



Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



August 31-September 1, 2019

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



SOWER AND THE SEED REFLECTION

By Hannah Brockhaus Vatican
City

On Sunday, Pope Francis said that in the parable of the seed and the sower Jesus invites us to reclaim the 'soil' of our hearts by bringing to him, in prayer and Confession, the stones and thorns in need of healing. "Jesus invites us today to look inward: to give thanks for our good ground and to work on the ground not yet good," he said July 16. "Let us ask ourselves if our heart is open to welcome with faith the seed of the Word of God. Let us ask ourselves if the rocks of laziness are still large and numerous within us; we identify and we call by name the brambles of our vices."

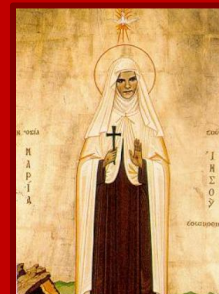
"We find the courage to make a beautiful reclamation of the land, bringing to the Lord in Confession and in prayer our stones and our stumps. In doing so, Jesus, a good sower, will be happy to do an extra work: to purify our hearts, removing the stones and thorns that stifle his Word." Pope Francis addressed the crowds in St. Peter's Square before leading the Angelus Sunday, reflecting on the day's Gospel of the Parable of the Sower and the Seeds. When Jesus used parables, he noted, as in today's Gospel, he uses simple language and imagery from everyday life to help explain the mystery of the Kingdom of God in terms that can "easily be understood by everyone." "That's why they listened willingly and appreciated

his message that came straight to their heart." In the parable, we know that Jesus is the sower, and in this image he doesn't impose, but proposes, the Pope said. He throws the seed, attracting us not by conquering us, but by giving himself to us. And this seed, "how can it bear fruit?" he asked. "If we welcome him." "Therefore the parable concerns above all us: it speaks, in

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The proud person is like a grain of wheat thrown into water: it swells, it gets big. Expose that grain to the fire: it dries up, it burns. The humble soul is like a grain of wheat thrown into the earth: it descends, it hides itself, it disappears, it dies; but to revive in heaven."

*Saint Mary of Jesus
Crucified "The Little Arab"*



Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Fr. David Fisher, Weekend Assistant

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

fact, of the soil rather than of the sower. Jesus performs, so to speak, a 'spiritual radiography' of our heart, which is the ground upon which the seed of the Word falls." "Our heart, like soil, can be good and then the Word brings so much fruit, but it can also be hard, impermeable. This happens when we hear the Word, but it bounces off of us just like on a road: it does not enter," he said. He pointed out that between the good soil and the road of asphalt or 'sanpietrini' – the name of the rounded cobblestones that can be found in St. Peter's Square and around Rome – there are two intermediate terrains: the stony and the thorny. In the stony ground the seed germinates, but doesn't put down deep roots, the Pope said. "So is the superficial heart that welcomes the Lord, wants to pray, love and testify, but does not persevere, tends to wear and never "takes off". It is a thick heart, where the rocks of laziness prevail over the good land, where love is inconsistent and passable." What do the thorns in the thorny ground represent? "The world's concern and the seduction of wealth', so Jesus says explicitly," he said. We all have these brambles in our hearts, such as making idols out of worldly wealth or power, or only living for ourselves. "You need to tear them away, otherwise the Word will not bear fruit, Francis emphasized. July 16 is also the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The Pope concluded his message by saying that the Blessed Virgin Mary is "unsurpassed in welcoming the Word of God and putting it into practice." May she help you "to purify your heart and preserve the presence of the Lord."

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/jesus-not-only-sows-the-seed-hell-pull-the-thorns-pope-francis-says-78267>

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 4, at 6:30 PM, there will be a parish council meeting at the Church hall. Please make every attempt to attend as this will be the final meeting before I leave and details for upcoming events need to be finalized. If you are unable to attend, please email Fr. Vince at the office.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00 PM, there will be a finance council meeting at the Church hall. Please make every attempt to attend this meeting as we await the arrival of Fr. Habib. If you are unable to attend, please email Fr. Vincent at the office.

NEW OFFICE HOURS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2019

Effective October 1, 2019, the Church office will begin with the following new office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10:00am – 4:00pm. The office will be closed on Mondays.

APPRECIATION MASS AND DINNER FOR POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS, AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Friday, September 13, 2019, Saint Maron Church will honor our brothers and sisters of the police, fire, and first responders, with a Mass and dinner. Divine Liturgy will be held at 12:00 noon, followed by reception from 1:00 PM-8:00 PM. Food will be provided by local restaurants and Saint Maron Church. Members of the parish council and Denise Eddis will be organizing this event. We will rely on your help. We are also taking donations for soda's and bottled water for approximately 150 people. These fine men and women sacrifice their lives for us, and we want them to know how much we appreciate all they do. Please join us in this effort.

PARISH PICNIC SECOND COLLECTIONS

Our parish picnic/BBQ will be held on **Sunday, September 8**, immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church hall. In an effort to help with the costs of the food, we will be having second collections for that purpose beginning Sunday, July 28. More details will follow as we get closer to the date. Thank you for your help.

DAY OF SERVICE CHANGED TO SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7

As we prepare to begin the new year for CCD and to prepare for your next pastor's arrival, I am asking for volunteers to help with a day of cleaning, painting, and organizing in the Church hall on **Saturday, September 7, from 10:00AM-5:00PM**. I am asking all CCD teachers to come as well to prepare your rooms and to refresh them so that they are ready for September when classes begin. **Please notify the office if you are able to attend and help with this Day of Service for the Church.**

MYO REGISTRATION AND MEETING

All MYO members must be registered by Sunday, September 1, 2019, for the 2019-2020 CCD program year. The fees for the MYO class will be \$50.00 each child due to the program the use of special guest speakers that will be part of this exciting program. The first meeting for the MYO will be held on Sunday, September 15. This class meeting will be held in the Church by Fr. Vincent. **Parents are to register, read, and sign the guidelines for the MYO program no later than September 1.** A meeting will be scheduled with advisors and parents on Sunday, September 15.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, August 31, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Abda) liturgy is being offered for the parishioners of Saint Maron Church.

Sunday, September 1, @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of St. Simon the Stylite) liturgy is being offered for the parishioners of Saint Maron Church.

Saturday, September 7, @ 6:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Sandy Steinhilber requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, September 8, @ 11:00 AM, (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) liturgy is being offered for the soul of Albert Anderson requested by Rosemarie Marrone and Family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Tanios Zeinoun requested by Dany and Rania Cherfane and family. May his soul rest in peace.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

OCTOBER MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

On Sunday, October 6, Fr. Habib will lead the rosary at 10:30 AM, prior to Divine Liturgy. As we begin the Month of the Rosary honoring our Blessed Mother for her protection, we welcome Fr. Habib as he begins his new ministry at Saint Maron Church. May our Lady protect Fr. Habib and the community of Saint Maron Church always.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Police, Firefighters, and First Responders Appreciation Mass and Dinner, Friday, September 13, 2019, at 12:00 Noon.** Dinner reception will follow immediately following Divine Liturgy at 1:00 PM. Saint Maron Church and Hall.
- **St. Sharbel Church, Newtown Square PA,** will host their annual festival, on Friday, September 13, 2019 (4:00PM – 11:00P) Saturday, September 14, 2019 (12:00PM – 11:00PM) and Sunday, September 15, 2019 (1:00PM – 9:00PM). The Church address is 3679 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073. Please mark your calendars.
- **Fall Hafli Beef and Beer Dance to the Oldies Night,** Saturday, October 19, 7:00 PM – Midnight. Hot roast beef and pulled pork sandwiches, beer, and DJ Gio, playing oldies but goodies music.
- **Saint Jude Novena, October 20-28,** ending with a pasta dinner after the final novena on October 28.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR August 24-25, 2019

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Collection | \$ 1,183.00 |
| Picnic 2nd Col. | \$ 196.00 |
| Coffee | \$ 24.00 |
| Total: | \$ 1,403.00 |

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Eddie Tayoun, Martha Simon Casella, Ben Uzzo, Manirva Labbad, Dante Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, Anthony Leuzzi, Ann O'Mara, Carol Krestos, Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey, Chucky Simon, Michael Winter, Kevin McCrea, Fran LoCastro, Kevin Khoury, Mirta Ruiz, Tina Grassi, Rita Impo, Lisa and Henry Schaffer, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Raja Kaldany, Lucy DiLuce, Cat Niven Glaze, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Emily Stone, Roseann Anthony, Elaine Nader, Eddie Gussin, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Amine Skaf, Yasmine Myers, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeir, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Helen Freedenberg, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al Sawa, Rose De Jesse, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedenberg, Noel Andjuhar, Angel Salerno, Dennis McGiney, and Bonnie Sabatini. We ask Almighty God to bless them with good health so that they may join us in the Church and give glory and thanksgiving to God. Please notify the Church office of any family member who is ill so that we may remember them in our daily prayers and on our altar of intentions.



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE YOUR CELL
PHONES AND BEEPERS WHEN YOU ENTER THE
CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.**

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Saint Maron

Maronite Catholic Church



August 31 – September 1, 2019

First Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-11

A reading from the First letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الأولى إلى أهل قورنتس

يا إِخْوَتِي، أَنَا، لَمْ أَسْتَطِعْ أَنْ أَكَلِّمَكُم كَأَناسٍ رُوحَانِيَّينَ بَلْ كَأَناسٍ جَسَدِيَّينَ، كَأَطْفَالٍ فِي الْمَسِيحِ. قَدْ غَذَوْتُكُمْ بِالْحَلِيبِ لَا بِالطَّعَامِ، لِأَنَّكُمْ لَمْ تَكُونُوا بَعْدُ قَادِرِينَ، وَلَا حَتَّى الْآنَ أَنْتُمْ قَادِرُونَ. فَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَزَالُونَ أَنَاسًا جَسَدِيَّينَ: فَمَا دَامَ بَيْنَكُمْ حَسَدٌ وَخِصَامٌ، أَفَلَا تَكُونُونَ جَسَدِيَّينَ، وَسُلُوكًا جَسَدِيًّا تَسْلُكُونَ؟ فَإِذَا كَانَ أَحَدُكُمْ يَقُولُ: أَنَا لِبُولُسَ! وَآخَرُ: أَنَا لِبُولُسَ! أَفَلَا تَكُونُونَ جَسَدِيَّينَ؟ فَمَا هُوَ أَبُولُسُ؟ وَمَا هُوَ بُولُسُ؟ هُمَا خَادِمَانِ آمَنْتُمْ عَلَى أَيْدِيهِمَا، عَلَى قَدْرِ مَا أَعْطَى الرَّبُّ كُلًّا مِنْهُمَا. أَنَا غَرَسْتُ، وَأَبُولُسُ سَقَى، وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الَّذِي كَانَ يُنْمِي. فَلَا الْغَارِسُ بِشَيْءٍ وَلَا السَّاقِي، بَلِ اللَّهُ الَّذِي يُنْمِي! لَكِنَّ الْغَارِسَ وَالسَّاقِي وَاحِدٌ، وَكُلُّ مِنْهُمَا يَأْخُذُ أَجْرَهُ عَلَى قَدْرِ تَعَبِهِ. فَنَحْنُ مُعَاوِنَانِ لِلَّهِ، وَأَنْتُمْ حَقْلُ اللَّهِ وَبِنَاءُ اللَّهِ. وَأَنَا بِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الَّتِي وَهَبْتُ لِي، وَضَعْتُ الْأَسَاسَ كِبْنَاءً حَكِيمًا، لَكِنَّ آخَرَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ: فَلْيَنْظُرْ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَيْفَ يَبْنِي عَلَيْهِ! فَمَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يُمَكِّنُهُ أَنْ يَضَعَ أَسَاسًا آخَرَ غَيْرَ الْأَسَاسِ الْمَوْضُوعِ، وَهُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ. وَالتَّسْبِيحُ لِلَّهِ دَائِمًا.

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 8:1-15

The Apostle Writes:

Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources. When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.' As he said this, he called out, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand." 'Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

مِنْ إِنْجِيلِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا

أَخَذَ يَسُوعُ يَطُوفُ الْمُدُنَ وَالْقُرَى، يُنَادِي وَيُبَشِّرُ بِمَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ، وَمَعَهُ اثْنَا عَشَرَ، وَبَعْضُ النِّسَاءِ اللَّوَاتِي شَفَاهُنَّ مِنْ أَرْوَاحٍ شَرِيرَةٍ وَأَمْرَاضٍ، هُنَّ: مَرْيَمُ الْمَدْعُوءَةُ بِالْمَجْدَلِيَّةِ، الَّتِي كَانَ قَدْ خَرَجَ مِنْهَا سَبْعَةُ شَيَاطِينٍ، وَحَنَّةُ امْرَأَةِ خُوزَى وَكِيلِ هِيرُودُسَ، وَسُوسَنَةُ، وَغَيْرُهُنَّ كَثِيرَاتٌ كُنَّ يَبْذُلْنَ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِنَّ فِي خِدْمَتِهِمْ. وَلَمَّا أَحْتَشَدَ جَمْعٌ كَثِيرٌ، وَأَقْبَلَ النَّاسُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَدِينَةٍ، خَاطَبَهُمْ بِمَثَلٍ: «خَرَجَ الزَّارِعُ لِيَزْرَعَ زَرْعَهُ. وَفِيمَا هُوَ يَزْرَعُ، وَقَعَ بَعْضُ الْحَبِّ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ، فَدَاسَتْهُ الْأَقْدَامُ، وَأَكَلَتْهُ طُيُورُ السَّمَاءِ. وَوَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ، وَمَا إِنْ نَبَتَ حَتَّى يَبْسَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ رُطُوبَةٌ. وَوَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي وَسْطِ الشُّوكِ، وَنَبَتَ الشُّوكُ مَعَهُ فَخَنَقَهُ. وَوَقَعَ بَعْضُهُ الْآخَرَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الصَّالِحَةِ، وَنَبَتَ فَأَثْمَرَ مِئَةً ضِعْفٍ. قَالَ يَسُوعُ هَذَا، وَنَادَى: «مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنَانِ سَامِعَتَانِ فَلْيَسْمَعْ.»! «وَسَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ: «مَا تَرَاهُ يَعْني هَذَا الْمَثَلُ؟» فَقَالَ: «قَدْ أُعْطِيَ لَكُمْ أَنْتُمْ أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَسْرَارَ مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ. أَمَّا الْبَاقُونَ فَأَكَلِمُهُمْ بِالْأَمْثَالِ، لِكَيْ يَنْظُرُوا فَلَا يَبْصُرُوا، وَيَسْمَعُوا فَلَا يَفْهَمُوا. وَهَذَا هُوَ مَعْنَى الْمَثَلِ: الْزَّرْعُ هُوَ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ، ثُمَّ يَأْتِي إبْلِيسُ فَيَنْتَزِعُ الْكَلِمَةَ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ، لِئَلَّا يُؤْمِنُوا فَيَخْلُصُوا. وَالَّذِينَ عَلَى الصَّخْرَةِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ وَيَقْبَلُونَهَا بِفَرْحٍ؛ هَؤُلَاءِ لَا أَصْلَ لَهُمْ، فَهُمْ يُؤْمِنُونَ إِلَى حِينٍ، وَفِي وَقْتِ التَّجَرُّبَةِ يَتَرَاجِعُونَ. وَالَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الشُّوكِ هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ وَيَمْضُونَ، فَتَخَنَّقُهُمُ الْهُمُومُ وَالْغَنَى وَمَلَذَاتُ الْحَيَاةِ، فَلَا يَنْضَجُ لَهُمْ ثَمَرٌ. أَمَّا الَّذِي وَقَعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ الْجَيِّدَةِ فَهُمْ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْكَلِمَةَ بِقَلْبٍ جَيِّدٍ صَالِحٍ فَيَحْفَظُونَهَا، وَيَبْثُثُونَ فَيُثْمِرُونَ. حَقًّا وَالْأَمَانُ لَكُمْ جَمِيعًا.»