sainthood, thanks to a norm issued by Pope Francis this summer that opens the door to canonization for those who have “voluntarily and freely offered their lives for others and have persevered until death in this regard.”

Father Antonio Moreno, head of the Jesuits in the Philippines, told *Rappler* July 30 that the order had received permission to begin the initial work of opening Fernando’s cause for canonization.

Fernando arrived in Cambodia in 1995 to serve at a Jesuit mission which served people who had been disabled by polio, landmines, or other accidents.

According to the Jesuits of the Asia Pacific Conference, Fernando quickly earned the trust of his young students as he learned their native language and took the time to listen to their stories of suffering.

One of his students was an orphan named Sarom, who became a soldier at 16 and was maimed by a landmine. Even while some at the mission found Sarom’s attitude troublesome, Fernando wrote in letters to friends that Sarom still had a place in his heart.

On October 17, 1996, Sarom came to the mission school for a meeting with the school director and staff. While he had finished classes, he had asked to continue at the school, though his request was denied because school officials found him disruptive.

Angered, Sarom suddenly reached into his bag and pulled out a grenade, and moved towards a classroom full of students. The windows of the classroom were barred, so the students were trapped.

Fernando stepped behind Sarom and grabbed him to prevent him from throwing the grenade.

“Let me go, teacher; I do not want to kill you,” Sarom pleaded. But he dropped the grenade, and it fell behind him and Fernando, exploding and killing the Jesuit, who fell over Sarom, protecting him and everyone else in the school from the blast.

Just four days before he died, Fernando had written a long letter to his friend and fellow Jesuit, Totet Banaynal SJ: “I know where my heart is. It is with Jesus Christ, who gave all for the poor, the sick, the orphan ... I am confident that God never forgets his people: our disabled brothers and sisters. And I am glad that God has been using me to make sure that our brothers and sisters know this fact. I am convinced that this is my vocation.”

He had also once written about death in a retreat diary, in which he said: “I wish, when I die, people remember not how great, powerful, or talented I was, but that I served and spoke for the truth, I gave witness to what is right, I was sincere in all my works and actions, in other words, I loved and followed Christ.” In 1997, Fernando’s parents wrote to King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, asking pardon for Sarom. Again, Sarom said he had never wanted to kill Fernando, who he considered a friend.

While the Philippines is a Catholic-majority country, the island nation only claims two canonized saints thus far, both of whom died in the 17th century: St. Lorenzo Ruiz, a martyr of Nagasaki, and St. Pedro Calungsod, a martyr of Guam.

However, numerous causes have been opened in recent years, with many people in the various steps of the process of canonization.

On July 31, the feast of Jesuit founder St. Ignatius of Loyola, Moreno said Fernando is among many Jesuits who have imitated Saint Ignatius, “offering themselves in the self-sacrificing service of God and his people.”

In his memo to the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus, Moreno noted that “various expressions of devotion to Richie have sprung up and continued, not just in the Philippines and Cambodia but in other places as well.”

This includes a Facebook group in his honor, named: “Friends of Bro. Richie R. Fernando SJ.”

The next step for Fernando’s cause involves building a compelling case for his life of virtue through his writings, talks, and interviews with those who knew him, among other things.

“I ask the prayers of all in the Province to beg the Lord’s gracious assistance in this process that, if he so wills, it may prosper for the benefit of his people,” Moreno said.





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Worship & Fellowship

Tuesday

6-7 p.m.
Rosary &
Praise & Worship
English.
7-8pm
Healing with Oil,
Bible Study,
Fellowship

Wednesday

10 a.m. Rosary
In Arabic

1st Wednesday

Young @ Heart
Potluck following
the Rosary

Eucharistic
Adoration DAILY
from 7AM to
6PM.

**Sign up (White
Application
Form) for ½ an
hour with Jesus
in Eucharistic
Adoration**

Daily 7am-6pm

**Prayer Daily at
3pm**

**Joanna Pollard
(702) 278-6549**



HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

WEEKEND

Saturday 4:30pm May 5

Darrin Ceska
+Claudia Calatrava
+Lolita Lalas
+Lourde Albitos

Sunday 9:30am May 6

*Roma Penuela
Hilda Johnson
Emiliana Carin
Nimitz Falcon
+Alexander Duldulao (40 days)

Sunday 11:30 am

+Nadim Koubbage (40 days)

Sunday 4:30 pm Spanish

+Christian Martinez



DAILY 8AM

MONDAY May 7

Faithful Departed

TUESDAY May 8

*Roma Paula Penuela

*Ellie Bonifacio

WEDNESDAY May 9

Unborn Babies

THURSDAY May 10

+John Rohlin (Mike's Dad)

FRIDAY May 11

Healing of the Sick

PRAY FOR THE SICK

NUESTRO NOTICIAS DE LA COMUNIDAD ESPAÑOLA

El Grupo Guadalupano de la Iglesia
de San Charbel

Te invita a que asistas a la Misa y El Rosario
que se celebran el primer domingo
cada mes comenzado,

DIA: Domingo 6 de Mayo del 2018

HORA: Rosario 4:30pm Misa

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