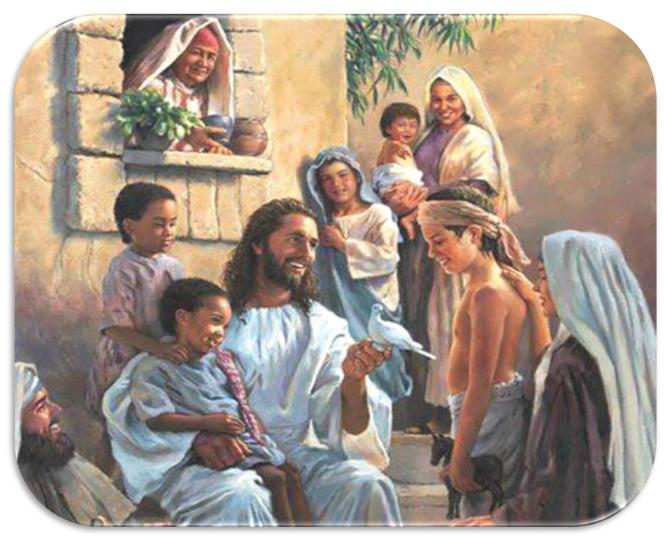


Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church Las Vegas

4th Sunday of the Holy Cross



October 2018

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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

<u>1st Sunday : </u>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

<u>Office hours</u> Mon – Fri 9:00 – 3:00

10325 RANCHO DESTINO RD. LAS VEGAS NV 89183 <u>PHONE</u>: 702-616-6902 FAX: 702-616-4032.

stsharbel.lv@gmail.com www.stsharbellasvegas.org

October 2018 Page 2

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS The Faithful Servant

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 GOSPEL: Matthew 24:45-51

Our Gospel passage taken from Matthew tells how "bosses" must behave or else...

The passage has two characters: the "good servant" who knows how to care for those who put under their care. There is also the "bad servant" who mistreats other employees and forsake their duties. The story goes on to tell of the justice and punishment held out for these two servants. What we will reflect on is an extended version of how the other servants behave.

Let's do a time warp and fly from Israel in 30 AD to in Australia in the year 2005. We are working in an office with 30 people, each sitting at their computer monitor, clicking the mouse away...

We've just received news that our boss is on long service leave for 6 weeks and they've replaced him with Ms. Jones, a 45-year old female colleague. She had been pretty ordinary from what you know having worked on an assignment with her. So how would you make her feel in her new position?

Some will suck up; others will want to test her ability; other patiently wait for her downfall; others grumble that they should have given the position; others can't believe it's a woman; perhaps a few think she's soft and so they play the system; there may be others who think she's a good choice and encourage her along; others half-heartedly support her; while others couldn't care less. The following quote might suggest the wisest way we should behave to others of different position:

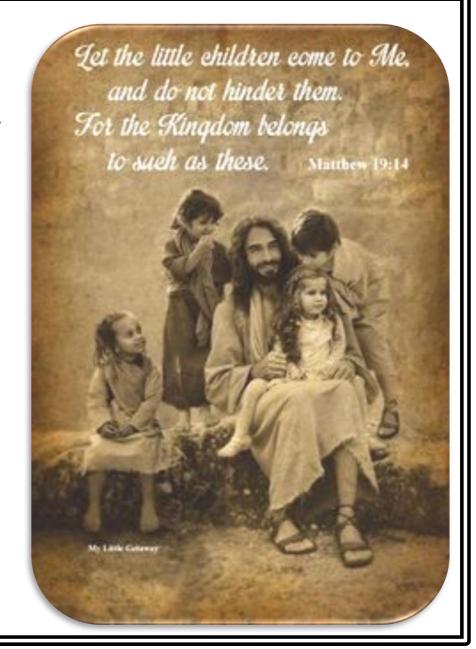
To your friend – loyalty
To you enemy – forgiveness
To you work – dedication
To a child – a good example
To your parents – gratitude & devotion
To your life partner – love & faithfulness

When Jesus tells a story, He leaves it open to interpretation. The good and the bad servants are only leading us into our lives. We are called then to reflect on how do we behave in authority and how we behave towards others in authority. We can make or break others. Do we allow others to grow in their calling from God? Are we treating God's workers as God would want us to? Amen.

Rev. Fr. Nadim Abou Zeid

The Cradle of Life and Love

Today's liturgical readings remind us that the family is the first and basic institution of human society. Its nature and purpose are inscribed in the very makeup of man and woman who are incomplete in themselves. This is why they need the help of "the other half" to reach their full potentials and satisfy their affective, emotional, physical needs. Unfortunately, sin has sown in many families the seeds of selfishness and unfaithfulness, which lead to most painful breakups. Jesus, who came to restore all aspects of our life to their original integrity, reminds us today of God's plan for the human family and enjoins all to keep it the way God designed it to be. Thus let us remember in our prayers all families.



Paul VI, Archbishop Romero Among Those to be Canonized October 14, 2018

The Vatican announced October 2, 2018, that on Sunday, October 14, 2018, at 10:15 a.m. the Mass for canonization of seven blessed will be held in the Vatican Basilica. Those being canonized are: Paul VI (Giovanni Battista Montini), Supreme Pontiff; Oscar Arnulfo Romero Galdámez, archbishop of San Salvador, martyr; Francesco Spinelli, diocesan priest, founder of the Institute of the Sisters Adorers of the Most Holy Sacrament; Vincenzo Romano, diocesan priest; Maria Katharina Kasper, virgin, founder of the Institute of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ; Nazaria Ignacia de Santa Teresa de Jesús (née: Nazaria Ignacia March Mesa), founder of the Congregation of the Missionary Crusaders of the Church; Nunzio Sulprizio, a young Italian layperson.

MARONITE MARRIAGE OF THE 'MULTITUDES' Lebanese patriarch presides over 41-couple sacrament.

Under an open sun-setting sky on the sprawling grounds of Bkerke, the Maronite Catholic patriarchate in Lebanon, 41 couples were married in a collective wedding, receiving the apostolic blessing for their marriages.

One by one, each bride arrived in a white luxury car, adorned with a bouquet of flowers. Waiting with anticipation, each groom opened the door to greet his bride, and, together, they walked toward the altar on a red carpet, beneath a canopy of pink and white balloons and cascades of matching flowers.

As they took their places, seated semi-circle facing the altar, the soon-to-be-wed couples chatted together and with other couples as they waited for all the brides and grooms to be seated and for the arrival of their patriarch, Cardinal Bechara Rai, who would concelebrate the Rite of Marriage with four bishops and a group of priests.

The annual collective wedding tradition at Bkerke began in 2009 with nine couples. Each year, more couples participate. Now, after this year's Sept. 2 ceremony, 240 couples have been married.

The Maronite League, a nonprofit Lebanese organization whose mission is to support the Maronite identity and presence in Lebanon and in the world, arranges every detail of the collective wedding.

"We try to make the couples feel as much as possible that it's their own personal wedding," said George El Hajj, a member of the league's committee in charge of organizing the wedding. Each bride and groom invite as many guests to the ceremony as they wish, averaging about 100 family and friends for each couple. In his homily during Sunday's ceremony, Cardinal Rai told the 41 couples, "It's a great, joyful day for the Church, the community and the country."

"It's a joyful day for the Church because you are receiving the holy sacrament for marriage and family life. It's a joy for the (Christian) community because a new family has proclaimed love and happiness at a time when only pain and anxiety is being heard. Our community needs families full of love and faith. And it's a joy for Lebanon because each couple is a piece of the mosaic of a great country. That's the meaning of this mass wedding at Bkerke."

The cardinal thanked the Maronite League for organizing and raising the funds for the wedding.

"I'm asking God to bless you with his blessings and a great future," Cardinal Rai told the couples. "I include prayers to the Blessed Mother, the patron of Bkerke, to be with you all throughout your married life and for you to be faithful to the Blessed Mother."

"I'm asking God to be with you and to bestow you with fruitful and abundant love and happiness," he added.

"Marriage is a sacred vocation," the patriarch reminded the couples.

"You will express it in a few minutes with the words 'I do.' You are saying 'Yes' to God, who is uniting you; 'Yes' to the Church, because you will continue in your married life following the Church and having the Bible as your guide," the patriarch advised.

Each couple then stood individually before the patriarch and pronounced their acceptance of the sacrament of marriage and received the apostolic blessing from the patriarch.

Gathered again at their seats, Cardinal Rai blessed the group of newlyweds. Facing each couple, their accompanying diocesan priest assisted with the ring exchange and also blessed the couple.



As part of their preparation for the sacrament of marriage, each couple had pre-Cana sessions with their diocesan priest. In addition, the collective group had a session with the patriarch and several sessions with two Maronite priests whose ministry includes married and about-to-be-married couples from the Maronite League's collective wedding.

Maronite Father Paul Deccache has been participating in the Maronite League's collective weddings for seven years now.

"I love this ministry," he told the Register.

"These couples feel that the Church is really close to them, that the Church takes care of them," Father Deccache explained.

"At the Maronite League, we focus on the spiritual and moral aspects of the marriage," said El Hajj.

Aside from the economic help in covering the ceremony expenses — including the bridal (rental) gown, the groom's suit, flowers, wedding car and photographer — as well as a \$2,000 financial gift to each couple, the Maronite League aims to help foster faithful Christian families through the collective weddings, El Hajj explained.

The Maronite League continues its close ties with the couples throughout their marriage, providing subsequent support, such as helping to find employment if there is job loss. El Hajj cited a recent example in which a couple with three children, expecting their fourth, were facing financial difficulties. The league helped the couple economically.

As an incentive to plan a family, the Maronite League provides newlyweds with health insurance for the first year that covers the birth of a baby and health insurance discounts thereafter.

Ahead of their wedding, speaking to the Register at the rehearsal at Bkerke, Saba Kozah, 30, and his bride-to-be, Narimane Saleh, 27, said their friends got married at the collective ceremony two years ago and said it was "very beautiful" and also a big financial help to the couple.

"So we decided to get married here, too," said Kozah, who is a sergeant in the Lebanese army.

"It's something really precious to get married by the patriarch," said Saleh, who heads a department at a learning center. "It's not like any wedding," she added. "Everyone is part of the wedding, and the preparations — everything is very special."

Kozah pointed to their Maronite heritage. "Our ancestors sacrificed a lot, from the oldest generations 400 years ago. To get married here at the patriarchate, it really means a lot."

"Our faith is very important to us," his bride added. "Without faith, we can do nothing."

She admitted she was "excited and nervous at the same time."

As for their dreams for the future, the groom said: "To be happy," with his bride adding, "We want to make a good family."

When asked how many children the couple would like to have, the couple responded in unison, "We leave it in God's hands."

Joseph Sokhen, 30, who also serves in the Lebanese army, and Samar Fakher, 27, who works in accounting at Telelumiere, Lebanon's Christian TV station, met eight years ago at the annual birthday festival of Lebanon's St. Charbel in Bekaa Kafra in the north of Lebanon.

"It was love at first sight," Sokhen told the Register at the wedding rehearsal about his bride-to-be, who shyly giggled at the memory.

"I hope for us to have a healthy life, a good life and so many kids," Sokhen said, adding that he would like to name their first son Charbel.

"We are so honored because the patriarch will give us the apostolic blessing," his bride said.

"St. Charbel is very special to us," Fakher added. "He brought us together."

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

Man and woman are not intended to live in isolation. (See Gn 2:18.) As social beings, they are meant for social life, communication, friendship, communion As sexual beings, man and woman are complementary and meant to propagate and perpetuate their own selves in an everexpanding chain of new members of the human species. In God's plan, marriage is the unbreakable covenant of love in which one man and one woman fulfill their social, affective and sexual needs. It is the foundation of the family, the basic form of human society. Every family should be a reflection of God's creative and caring love. It is within their own family that people are expected to be instruments and recipients of God's love in all its wonderful features: lifegiving, full of care, ever open to accept and appreciate the "other," ready to give one's best and to forgive even the worst. All this starts with husband and wife, but does not end with them. Together, through the oneness and communion they create, they become the "sacraments" of the Lord's love also for the other members of the family, especially their children. Completing the circle, the children should be the "sacraments" of God's love for their parents and for one another. St. Paul spells out this truth in very concrete terms (see especially Col 3:18-21), and the Church - under the guidance of the Holy Spirit – has come to realize ever more clearly the sanctifying role of the family. But marriage and family, like all other human realities, bear the consequences of original sin and sin in general.

This terrible, destructive force relentlessly tries to tear apart what God's plan has united. All the worst tendencies of the wounded human nature - jealousy, sensuality, unfaithfulness, possessiveness . . . coupled with the bad example from the environment, continually threaten to destroy the harmony of even the best families. Under the violence of such attacks, the Christian couples should always be mindful of the grace of the sacrament that has bound them to each other as Christ is bound to the Church. That grace needs to be "activated" through faith, prayer, and faithfulness to the commitments undertaken. The mutual duties of sincere love, acceptance, assistance, encouragement, forgiveness . . . have to be fulfilled with constant generosity. *Every family* has to learn to kneel down in prayer and to go to God together. Regardless of what may have come to pass the day before, every dawn must usher in a "newness" that heals the wounds of the past and reaches out beyond the present clouds and storms. Then, every Christian family will really be a "little Church," a lovely place to be in, and an inspiration for others to follow. The witness which a real Christian family can offer is one of the best gifts to the Church and society at large.

Monegasque princess removed from British line of succession for becoming Catholic

Princess Alexandra of Hanover, a member of the royal family of Monaco, has reportedly been removed from her distant place in the British line of succession after having become a Catholic.

The news was reported in English Sept. 27 by Royal Central, which cited Point de Vue, a French weekly.

Because the British monarch is head of the Church of England, which is the established church, British law bars Catholics from succeeding to the throne.

The Succession to the Crown Act 2013 allowed heirs to the throne to marry Catholics, among other changes. However, the law still stipulates that the acting British sovereign mustn't be a Catholic. Catholics have been barred from the English throne since the Act of Settlement 1701.

The website of the British monarchy lists only the first 17 persons in the line of succession.

Princess Alexandra, 19, was born in Austria and was baptized as a Lutheran two months after her birth. She is the daughter of Caroline, Princess of Hanover and Prince Ernst August of Hanover. Through her father she is descended from Victoria, Princess Royal, the eldest child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

Alexandra is the granddaughter of Grace Kelly, who in 1956 became Princess of Monaco when she married Rainier III.



Princess
Alexandra of
Hanover at the
Rose Ball 2018
in Monte Carlo,
Monaco

So in addition to having been in the British line of succession, Alexandra is 12th in line to the Monegasque throne.

She is a figure skater, and has represented Monaco at international skating competitions.

Along with Alexandra, Lord Nicholas Windsor has also been excluded from the British line of succession for becoming Catholic. Lord Nicholas is a great-grandson of George V, and was baptized in the Church of England. He was received into the Catholic Church in 2001.

BEAUTIFUL FACES & PLACES



Congratulations to Mimi & Eduard Karam on their 50^{th} wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to Adriel & Jois Gutierrez on the baptism of their baby Axl Gabriel



First Wednesday Young @ Heart potluck following Rosary. God Bless them all



Congratulations to Jim & Katia Tomey on their Daughter's Wedding



Congratulations to Oscar & Elsie Rivadilo on their 50th Anniversary



Class Reunion pilgrimage to St. Sharbel

COMMUNITY LIFE

- **1.First Friday Youth Gathering @ 6 pm**: Movie God's Not Dead& Potluck.
- 2.Praying the Holy Rosary for PEACE on Earth this weekend:

Before Mass on Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 9 am & 11 am & 4:30 pm

- 3.Tuesday Movie @ 6 pm: Behind the Sun (Converting to Christianity) & Potluck
- **4.Arabian Night Extravagance:** @ Bally's Ballroom on November 17 at 8 pm, special price \$75 original \$95.



Our Annual Festival News

Donations:

Cans of Soda

& bottles of

water





6 DAYS





Support your Church





Handy man, Cleaning, Kitchen,

Electrician Etc...
Setting up (Thur. & Fri.), breaking
down (Sun.@ 9 pm and Mon. @ 7 am)

Contact Jason (702) 561-7517 Zenia (702) 588-8815 October 2018 Page 7

REJOICE FRANCISCANS WE HAVE A NEW BLESSED! BLESSED VERONICA ANTAL,OFS

A 22-year-old Romanian peasant has taken a step closer to sainthood as a "martyr to chastity," six decades after she was murdered while resisting rape during the communist-era repression of the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, said Veronica Antal's fate was similar to that of persecuted Christians in ancient Rome, who had asked the same question: "Who will separate us from the love of God?"

Antal, a lay Franciscan (Secular Franciscan) who died in 1958, was the first Romanian woman to be beatified and first Romanian layperson formally honored as a martyr from the time of communist rule.

Becciu beatified her Sept. 23 at Assumption Church at Nisiporesti, Romania.

Born Dec. 7, 1935, the oldest of four children in Romania's Moldavia province, Antal was taught the faith by her grandmother. Each day Antal walked five miles to Mass in the nearest church at Halaucesti. At age 17, she took vows of chastity as a Franciscan tertiary.

Unable to become a nun because all religious orders had been suppressed by the communists, she created a prayer cell near her parents' house, from where she visited the sick and needy and helped prepare children for confirmation.

On the evening of Aug. 24, 1958, Antal stayed to sweep the church after a Mass. As she was walking home alone, praying the rosary, she was attacked by a neighbor, who stabbed her 42 times when she refused sex and left her to die in a cornfield.

Although her grave at Halaucesti's cemetery immediately became a place of pilgrimage, a beatification process was launched by the Conventual Franciscans only after the 1989 collapse of communist rule, using material secretly stored by Franciscan Father Anton Demeter.

The televised beatification Mass, concelebrated by 350 priests and bishops from Romania, Italy and Hungary, was attended by Antal's brother and sister and former neighbors.

Preaching to the congregation, which included a delegation from Romania's predominant Orthodox Church, Cardinal Becciu said Antal had prayed for all persecution victims in her makeshift prayer cell and offered an example of "serenity and courage" to contemporary young people.

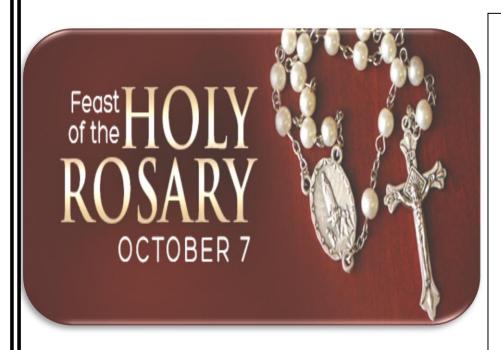
"The communist regime claimed to eliminate God; (it) destroyed churches and formed young generations for atheism, but could not erase faith from the hearts of many families," the cardinal said.

"The beatification of this 22-year-old is a happy occasion to confirm the Catholic community's mission in this country — to preserve and transmit the heritage of faith and attachment to human and spiritual values with new courage and missionary impetus."

Beatification is one of the final steps toward sainthood. A miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Antal would be needed before she could be declared a saint.



Blessed Veronica Antal, OFS 1935 - 1958



Praying the Holy Rosary for PEACE on Earth this weekend:

Sat. 4 pm Sun. 9 am & 11 am & 4:30 pm (Spanish)

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Mariereine Absi

mariereine58@yahoo.

com

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 <u>Arabic</u>

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





FILIPINO NEWS

Sr. Fox asks Church's support as she faces deporation

Embattled Sister Patricia Fox has asked the Catholic hierarchy to stand behind missionaries in prayers and support as she faces deportation.

The Australian nun, whose missionary visa was no longer renewed by the Bureau of Immigration (BI), said her case may affect other missionaries.

"I think it is an issue that the Church has to look at and it needs to come out with a clear statement because it will affect all foreign missionaries in the long term," Fox said.

She said it has been a long time practice by all foreign missionaries in the Philippines to apply for a 10-year missionary visa, and is subject for renewal after getting a temporary downgraded visa.

In denying to extend Fox's visa, the BI cited its memorandum of agreement with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines which "restricts missionary visa holders for up to 10 years".

Fox has earlier appealed for the renewal of her missionary visa after it expired on September 5.

The Bureau insisted that extending the nun's visa would violate the agreement, adding that Fox had already spent 27 years in the country.

"When you apply, you need endorsement from the CBCP. I have my endorsement from the CBCP. That means that the CBCP is not insisting that it is not only for a 10-year term," said Fox. Lawyers Jobert Pahilga refuted the BI's claim, saying that the 10-year extension and renewal rule should only apply to Fox's case on the day the Bureau converted her tourist visa on Sept. 5, 2014.

"[When] the BI approved the conversion of Sister Fox's tourist visa into a missionary visa, she was given a new or a fresh period of 10 years from the said date or until 2024 to stay in the country," he said.

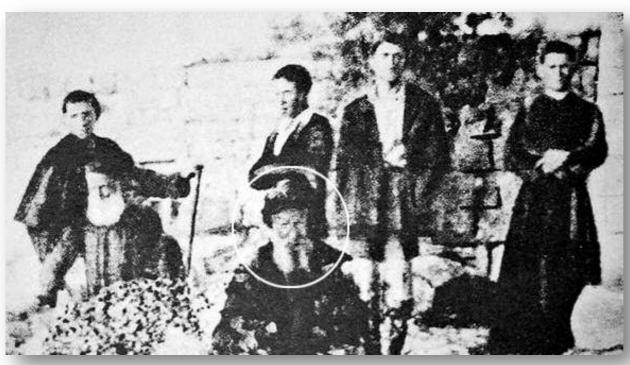
The 72-year-old nun has been ordered deported from the Philippines for allegedly joining partisan political activities, violating the "limitations and conditions" of her missionary visa.

Sr. Fox has also been placed on the blacklist of undesirable aliens.

But the BI's deportation order against Fox had been temporarily stalled after she filed a motion for reconsideration before the Department of Justice.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the BI order will have to await the DOJ's resolution on the appeal.

Sandoval said they may grant Fox the Temporary Visitor's Visa upon downgrading, without prejudice to the resolution of her appeal to the DOJ on her deportation.



SAINT SHARBEL MIRACULOUS APPARITION

From the time Saint Charbel entered the monastery, no one except his fellow monks saw his face, nor did anyone take his photo. On May 8, 1950, four Maronite Catholic priests from Scranton, Penn., were on a pilgrimage to Saint Maroun's Monastery in Annaya, Mount Lebanon, to visit Saint Charbel's tomb. One of their number, Father George Webby, took a photo of the four Maronite Catholic priests and the guard on duty outside the monastery. When Father Webby developed the photo, he noticed an additional person with a white beard standing in the middle of the photo with the other priests.

He immediately went to the monastery to ask the monks if they recognized the "mystery" person in the photo. All the older monks, who had known Father Charbel in his later years, convincingly attested that it was indeed Saint Charbel. Experts ruled out trick photography. Coincidentally, the date the photo was taken, May 8th, was Saint Charbel's birthday.

All subsequent photos and portraits of Saint Charbel have been based on the photo taken by Father George Webby, including the photos and portraits displayed at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome during his beatification and canonization.

WEEKEND

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS DAILY 8AM

Saturday 4:30pm *Oct 6*

Thanksgiving to our Mother Mary for the Holy Rosary

Sunday 9:30am Oct 7
Lisette DaSilva

Sunday 11:30 am Unity of Families

Sunday 4:30 pm Spanish

Unidad y bendición para todas las familias.



PRAY FOR THE SICK

MONDAY *Oct* 8 Children of the World

TUESDAY Oct 9

Healing of the Sick

WEDNESDAY Oct 10

Peace in the World

THURSDAY Oct 11

Unborn Babies

FRIDAY Oct 12

Our Annual Festival

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,

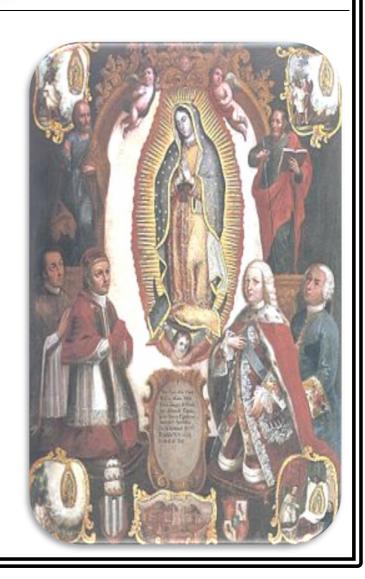
DIA: Domingo 7 de Octubre del 2018

HORA: Rosario 4:30pm Misa

DONDE: Iglesia Catolica de San Charbel 10325 Rancho Destino Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89183

Despues de la Misa te invitamos a que nos acompañes a una pequeña recepcion donde compartiremos: café, postres, y bocadillos con todos los asistentes.

Si tienes alguna duda communicate con: Oficina de la Iglesia 702-616-6902





11TH ANNUAL

2018 OCT.

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www.UnitedBloodServices.org

EBANESE AMERICAN FESTIVAL

13

14



THE HANGOVER EXPERTS

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