

Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church



75th ANNIVERSARY

1927-2002



His Holiness the Pope

JOHN PAUL II

Diamond Jubilee

SAINT JOSEPH MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

WATERVILLE, MAINE



75TH ANNIVERSARY

1927 - 2002

COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION

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Dedication

This Commemorative Publication
is Dedicated to

Saint Joseph

Whose Life, Works and Love
of Family has Inspired Us
to Found Our Parish
in His Holy Name.



Letter to Parish



Office of the Bishop
**EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON
OF BROOKLYN**

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23 July 2002
Prot. No. 381/1/02

Father Samuel Najjar
Parishioners of Saint Joseph
3 Appleton Street
Waterville, ME 04901

Dear Father Sam and Parishioners of Saint Joseph:

It gives me great joy to write to you in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Saint Joseph Church. In reading the history of your parish, I am proud to know of the great strides you have made in the growth and development of the Maronite Church in Waterville, Maine. You have a history dating back more than a century. This is certainly a reason to celebrate. Those Maronites who came before you, - your ancestors, - had a vision for the future, allowing our Church to flourish in the heart of New England. You owe a great deal to them, as well as to the Latin Community in Waterville. They provided much in the encouragement of maintaining your heritage.

By the continuous updating, refurbishing and use of the church and its facilities, the Maronites will continue to survive there and make their presence a vital part of the area. Your use today of the former school will assure that the youth, our future, will always pass on from one generation to the next, what your parents and grandparents have given you.

I look forward to celebrating with you on the feast of the Holy Cross, September 14, in rededicating yourselves to the next 75 years. May Our Lord on this feast of his saving cross, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, always be your light and guide you toward the future.

God bless you all and *sharar*.

+ Stephen Hector Doueïhi

✦ Stephen Hector Doueïhi, S.T.D.

Bishop

Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn

Letter to Parish



MOST REVEREND
JOSEPH J. GERRY, O.S.B., PH.D.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP DIOCESE OF PORTLAND

P.O. BOX 11559
PORTLAND, MAINE 04104-7559
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August 19, 2002

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church:

Bishop Cote and I are happy to extend our congratulations and warmest wishes on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of your parish by my predecessor, Bishop John Gregory Murray. For many years, the Bishops of Portland shepherded the Lebanese community in the greater Waterville area until the establishment of the Maronite hierarchy in this country. This close collaboration has no doubt fostered the warm relations which exist between the Latin and Maronite Catholic communities along the Kennebec River. For this, I am deeply grateful.

Seventy-five years ago, your ancestors came together to form a Christian community faithful to the traditions of the venerable Maronite Church. As such, you are a witness to the diversity and universality of the Church which is meant to embrace people of every race, language, and way of life. I urge you to work hard at preserving and strengthening these ancient traditions while at the same time announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who have yet to hear it. May they find in you a community which will show them how to pray, how to care for their brothers and sisters, and how to acknowledge the Risen Christ before the world.

May you know the Lord's fullest blessings as you celebrate this joyful occasion.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph J. Gerry, O.S.B.
Bishop of Portland

Letter to Parish



Saint Joseph Maronite Catholic Church

3 Appleton Street
Waterville, Maine 04901

207-872-8515

15 September 2002



My Dear Parishioners:

For the past 16 years it has been my privilege to serve as your pastor. In those many years we have continued in the traditions of our ancestors who came from Lebanon to form a strong Maronite community. We honor their memories today as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of St. Joseph Church. I am sure that it was their hope when the "old timers" mixed and poured cement to build the foundation of this church that this day and many more would come.

You have kept those dreams alive with your tireless efforts and hard work to keep that Faith and Tradition alive. You are Maronites through and through, and faithful Children of God.

In these 16 years we have shared good times and bad; happiness and sadness; watched our parish flourish and grow; as well as lose some of her members. In every crisis, we have overcome; and no difficulties were too much to bear.

I was a young priest when I arrived in Waterville only being ordained 1 year and 11 months. But during this time and 18 years later, I have grown in my priesthood and commitment to serving you and all of God's people. You have been there for me during several personal crises in my life, and I thank you for your support.

We now build on the future through the youth of the parish, for they are the Church of today leading us into tomorrow. We must instill in them the same values instilled in us so that they will carry the torch into the future.

May God, through our patron, St. Joseph, continue to bless you and your loved ones. And grant eternal rest to our faithful departed.

With love and prayers, I remain,

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Samuel A. Najjar, J.D.
Pastor

Letter to Parish

SENATOR GEORGE J. MITCHELL

Congratulations to Saint Joseph's Maronite Church on its 75th Anniversary.

For three-fourths of a century the Church has been serving the people of Waterville, especially the members of the Lebanese community.

The Church has had a profound influence on my life. I grew up in the Head of Falls and on Front Street, just a few steps from the Church. I first went to school there, at St. Joseph's Parochial School, and I served as an altar boy at Sunday mass.

In a very real sense, my character and values were established in those early years. As a result, everything I have done, and everywhere I have gone, bear the imprint of Saint Joseph's.

I look back on my early years with warmth and gratitude. I will never forget and will always be grateful to the Saint Joseph's community.

With best regards,



George J. Mitchell
George J. Mitchell

Maronite

MARONITE HERITAGE AND HISTORY



The Maronite community is a traditional group of people, united by common values, goals, authority, and heritage. Maronism is no longer confined to Lebanon and the Near East; it has spread to the rest of the world. The Maronite tradition is one that we proudly pass on to our children! This means our children are our future security of existence.

The Maronites are those Christians who gathered around a certain priest by the name of Maron, and adopted his pattern of life. His disciples increased in number, and they began to call themselves Maronites after their teacher. Maron died in the year 410, but his disciples carried on his mission.

Today the Maronite Church is established throughout the world: In Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Palestine, Cyprus and Egypt there are approximately ONE MILLION Maronites.

In Argentina, Brazil, Canada, United States of America, Central America, Chili, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela, in Australia, in Africa, and in Europe there are approximately Four millions Maronites.



Patriarch

OUR PATRIARCH

HIS BEATITUDE NASRALLAH PETER CARDINAL SFEIR

MARONITE PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST



Our Patriarch is the 3rd Maronite Cardinal and the 76th Patriarch of the Maronite Church. He was born in Rayfoun, Kesrouan, on May 15th, 1920. He completed his primary and complementary studies at Mar Abda School – Harharaya, and his secondary studies at St. Maron Seminary - Ghazir. He furthered his education in philosophical and theological studies at St. Joseph University of Beirut and is Licensed in Philosophy and Theology.

His Beatitude was ordained a priest on May 7th, 1950, and served from 1951 to 1955 as Priest of Rayfoun Parish. He was in charge of the secretariat of the Maronite Bishopric of Damascus. In 1956, he was elevated to Secretary of the Maronite Patriarchate - Bkerke. He also served as Professor of translation in literature and philosophy at the Freres Maronite School - Jounieh.

In June of 1961, he served as Titular Bishop of Tarse and Patriarchal Vicar. On July 3rd, 1961 confirmation of his election by His Holiness Pope John XXIII occurred, and on July 16th, 1961 he was ordained Bishop. Between 1961-1986, he served as Patriarchal Vicar and Secretary of the Maronite Patriarchate. On April 19th, 1986, he was elected Maronite Patriarch for Antioch and all the East. On May 7th, 1986, His Holiness Pope John Paul II entrusted him the "ecclesiastic communio". On November 26, 1994, he was created Cardinal by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. He served in 1995 as Delegate President of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for Lebanon.

Bishop

OUR BISHOP

STEPHEN HECTOR DOUEIHI, D.D., S.T.D.

BISHOP, EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN



Stephen Hector Doueihi was born June 25, 1927 in Zgharta, North Lebanon, the son of Youssef and Hassibeth Zakhi Doueihi. He attended the Patriarchal Minor Seminary at Ghazir, the Seminary of the Pontifical University of Saint Joseph in Beirut, and the Propaganda Fide College in Rome. Father Doueihi was ordained to the priesthood for the Patriarchal Eparchy on August 14, 1955 by Patriarch Paul Peter Cardinal Meouchi.

After ordination, Father Doueihi earned a doctorate in sacred theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1959 and also did studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. Upon his return to Lebanon in 1959, he was appointed pastor of the parish in Zgharta. In 1969, Father Doueihi was sent to Mexico as pastor of the Maronite parish of Our Lady of Bethlehem in Puebla. Three years later, he began his pastoral ministry in the United States as a priest of the Diocese of Saint Maron. He served as the first pastor of the Maronites in Peoria, Illinois, and later was assigned as the Administrator of Saint George Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. In 1977, Father Doueihi was appointed Vice-Rector of Our Lady of Lebanon Seminary in Washington and assistant pastor of that parish in 1979. Archbishop Zayek appointed Father Doueihi to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission in 1978 and director of the office of Liturgy. In this capacity, under the leadership of Archbishop Zayek, he has provided vital leadership in the implementation of the reformed Maronite liturgy in the United States, especially by his translations and by the publication of the Maronite liturgical books in English.

Archbishop Zayek ordained Father Doueihi to the dignity of Periodeut in 1983. In 1987, Monsignor Doueihi was appointed pastor of Saint George Church in San Antonio, Texas, where he remained until his appointment as Rector of Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York, in 1989. In December of that year, Archbishop Zayek ordained Monsignor Doueihi to the dignity of Chorbishop. That same year, Patriarch Nasrallah Peter Sfeir appointed Chorbishop Doueihi to serve on the Patriarchal Liturgical Commission. Chorbishop Doueihi has also served as a member of the Presbyterial Council and the College of Consultors of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn and as a protopresbyter.

Pope John Paul II nominated Chorbishop Doueihi to be the second bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn on November 23, 1996. Bishop Stephen Hector Youssef Doueihi was ordained to the episcopacy on January 11, 1997 at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa, Lebanon, by His Beatitude, Nasrallah Peter Cardinal Sfeir and installed as the Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn on February 5, 1997.

He resides in Brooklyn, New York, and the jurisdiction of the Diocese extends to all the Maronite Catholics in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware, Virginia, District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Maryland.

St. Joseph

LIFE OF ST. JOSEPH



Joseph, the foster father of Jesus Christ, means remover or increaser. Little is known about the life of St. Joseph except for what is written in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We know from the Gospels that he is from the line of David. St. Joseph was descended from royalty, but it was not a title to rank or riches. Everything known about Joseph suggests he was a poor man.

Joseph's family belonged to Bethlehem of Judea, but he had moved to Nazareth in Galilee to take up the occupation of a carpenter. He was probably around the age of 20-24 when he wed Mary, who would have been around the age of 15-20. Matthew mentions various excerpts which included Joseph – the annunciation to Joseph of Mary's conception, the visit of the Magi, the flight to Egypt and the return to Nazareth. Luke also details parts of his life with the birth of Christ, the Presentation and the temporary loss of Jesus in Jerusalem at the age of twelve. His last mention is with the journey to Jerusalem, when Jesus was only twelve. It is likely that he died before Jesus entered on his public ministry. We can conclude this based upon the fact that only Mary was present at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee (John 2). The name of Joseph does not appear in connection with the scenes of the crucifixion along with that of Mary. John 19:25.

The Gospels are the only reliable source of information on Joseph's life and though they are brief, they give a good outline of his character. There is not a single word in the Scriptures quoting Saint Joseph. St. Joseph was a faithful, patient and obedient man. Matthew refers to him as "a just man", given his loyalty in protecting and providing for his family. In 1870, Pope Pius IX proclaimed Joseph as the Patron of the universal Church, honoring his role of support, protection and guidance and named March 19 as "the [heavenly] birthday of St. Joseph". Pius XII subsequently added a second feast of Joseph the Worker, which is celebrated May 1st, the traditional Labor Day.

In Italy, traditionally, the celebration of St. Joseph's day would begin with a feast of 13 meatless dishes. Various local people were chosen to represent Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Prior to eating, each would say special prayers to St. Joseph asking for his help in caring for families. Each of the 13 dishes were served one at a time to each of the three "saints" who would sample each one as a symbolic gesture.

Bread was an important item at the feast with stories of some saving a portion of their loaf for tens of years. Other dishes would include traditional fare typical of the region and time.

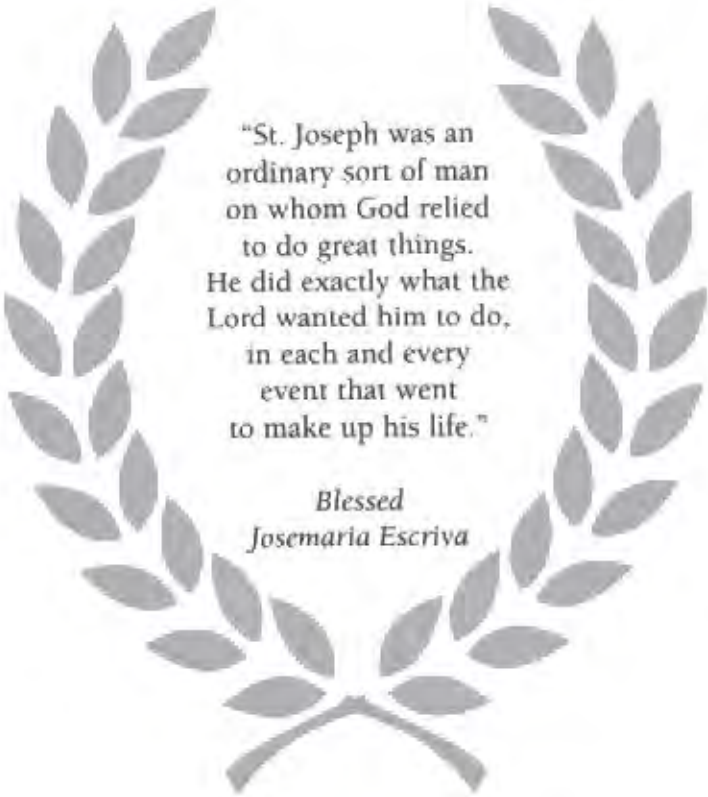
Saint Joseph was a humble man. He recognized his place with respect to Mary and Jesus, and knew that he was inferior to both of them in the order of grace. The Church's constant tradition holds that Saint Joseph lived a life of consecrated chastity. We are led to believe that he was a virgin, who entered into a virginal marriage with Mary. This was to protect Mary's reputation and safeguard the dignity of her Son. Chastity and purity, modesty and decency bring with them the basic intent of freedom from whatever is lewd or salacious.

St. Joseph

Joseph's obedience covers every aspect of his life. He was obedient in entering into a marriage with the Blessed Virgin Mary. He further demonstrated obedience when he went to Bethlehem to be registered with Mary, and accepted the humiliation of having Jesus born in a stable cave. He was obedient in taking the Child and His Mother by night and fleeing to Egypt.

The prudence of Saint Joseph is also part of our Catholic faith. It is especially shown in his remarkable practice of silence. Of course, Joseph talked. Yet the Gospels do not record a single word he spoke, no doubt to teach us that if we wish to practice the virtue of prudence, we must look to our practice of silence.

Saint Joseph is admired for other virtues, but he is to be especially imitated in his love for Jesus and Mary. He was placed into their lives by God and lived up to God's expectations by giving them his deepest attention and care. Joseph put his love into his work, his family and his everyday living.



"St. Joseph was an ordinary sort of man on whom God relied to do great things. He did exactly what the Lord wanted him to do, in each and every event that went to make up his life."

*Blessed
Josemaria Escriva*

St. Maron

LIFE OF ST. MARON



Our main source on the life of Maron is Theodoret, Bishop of Cyrrhus (393-466), who wrote the Religious History of Syria Asceticism. Maron chose to isolate himself on a mountain that had been sacred to pagans, and he converted a pagan temple that he found there into a church which he dedicated to the "true God". He had been a disciple of Zebinas, a hermit who was known for his loyalty in prayer, spending all day and night at it.

Maron lived a rugged life. He had a small tent for shelter, but he rarely used it, spending most of his time in the open air as a form of humiliation. We're told that Maron would often spend the entire night standing in prayer. He practiced numerous other penances and fasted for weeks on end.

Maron became known for the gift of miracles, which soon attracted many people, even from great distances. He healed the sick of their physical ailments and is said to have exorcised others of their demons. Theodoret goes on to say: "He cured not only infirmities of the body, but applied suitable treatment to soul as well, healing this man's greed and that man's anger, to this man supplying teaching in self-control and to that providing lessons in justice, correcting this man's intemperance and shaking up another man's sloth." Maron fascinated many disciples for whom he became a spiritual father.

We're told that after Maron's death, people of the various neighboring villages fought over his body. They believed that having a holy person buried close by would bring blessings and cures on the inhabitants. Theodoret tells us that villagers of the nearest and largest village came and took possession of the body. They built over it a magnificent church. While we do not know the exact location, it was probably between Aleppo and Cyrrhus. Theodoret tells us that the relics of Maron are venerated with great public solemnity in his day and are the occasion of many miracles.

The other historical source we have about St. Maron is a letter addressed to him by St. John Chrysostom. From Cucusus in Armenia, he wrote to "Maron, priest and solitary", telling him that he is "joined to [him] in the bonds of charity and affection" and is comforted by the news he hears about Maron's holy life. He is concerned about his health and asks for his prayers. It is believed that the letter was written around 406. Based on the writings of these two men, we date St. Maron's life from 350-410.

According to Theodoret, his disciples included James of Cyrrhus, Limnaeus, Domnina, Cyra and Marana. Theodoret singles out especially James of Cyrrhus who had been taught by Maron and later went off to live by himself. He himself chose a life of harshness, just as Maron had done. He also possessed the gift of miracles, and is said to have raised a child from the dead.

St. Limnaeus also lived in the open air. He possessed the gift of healing. He gathered blind beggars around him and sought to take care of their needs. Sts. Cyra and Marana were two noble women of Beroea, who estab-

St. Maron

lished a convent on the border of the city. They also lived in the open air and carried heavy iron and chains on their bodies as a form of humiliation. They too practiced long periods of fasting.

St. Domnina set up a small hut made up of grain stalks in a garden and lived her life in prayer and fasting, giving alms to those in need.

St. Maron's main goal in life was not to become famous, but to serve his God in total detachment from the world. Yet by being totally faithful to God's will, this humble hermit has also achieved worldly immortality through the Church which bears his name. The Maronite Church is the only church in Catholicism which bears the name of a person.



St. Sharbel

LIFE OF ST. SHARBEL



On May 8, 1828 in a mountain village of Biqaa-Kafra, Lebanon, Sharbel was born to a poor Maronite Family. At 23 years old he entered the monastery of Our Lady of Lebanon (north of Byblos) where he became a novice. After two years of novitiate, in 1853, he was sent to St. Maron monastery where he took the monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Sharbel then transferred to the monastery of Kfifan where he studied philosophy and theology. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1853, after which he was sent back to St. Maron monastery.

In 1875 Sharbel was granted permission to live as a hermit on the hill nearby the monastery at St. Peter and Paul hermitage. His 23 years of solitary life were lived in a spirit of total surrender to God. Sharbel's friends and companions during his isolation were the Son of God, as he faithfully read the Scriptures and took communion, and the Blessed Mother. The Eucharist became the center of his life. He consumed the Bread of Life and was consumed by it. His hope was that through his prayer and penance, the world would return to a life of God.

People never saw his face when he was alive. He always kept his head down in church, at work or when walking, always looking to the ground. He would lift his eyes only to heaven. When in church, he always faced the altar with his eyes fixed on the tabernacle. In death, Father Sharbel spent the night before Christmas, 1898 in church. He followed his usual custom of twenty-three years, ever since he became a hermit. But that last night when he passed away, he was lying down with his face exposed.

Since the time of his death, people have been making pilgrimages to his grave out of faith and devotion and to receive healing. His body has been recorded to miraculously perspire years after his death. And his body was largely preserved exactly as it was at the time of his death. At the closing of the Second Vatican Council, on December 5, 1965 Sharbel was beatified by Pope Paul VI. On October 9, 1977 during the World Synod of Bishops, Pope Paul VI canonized Blessed Sharbel among the ranks of the saints.

St. Rafka

LIFE OF ST. RAFKA *The Blind Mystic of Lebanon*



Saint Rafka was born in Himalaya, a small village near Bickfaya (Mein), on June 29, 1832. Her given name was Petronilla as a reminder that she was a daughter of St. Peter, on whose feast day she was born. The Land of Rafka is Lebanon: a country, torn by years of war.

This is the land of the Canaanites and the Phoenicians, and is mentioned with enthusiasm and wonder more than sixty times in Holy Scripture. Rafka, "The Little Flower of Lebanon", told her life story to her Mother Superior some months before her death. This is the reason why today we are able to know something about this woman, who sought for nothing else but to be forgotten by men and live only for God.

Rafka was an unhealthy woman, and over time her condition grew quite serious. The pain she endured in her eyes became excruciating. She was sent by her Superior to Tripoli for treatment. The treatments were most painful, too, and she lost a great deal of blood. During all of these treatments, she kept repeating, "With your sufferings, O Lord, for your glory."

In 1897, a group of nuns establishing a new convent asked to have Sister Rafka included in the group. They wanted to have her as an example from which the other sisters could learn and grow. Sister Rafka suffered for seventeen years as a blind paralytic, but it was also a time of her greatest spiritual joys. The novices were impressed with the blind nun's spirit of prayer, humility, and charity. Even years after Rafka's death, her spirit and example lived on with the sisters of her convent. Rafka often told them that she thanked God for her sufferings, "... because I now that the sickness I have is for the good of my soul and His glory" and that "the sickness accepted with patience and thanksgiving purifies the soul as the fire purifies gold."

On one occasion, Mother Ursula noticed that Rafka was suffering much more than usual. She asked Rafka if she regretted losing her sight, to which Rafka replied, "I would like to see just for one hour, Mother – just to be able to see you." Rafka's sight was miraculously restored at that moment. She spent the ensuing period talking with Mother Ursula and her fellow convent members, but just as she had requested, her sight lasted for one hour only.

Parish

HISTORY OF SAINT JOSEPH PARISH



*1st Mass in basement
of new church, 1947*

*History/Early Settlers
Pastors/Priests
Deacons/Sub Deacons
Lebanon Youth Society
Rosary Sodality
Massabki Medal Recipients
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Founding Family Biographies*

Breaking Ground



Breaking ground for new church, circa 1946.

History

Lebanese immigrants began arriving in Maine in 1890, and started to establish a community in Waterville. They came to America for economic reasons and a better life. They worked in factories, at the railroad and as peddlers.

The Maronite Catholics in the Waterville area attended church services at Sacred Heart Church and other Latin Rite Churches in the vicinity until 1924.

In 1924, Father Joseph Awad I came to minister the Maronite community. The first Mass was held in the Ferris Estate on the corner of Front and Temple Streets. Masses were temporarily held in a hall over the Federal Trust Building and later the Liturgy was moved to the Knights of Columbus Hall, which was located on the third floor of the Atkins Building, now the Silver Street Tavern.

In 1927, property on 3 Morrill Avenue was purchased for a church site, but due to parish controversy over the location, the plans were abandoned. The property was sold, and instead, property on Front and Appleton Streets was purchased from the Marchetti Family. The parish at this time numbered 50 to 60 families. The second floor of the house served as the church and the first floor as the rectory.

Father Awad I served until 1933, when he returned to Lebanon. Father Philip Nagem became pastor from 1933 to 1942. During this time the garage and a portion of the first floor were converted into the first Maronite School in the area.

In 1942, Father Joseph Awad II replaced Father Nagem who was transferred to California. At Fr. Awad's arrival, the property at 3 Appleton Street was purchased from the Gurney Family to serve as the Parish House. Later the property at 5 Appleton Street was acquired from Ed Sawyer and housed the Maronite School.

The foundation of the present edifice began in August 1946, and was completed in December of the same year. This served as the place of worship until 1950, when the upper portion of the church was completed and the first formal service was held in August 1950.

Father Awad's stature was known throughout the Maronite Rite. When the cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1951, Father Awad's friend, Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for Eastern Churches, came to Waterville to officiate at St. Joseph Church at the laying of the cornerstone.

Father Paul Coury arrived in 1957 to assume pastorate of the approximately 120 families.

A new school was built in 1959, replacing the old structure. Like parochial schools everywhere, the decline in teaching vocations and the rising costs led to the closing of the school in 1972. It now serves as a Parish Community Center for Religious Education purposes, as well as a recreation room for the Parish Youth, and houses an exercise room.

In 1977, Archbishop Francis M. Zayek came to Waterville to celebrate the Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary) of St. Joseph Church. At the same time, he dedicated the newly build St. Jude Chapel which was added on the Appleton Street side of the Church, using as a backdrop one of the original stained glass windows. Coincidentally, that window is in honor of St. Jude.

History

At that time, Father James Khoury was the assistant to Father Paul. In 1978, Father William Bartoul replaced Father Jim and later succeeded Father Paul as pastor, when Father Paul retired. Father Bill remained pastor until August 1986, when the current pastor, Father Samuel Najjar, replaced him.

During Father Bill's pastorate, there was need for renovations and restoration of the property. In 1984, he established the St. Joseph Church Building Fund, and members of the parish made pledges. Upon his arrival, Father Sam continued with the renovation process.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 1988, the entire interior of the church was "gutted", and the parish community, through the kindness of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, set up temporary residence at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel on Silver Street in Waterville. On Father's Day, 6 months later, June 18-19, 1988, the first Liturgy was celebrated in the newly renovated church.

Although the community was back in the church, the renovations continued with the addition of new stained glass windows. At completion, thirteen new windows were installed. St. Joseph is fortunate that Guido Studios, in Montreal, Canada, was still in existence, because it was Guido who made the original windows for the church in 1950.

On September 18, 1988, Archbishop Zayek returned to Waterville to rededicate the church and consecrate the new altar made of White Georgia marble.

The original altar, which remains in the church, was designed and made by Father Toubia Ashkar, a Maronite priest in Lebanon and the father of Chor-Bishop Dominic Ashkar (Washington, DC). It is made of Italian marble, and once completed in Lebanon, it was shipped to Waterville. The life-size icon of St. Joseph and Christ Child in the center of the altar, an original painting from Italy (artist unknown) was restored by a local artist in 1988. At the same time, this artist painted Icons of the Blessed Mother and Christ the Shepherd that replaced statues in the sanctuary.

With a growing need for handicap accessibility, an elevator was installed in July 1992.

In September 1998, our current Spiritual Leader, Bishop Stephen Hector Doueiri, made his first pastoral visit to St. Joseph Church.

The parish is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee (75th Anniversary) in 2002 and will be honored by Bishop Stephen's visit in September celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Early Settlers

The first Lebanese people to live in Maine came as peddlers, a job also held by Jewish Immigrants. They would sell a variety of wares such as needles, thread, pins, yarn, watches, pots, pans and jewelry. Many of our Lebanese ancestors who started as itinerant peddlers eventually became merchants and store owners. Others became laborers in mills or craftsmen. Why did they come to Waterville, leaving their homes behind?

Lebanon was established as a country. Prior to that, this territory was part of the Ottoman Empire, a province of Syria. This would explain why many were called Syrians. The Maronites have a long history of fleeing territories to escape persecution and to avoid physical conflict. In the mid 1800's the Druzes and Turks took land, wealth and other valuable commodities such as food from Christians. During a period of exodus around the 1860's, many Maronites fled to Greece or Egypt.

Very few Syrian-Lebanese fled to the US until the 1890's. While the conflict eventually stopped, the hatred and memory of the oppression remained, and many Maronites chose not to return, but to come to America, with hope of a new life. Money lenders and steamship agents told grand stories of job opportunities in America. Frequently, the ticket agents would trick these peasants into believing that their ticket would take them all the way to New York, when in actuality, many were dropped off at some distant port, or pressed into service as a laborer.

During World War I, the people in Syria-Lebanon were starving to death due to blockades. What little food made it in, went to Turkish troops. In 1913, 9,210 Lebanese emigrated to the US, and in 1914 that number was 9,023. It was mostly a younger male population that migrated. They passed through Ellis Island, where many had their names changed upon arrival. Officials could neither pronounce nor spell their names, and so they were given a name that looked more English, frequently changed to a Biblical equivalent. It seems that there were labor agencies set up in New York recruiting immigrants to come to certain places to work, and Waterville's textile industry was advertising in New York City.

Most came from Tyre and Sidon, in the Southern part of Lebanon. Many came because they had relatives here – "cousins" as it is described in oral histories. Most moved to the Head of Falls, King Court, Front Street – Temple Street areas. This consisted mainly of tenement buildings and was the area that once was the Native American village of Ticonic. This was proximate to the Wyandotte mill. The foot bridge spans the Kennebec directly from this community on the river, and conveniently led to the Hollingsworth and Whitney mill. Some Lebanese both worked in the mill and owned stores, and often the small stores were the fronts of peoples homes.

By 1915, the Arabic speaking population of Lebanese in Waterville grew to two hundred. Between 1915 and 1940, that number grew to about three hundred, largely due to the birth of children and the settlement of transient Lebanese. They lived on the rivers edge in houses built on stilts. They spoke Arabic, and some even subscribed to Arabic newspapers. The Lebanon Youth Society was established in 1916, and was chartered by the State of Maine in 1921. While this was a men's organization, the women's counterpart was the Rosary Sodality, both organizations being established for charitable, social and fund raising purposes. The Syrian Athletic Club was founded in the 1930's by local men who had been born and raised in Waterville. They represented the first generation who went to public school and were bilingual.

Some of the Surnames of early immigrants to our Waterville Community include: Corey, Boucisk, Harb, Harfoush, Basil, Bourisk, Tanous and Namer. Many traveled by boat, landed at Ellis Island and have their names inscribed on plaques and are a part of our American heritage there. They came with little more than a dream. Their values and priorities were focused with a determination to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Bkassine



JABAL AL SANAWBAR - CLUB
SABBAH - LEBANON

Pastors

PASTORS & PRIESTS



REVEREND SAMUEL A. NAJJAR
1986-present



REVEREND BILL BARTOUL
1978-1986



REVEREND JAMES T. KHOURY
1975-1978



REVEREND PAUL E. COURY
1957-1979



REVEREND JOSEPH E. AWAD
1942-1957



REVEREND PHILIP NAGEM
1933-1942



REVEREND JOSEPH D. AWAD
1922-1933

Deacons

DEACONS & SUB-DEACONS



REVEREND MR. PETER JOSEPH
DEACON



FRANK JOSEPH
SUB-DEACON



BILL AYOOB
SUB-DEACON



DEEB FERRIS
SUB-DEACON



Lebanon Youth Society

LEBANON YOUTH SOCIETY

On October 5th, 1916, a group of local men: Solomon D. Corey, George M. Boucisk, Assad Joseph Harb, Badish S. Harfoush, Elias Khalil Basil, John M. Bourisk, and Siad Namer organized a social club called The Lebanon Youth Society.

Just a few years before, these young men had immigrated to the United States of America. Like many before them, they were in search opportunity, and freedom. Joined by culture and heritage, these men hoped to preserve the heritage of their homeland in their new found homes. World War I saw most of the members serving in the Armed Forces; those left behind assumed their responsibility in aiding their was efforts of our country.

On December 7th, 1921 the Lebanon Youth Society of Waterville, Maine was incorporated as a charitable organization under the General Laws of the State of Maine.

Over time, the Society increased in membership. It became the sanctuary for all men of Lebanese or Syrian descent in Maine. Those in need and those seeking good fellowship were invited, men of all ages and relationship sat together in the Council chambers.

Then, on December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked exactly twenty years after the Society's incorporation, and our membership was called to serve. They served in every theatre of operation, and their dedication to service was well recognized and appreciated. Private Percy George, was the lone Society member who gave his life for the war effort. The flag pole and plaque in front of St. Joseph Church are dedicated in memory of him.

Our Lebanon Youth Society has had a history rich with culture and served as a beacon in times of uncertainty. It will remain in our memories as a group of individuals who came together in service to provide for our families, our community, and our country.



Rosary

ROSARY SODALITY

The icon of the Rosary Sodality is a symbol of importance and has significant symbolism. The crown base, a replica of a 7th. century Celtic monarch, symbolizes the origin of the Anglican Catholic Faith. The shield ornaments are examples of 12th. century English ornamentation; an honorable ordinary banner of blue symbolizing loyalty/splendor on a field of silver symbolizing serenity/nobility with a gold (or) symbolizing generosity/valor Celtic Christian cross in the upper chamber and a red (Gules) symbolizing courage English lion rampant in the lower chamber.

On the ordinary are 5 roses (argent) signifying the five decades of the tri-partite modern rosary and atop the golden crown are 15 gold (or) stars signifying the 15 mysteries (meditations) of the rosary. The Latin phrasing, "It pleases God to be vigilant and pray with forces united." Let us pray together and praise His name!

We have been and continue to be fortunate to have an active Rosary Sodality in our parish. They act in service to our membership and to the church. The many women who have served and continue to serve do so at the leisure of the church and the parishioners, and we are thankful for their on-going support throughout the years.



Massabki

MASSABKI AWARDS



The highest honors bestowed on a NAM member are the Silver and Gold Massabki awards, which are presented annually. These awards, named after three martyred Maronite Brothers who refused to renounce their faith, are presented to members of the Maronite Church who have contributed time, talent and treasure on a parish, regional or national level. The Silver Massabki Medal is awarded at the parish level to an individual or couple. The Gold Massabki Medal is awarded at the National Convention.

SILVER MASSABKI MEDAL RECIPIENTS

1976	Peter P. Joseph
1978	June Karter
1980	Deeb Ferris
1983	Peter J. Peters
1984	Marie Fefa Deeb
1985	Theresa Nemer
1987	Ruth Joseph
1988	Richard W. Levine, Sr.
1992	Mary Karter Joseph
1999	Brent and Lea Williams

Chalice

PRAYER OF THE CHALICE

My Lord, to thee I raise my entire being,
a vessel emptied of self. Accept Lord,
this is my emptiness, and so fill me
with Thyself -Thy Light, Thy Love,
Thy Life; How your precious gifts
may radiate through me and over
flow of the chalice of my heart
into those hearts of all with
whom I may contact this
day, reveal to them
the beauty of
Thy Joy
and
Wholeness
and
the
Serenity
of Thy Peace
which nothing can destroy

adapted from the website/prayer page of:

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE SEMINARY

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Father Hardon is the Executive Editor of The Catholic Faith magazine.
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<http://www.rafa.org/>

St Joseph Maronite Church
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Prayer Page - OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE SEMINARY website
<http://www.maroniteseminary.org/prayer.html>

An Exploration of Immigration, Industrialization & Ethnicity in Waterville, Maine
By: Amy Rowe
Completed May 14, 1999 as a partial fulfillment of the honors program, Department of Anthropology, Colby College

Page 1 Photo by Sean Harris



St. Joseph Band, circa 1943

Living Club

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL LIVING CLUB

St Joseph's Maronite School
Christian Social Living
Club

1955

1956



Visiting the Waterville Sentinel

Officers

President = Simon Karter
Vice-President = Joseph Eghaya
Donna Maria Monoon = Secretary
Mancy Karter = Corresponding Secretary
Robert Ferris = Sergeant at Arms

Boles

BOLES FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Mary and Thomas Boles

Thomas (1) Boulous Harfoush and Mary (1) Saad were already married when Thomas came to America from Lebanon. He was aged 15 when he made the trip, so he would have been quite young at the time of his marriage. Thomas traveled to America with friends and relatives, though it is not known exactly who they were at this time. He landed at Ellis Island, and came to Waterville and obtained employment at Hollingsworth and Whitney as a mason. Presumably, the name changed at Ellis Island, as was generally the case, and Boulous became Boles.

After a short period of time, he saved money, and sent for his wife, Mary. Thomas and Mary already had a daughter named Jeanne. She had remained in Lebanon with her grandfather until the age of 12, at which time she came to America. She traveled with, among others,

George (2) Mitchell Sr. Jeanne was schooled in France, was well educated, and was an asset to both the Lebanese and Franco-American communities here in Central Maine. She performed as a seamstress and read and translated for the local ethnic populations.

Both Thomas and Mary spoke English. They had a total of 9 children – Jeanne; born in Lebanon; Meheba (Cutler), Angela (White), Caroline (Nale), Hilda (Cooke) and Mary (Baldacci). Besides Elias (2) they had two other sons – John who died in early childhood, and Joe who is now known by the name John. Mary herself died at age 32, while delivering daughter Mary, who was placed with a family in Bangor as a result of this unfortunate occurrence.

Thomas and Mary lived for a while at King Court at the Head of Falls. After Mary's death, the family moved to Elmwood Avenue here in Waterville. Mary is remembered as a wonderful cook, a loving mother, and a hard worker. Thomas died at age 59.

Corey

COREY FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Maron (2) and Mary Corey

At age 85, Al (3) Corey, son of Maron (2) Corey and grandson of John (1) Corey has a wonderful and proud heritage. His great grandfather on his fathers side, and his great grandfather on his mothers side were both priests from the mountains of Lebanon. In fact, Corey (Khourie) means Priest. One might say that the House of Corey is a blessed one.

Maron Corey came over from Lebanon at age 12, around the turn of the century. He went to Bangor to be with his father John who had already arrived in this country. John was a peddler in the Bangor area. Maron met and married Mary who was a Corey herself from a different line. As a child, Mary lived for a brief period of time in Alexandria, Egypt, and they traveled to Marseilles, France and then on to Ellis Island.

They moved to Waterville in the early 1920's and initially moved to Lower Front Street, where they owned an apartment for awhile. In 1919, they purchased and moved into the property at 82 Front Street, which remains the Corey family homestead, still occupied by Al Corey. Maron and Mary had 10 children – 4 boys and 6 girls. Mary worked in the cotton mill for awhile, and Maron worked for years in the mill as a weaver. While in Bangor, he worked for a brief time as a policeman and even took up boxing.

The Front Street area was rich with culture – the property at 82 Front Street had a wonderful garden with tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce among other produce. One could walk down Front Street and hear the local Lebanese singing, and the smell of garlic filled the air. Mary was a very good cook by all accounts and it is even reputed that she attended culinary school while in Alexandria.

John Corey spoke English and carried on an ongoing letter campaign to a man in Lebanon – Anton Ferris – with whom he made arrangements to sponsor Lebanese emigrants. Mary's brother went to the University of Maine for a time, and was one of the founders of the Lebanon Youth Society. Maron, among others, participated in the labor of the building of our church. Many men who did not have tools dug at the foundation with their bare hands, displaying a work ethic and strong sense of commitment that is quite rare in this day and age. Our church was built, literally, on the blood and sweat of our ancestors by local men who knew each other well and lived, worked and prayed together.

Deeb

DEEB FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Deeb and Lottie fishing

Sam (1) Deeb and Lottie (1) Williams met each other in Waterville, Maine. Both traveled to this country for economic reasons, but each took different paths.

Sam – born in 1887 and died in 1979, came from Latiquye, Syria and entered the US by way of South America around 1913, prior to World War I. Sam already had family in South America, and initially left Syria for Lebanon due to the Turkish revolt.

During his odyssey to America, he worked on Railroads and in a woolen mill in Vermont. He already had two brothers – Joe and Abie Deeb, here in Waterville, and with the promise of opportunity, he came in the early 1900's to find employment.

Lottie (Shamoun) William – born in 1887 lived into her nineties, passing away in 1978. She came from the village of Bekaseen, and entered America at Ellis Island. Lottie was widowed. When she left her homeland, she also left her daughter, Heniny (2) with her grandmother, and she traveled alone. Upon arrival, she worked in the Cotton mill, sending money home to help support the family and planning to help other family members make the voyage to America. She eventually sent for her sister, Nemer, who married Sam Maroon here in this community. Lottie continued to send financial support to Lebanon, and arranged for her daughter to travel to America. Heniny never did make the trip to the US, but married and settled in Lebanon with her husband. At this writing, she is still living in Lebanon, and is in her nineties.

Sam married Lottie around 1923, and bore two children – George (1) and Fefa Marie (1) – at the Naseralla home at the Head of Falls. They eventually set up residence with the Maroons on Hathaway Street. In the mid-1930's, they purchased two properties on Allen Road, now Deeb Street, which still remain in the family.

Sam was a handyman and frequently repaired the building of the Lebanon Youth Society, and he helped to build the church as everyone did in those days. The Deeb family has a long tradition of attending every church service. Sam and Lottie often went fishing together, as the picture above illustrates. Sam also read the Arabic newspapers to Lottie as she spoke little English. They were the best of friends. Sam held a season ticket to all the Waterville High basketball games. Lottie did her cooking on a wood stove, pictured at right, which they moved into the basement when they purchased their electric stove. It remains in use today – Fefa Marie still bakes her bread and cookies in the early Lebanese tradition.



Ferris

FERRIS FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Sub-Deacon Deeb Ferris

Boulous (1) Ferris came to America in 1895 with two daughters, and the rest of his family followed in 1900. They traveled first to Augusta, but eventually set up a farm on the South Pond Rd. in the vicinity of Winslow. They came from El Hajjee or Hajji as some spell it. This family consisted of Boulous, his wife Bennette, and his children Thomas (2), Rishda, Habeeb, Assad, Saida, and Nayla.

In the early 1900's Boulous started a store here in North Vassalboro on Bridge Street. Boulous was a devout Maronite Christian. One of his daughters, Rishda, is the mother of our own Deacon Peter Joseph. (See the Joseph family history for further elaboration of the family history.) Boulous, in his final years, was attended to by Diane Joseph, a noted local nurse.

Thomas (2) met his wife Katina Ghantos in Madison. Though the practice of prearranged marriages had not survived the old Lebanese tradition, it is noted that their meeting was based upon a "strong" family influence. They too moved to North Vassalboro.

Thomas was a fisherman, a fireman and a local athlete who is rumored to have frequently run long distances—e.g. to China which was approximately 7 miles. Friends and neighbors would frequently meet at the local store owned by the Ferris family, and gather around

the pot bellied wood stove to discuss local events and the happenings of the day. Katina was a homemaker who ran the store, and apparently never made a mistake giving out change! Thomas was an avid reader, though he only completed the 8th grade. He was regarded as a craftsman, and even dabbled in medicine, concocting a salve that cured a bad case of local impetigo. He also made a wonderful homemade ice cream. Tom and Katina had 5 children as well as others who did not survive early childhood.

Deeb (3) Ferris, one of their children, was born in North Vassalboro. He graduated from Coburn Classical Institute, and attended 1/2 year at Colby before serving in the military. During his youth, he was known to frequently hitch a ride from North Vassalboro to Waterville to spend time with his friends and cousins in Waterville, a community with which he felt a strong connection. Deeb went on to become one of our own Sub Deacons. The picture above is a view of Sub-Deacon Deeb Ferris serving communion for the first time, to his own wife. It was his wish that this first such honor would go to serving his own wife, Sumayah. She is also pictured above.

George

GEORGE FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

SCULPTURE OF CHARLES GEORGE BY LOCAL ARTIST SADIE (GEORGE) COREY



Image of Charles George

Sadie George Corey, age 87 this year, has no pictures of her father, Charles George. But what she does have are her priceless memories, her proud stories and her sculpted images of a man who was instrumental in helping countless Lebanese individuals come to America and live a life of freedom and opportunity. The statue to the left is one completed by Corey who only started sculpting at age 50. This image is one she completed from memory, of a man she adored. It is one where he in his later years carried a 4 year old relative on his back. She points out that his muscles are not well developed and that – true to life and her memory of it – he carried this child as he had “carried” some many others in life, with dedication, devotion and determination, from Lebanon to America.

Charles was born in 1873, and lived in the same small village Bechari (Bsharri), Lebanon, a mountain village of Maronite Christians, as famed poet Kalil Gibran. She believes, in fact, they may have been related, and certainly were very good friends. She recalls that they shared the same philosophy and approach to life. Gibran even visited George at his home on Temple Street.

Charles married Susan Corey (1879 – 1965) and together they had 9 children. Susan saw the passing of 5 of her own children during her short life. Together, they lived in various towns in Western Maine. Charles had a hunger for knowledge. He attended Farmington Normal School by day, and was privately tutored at night. To the right is a statue of Susan by daughter Sadie George Corey.

Sadie also owns a letter Charles wrote in 1895, to Image of Susan Corey George, his half brother, describing how at age 22, he was schooled during the day, and tutored at night in English. This determination led him to eventually become one of the few literate Lebanese Americans in Central Maine at a very critical and formative time.

Susan also benefited from this activity, becoming quite educated herself. Charles was a lumber jack for awhile, an itinerant jewelry salesman, selling watches and such to the other lumberjacks in the Farmington and Phillips area, and eventually opened his Jewelry & Linen Store in 1914 on Temple Street. Fame and fortune was not immediate for George, as he traveled from Mt. Kineo to Poland Springs and the Samoset to set up his booth to sell his wares. Pictured on the next page is one of his early calendars which would have been used to advertise his business here in Waterville.



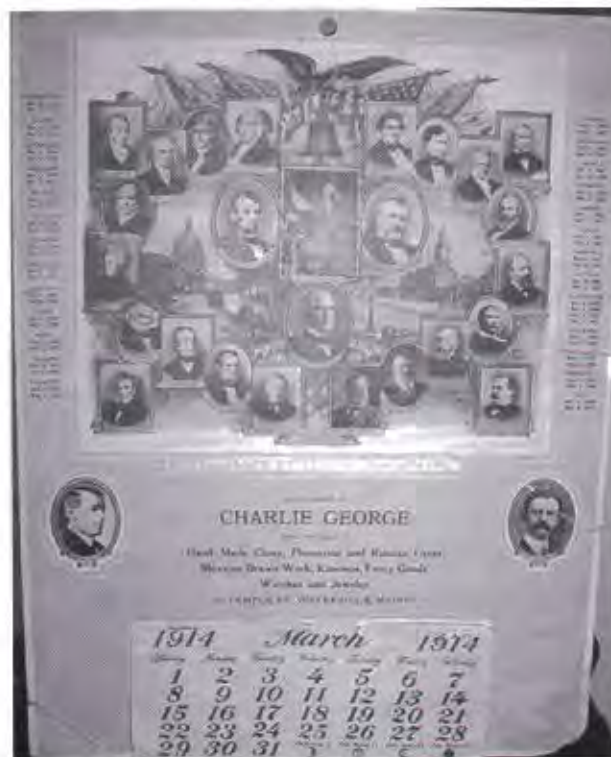
Image of Susan George

George

Because of his ability to communicate and his passion for helping others, Charles George is now credited with sponsoring many Lebanese in their trip to America and Central Maine. He is reputed to have fought for their rights to hold good jobs to raise and feed their families, and to battle the certain discrimination that many suffered at the turn of the century in our communities. He helped ease the struggle, and even took many immigrants into his own home until they became better established. They got jobs in the local mills and he became their representative in many cases, as he could speak English on their behalf.

Charles met his wife and married in Bangor, where members of the Karam family, – their relatives still live. We've learned that Sadie Corey's sister, Emelia George, eloped at age 15 and married Norman Boulos who was the brother of Habouba (Boulous) Thomas. Both families have relatives living in Pennsylvania. Susan George too had a tattoo of a pigeon which she got as a young girl, in the village for the price of an egg... a decision she made without the permission of her parents. Susan was not only a fine Lebanese cook, but an exceptional American cook. She recited poetry exquisitely in Arabic, and before coming to America, she traveled from village to village as a girl and sang at weddings.

At age 75, Charles George passed away, but now after so many years, his story lives on.



1914 business calendar

George

JAMES & CARRIE SOLOMON GEORGE



Mike Simon Jurdak with Paul Peters

Carrie (2) Solomon was born on December 8th, 1901, came from Jazzin, Lebanon, and died on May 10, 1953. She came to Ellis Island in 1911, at the age of 10 years old, on a cargo boat. She traveled with no other family members, but there were people who were familiar to her such as some of the Maroon women. Her mother, Lily (1) Peters, was already here in Waterville at the time. Lily saved money for the trip, and sponsored her passage here. Once Carrie was here, she sent for her son, Karem.

James (2) George was born in 1890, was from Sabbah, Lebanon, and died on December 2, 1957. He already had a brother, a sister and an uncle here in Waterville at that time. He traveled to the US in 1909 and settled in Waterville to be with his family. He met and married Carrie who was only 14 years old at the time. They had 14 children: Hazel, James Jr. (died around aged 9), Vicki (3) Jurdak, Percy (died at Normandy during World War II), Eddie, Catherine, Nassab (died at aged 4 months), Lillian, Jimmie, Sadie,

Julie, Ernest, Mary, and Brian. James worked on the WPA performing pick and shovel labor making \$11 per week, then he went to work on the railroad locally.

Carrie baked seven 25 pound bags of flour per week – earning \$7 or \$1 per day to help support the family. She cooked flat bread in her home and had regular customers. Vicki (3) worked at the South Portland shipyard during World War II, saved up some money, and purchased the single family home at # 10 King Court for \$1,000. According to Vicki, this was the former home of George (3) Mitchell's parents, George and Mintaha Mitchell.

Mike Simon Jurdak was born in Lebanon in 1906, and married Vicki in 1945. He played the mandolin at weddings, anniversaries, and Hafli's. He died on May 3, 1971. He worked at Cascade Woolen Mill for almost 40 years. He fought during World War II, even though he was not yet a citizen, and was allowed to come home on a furlough to receive his citizenship status.

George

SIMON (Solomon) GEORGE & JOSEPH GEORGE

Simon was the older of the two brothers and worked here for two years in America before calling for his brother to be brought here to Waterville. Simon's father was Jirgis Awad of Rîmaat, Lebanon. Apparently the authorities either had difficulty pronouncing Jirgis, or Anglicized it for convenience. Simon, the son of Jirgis became Simon George in 1906. The name Simon itself was a derivative of Solomon which was a derivative of the Lebanese form. This was a common practice for our emigrant families.

At one time, the town of Rîmaat in Lebanon was comprised entirely of the Awad family. This family, like many, ran away from their homeland to flee the Turkish oppression in their region. These were not Arabs, and did not believe in or practice the Arab tradition. They descended Phoenicians, and were strong practicing Christians who allied themselves with the Catholic Church.

SIMON GEORGE

Simon, the oldest of the two brothers worked for years in the textile mills. In 1916, he married Lottie John George, and together they had 6 children – 2 sons and 4 daughters. His son Thomas was caretaker of a property owned by two older ladies. As they approached their later years, it is recalled that they asked Simon's son Thomas if he would like to purchase their home for a very nominal sum, for all his hard work in helping them. This is the site of the local landmark "Sittoo George's Bakery" which has gone through an evolution of businesses since its inception. At various times it was a bakery, a meat market, a catering business, and a restaurant. Lottie was the force behind the business. She wanted it for her two sons who had remained here in Waterville, the daughters having all left our city.

Lottie came to our country at age 15. She traveled first to Egypt where she learned the art and trade of cooking, after which she sent for her younger sister Sadie, and together they came to America. She was from the village of Sabbah, and worked here in the cotton mills.

JOSEPH GEORGE

Joseph was the younger brother of Simon, and when he made the voyage two years later, his boat landed first in Boston. There was plenty of work available in that port at the time, but he traveled onto Ellis Island and made his entry there. He lived in Madison for a period of time, and was "strongly encouraged" to come to Waterville to meet his future wife, Saida. He ran a small bakery at the Head of Falls for a very short while, but his time was better spent earning wages at the local mill, and the bakery closed. He married his wife in 1918, and they purchased their home at 12 Union shortly thereafter. They had 7 children, some of whom were actually born in the home as opposed to the hospital. Both Janet and Rose were born in a room directly off the kitchen. 4 of the children served in the military, two of which were daughters. Annie served in the WAACs and served her country for 24 years, and Rose joined the WAVE's.

George

SAIDA GEORGE, DAUGHTER OF MATILDA (JABAR) HARB

When Saida came to Ellis Island, there was an eye epidemic and she was forced to either return to her homeland or stay at Ellis Island until danger of spreading the disease had passed. She remained at Ellis Island for 9 months, this at the young age of 13! She passed her time helping medical professionals – rent was paid by a relative who would send money weekly to her, during this transition. She finally arrived, after this 9 month duration, in Waterville, where she lived to the age of 90. She, like many of the young peasant Lebanese girls had tattoos. They would save pennies that were given to them and go to the village when the gypsies came to town for their small tattoos. Saida had no elaborate tattoos, as some of her friends did.

Her brother, Massoud, got to Marseille, and traveled onto Argentina to be with a relative. There he learned many languages including Spanish and French. Due to WWI, he was forced to stay there, and in the late 20's, he arrived here in America. He ran a restaurant on Front Street and eventually started his own popular restaurant on Temple Street called the Elms Restaurant, which was consumed in a great fire.

Matilda (Jabar) Harb, mother of Saida and the widow of Joseph Harb was born in Machmoushee, Lebanon. This town was land that was given to her grandfather who was a Doctor, as a favor for healing a local king. Part of this land was donated for use as a convent and monastery. In the early 1900's, Matilda, a widow, left her three children with her mother to travel to America. She traveled with Habib Jabar and his wife Regina. The Jabars had a son here in Waterville (George, the father of Judge Joseph Jabar) and were so proud that they took young George back to Lebanon to show him to the family. While there, Habib died. Regina returned a widow with her son and raised her family.

Matilda married Simon Stevens, a Lebanese gentleman who was fair skinned and long sideburns – who looked somewhat Scottish. The marriage was built on the understanding that Simon would help Matilda bring her three children over from Lebanon, which he did. He had a very good job with Hollingsworth mill. They sent the money for Saida to come, and they had 4 more children. Matilda started her own restaurant and catered for Wyandotte and the Waterville Iron Works.

It is noteworthy that Habib Jabar and Matilda Harb Jabar account for 175 descendants. The descendants of Joseph and Simon George number approximately 150. These two families have yielded successful members in all fields and professions. They are proud of their high achievement, and attribute much of their success on their upbringing, and attention to literacy and education both here and in Lebanon.

Jabar

JABAR FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

George (2) Jabar and Amelia Nimon married on May 11, 1924 in Waterville, Maine. George was the only child of Herbert (1) Jabar and Regina Corey Jabar. Herbert was from a small village named Mashmushi and Regina came from Mahmrihi. They were mountain people who raised goat and sheep on a small farm. They emigrated to America in the early 1900's. George was born in Waterville in 1905. They returned to Lebanon after George's birth. Herbert died unexpectedly from typhoid fever at the age of 27. Regina returned to Waterville and worked in the woolen mill along with her son George.

Amelia was the daughter of Della and Simon Nimon. She had three sisters and one brother. She was born in Millinocket, but was raised in Waterville.

George worked in the Wyandotte woolen mill as a weaver. As a mill worker, George was always speaking up for workers and their rights. As a result, he was recruited to work for the textile union. He became a union organizer for the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA) traveling all over New England organizing workers. He worked his way through the ranks to eventually become the president of the Maine AFL-CIO and executive vice president of the National AFL-CIO. He was an integral part of the union movement in the State of Maine during the 30's and the 40's.

Amelia worked full time raising their eight children at the Head of Falls. With the railroad tracks in the front yard and the Kennebec River in the back yard, Milly was busy from morning till night.

George and Amelia's 6 boys and 2 girls grew up in Waterville a part of St. Joseph's Parish. The 6 boys (Herbert, Norman, John, Paul, Tony and Judge Joe Jabar) all graduated from Colby College after having successful athletic careers at Waterville High School. Regina graduated from Thomas College and moved to Washington, DC where she lives with her husband Ted Santos. Theresa married a career naval officer, Earl Lee, and the family moved to Waterville, where they raised their family.

George and Amelia were grandparents to 33 grandchildren, and at last count – 58 great grandchildren. George died in 1990 at the age of 84. Amelia recently celebrated her 94th birthday.

Joseph

JOSEPH FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Boulous and Bennet

Boulous (1) and Bennet (1) Ferris came to America around 1890. Boulous was born in 1860 and lived in a village called El Hajje. They had a daughter, Lena (2) Ferris whose Arabic name was Rishdi. She was born in El Hajje in 1885. Boulous was naturalized in 1895, and was required to renounce his allegiance to the Sultan of Turkey. When Boulous and Bennet moved here, they purchased a farm off the China Road toward Pattees Pond.

John (2) R. Joseph (Habib Razouk) was born in 1880 in Baisour. Both Baisour and El Hajje were only 10 miles from the major port of Sidon of Saida as it was known then, which is south of Beirut. Sidon is the site where the locals would pick up their mail and do most of their main shopping.

John (Habib Razouk) Joseph came to America in 1900 at the age of 20. He married Lena Ferris in 1905, and they briefly lived on the maternal farm in Winslow. At the time, there were no priests in the area, so a priest traveled from Belfast to perform the ceremony. John was aged 25 and Lena aged 20 at the time of their marriage. Their

livelihood came from raising cows and chickens, and they produced milk and eggs as a means of employment. Both Lena and Bennet had tattoos on their hands and wrist areas, though it is not known what specifically the patterns were or under what circumstances they attained their markings.

John and Lena had 6 children that lived. 1st was Elias, born in 1907. Between 1905 and 1907, John made a conscious decision to leave farming – he did not enjoy this way of life, and took a job with the American Woolen Mill in North Vassalboro. In 1908, Sadie was born, and in 1912 Dianne made her appearance, but between the two children there was a daughter who died in early childhood – Mary. Little is known of the circumstances or the specifics surrounding her brief life, only that she was one of the siblings. Johnny was born in 1913, and around 1915 or so, John and Lena purchased a house located at 84 Front Street, next to Al Coreys residence, Roy was then born in 1918, and the last of the children born was Peter (3) Joseph, our beloved deacon. He was born in 1923 shortly after they purchased their next house, that same year, located at 74 Front Street, the current site of Joseph's Meat Market. Peter notes that he was born in that house, and the doctor's fee for services was only \$5.



John and Lena

Joseph

JOSEPH (Yuseff) FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Mary, Tamamie, David and children – center Wafsa, @ Joe, (bottom) Julia and (l) Elias

Mary Hilwa (1) and John Joseph (Yuseff) was married in Lebanon, and had two sons – John (2) and David (2). Prior to her journey to America, John died. Little is known about him as he died at a very young age. She earned money to come here by working in the fields, and because she was alone, she would take her children with her into the fields of Lebanon, in Gernia or Jhira. She then traveled here with her two sons.

David eventually went back to Lebanon, and met Tamamie Kareem. We're told a wonderful story of how David and Tamamie were traveling with a group of close friends who will remain nameless. They were to take a boat in Alexandria, but two of their friends were refused passage due to an eye condition. They remained while the others made the trip. Their friends tried several times to travel to America, but eventually made their way to Canada. David, receiving word that two friends did make it as far as Canada, packed up and traveled to meet them, and without a car, food, or immigration papers, they made their way back to Waterville by sleeping during the day and traveling at night to avoid capture.

Tamamie married David in 1908 at the age of 16. Together they had 18 children, 14 of which lived to adulthood. This consisted of 7 boys and 7 girls as well as 8 children who died in early childhood. Three of those who passed away died of the influenza during World War I. One other child was suspected of having spinal meningitis, and the family was warned to quarantine their residence, which they did for a period of three weeks.

David worked on the railroad for a period of time, and spent the most of his working years as a weaver for Wyandotte woolen mill. They purchased a tenement house at #10 Head of Falls. Tamamie did not work, but raised her large family, and also helped by taking in boarders.

Tamamie was well known for her singing, and was quite in demand for weddings and other functions. She loved the limelight, and could easily improvise the words to the songs she sang. She had tattoos, similar to her friend Habouba. At one time, she asked her mother for the money to get the tattoos, but her mother adamantly refused her, warning that infection would set in. So Tamamie borrowed the money from her sister, and got them anyway, against her mothers wishes. She is also remembered as a fabulous cook. Both Tamamie and David were wonderful parents who to this day are sadly missed by all their family.



Tamamies Tattoos – similar to Habouba Thomas

Joseph

JOSEPH (Maroon & Fehmi) FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Maroon (1) Joseph was born March 15th, 1886, lived in Sarba, Sidon, Lebanon and passed away in 1966. Fehmi (1) Rumia was born in 1897, she grew up in Chtaura, Lebanon, and died in 1977.

When Maroon was a young man, he was conscripted by the Ottoman Empire and rather than join the Turkish Army, he stowed away on a ship bound for Buenos Aires, Argentina. Without any formal education or knowledge of Spanish, he started his journey North working wherever he could find work, mostly in the coal mines.

He crossed into the United States from the Mexican border at El Paso, Texas. He continued his goal of reaching Waterville, Maine where he had relatives. He made stops in West Virginia and Pennsylvania and finally reached his goal of Waterville. He worked for the Maine Central Railroad as a valued employee for forty five years.

Fehmi, from Heart of Elias (near Chtaura, Lebanon) came to the United States at the age of thirteen, traveling in steerage on a ship for many days, where she became miserably ill. She came through at Ellis Island. Fehmi stayed with her sister Rachel while working at Lockwood Duchess cotton mill in Waterville. Being a bright green eyed young beauty, there was no shortage of interested suitors. Maroon was the fortunate one, and they married at the St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church in Waterville, in 1913.

Maroon worked seven days a week. The only time that he took off from work was when his wife bore him children. They had ten children in all, 8 boys and 2 girls. The devotion, love and respect that Maroon and Fehmi had for each other was unusual and mutual. Their love for their church was the root of devotion to each other and to God, which they exhibited each day. Their children are: Lena, Mary, Joseph, Edward, George, John, Elias, Peter, Paul and Alfred. Six of their sons served in the military during World War II and Paul and Alfred served during the Korean Conflict. The family members have all been very involved in building and supporting St. Joseph Maronite Church.

Many of the family have returned to Lebanon and have brought back artifacts such as the headwear pictured here.



Karter

KARTER FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Charles and Lottie

Charles (Maroon Khatar Abouzeid) (1) Karter came to this country, from Imleeh, Lebanon. At Ellis Island, they named him Charles Karter. He met his wife Lottie (George) Karter here, and together they were married for 63 years. Charles was only 16 years of age when he made the voyage. He had two brothers who had already arrived here in Central Maine. One of the brothers was Elias, and he had successfully located work for Charles at Maine Central Railroad.

It was quite traditional for marriages and relationships to be pre-arranged by families and relatives back in those days. It was also quite customary for the Lebanese to have tattoos, and both Lottie and Charles had them, both getting them in their native homeland, and both having geometric patterns rather than birds or other subjects.

Lottie, from the village of Sabbah, made the trip at the young age of 15. She left her mother crying on the shore as her boat was departing. She asked her mother, "Why are you crying? You know that I'm coming back!" It was assumed by young Lottie that she would be traveling to America for the purpose of making money and returning home to help support the family, but that never happened.

Conditions on the ship were etched into young Lottie's memory. She described how the Lebanese emigrants were hoarded into the hold of the ship in large numbers, very cramped quarters, with very little to eat. There was a big wire mesh screen fence or barrier between the emigrants and the workers on the ship. They slept in hammocks, and there was much fear, illness, and home and sea sickness. One of the workers of the ship was quite fond of young Lottie and frequently took bread and passed it to her through the partition. To console themselves, the Lebanese would sing songs to each other in Arabic. One of the biggest fears aboard this vessel was that upon reaching Ellis Island they would be turned away. They frequently prayed that they would not be refused entry.

Upon his arrival Charles immediately got a job here with the Maine Central Railroad, in the round house, where he remained in employment for approximately 45 years. His children were of the habit of taking his meals to him at work, a fine Lebanese feast. The smell was so wonderful that the other workers in the round house always wanted to share his lunch with him.

Charles and Lottie were married here in Waterville in 1909, and together they had 13 children. Sadly, two of their young children, Joseph Karter age 5 and Karter Karter age 2, died tragically in separate accidents. All 11 remaining children (John, Celia, Isabelle, Elias, George, Ida, Ann, Daniel, Herbert, Richard and Madeleine) were born in and lived with Charles and Lottie at their home on Union Street.

Karter



1909 Wedding Photo

Charles' best friend was Sam Nawfel. They were known to frequently sing Arabic Chants – the Atehbeh – which was an oral history of the beauty of the mountains of Lebanon. These songs were very poetic, and Charles and Sam were known for their talent.

Charles was known affectionately as "The Chief" by all his Lebanese friends. He taught countless numbers of children to fish, including his own children. Living at the lake in the summer was their biggest joy and remained so until their death in 1972.



1969 Anniversary Photo

Karter

KARTER FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Elias (1) Abouzaid Karter came from Mallich, Lebanon in 1901 and landed at Ellis Island. He died in 1947, at age 63. He was single at the time and already had one relative here in the states. Elias had two brothers – Charlie and Bolous.

Mary (1) Kassab traveled from Miambrea, Lebanon to Bangor in 1902. She died in 1968 at the age of 93. At the time of her journey, she already had cousins in Bangor. Her siblings – Anissa, Joe and Saleim came to America later.

Mary came to Waterville and met Elias. Apparently, Elias was “courting” her sister for the purpose of gathering information on Mary.

who he had already fallen in love with. Before coming to America, Charlie was a shepherd – herding sheep. This was a common occupation for the emigrants. Elias went to work for the railroad, initially hired to fill the trains with coal. But because he was gregarious and well liked, he was quickly promoted to a position equal to an assistant engineer. Elias taught himself English, while Mary spoke little, if any, English. They both believed strongly in education. Mary was a housewife who baked her own bread all the time. Prior to her marriage, Mary was a peddler for a time, selling pins, needles and scarves, sometimes walking as far as Augusta and back to sell her goods.

They had 7 children – Tekla, Nancy, Gubby, Sam, Mary, and Anne (2), and Michael. Elias was somewhat politically inclined and it was common for the local politicians to show up unannounced to the Karter residence and feed themselves from the grape leaves, cabbage rolls, or whatever was on the stove. Like many of the other local Lebanese, they first went to the Irish church before they had their own parish. Two of the siblings were altar boys, and Fr. Curran was so impressed, he recruited them to become priests. Once St. Joseph's Church was established, Elias was a leader in the parish, and sponsored the Lebanese school at the Head of Falls.



May 29th, 1944 photo

Karter

Farmers would come to Head of Falls to sell their produce, and one farmer – Tom Balamut, who was a milkman, sold Elias a piece of land in Winslow, upon which the Karter family planted their family garden. They would travel to the plot every Saturday to pick the produce for the week. Elias also kept chickens in the cellar of his home. He purchased his feed from a Mr. Craig on Temple Street, who helped Anne (now aged 91) get her first job at McClellans in 1930. Elias is recalled as a generous man. He purchased shoe repair tools for Joe Nader Sr. when Joe was starting out in the trade. The cement for the church was mixed with water drawn from the Karter home on Leighton Street. The Karter family even purchased the original church bell.

Charlie, Bolous and Elias were all musically inclined. They played a flute-like instrument called the Oud, and they were leaders of all weddings and gala festivals at the Head of Falls, where Elias owned a home. There were frequent festivals – people gathered on the bench at Head of Falls every Saturday as an informal ritual, children were nursed there, some gathered to sing, tell stories, or just to be with their cousins and friends.

One interesting story is told of how the locals had stills in their homes, for the purposes of making Arrac, an anisette flavored liquor. One of the kids “pranked” the neighborhood one day proclaiming, “The sheriffs coming, the sheriffs coming.” And just as quickly, all the stills were emptied and all the liquor was dumped into the Kennebec River! This neighborhood was rich with culture, activity and even funny stories.

Maroon

MAROON FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

Sam (1) Maroon was born in 1889 in Hajji, Lebanon. Sam was the son of Maroon. He arrived here by way of Halifax, Nova Scotia around 1907 or 1909. Records show that he was identified as a laborer from Lebanon, this based upon immigration papers drafted at the time.

Nimera (1) Namour was born around 1898 in Bkessene, Lebanon. She arrived at Ellis Island around 1912, and because of a condition with her eyes, she remained for about three weeks. She traveled to America with Chick Williams, and came to Waterville to see her sister, Lateefi Deeb.

Sam and Nimera met here in Waterville, and they married in 1916. They lived at the Head of Falls by the Kennebec River, and all of their children were born in Waterville. Nimera bore 8 children: Charles, Louis, Ernest, John, Freda, Lucille, and twins, Peter and Paul. Every one of the sons served in the military.

Sam was a spinner for Wyandotte for the most of his work life. Along with Joe George, Sam purchased the land where the Lebanon Youth Society building now stands, and donated it to the Lebanon Youth Society for the purposes of establishing their meeting place there. It is also noteworthy that Sam was a 60 year + member of the Knights of Columbus.

Nimera was a good cook, and was once the subject of a newspaper article for growing a fig tree here on Hathaway Street. Her husband loved figs, and she sought to please him. Every fall, the tree was bent over and buried for protection, and during the growing season, that tree bore fruit. Both Nimera and Sam lived to the age of 85.

Mitchell

MITCHELL FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



*George (2) with John (1) and
Mary (1) Mitchell*

On June 6th, 1920, a young Lebanese woman named Mintaha (2) Saad emigrated from Bkassine to America as an escort for her young niece. Providing escort was a common practice among the Lebanese families who emigrated to this country. Generally, one or both of the parents would travel ahead to their destination, leaving the young children behind. Once work was located and money was saved, they would later send for the children, and a relative would travel along with the child as a means of protection during the voyage. When Mintaha had fulfilled her obligation, she decided not to return to Lebanon. She joined her sister and brother-in-law who had already settled in Waterville. As too was a common occurrence, her name was changed to Mary.

George (2) Mitchell Sr. was born in East Boston, Massachusetts, and his mother died while he was still an infant. His father, unable to take care of the 5 children gave them up for adoption. George was adopted at age 4, by a Lebanese couple from Waterville – John (1) and Mary (1) Mitchell, who lived briefly in Bangor before coming to Central Maine. He attended school through the 5th grade, then left school to get a job. George found out 11 years later that his heritage and birth was that of an Irishman. His natural parents themselves had been Irish immigrants.

John (1) and Mary (1) Mitchell (Nakhly) traveled from Lebanon to Egypt, and then around 1904, they traveled to Bangor to a Lebanese community. They eventually traveled and settled in Waterville shortly after the adoption of George (2). In spite of his Irish heritage, George was brought up Lebanese, and he read and spoke Arabic, French and English.

Mintaha met her husband, George (2) in the small grocery store owned by his parents. Together, they traveled to Massachusetts and were married at the home of his sister, in the year 1924. Mary gave birth to two sons – Paul and John. They eventually returned to Waterville, where George's mother and father were still living. Robert was soon born thereafter.

Once in Waterville, they lived as so many had, at the Head of Falls proximate to the Two Cent Bridge, along the Kennebec River. They lived in a second floor apartment above the small grocery store owned by George's parents. In 1933, Mary gave birth to George (3) John Mitchell, named after his father. Barbara, their only daughter arrived years later.

Mary, an expert weaver, worked nights in the Wyandotte Mill and the American Textile Mill – and took care of her home and her family by day.

Nader

NADER FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Joe (1) with his parents in Lebanon

The Nader family originally emigrated to the United States, landing at Ellis Island, from Bkassene, Lebanon. At age 17, Joseph (1) Sr. came with his father and members of the Mitchell family, but his father eventually returned to Lebanon. The name of Joseph W. Nader Sr. remains on a list of emigrants at Ellis Island. Many individuals fled that region during a heightened period of war.

The Naders initially traveled to Waterville, and lived in various places including Head-of-Falls and with the Maroon family on Hathaway Street. They rented property for awhile in Waterville, until Joseph Sr. purchased a home on the Cushman Road in 1954, where Joe (2) Jr. and his wife Mary presently live.

Joe Sr. worked for a time at the Wyandotte Mill, and in 1926 he started his own paving company – Nader Paving. A majority of his business involved tarring camp roads and driveways, but it later evolved into a full service hot topping company. There were times when he picked and sold apples, repaired shoes and performed other odd jobs in order to feed his family; displaying a strong and industrious work ethic.

He married Christine, a native of Jackson, Maine. They met at her place of employment - she was a waitress at the former hotel, which was located at the present Northern Mattress building on Main Street in Fairfield. Together, they raised their family of 5, (three sons & 2 daughters) in Winslow and the family has been anchored in Central Maine ever since.

One brother, William, moved to Meridan, CT. Elias J. Nader, the other of the three brothers is also from Winslow.

Joe Nader Sr. was one of the Tradesmen who participated in the building of our Church on Front Street – mixing mortar and laying stones.



NASR FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

Elias (1) Saliem Nasr is the brother of Chicori Saliem of Sabbah, Lebanon. Chicori traveled to America in 1910 with his bride-to-be Jamila. Though Elias never left Lebanon for America, he was fortunate enough to have had three of his children relocate here to the Waterville area – Laya, Salim and Nassim.

In 1966 at age 30, Laya married Wadeah Joseph; who carried the nickname Dempsey. Dempsey died, and Laya returned to Lebanon in 1973 with her 3 year old daughter Nada. In 1975, when the fighting in Lebanon escalated, Laya returned to Waterville with Nada and her brother Salim who was aged 25 at the time. Their uncle, Foahd Saliem was their sponsor on this trip to Central Maine.

In Lebanon, Salim was employed in TV and electronics repair. Since coming to America, Salim has held jobs with various glass companies, electronics repair and rug installation. In 1979, Salim went to Florida, and upon his return in 1980, he opened the Lebanese Bakery on Temple Street with his sister Laya. Their mother, Almaza who is still in Lebanon, is considered one of the finest cooks in Sabbah. Over the years, Almaza has mailed her recipes to her children here in Central Maine.

Nassim arrived in Waterville in 1976, when Salim sent for him. Nassim worked for Wyandotte, Avian Farms as a lab technician, and currently works for Northeast Labs.

Nimon

NIMON FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Ferris (1) and Sadie (1) Nimon came over together from Lebanon as a married couple. The exact date is not known for sure, but their marriage was prearranged by relatives. Ferris and his bride were sponsored by his step-father and mother, who were already in America, living at the Head-of-Falls. They landed from their voyage across the sea at Ellis Island, and it is recalled that sleep was rare on this trip to the new land. Many stories from local Waterville people corroborate the fear that most of the emigrants shared, of being turned away, and in general, fear of the unknown. But their faith was strong, and they stood together and encouraged one another.

Ferris was born in 1881, worked much of his life in the Wyandotte Mill, and died in 1950. His wife Sadie was born in 1885, remained a housewife most of her life, and she passed away in 1965. Because they were first cousins, we're told that they needed a special dispensation from the Pope to get married. They lived for a time in Millinocket, and Waterville, eventually moving to Fairfield. They had 6 boys and one girl Freda (2) Nimon Buker. Three of the sons died at a very early age, perhaps two were still born, and

one caught the flu from an older relative, and was too weak to survive the effects of this unknown disease.

Sadie remained a housewife for most of her life except for a brief period of time while at Head-of-Falls, she ran a small bakery and saved all her profits, using them as a down payment on a house in Fairfield. She frequently would rise as early as 2 and 3 in the morning to begin the day's chores of baking for the local patrons. Once they moved to Fairfield, they were known to take the Trolley from Fairfield to Waterville to attend church services at St. Joseph's. Neither Ferris nor Sadie spoke English very well, but the children: Freda, Norman, Joseph and John pictured below, spoke English very well, all being schooled here in Central Maine. The custom of prearranged marriages carried over here to Central Maine, but the children resisted their parents wishes, and took a more active role in choosing their own mates. Sadie frequently cooked Lamb Mishwe (Shishkabob) for breakfast, and Norman frequently ate the lamb raw.

Social life was active, and consisted of friends from Waterville traveling to the family home in Fairfield to play cards. Ferris also enjoyed playing pool, an activity his wife did not like. Ferris was known to "borrow" money from his wife's apron from time to time to play pool or purchase cigarettes. He would also have his minor children run to the store to pick up his cigarettes for him. He also loved the movies.

Around the 1950's, the family would actively participate in an event called the M'jara - much like our Haffi, only outdoors, generally at Bangs Beach here in Central Maine. It was a festive Lebanese celebration with food, music, the dubkee, and the tradition went on for years. Apparently our church owned property on a lake in the vicinity of Albion at one time, and the M'jara took place there, but in general, it was held at Bangs Beach in Sidney.



Peters

PETERS FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Charles, Ann, Laya and Elias

As a teenager, Charles (1) Boutrous Peters, far left in the photo, came to Ellis Island, sometime around the turn of the century. Charles was from the village of Jezzine, Lebanon. He probably came with his brother Sam (father to Morris, George and Sadie Peters – Pendexter). Charles also had one other brother.

His son, Elias (2) Peters, 4th from the left, was born here in Waterville. Elias was one of 9 children, two siblings of which were from a prior marriage – Karam and Carrie. Lily and Charles then had Peter, Najla, Sadie, Elias, James, Paul and Theresa. Charles' bride and wife Lily (Laya) Maron Peters first married in Lebanon at age 13, and she became widowed. Laya was from the village of Sabbah. She was a wonderful cook, and catered

parties and events for many families here in Central Maine. She, too, left Lebanon and spent time in Egypt, then on to France before coming to America. It appears that there was a regular network set up for this freedom trail, as this is a familiar story. Lily had two children while in Lebanon and her husband died.

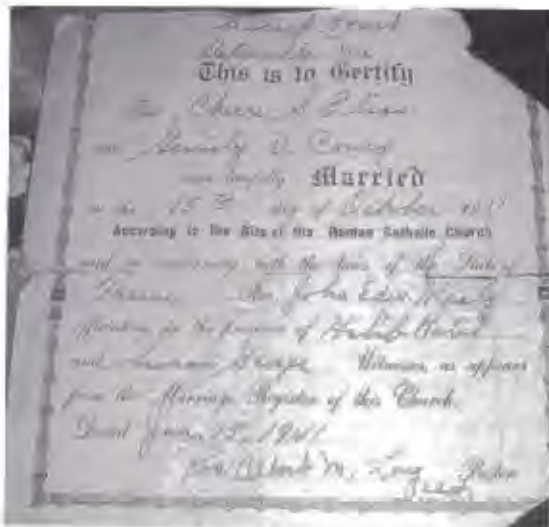
Charles met Lily, married her and raised her children as his own. They married in 1912 in Waterville, at which time Charles was aged 21 and Laya was aged 24. He operated a small store at the Head of Falls area – selling candy, jewelry and most anything you might find in a general store at that time. Their store was the first in the area to have a walk-in cooler, which was kept cold by large blocks of ice Charles purchased from locals who harvested ice from the river. Charles also bought and sold diamonds.

To the right is the Census Form – 1954 – for Lilian Peter. Note that the signature of the "Family's Chief" is a thumbprint! Charles – named Maroon Said Boutros – Boutros means Peter. The *s* in Peters was added when their daughter Sadie was asked in school what her name was. She didn't want to be called Sadie Peter (a boy's name) so she told them it was Peters.

1954 Census Form for Lilian Peter

Saliem

SALIEM FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



1911 Saliem marriage license

Chicori (1) Saliem of Sabbah, Lebanon, was born in 1890 and died in 1960 at age 70. While attending Beirut College as a young man, he took a vacation to Alexandria, Egypt. He met his bride-to-be, Jamila (1) Coury of Miambrea, Lebanon in 1910. Jamila had plans to visit a relative who was already here in Waterville, but Chicori, then aged 21, decided to make the journey on the spur of the moment.

They were married one year later at Sacred Heart Church in Waterville. They had 5 children – Foahd, Margaret, Clotilda, Emily and Louise (2) who currently lives on Elm Court here in Waterville. As a young family in Central Maine, they lived for awhile on Front Street, King Court, and then at Head of Falls. As most families did in those days, they rented their residence. Jamila worked at the Cotton Mill and was one of the best Lebanese cooks of her day. She had learned to cook while in Alexandria, and was accustomed to preparing foods that many local Lebanese were not altogether familiar with. While she spoke little English, she was quite fluent in Italian and Arabic.

Chicori spoke French, English and Arabic. He worked at the Wyandotte Mill until he retired in 1952, the same year Jamila died. Working at a mill may not have been the best fit for a college educated individual, but Chicori had to support his family, and this work was readily available to him. Chicori's father, Salim, owned a store in Sabbah, Lebanon, and was reputed to be quite generous. Money was scarce, and Salim frequently would allow his customers to purchase goods at his own expense. One of Chicori's nieces was the first female attorney in Beirut, and is credited with starting a women's liberation movement in Beirut.

Thomas

THOMAS (Tanous) FAMILY BIOGRAPHY



Maroon and Habouba at 220 Main St.

The Surname of Tanous was "Americanized" at some early point in the Thomas Family history. There are some families in America who still spell it in the Lebanese tradition, but in the case of these two emigrants, the name was probably changed for them. The registry at Ellis Island has them listed with the surname Thomas.

We can only imagine the kind of planning that went into such a large undertaking... to depart their country – leaving family and friends behind, and travel to an unknown place on a hope and a prayer.

Maroon and his wife landed at Ellis Island in 1910. They initially traveled to West Virginia where Maroon worked as a laborer in the coal mines, and Habouba took in boarders. With news of greater opportunity here in Central Maine, they packed up once again and came to Waterville. Maroon secured a job with the Maine Central Railroad. Though he was a common laborer, work was secure, and it guaranteed a means to feed his family. In fact, he remained with Maine Central RR until retirement after 4 decades of service to them.

Both were aged 16 when they married in Gernia, Lebanon. This was also the village of their friends Tamamie Karem and David Joseph. Maroon and Habouba had 13 children together - Tommy, Joe, Wayne, Jack, Bernie, Lou, Mary (Smus), Nim (Noel), Ann, Frannie

(Joseph), Julia and two other siblings, who died in early childhood. Sittoo (Habouba) was a housewife and a cook in the Lebanese tradition. To the right is a picture of Habouba in the basement of her home on 220 Main, cooking the traditional flatbread.

Other items on the menu regularly included Kibbee, cabbage rolls, Kousa... she cooked it all, and in great quantities.

Habouba also had tattoos, which she received at a very young age, as a girl in Lebanon. It was quite common for young girls to travel to the village and trade the services of a tattoo artist for anything of value. In this case, she traded her tattoos for two eggs. The tattoos display what appears to be a bracelet of jewels, crosses, and a pigeon or some other bird. It is likely that Habouba did not have the permission of her parents at the time she received her tattoos. Her friend Tamamie, had similar tattoos, and did not receive her mothers blessing for her markings. It is



Thomas



possible that they received them at the same time, by the same artist.

The young growing Thomas family lived as many did at that time, at Head-of-Falls. Specifically, they made their home on King Court. By today's standards, the neighborhood was congested, but this community had a sense of belonging, and their struggles and hardships were far more significant than anything we know. Eventually, Maroon saved enough money to purchase the family homestead at 220 Main Street, a property which has remained in the family since the 1940's until just this past year.

Appropriately enough, the yard was abundant with apple trees, a vegetable garden and of course, grape vines. They grew tomatoes and cucumbers, and did a significant amount of canning.

And though some of their children grew up and moved away to South Portland and New York, they always came home to the many gatherings... the holidays and family reunions. Their loyalty to family has remained a hallmark of the Thomas family.

Thomas

PETER THOMAS FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

(BOUTROS ABDOU LAHOUD)

In 1910, Peter Thomas emigrated from Sabaah, Lebanon to Waterville, Maine. His brother, Liboos, had preceded him to the United States and was already living in Waterville at the time. Since Liboos had taken the surname of Thomas upon arriving to America, Peter did the same.

After finding work at the Maine Central Railroad and accumulating the necessary funds, Peter sent for his wife, Jamillia, and their 6 year old son, Elias, who were still living in Sabaah.

In June of 1911, Jamillia and her son traveled to Alexandria, Egypt and boarded a ship with her friends – Laya Azar (Peters) and Saada Harb (George) who were also emigrating to America. To the left is a photo of Jamillia's actual ticket. Paid by Boutros Abdou Lahoud, it cost a total of \$57.45 for the trip for one adult passenger from Alexandria to Waterville. After a 21 day journey, living on sardines and sleeping on hammocks stacked five high, they finally disembarked at Ellis Island, N.Y. subsequently arriving in Waterville where the families were joyfully reunited. Peter and Jamillia had 6 more children: Tekla, Freda, David, Sadie, John and Anna. All of the siblings attended Waterville schools and were graduated from Waterville High School.

Five of the children moved to Springfield, Massachusetts and established permanent homes there. Sadie and Anna remained in Waterville where they married and raised their families.

M. M. Oakes 1911

AGENT'S RECORD.

No. *120151*

Jamillia B. Thomas

Name *Jamillia B. Thomas*

Correct Address, _____

Adults _____ *Children* _____ *Infants* _____

From *Alexandria, Egypt*

To *Waterville, Me. U.S.A.*

Ocean Fare, \$ *30.45*

Commission, \$ *2.00*

Net, \$ *32.45*

European R. R. Fare, \$ *1.00*

American do. \$ *0.00*

Commission, \$ *5.00*

Net, \$ *37.45*

Net Remittance, \$ _____

Paid by *Boutros Abdou Lahoud*

Address _____

1911 ticket from Alexandria

Williams

WILLIAMS FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

John (1) and Annie Williams emigrated from Sabbah, Lebanon in 1913 and landed at Ellis Island. They traveled to Waterville, Maine and set up their residence where so many had before, on King Court at the Head of Falls. With them were their two children – Mary and Chicory (2). At the time, Annie was with child, expecting Charles, their third. Within a short period of time, they had five more children – Thomas, Kareem, Herbert, Joseph and Ernest.

Chicory (2) married Hazel George, and they had four children – Barbara, Beatrice, Brenda and Brent (3). Brent is the husband of Lea Joseph (daughter of Deacon Joseph) and with their three children, Brea, Lucas and Lacey, are very active in our Church.



*In Memory of My Grandparents
Antonio y Susanna (Dabdah) Bakhos
and
Azar and Tamar (Asbear) Najjar*

*Thanks for bringing the
Maronite Tradition to America!*



Father Sam Najjar



**Happy
75th Anniversary
St. Joseph Maronite Church!**

*from
Robert J. and Selwa (Sally) Jurdak Derosby
and family
Craig, Jennifer, Stacy, Alan, Keith, Nicholas & Zoe*

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE AND AMELIA JABAR CONGRATULATES ST. JOSEPH'S MARONITE CHURCH



- ✦ HERBERT (JUNE)
 - MICHAEL (WENDY)
 - ZACHERY
 - CHRISTOPHER
 - GREGORY
 - SARAH
 - LORI
 - JENNIFER
 - TAMMY (MICHAEL PELLETIER)
 - ELISA
 - MITCHELL
 - JOEL
 - STEPHANIE (ALAN MILLER)
 - KYLE
- ✦ NORMAN (MARGARET-DECEASED)
 - DEBORAH
 - PAULA (PAUL LESSARD)
 - EMILY
 - LAURA
 - MARCIE
 - CINDY
 - LIZA (JAMES CAGNEY)
 - FIONA
 - ANN (ROBERT OMENY)
 - OSHAE
 - ONOSO
 - NORMAN
 - BETH (SHAWN HARRIS)
 - ENRICA
- ✦ JOHN (MARGARET)
 - PAMELA (JOHN TRINWARD)
 - JOHN T
 - KATE
 - MISTY
 - ANDREA
 - PATRICIA (WAYNE SMITH)
 - CHRISTINA
 - JOSHUA
 - PEGGY (FRANK GRIFFIN)
 - FRANK
 - EVELYN
 - PATRICK
 - GEORGE (BETH)
 - MALLORY
 - JUSTINE
 - GEORGE MIKE
 - HANNAH
 - JOHN
 - JOHN III
 - JAMES (DEBORAH)
 - KALEN
 - JAMES
 - KEVIN



- ✦ THERESA (EARL LEE-DECEASED)
 - JEFFREY (MAUREEN)
 - SHAWN
 - MATTHEW
 - CHRISTOPHER
 - CANDI (PHIL CHAPUSEAU)
 - NICOLE
 - DANIELLE
 - MICHEL-LEE
 - TAYLOR
 - CATHI
 - DAVID (JANE)
 - NICHOLAS
 - ALEXANDRIA
- ✦ PAUL (JACQUELYN)
 - SUSAN (KEVIN CAMPBELL)
 - TINA (RICHARD VEILLEUX)
 - LUCIENNE
 - NATALIE
 - CATHERINE
 - DIANE(RICHARD ABETT)
- ✦ TONY (MARLENE)
 - JANICE (MICHAEL RILEY)
 - MATTHEW
 - ERIN
 - KELLYN
 - TONY (JOAN)
 - JONI
 - ANTHONY
 - JODY (DAVID VEILLEUX)
 - DAVID
 - DYLAN
 - CODY
 - MARY JO (JIM HODGKINS)
 - JAMIE
 - JESSICA
 - BENJAMIN
 - MICHAEL
 - MICHELLE
- ✦ REGINA (TED SANTOS)
- ✦ JOE (RENEE)
 - JOE (BRIDGET)
 - RYAN
 - JUSTIN
 - JORDAN
 - JASON

In Loping Memory
of
JOSHUA MICHAEL POULIN
Aug. 18, 1987 - Sept. 19, 1996



Joshua, My Brother

Joshua, My Brother,
Joshua, My Friend,
Never had a care or bother,
and everyone loved him,
especially my friends.
He always cared for others,
Even at the end.

~ Dominic

Dear Joshie,

Everything I did with you, and everything I said to you was done out of love. You were my hero. You changed my life and made me feel so special.

When you asked me to sing to you or play with you, I was pleased to. It wasn't because I had to or because someone told me to, it was because I loved you and wanted to make you happy. The love we shared and the things we did together can't even be described.

You and I were pals. You were a great pal to hug because you were so cuddly and huggable, just like Pooh Bear!



With lots of love,
hugs, kisses and more
Your sister,
Erin

WHAT JOSHUA MEANT TO ME

It's hard to talk about the memories as if they were in the past, but it would be painful not to talk about them.

To me, Josh was a soft hug in the morning, a gentle gaze at night, and a laughter that filled the bedroom. No one will really know what he meant to me, every memory I have of him is as exciting as the other. I don't have to tell you all that because, if you knew him, you'd know exactly what I'm trying to say.

He brought our family together although I never realized how much until this past week. Josh was the type of kid who loved to make friends no matter who they were. If you met him you were hooked. That's what happened to me, I got hooked on Josh the minute I saw him.

I thank God that he was placed here on earth because he made us the people we are today...good people, caring people, and people who know what love is all about.

~ Danielle

To my big brother Joshua,
Although we never met here on earth,
you are a part of me and I will know you through
the eyes of everyone who knew and loved you.
You will always be in my heart.
~ Love Ellie Grace

take my hand



Love,
Mom, Gene,
Dominic, Erin, Danielle
and your new baby sister, Ellie Grace



In Loving Memory
Sammy & Alicia (Bakhos) Najjar

from their children

Mary, Father Sam, Joseph, Doris, Paul and Denise



In Memory of

The Saliem Family

*Foahd, Margaret, Chicori,
Clotilda, Jamila and Emily*

from Louise Saliem



EDWARD L. ATKINS



*A true friend of
St. Joseph Maronite Church*



HONORING HIS MEMORY

Barbara

*We Honor their Memory
and their Commitment to
St. Joseph Maronite Church*



GEORGE AND MINTAHA MITCHELL

*from their children
Paul, John, Robbie, George, Barbara*



Saint Joseph's Maronite School...
Class of 1945...

Hal Pade Statin

Seated: Rev. Fr. Joseph Awad
L-R: George Peters, Earl George, Gloria Nagem, Henry Nagem,
Robert Mitchell, Madeline Karter, Herbert Joseph.

Smile, and remember happy days at St. Joseph's Maronite School.

In Loving Memory of Robbie Mitchell
from his wife, children and grandchildren

Descendants of Elias & Mary Abouzide Karter

FIRST GENERATION (L-R):

Sam Karter-Railroad Bookkeeper

Mary Karter-Mother

Michael Karter-Accountant, 6 children

Anne Karter-Bookkeeper

Mary Joseph-Proprietor KC Market

Colby Spa Bookkeeper, 3 children

Jibryne (Gubby) Karter-Entrepreneur, 10 children

Tekla Karter-Wyandotte Worker, 50 years

Nancy Sturtevant-Store Clerk, Housewife, 4 children



Elias Karter



Descendants of Jibryne & Jeannette Karter



Gubby & Jeannette Karter



Mother Jeannette

(L-R):

Jan Bourque-Maine State Employee

Jibryne "Gubby" Karter, Jr.-Proprietor Bob-In/Budget Host Hotel, 1 child

Jeffrey Karter-Proprietor Augusta Florist, 2 children

Elissa Karter-Hair Stylist FL, 1 child

Alfred "Fred" Karter-Proprietor Chez Paree/Joka's Beverage/Creative Sounds, 3 children

James Karter-CPA 25 years, partner Deloitte-Touche, OK, 3 children

Carol Cota-RN, Proprietor Energy Business, 3 children

Karl Karter-Proprietor Men's Styling Salon, NH, 1 child

Mary Elliot-Proprietor Botique/Health Care Emp., VT, 5 children

Joseph "Joka Joe" Karter-Proprietor Joka's Beverage, 4 children

The Karter's are proud to celebrate the 75th anniversary of St. Joseph's Church, which has bonded the Lebanese community together both spiritually and culturally. The Lebanese community has been an important part of the Waterville area for the past 100 years and the church's influence has grown along with it.

ST. JOSEPH MARONITE CHURCH

Congratulations On Your 75th Anniversary



THE BOLES FAMILY

Elias Boles; Blanche Boles; Richard Boles; Carol Boles; Elias Boles II; Kim (Boles) Devir;
Tim Devir; Meghan Devir; Katlin Devir; Donna (Boles) Gambino; Joe Gambino;
Heidi Gambino-Dubin; David Dubin; Cameron Dubin; Joe Gambino II; Kate Gambino;
Maryanne (Boles) Robinson; Heather Moore; Austin Moore; Avery Moore;
Holly Robinson; James Boles; Lenore Boles; Susan Boles; Pamela (Boles) Cassidy;
Daniel Cassidy; Elias Cassidy; Christian Cassidy.

Congratulations
on your
75th Anniversary
from your friends at
St. Anthony's Maronite Church
Lawrence, Massachusetts

Msgr. Jim Khoury, Pastor

In Memory of
Joseph & Zaheya Ferris
Fred, George, Ferris & Mary

from Arnera Ferris



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**In Memory
of
Frances Goff Khoury**



**by Msgr. Jim Khoury
and
Family**

Congratulations
&
Happy 75th Anniversary to
St. Joseph's Maronite Church



from
Paul and Yvette Mitchell
and Family



IN MEMORIAM



JOHN & LENA JOSEPH
JOHN R. JOSEPH JR.
DARRELL JOSEPH
GEORGE & SADIE MITCHELL
ELIAS & ANNIE JOSEPH
DIANNE Z. JOSEPH R.N.

*"THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SUCCESS WHO HAVE LIVED WELL,
LAUGHED OFTEN AND LOVED MUCH;*

*WHO HAVE GAINED THE RESPECT OF INTELLIGENT
PEOPLE AND THE LOVE OF LITTLE CHILDREN;*

*WHO HAVE FILLED THEIR NICHE AND ACCOMPLISHED
THEIR TASKS;*

*WHO HAVE LEFT THE WORLD BETTER THAN THEY FOUND
IT, WHETHER BY AN IMPROVED POPPY, A PERFECT POEM
OR A RESCUED SOUL;*

*WHO HAVE NEVER LACKED APPRECIATION OF EARTH'S
BEAUTY OR FAILED TO EXPRESS IT;*

*WHO HAVE LOOKED FOR THE BEST IN OTHERS AND GIVEN
THE BEST THEY HAD;*

WHOSE LIVES WERE AN INSPIRATION;

WHOSE MEMORY IS A BENEDICTION."

**YOU WERE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL
MUCH LOVE,**

ROY & ELAINE JOSEPH
PETER & PAT JOSEPH
HERBIE & NANCY JOSEPH
AND ALL THEIR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN
NIECE'S & NEPHEW'S

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JOHN R. JOSEPH JR.
DARRELL JOSEPH
GEORGE & SADIE MITCHELL
ELIAS & ANNIE JOSEPH
DIANNE Z. JOSEPH R.N.

*"THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SUCCESS WHO HAVE LIVED WELL,
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PEOPLE AND THE LOVE OF LITTLE CHILDREN;*

*WHO HAVE FILLED THEIR NICHE AND ACCOMPLISHED
THEIR TASKS;*

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IT, WHETHER BY AN IMPROVED POPPY, A PERFECT POEM
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WHOSE LIVES WERE AN INSPIRATION;

WHOSE MEMORY IS A BENEDICTION."

**YOU WERE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL
MUCH LOVE,**

ROY & ELAINE JOSEPH
PETER & PAT JOSEPH
HERBIE & NANCY JOSEPH
AND ALL THEIR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN
NIECE'S & NEPHEW'S



*Congratulations to
Saint Joseph's Maronite Church
on their
75th Jubilee
and in
Loving Memory
of
Sub Deacon Deeb David Ferris*

World War II Veteran
Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather
You Served St. Joseph Church with Dedication

Always in Our Hearts

Mrs. Sumayah N. Ferris

Tom & Nympha Ferris
Jovany David

Maria & Franklin Bouchard
Christina & Danielle

Allison & Stephen Crate
Matthew & Daniel

Catherine & Brian Berryman
Jonathan Paul

Paul & Mary Ann A. Ferris
Sumayah Josephine

Richard Ferris & Suzette Hutchinson
Kelsey Rae

Congratulations St. Joseph Maronite Church for 75 Years of Caring

Alfred and Ruth Joseph

Alfred "Duke" Joseph Jr. and Lyn
Sue Joseph Dunn and Darrell Dunn
~ Lauren and Caitlin Dunn
Christopher and Frieda Joseph
~ Lee, Sam and Sophie Joseph
Jonathan Joseph



*In Memory of our Parents, Brothers and Sisters
Maroon and Fahme Joseph
Joe, Eddie, Lena, George,
Elias, Peter, Mary
and Ruth Donovan*



In Loving Memory

Parents

Charles & Susan George

Siblings

Amelia, James, Elias, Tommy, Nimon, Teddy, Mary & Arthur

Husband

James (Jimmy) Corey

by Sadie George Corey



Smile, God Loves You!

**Congratulations to St. Joseph's Church
from the
Maronite Youth Organization**

(75 years young!)

In Memory of
Laya and Nagib Ab-ou-atme
Rashidi and Maroun Azar



from their children
Amal and Massoud Azar



Best Wishes!

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Congratulations

In Loving Memory of
the Mansour family

Joseph & Annie Mariam

John, George, Alfred

the Landry family

Robert & Gertrude

from Lauraine Mansour



Congratulations St. Joseph!



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In Loving Memory of
Thomas Harfoush Boles
&
Mary Saad Boles



Jean Nacozy ♦ *Maheba Cutter*
Angela White ♦ *Caroline Nale*
Elias Boles ♦ *Hilda Cook* ♦ *John Boles*

With Love From,
John Nale, Carol Nale Levine,
Mark & Laurie Nale

*In Loving Memory of my Husband, Parents & Sister
Leonard Macken*

George & Barbara Peters

Ann Seitz

*Congratulations and Best Wishes
Helen Macken & Family, Cleveland, Ohio*

*"The Lord brings Peace to His Church,
and fills us with the finest wheat."*



*Congratulations
Saint Joseph's Church
on your
75th Anniversary*

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CONGRATULATIONS!

In Loving Memory Of

Marion E. & Michael J. Karter, Jr.

Simon M. Karter

David F. Daher



In Loving Memory Of

Mary & George Ezzy

Tony, Maron, Ferris

Mary & Elias Karter

Simon, Tekla, Jibryne, Mary

By the children of Marion & Michael Karter

ELIAS, NANCY, TONY, THERESA, MICHAEL JR.



*In Loving Memory Of
Thomas H. George*



Loving Son, Husband, Father & Jiddoo

*All Our Love,
Pheila, Kathleen, Tricia & Nancy*



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In Loving Memory of Simon & Lottie George

and their deceased members of their family
Rita, John, Thomas, George,
Emma Peters and Ameila Azar.



ALL OUR LOVE,
The Daughters of
Thomas & Ida George and Elias & Gabrielle George

In Loving Memory of Rev. Paul E. Coury



Fr. Paul was always gracious to our family.
He and Fr. Bill had a closeness that was unique and fraternal.
Together, they ministered to the good parishioners of St. Joseph's
Maronite Church of the Roman Catholic Church.

At times, they appeared as father and son
while at times they appeared as brothers.
Fr. Paul had a great influence upon Fr. Bill and the Bartoul family.
In appreciation for his kindness and spiritual guidance,
during this time of celebration of the Church he loved so much,
we offer our warmest congratulations in his memory.

The Bartoul Family

In Memory of Mary Karter Joseph

January 26, 1918 to August 4, 1998



Our Mother, Wife, Sittoo, Friend

We celebrate a life dedicated to family, church and community.

Active member of the WHS Class of 1935

Thomas College Class of 1937

Founding member of the Maronite Guild

Lifelong member of the Rosary Sodality

A pioneer amongst modern working women,

She ran the K&C Market, a Front Street grocery store.

From there she went to Colby College with her husband, John,

Where they operated the Colby Spa.

Her gracious and loving smile charmed all who had the good fortune to cross her path.

She is remembered by generations of Colby students and faculty.

*Mostly we remember her as a
generous and loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend*

We love and cherish you always,

Husband John M. Joseph

Sons

John M. Joseph, Jr.

George K. Joseph

Joey P. Joseph

and families

*Congratulations to
Saint Joseph's Maronite Church
on 75 years of service to its
parishioners and friends.*



*Presented in Loving
Memory of*

John and Sadie Maroon

Thomas Maroon

Elias Maroon

Dorothy Maroon

Given by: Josephine Maroon, Michael Maroon, Sr. and Family,
Lowell and Mary Hawes and Family, Edward Maroon, and
Mitchell Maroon.

IN MEMORY of our LOVED ONES . . .

*Among the Founders and Believers;
the Givers and the Workers.*



PARENTS:

Joseph & Saida George



SISTERS and BROTHERS:

Louise & John Hooglund

Annie Shepherd

Rose Lombardo

Celia & Nicholas A. Nichols



GRANDPARENTS:

Simon & Matilda Stevens



AUNTS and UNCLES:

Assad, Massoud & Eva Harb

Simon & Lottie George

James, Anne & Madelyn Stevens

Eva S. and Bud Mitchell



COUSINS:

Thomas George, Amelia Azar, Emma Peters, Rita John

from:

John, Janet and Maroon J. George



In Memory Of

Shackie and Rose Marie Joseph

John and Margaret Joseph

Jennie, Lena, Peter, Paul, Joseph and Earline

from

Rosanna Joseph & Janis McGhee



~ With Love and Appreciation ~

*We salute the living and the departed members
of the groups that gave us joy and pride in the
on-going history of St. Joseph's Maronite Church.*

St. Joseph's Actors and Players

St. Joseph's Church Band

Maronite Guild

Children of Mary Sodality

Lebanon Youth Society

Rosary Sodality

Thanks for the Memories ~ Marie Deeb and Janet George



Sam & Lottie Deeb



Rose & Albert Bellamah

In Loving Memory Of Our Parents

From George, Jean (Bellamah) & Fela Deeb

Rosemarie, John, Brittany & Ryan Masella

Sam, Kathleen, Anne Marie & Mary Kate Deeb

**OUR PARENT'S LOVE OF MARONITE HERITAGE,
AND OF FAMILY & COUNTRY IS INSTILLED IN US
AND WILL BE PASSED TO THE NEXT GENERATION.**



*Best Wishes on Your 75th Anniversary
St. Joseph's Maronite Church*

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*Best Wishes to
St. Joseph Maronite Parish*

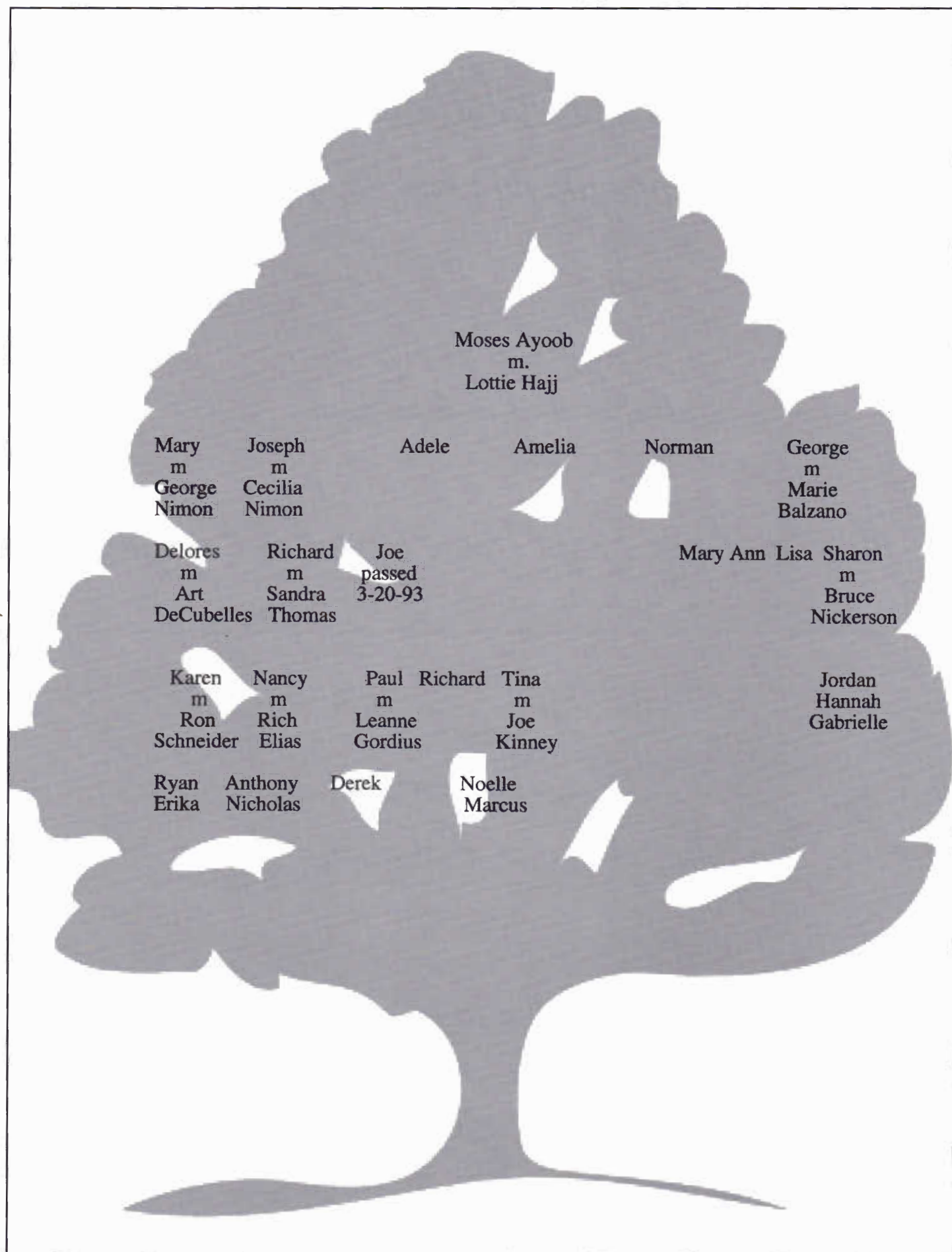
The Plourde Family
Dan, Katrina, Charlie and Tabatha

May God Keep These Doors Open For Everyone.

*In Memory of
Salem, Nazera & Doris Peters*

by the family





Moses Ayoob
m.
Lottie Hajj

Mary
m
George
Nimon

Joseph
m
Cecilia
Nimon

Adele

Amelia

Norman

George
m
Marie
Balzano

Delores
m
Art
DeCubelles

Richard
m
Sandra
Thomas

Joe
passed
3-20-93

Mary Ann Lisa Sharon
m
Bruce
Nickerson

Karen
m
Ron
Schneider

Nancy
m
Rich
Elias

Paul
m
Leanne
Gordius

Richard
m
Tina
m
Joe
Kinney

Jordan
Hannah
Gabrielle

Ryan
Erika

Anthony
Nicholas

Derek

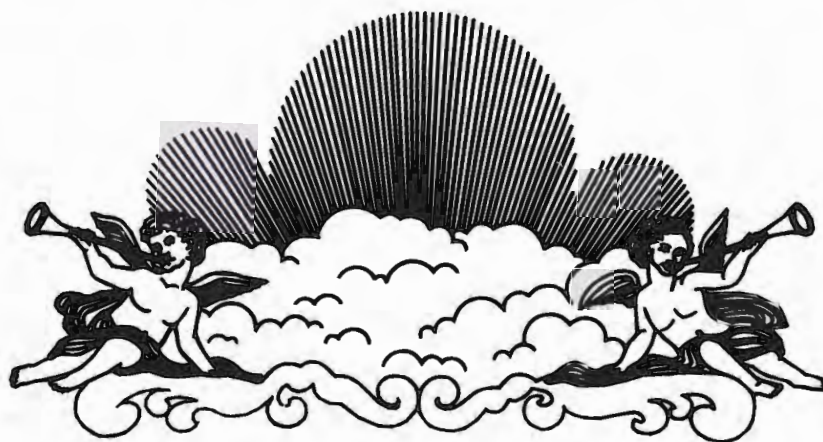
Noelle
Marcus



Maroon & Habouba Thomas

They crossed the seas . . .
 Two of many, with a vision . . .
 A better life . . .
 for themselves and their children.
 No little achievement!
 No job . . .
 No formal education . . .
 Language barrier . . .
 But achieved, nonetheless,
 They left a heritage of love,
 A respect for authority,
 A spirit of community,
 Never forgetting God and church.
 Two of many who have all succeeded.
 From your children and theirs . . . with love.

WE THANK YOU!



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Bricks & Mortar

From the beginning, my family has been a member of the Saint Joseph church community.

Little did my grandparents know that the church's foundation they helped to build 75 years ago would become not only bricks and mortar, but the solid foundation of a wonderful community we call home.

Congratulations St. Joseph Church on your first 75 years!

Ralph W. Atkins



The Karter Family (w/Eddie & Celia Atkins) at a Lebanon Youth Society Social circa 1940's.

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*In Loving Memory
of our Special Sittoo*

❖ *Ann Karter Peters* ❖
(who is cooking in heaven!)
11/19/23 - 4/26/02

Sarah Ann & Kenneth Charles Clark



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Happy 75th Anniversary
to
St. Joseph's Maronite Church

from the Nader Family

One of our Parishes Founding Families



L-R: Les Laweryson, daughter Doreen Laweryson, Mary Nader and Joe Nader
Daughter Paula Hasson and Randy Hasson
Front: Grandson Benjamin Ryan Hasson

Congratulations
and
Best Wishes
on your
Diamond Jubilee

St. Anthony's
Maronite Catholic Church
4611 Sadler Road, Glen Allen, Virginia
804-270-7234



CONGRATULATIONS
&
HAPPY
75th ANNIVERSARY

Father Sam

&

St. Joseph Maronite Church

From
Paul, Yvette and Bill
and the entire GHM staff

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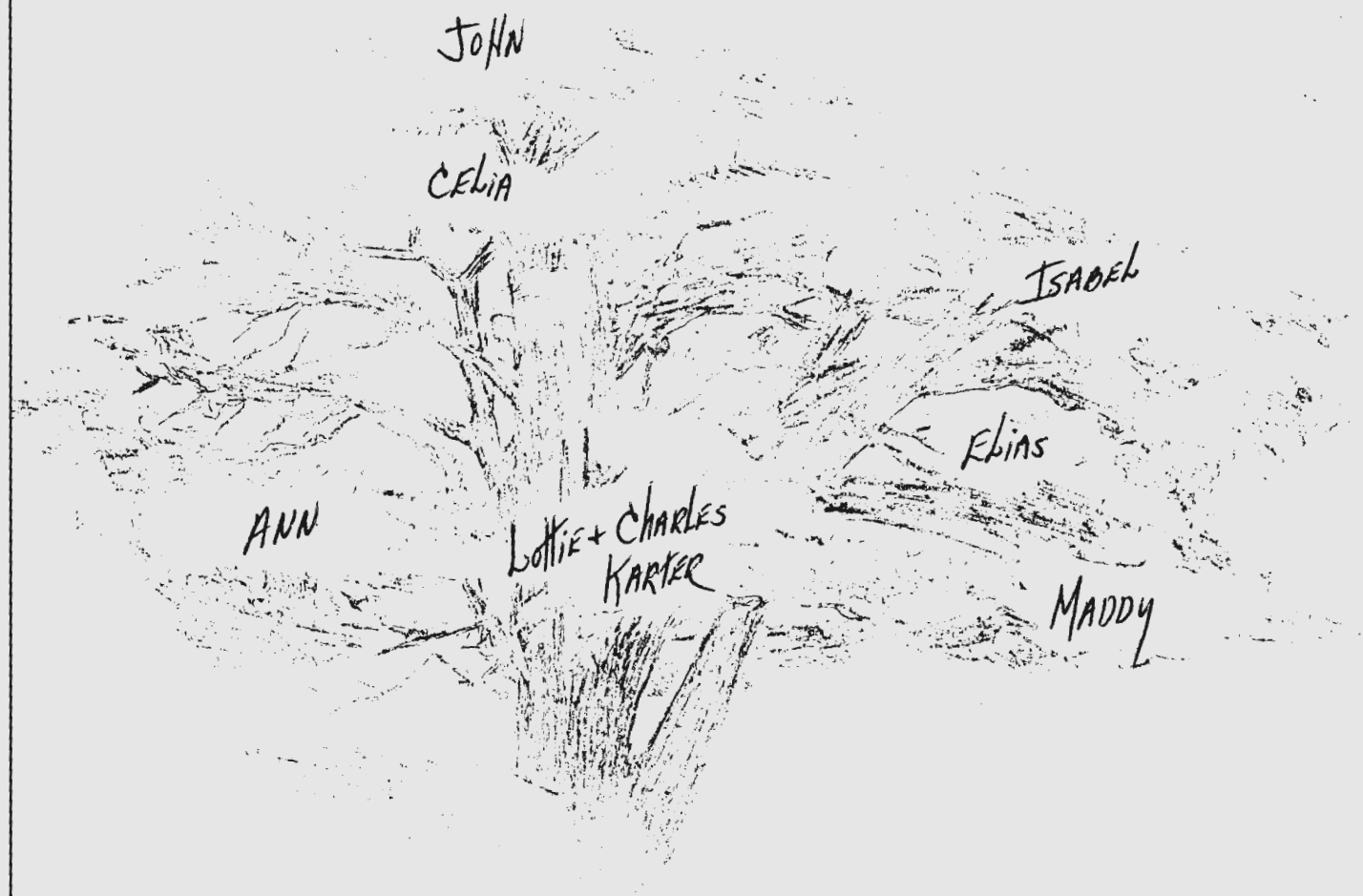
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OF THE MARONITES



DEATH, HOW OFTEN DO YOU WAVE YOUR HAND
OVER US ALL IN THIS MIGHTY LAND,
AND PICK US OUT ONE BY ONE,
TO LET US KNOW OUR JOURNEY IS DONE...

ELIAS (SLATS) KARTER

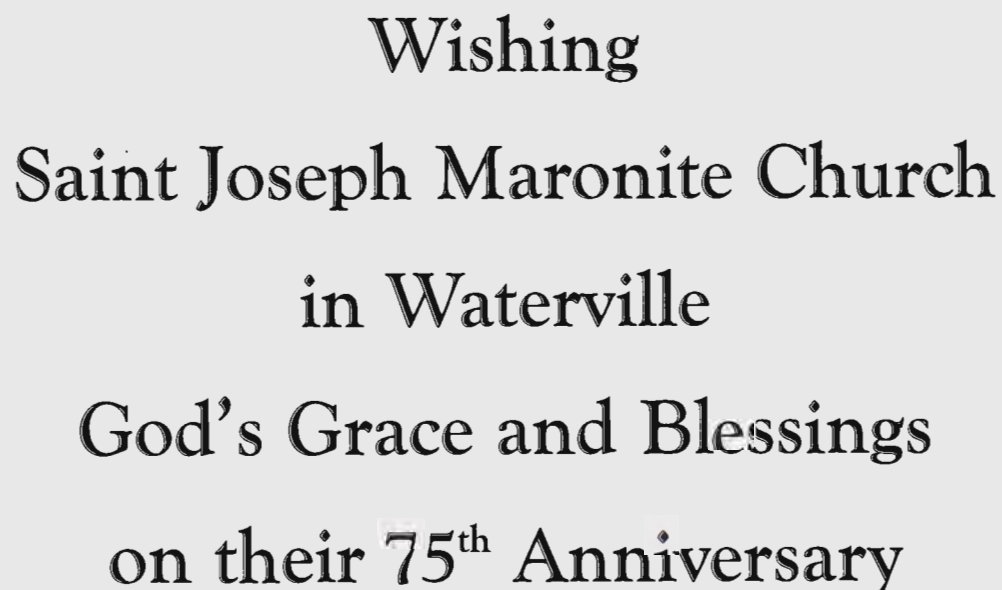
- FROM THE FAMILY

The
Southern Most Maronite
Parish on the East Coast
Sends Warmest Wishes to
Our Brothers & Sisters at the
Northern Most Maronite
Parish on the East Coast!

OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH

2055 CORAL WAY • MIAMI, FLORIDA

Monsignor Michael G. Thomas, JCD, Pastor



106

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PARISHONERS OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
A MARONITE PARISH IN WATERVILLE, MAINE FOR 75 YEARS**

IN FOND MEMORY OF
PETER J PETERS
1913 - 1990

**RECIPIENT OF THE SILVER MASSABKI MEDAL FOR HIS DEDICATED
SERVICE TO ST. JOSEPH'S MARONITE CHURCH**

**A LEADER IN THE COMMUNITY, PARISH COUNCIL OFFICER, COLLECTOR,
TREASURER, AND PILLAR OF THE CHURCH. LEADING FOUNDER AND
PERPETUATOR OF THE LEBANON YOUTH CLUB.**

Given in memory by his wife Jessie Peters

COMPLIMENTS OF THE NEMER FAMILY
Maroon, Theresa and Yvonne

**IN LOVING MEMORY
OF OUR PARENTS AND SISTER**

William and Isabelle Nemer
Minnie Nemer Wilson

*"The just man shall flourish like a palm tree,
like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow."*

Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

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"We will give thanks... for you all... remembering... your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in
Our Lord Jesus Christ..." Thes. 12:3



From Father Maroun Asmar - Pastor And Parishioners and Friends Of
St. Sharbel Church in Somerset, New Jersey



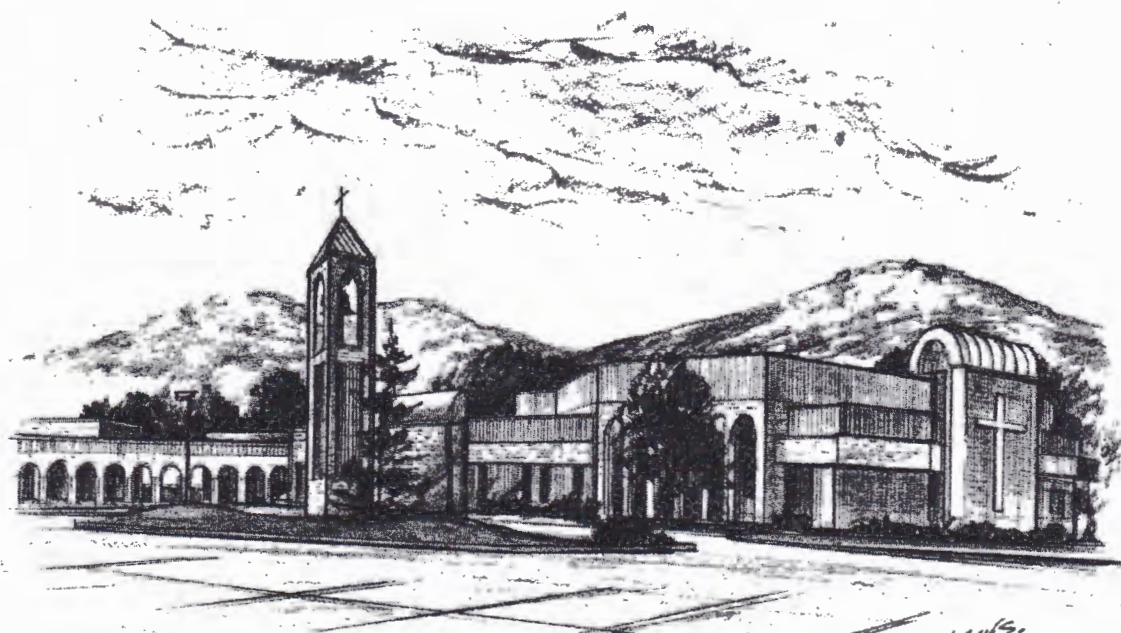
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*The family of
St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church
of Roanoke, Virginia
Wishes St. Joseph Church Family
A Blessed 75th Anniversary.*

*May the Lord keep you all united in
His Holy Spirit as you continue
to be a beacon of His light and
witnesses of His love.*



*St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church
Roanoke, Virginia*



My Dear Friends,

As you celebrate your 75th Anniversary, know that my thoughts and heart are celebrating with you. St. Joseph's was my first parish assignment as a priest and will always remain special to me. Currently, as a military chaplain, when I celebrate the Mass for our military men and women, I always look for Maronites among them. Once in awhile we meet. They come from various parts of our great nation and speak of their home Maronite parish as if it were an oasis, a place of refuge, a font of good memories, and their anchor in an ever-changing world.

Celebrating your anniversary is to celebrate the successful accomplishment of giving the next generation your history, your traditions, and your faith. I will continue praying for you that God continue blessing you and guiding you along His ways.

Happy Anniversary and God bless.

Fr. Bill Bartoul



Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary

*The family of these fine parents wish to express the fondness that
Mel and Eunice had for St. Joseph's Maronite Church.*

*Mel and Eunice spent time in the parish.
Both were genuinely impressed with the kindness and hospitality
of the parishioners. They always spoke highly of St. Joseph's.*

In Loving Memory of Millet & Eunice Bartoul

*As you celebrate your 75th Anniversary,
it is most appropriate that the memories of
Mel and Eunice be counted among
the many blessings that have come
from your community of faith.*

In Loving Memoriam

Matilda Stevens † Simon Stevens

Eva Mitchell † Jimmy Stevens † Annie Stevens

Massoud Harb † Saida George

Madeline Stevens † Assad Harb † Annie George

Louise Hoglund † Celia Nicholas

from the Charles Stevens family



Congratulations on the Diamond Jubilee of St. Joseph's Church

Mary, Paul & Stephen Maroon

- **Proud of our Church**
- **Proud of our Heritage**



Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph Maronite Church

Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary. We pray that God will grant you many more years of rejoicing in the Maronite traditions. We pray that your children's children will know and celebrate the richness of our faith. You are in our memories and prayers.

During our brother's assignment to St. Joseph's, many of us visited the parish. We have maintained a fondness for the Church, the city, and most of all, you, the parishioners. You always made us feel welcomed and "like family."

Millet & Barbara Bartoul, Jr.

Suzanne & John Puskas

Fr. William Bartoul

Adelle Bartoul

Michelle & Glenn Mangan



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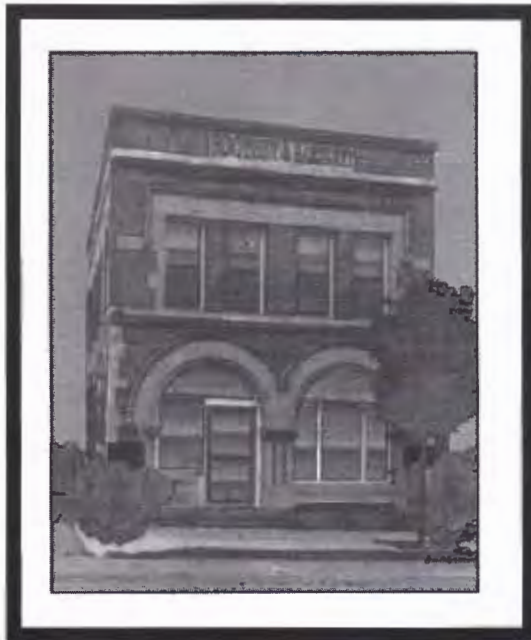
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Congratulations to
St. Joseph's Maronite Church
on it's 75th Anniversary!!



In Memory of our late Parents

Maddlyn Elias Stevens

and

Wallace Donovan, Sr.

from Sandra and Ron Stevens



*In Loving Memory
of our Father and Mother
Sam and Nimera Maroon
Sister Lucille, Brothers Ernest and Louis
Freda Nassar, Charles, John, Peter & Paul Maroon and families*

St. Joseph's Church meant so much in their lives.

*Congratulations
to the
St. Joseph's Parish Family!*

The Taddeos



*Congratulations
to
St. Joseph
Maronite Church*

Kathleen, Richard, Joseph & Stephen Nale

The Williams' Family

John & Aiminee Williams

Chicory & Hazel Williams

Barbara Ann

Patrice Marie

Nikolaus P.
Joseph M.

Michael Paul

Michael P.
Chad
Amy

Kathleen Ann

Frank A.J.
Richard A.J.

Valerie Jane

William
Lee

Kimberly Beth

Daniel M.
Allyson M.

Beatrice Marie

Theresa Marie

Marja Liisa
Erik William
Kristiina Suzanne

Gregory John

Autumn Nicole
Ashley Michelle

Lisa Marie

Ann Marie

Amanda Marie

Brenda Patricia

Brent David

Brea Patricia

Lucas Chicory

Lacey Haseeba



In Loving Memory of
David and Tamamie Joseph
Joe Dave - Elias - Alfred

From the Family



“The flowers of the field are the children
of sun’s affection and nature’s love;
and the children of men are the flowers
of love and compassion.” ~ K.G.



*The Parish Family
of
Our Lady of Victory Church
in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

*Sends Best Wishes
to you on your
Diamond Jubilee*

*Rev. James A. Root, Pastor
Rev. David Michael, Parochial Vicar*

***In loving memory of
George "Biff" Joseph, Jr.
Gary R. Joseph***

May you always walk in sunshine,
And God's love around you flow;
For the happiness you gave us,
No one will ever know.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone;
A part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
A million times we've cried;
If love could only have saved you,
You never would have died.

Lovingly remembered by Margaret Joseph, Gail Guthrie and family



*In Loving Memory of
Massoud and Teresa Naseralla
Elias (Doc) and Annie*

from Joe, Connie and Sadie Naseralla

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*Congratulations & Best Wishes
from Clergy and Parishioners
of Saint George Maronite Church
in Pawtucket, Rhode Island
on your 75th Diamond Jubilee.*

Your Lebanese Community in Waterville, Maine
has flourished like the cedars of Lebanon,
and has produced many talented individuals
whom we are all proud of today.

GOD BLESS YOU.

~ Rev. Paul F. Mouawad

CONGRATULATIONS!

from
St. Sharbel Maronite Church
and
Abouna Joseph (Irenaiious, BSO) Thomas
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

*Congratulations and Best Wishes
to St. Joseph's Maronite Church
on your Glorious 75th Anniversary!*

*from the family of James & Carrie George
the Pioneers of St. Joseph
God Bless and Many More Years To Come*

Vickie Jurdak and family ~ Lillian Abraham and family



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from Clergy and Parishioners
of Saint George Maronite Church
in Pawtucket, Rhode Island
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~ Rev. Paul F. Mouawad

CONGRATULATIONS!

from
St. Sharbel Maronite Church
and
Abouna Joseph (Irenaiious, BSO) Thomas

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

CONGRATULATIONS ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Peter & Marion Maroon and family

Let us not forget those who have
passed through these doors.

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*Congratulations
on the occasion
of your
75th Anniversary*

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IN MEMORY of
OUR BELOVED PARENTS AND FAMILY,
NIMON AND MARY Rokos,
DANIEL Rokos AND JULIA NORMANDEAU.



YOU will FOREVER BE IN OUR PRAYERS.

REV. RICHARD Rokos AND LINDA Rokos

*Congratulations
on your
75th Anniversary*

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**Congratulations
Saint Joseph Church
Waterville, Maine
for 75 years of dedication
in Maronite Church
You are in our prayers**

FOR ALL THAT
YOU'VE ACHIEVED
WE SALUTE YOU.

*Fleet proudly salutes
the Maronite Parish
on their 75th Anniversary.*



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Best Wishes to
Our Neighbors to the North!

**Saint Joseph Maronite
Church**

from the
Pastor and Parishioners of

**Saint George Maronite
Catholic Church,
Dover, NH**



Antonine Sisters

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Saint Joseph Church
Waterville, Maine
for 75 years of dedication
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You are in our prayers

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*Fleet proudly salutes
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on their 75th Anniversary.*



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Best Wishes to
Our Neighbors to the North!

**Saint Joseph Maronite
Church**

from the
Pastor and Parishioners of

**Saint George Maronite
Catholic Church,
Dover, NH**

The Casavant Family



There are three things that remain
~ faith, hope, and love ~
and the greatest of these is love.

I Cor. 13:13

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*Congratulations!
Blessings of Peace and Joy to you all.*



*The Faith Community of
Our Lady of Lebanon
Waterbury, Connecticut*

Msgr. David George, Pastor

*In Loving Memory of
Daher & Badeah Peters*

*from their children
and grandchildren*



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from



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Congratulations to our Parish from the Mitchell family

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in honor of our parents

Buddy and Eva Stevens Mitchell
Raymond and Georgette Cloutier Veilleux

in honor of our children

Tara Lyn Mitchell
Heidi Lee Mitchell
Heather Anne Mitchell
Lance Joseph Mitchell
April Marie Mitchell Belton

in honor of our grandchildren

Alex Michael Tibbles Mitchell
Richard Anthony Settles
Sirrea Olivia Settles
Gareth Paul Belton

**MAY GOD BLESS ST. JOSEPH'S
AND OUR FAMILY**

In Loving Memory
Of Our Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Thomas
and
Mr. and Mrs. Elias Mitchell

~
Devoted Parishioners of St. Joseph's Maronite Church

~
from Anna & Saliem Mitchell

Congratulations to the
Parishioners of St. Joseph Church
on Your 75th Anniversary

Jim Lynch & Family

***Congratulations to our Parish
from the Mitchell family***

LARRY AND PAULA

in honor of our parents

Buddy and Eva Stevens Mitchell
Raymond and Georgette Cloutier Veilleux

in honor of our children

Tara Lyn Mitchell
Heidi Lee Mitchell
Heather Anne Mitchell
Lance Joseph Mitchell
April Marie Mitchell Belton

in honor of our grandchildren

Alex Michael Tibbles Mitchell
Richard Anthony Settles
Sirrea Olivia Settles
Gareth Paul Belton

**MAY GOD BLESS ST. JOSEPH'S
AND OUR FAMILY**

*In Loving Memory
Of Our Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Thomas
and
Mr. and Mrs. Elias Mitchell*

~
Devoted Parishioners of St. Joseph's Maronite Church

~
from Anna & Saliem Mitchell

*Congratulations to the
Parishioners of St. Joseph Church
on Your 75th Anniversary*

Jim Lynch & Family

*Congratulations
to Parishioners of
St. Joseph Parish
on your
75th Anniversary
and to the memory of
Father Paul Coury*



*from
Our Lady of Lebanon Parish
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Msgr. Sami Hayek, Pastor

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In Memory of
Ferris P. Ferris

from Wife, Virginia
and
Children & Grandchildren



*From the
St. Josephs Choir . . .*

*We sing your praises
for 75 years of blessings
bestowed upon our
ancestors, friends
and families.*

Congratulations!

The Joseph Family
is proud to have been a part of the
St. Josephs Community
for the past 75 years!

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From the workers of

St. Josephs

Friday Night Bingo

CONGRATULATIONS

for the many years

of serving our

Greater Waterville Community.

God Bless You!

*In gratitude to everyone who has made
this weekend and this publication possible.*

*To all the hard work in putting together a
75th Anniversary Commemorative Book.*



*This publication is a tribute
to the pioneers of
St. Joseph Church.*



God Bless You All!





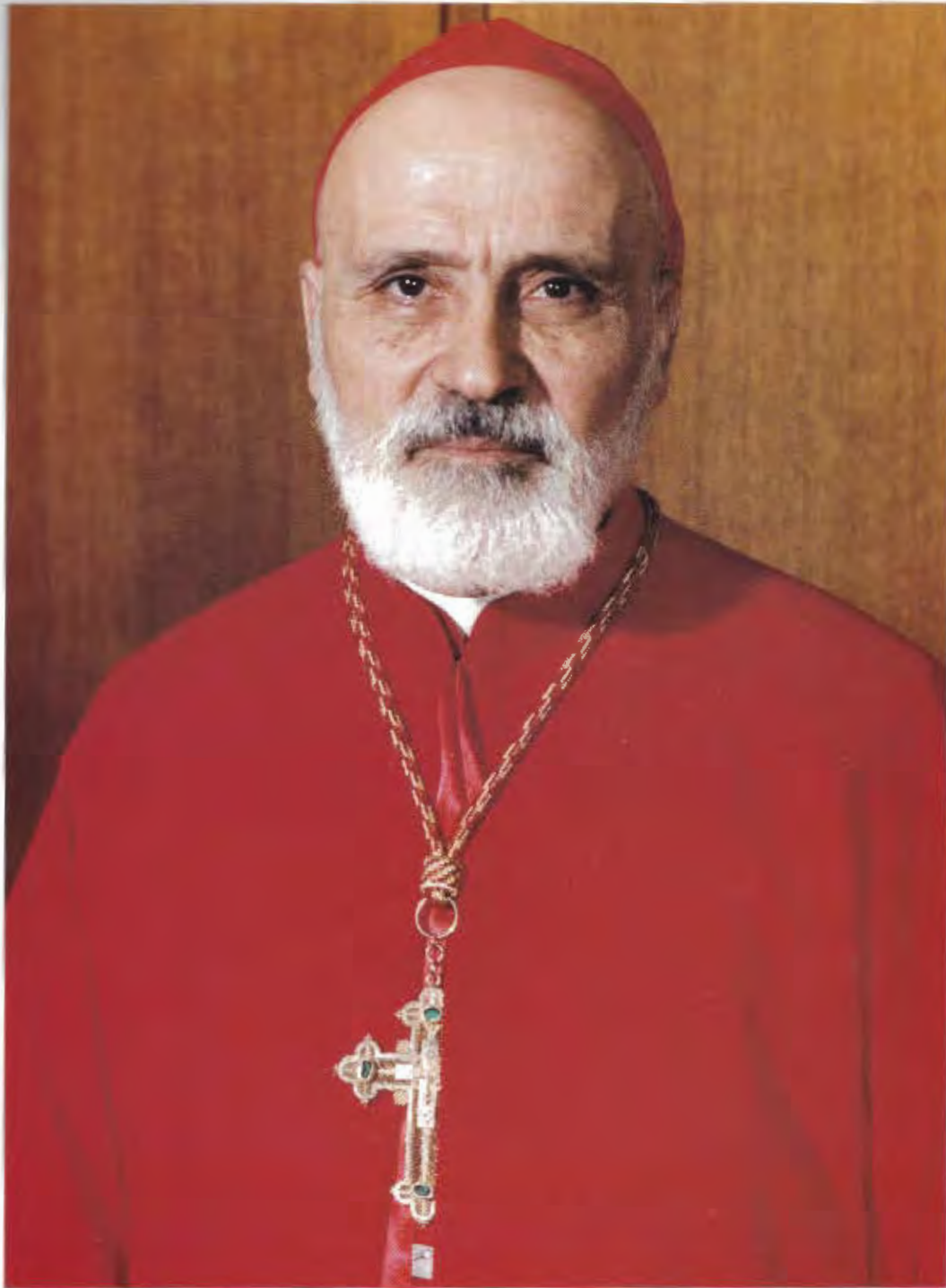


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