



St. Anthony

Maronite Catholic Church

كنيسة مار أنطونيوس المارونية



OFFICE HOURS

M-TH: 9 AM - 4PM

Friday: Office is Closed

Saturdays: By Appointment

Phone: 978.685.7233

Fax: 978.688.4475

rectory@stanthonylawrence.org



LITURGIES

Daily Liturgies

Monday & Wednesday: 9 AM

Tuesday & Thursday: 7 PM

Weekend Liturgies

Saturday: Vigil Liturgy @ 4 PM

Sunday Liturgies:

8:15 AM - Arabic

9:30 AM - English

11:30 AM - English & Arabic

Holy days of obligation

Vigil Liturgy @ 7 PM

Feast Day @ 9 AM



SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation

1 month in advance with the Pastor

Matrimony

Couples should make arrangements six months prior to the wedding date

Reconciliation

One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Please notify the Rectory ASAP.

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines

Season of Resurrection

زمن القيامة المجيدة



*O Mary! We crown
thee with
blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels,
Queen of the May,
O Mary! We crown
thee with blossoms
today, Queen of the
Angels, Queen of
the May.*



Saint Anthony Maronite Church Lawrence, MA

Meet Our Staff

Pastor: Fr. Elie Mikhael

☎ 305.807.9087
✉ pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Tony Youssef

☎ 917-545-4955

Sub-Deacon James T. Demers

Sub-Deacon Nadim B. Daou

Parish Ministries

♦ Religious Education

✉ ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

♦ Publishing: Bulletin

✉ bulletin@stanthonylawrence.org

♦ Choirs (English, Arabic & Syriac)

♦ Kids Choir

♦ Knights of the Altar

♦ Knights of Mary

♦ Maronite Youth : MYO

♦ Maronite Young Adults

♦ Bereavement Ministry

♦ Cenacle of the Rosary

(Thursdays @ 6PM)

♦ Cenacle of Divine Mercy

(Sundays Before the Liturgies)

♦ Sacristan (s)

POPE PRAYER INTENTIONS

May - 2018

Evangelization –
The Mission of Laity

That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.



The Sanctuary Lamp
The Light that Symbolizes
the Eternal Sacrifice

Right Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Loving Memory of
Albert & Helene Ghoussoub
Offered by Wadad Whiffen.

Left Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp will burn
In Loving Memory of
Albert & Helene Ghoussoub
Offered by Wadad Whiffen.

Divine Liturgies Intentions

6th Sunday of Resurrection *Our Lady of Lebanon*

أحد السادس بعد القيامة
عيد سيدة لبنان

Saturday, May 5 @ 4:00 PM:

• For: + Kenneth T. Naffah, *By his sons, Michael & Gregory, his sister, Kay, & their families.*

Sunday, May 6 @ 8:15 AM:

• For: + Albert & Helene Ghoussoub, *By his wife, Wadad Whiffen.*

Sunday, May 6 @ 9:30 AM: Mary Crowning.

• Private Intentions

Sunday, May 6 @ 11:30 AM: Mary Crowning.

• For: + Daoud Bechara, *By Maroun and Joseph Bechara.*

6th Week of Resurrection

الأسبوع السادس بعد القيامة

Monday, May 7 @ 9 AM:

• For: Private Intentions

Tuesday, May 8 @ 7 PM:

• For: Stephanie Ota *By Demers Family*

Wednesday, May 9 @ 9AM:

• For: Evelyn Silvia *By Demers Family*

Thursday, May 10 @ 7PM: Ascension Thursday

• For: Deceased Members of Sayah Family *By Eliane Kazzi & Family.*

Friday, May 11 No Liturgies—Office Closed

7th Sunday of Resurrection *Our Lady of Fatima*

أحد السابع بعد القيامة
عيد سيدة فاطمة

Saturday, May 12 @ 4:00 PM:

• For: + Fred & Rose Breehey, Mcamy Syiek, Rasheedy Milan, Agnes Forslay & Meralda McCann *By Karen Breehey*

Sunday, May 13 @ 8:15 AM:

For: The Living and Deceased Mothers of Our Parish

Sunday, May 13 @ 9:30 AM:

For: The Living and Deceased Mothers of Our Parish

Sunday, May 13 @ 11:30 AM:

For: The Living and Deceased Mothers of Our Parish

Monthly Operational Expenses - May 2017

Benefits	
Insurance - Disability	200.00
Employee Health Insurance	525.00
Medical Co-Pay	20.00
Insurance - Medical - Other	2,400.00
Total Insurance - Medical	2,945.00
Pension Plan Contr to Eparchy	1,000.00
Total Benefits	4,145.00
Major Repairs/Renovat - Other	1,000.00
Household Supplies	41.01
Table Expenses	854.62
Total Household	895.63
Insurance on Personal Belonging	12.75
Salaries	
Clergy	1,900.00
Housekeeping	260.00
Office Work	500.00
Organist / Singers	500.00
Parochial Vicar Salary	1,700.00
Secretarial	2,750.00
Total Salaries	7,610.00
2nd Collections forwarded	1,085.00
Books, Periodicals & Subscript	1,021.78
Conferences & Retreats	400.00
Decorations & Flowers	305.90
Charity assistance/Need	1,252.64
Donations to Others	1,900.00
Total Donations to Others	3,152.64
Eparchial Assessment	5,000.00
Cemetery Ground Maintenance	600.00
Cleaning	1,070.00
HVAC & Kitchen Equipment	400.00
Software Maintenance	180.00
Waste Management	265.24
Maintenance & Repairs - Other	114.00
Total Maintenance & Repairs	2,629.24
Religious Supplies: Candles	546.00
Sewer & Water Assessment	36.04
Utilities	
Cellular Phone	87.13
Cable / Satellite TV/ Internet	332.42
Electric	888.82
Fuel or Gas	708.56
Total Utilities	2,016.93
Advertising & Public Relations	748.80
Auto Expenses (Gas, Ins., etc.)	625.57
Copier (new lease)	167.45
Office Supplies	100.27
Postage	149.73
Printing	178.05
Telephone & Internet Service	130.00
Total Parish Office Administration	2,099.87
Parish Programs	652.02
Religious Education	
First Holy Communion	119.97
Religious Education - Other	1,116.18
Total Religious Education	1,236.15
Women's Club	248.40
Total Parish Programs	2,136.57
Payroll Expenses	211.91
Reimbursable Expenses	75.00
TOTAL	34,380.26

Net Income needed to Balance per Week \$8,596.00

TITHES & OFFERINGS - April 29, 2018

Sunday Collection (Online)	\$ 3,554.00
Candles	\$ 116.00
CCD-Sunday School (Curriculum)	\$50.00
Miscellaneous (Bake Sale, MYO Retreat, Bishop Appeal....)	\$ 175.00
In Memory of	\$265.00
Total Deposit	\$ 4,160.00

2nd Collection –May 6

National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon.
All funds collected will be sent to the Chancery directly to Our Shrine in North Jackson, Ohio

Online Donation

Contribute to Our Parish Growth. Apply Online:
<http://stanthonylawrence.org/donate-now/>

SUMMER LITURGIES SCHEDULE

JUNE 17, 2018—SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

DAILY LITURGIES: M-TH 9AM

WEEKEND LITURGIES:

SATURDAY: 4PM

SUNDAY: 9AM & 11AM

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مواعيد القداديس الصيفية
أبتداءً من الأحد 17 حزيران و لغاية 2 أيلول
القداديس أليومية: 9 صباحاً فقط
قداديس نهاية الأسبوع
السبت : 4 مساءً
الأحد: 9 صباحاً—11 صباحاً

Membership Registration

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/member-information-form/>

Online Donation

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/donate-now/>

Upcoming Events

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/upcoming-events/>

Monthly Calendar:

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/upcoming-events/calendar/>

PARISH MINISTRIES & NEWS

Religious Education

Registration 2018-2019

All children MUST registered for next fall BEFORE we finish our year in May. This gives us a chance to set up lists early and start right away on September. You may fill out the form (one per child) and either return it in an envelope to your child's teacher or I am always available to receive the registrations once the CCD classes have started on Sunday.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Susan Veilleux, ccd@stanthonylawrence.org

First Communion

First Communion: Upcoming Preparations

- **FRIDAY, May 18** will be rehearsal for First Communion with parents. This will begin at 5:30 p.m. and last approximately an hour.
- **Saturday May 19 at 10:30 a.m.** First Communion Celebration.

KINDLY READ CAREFULLY ALL SACRAMENTAL GUIDELINES

Baptism & Confirmation: (Check our Website)
Guidelines :

stanthonylawrence.org/guidelines/

Registration :
stanthonylawrence.org/online-registration-form/

Sacrament of Marriage: (Check our Website)
Guidelines stanthonylawrence.org/guidelines-2/

FOCCUS: stanthonylawrence.org/foccus/

Pre-Cana: stanthonylawrence.org/pre-cana/

Banquet Hall Guidelines:
Contract Form & Usage Donations:

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/banquet-hall/>

Burial Guidelines

Burial Charges and Fees: (Check our Website)

<http://stanthonylawrence.org/charges-and-fees/>

Lot Sales: <http://stanthonylawrence.org/lots-sales/>

Knights of the Altar

Meeting: Saturday, May 5th @ 11AM

Knights of Mary

May 5th: 5PM - 7PM After 4PM Liturgy
Dates are Subject to change

Daughters of Saint Anthony

Monday, May 7th : Monthly Meeting
12 NOON in the Church Hall

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: Tuesday May 8th @ 7PM

Bible Study

English Session: Tuesdays May 8 @ 7PM
Arabic Session: Wednesdays May 9 @ 7PM

MYO - Maronite Youth Organization

Friday May 11th: Faith Formation
Faith Formation Events run from 5PM - 7PM

Children's Choir

Saturday: May 12
Practices are held from 5:00PM - 6:30PM

The Family of Saint Charbel

Thursday, May 17th - الخميس 17 أيار

- ♦ 6:30 PM - Rosary - صلاة المسبحة
- ♦ 7:00 PM - Divine Liturgy - القداس الإلهي
- ♦ 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM - Sharing the Word of God
- ♦ 7:30 مساءً - مشاركة روحية

Rosary Group - صلاة المسبحة

Wednesday @ 6PM - الأربعاء 6 مساءً

Save The Dates

SATURDAY MAY 12

Mother's Day
SUNDAY BRUNCH

11AM - 3PM



Memorial Day Divine Liturgy

Weather permitting, we will carry on the tradition of celebrating Memorial Day Divine Liturgy at the Cemetery Grounds on **Monday, May 28th at 10:00 AM**. In case of inclement weather, we will celebrate the liturgy in the church.

Honoring Our Graduates in the Divine Liturgy—Sunday June 10th.

2018 High School and College graduates

If you are a 2018 Graduate, we kindly ask you to forward: your full name, a (high resolution) photo, grade level, graduating school name and for high school grads, the College you will attend in the fall, to the Rectory or by e-mail. Please be sure to pass in your information ASAP in order for us to properly recognize their achievements. Thank you for your participation. ****Deadline to Submit is May 30th****

Annual Father's Day Picnic

Sunday, June 17th: 11:00 AM Liturgy
Saint Basil Salvatorian Center Grounds

FORMED: PARISH CODE N3CCNK

Tim Staples explains the incredible impact that the Church's understanding of Mary has on our spiritual lives, and the profound way that Marian doctrines and dogmas safeguard what we believe about her Son. Using penetrating insights and humor, Tim shows how correct knowledge of our humble Mother reveals our own identity in Christ and empowers us to say "Yes" to God!

LECTORS

Saturday, May 5 @ 4:00 PM: Phyllis Thomas
Sunday, May 6

8:15AM Maroun Nassar

9:30 AM Sub-Deacon Jim Demers

11:30 AM

English: Mansour Chaya

Arabic: Gretta Merheb

Saturday, May 12 @ 4:00 PM: Roy Rossi
Sunday, May 13

8:15AM Hitaf Nammour

9:30 AM Elizabeth Frias

11:30 AM

English: Marie Charabati

Arabic: Charbel Cherfane

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, May 5

4:00 PM

Elias Saab

Sharbel Saab

Sunday, May 6

8:15 AM

Volunteers

Sunday, May 6

9:30 AM

Caleb Hassan

Noah Hassan

Sunday, May 6

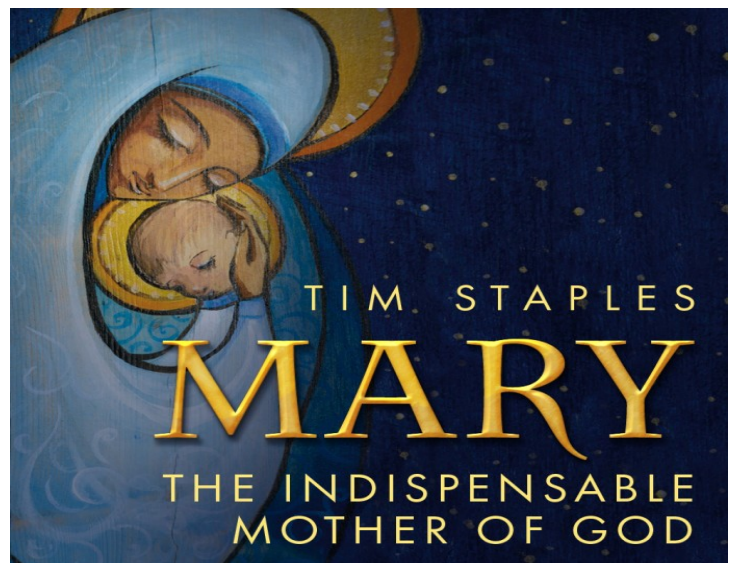
11:30 AM

Anthony El Hachem

Anthony Sadek

Charbel Sadek

Elie Daou



<https://formed.org/listen/57850b889be60d98113593a4>

**Central Catholic High School
Preview Night for 6th and 7th Graders**

Join us on Tuesday, May 8, for our annual
Preview Night for 6th & 7th Graders.

Information sessions will be held at
6:30 PM, 7:00 PM, and 7:30 PM.

**Each session is followed by a personalized tour
of the CCHS campus.**

Follow the link for more information and
to register for this event:

[https://www.centralcatholic.net/admissions/
preview-night-for-6th-7th-graders](https://www.centralcatholic.net/admissions/preview-night-for-6th-7th-graders)

**Bellisini Academy
Accepting Applications for Fall 2018**

Bellesini Academy seeks to admit boys and girls who
aspire to go on to a competitive private high school
and then to college. The admissions process is
designed to identify students and families who will
benefit from our specialized instruction and
programs. Applicants must be eligible for Free &
Reduced Lunch and be residents of Lawrence.

*Priority Deadline for applications is April 6,
2018. Regular admissions deadline is May 14, 2018.*

For more information visit:

<https://bellesiniacademy.org/families/admissions/>

**Preschool & Kindergarten Open
House @ St. Joe's**

Saturday, 5/19/18, 9:00 am - 11:00 am
*St. Joseph Regional Catholic School in
Salem invites you to their Preschool &
Kindergarten Open House.*

Learn why our families say our school
"...has upheld all of my high
expectations...where children are seen as
individuals and are truly loved." Teachers,
students, and current parents will be
available to answer questions, provide
registration information, and give
tours. Kindergarten readiness information
will also be available. Questions? Unable to
attend but would like more information?
Contact Christine, clatino@sjrcs.com or
603-893-6811 x 19.

SAINTS FUN FACTS

Saint John Baptist de la Salle was known for his
work with the poor and was very involved in the
education of poor children. He
founded what is now known as
the Christian Brothers.



He is the patron saint of teachers.

Taste the Food . Meet the People . Enjoy the Atmosphere



**Saint Maron
Church**

Lebanese Festival

1013 Ellsworth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147



June 1-3, 2018



Friday, June 1	5 PM - 11 PM
Saturday, June 2	3 PM - 11 PM
Sunday, June 3	1 PM - 9 PM



Raffle
Three Cash Prizes
\$1,000 . \$500 . \$200



Entertainment:

George Maalouf and Band
St. Maron Dabke Troupe



(Proceeds Benefit Saint Maron Church Community)

LIVE MUSIC . FOOD . GAMES . DANCING

Romans 10:1-13

6th Sunday of the Resurrection - الأحد السادس من زمن القيامة

رومة 10:1-13

My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" ' or "Who will descend into the abyss?" '. But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' ; because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

لَأَنْ بَغِيَّةَ قَلْبِي وَتَضَرُّعِي إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ أَجْلِ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ لِيُخَلِّصُوا. فَأَنَا أَشْهَدُ لَهُمْ أَنَّ فِيهِمْ غَيْرَةَ لِلَّهِ، وَلَكِنْ بِدُونِ مَعْرِفَةٍ صَحِيحَةٍ. فَقَدْ جَهِلُوا بِرَّ اللَّهِ، وَحَاولُوا أَنْ يُنْشِئُوا بِرَّ أَنْفُسِهِمْ، فَلَمْ يَنْضَعُوا لِبِرِّ اللَّهِ؛ لِأَنَّ غَايَةَ الشَّرِيعَةِ إِنَّمَا هِيَ الْمَسِيحُ، لِكَيْ يَتَبَرَّرَ بِهِ كُلُّ مُؤْمِنٍ. وَقَدْ كَتَبَ مُوسَى عَنْ الْبِرِّ الَّذِي هُوَ مِنَ الشَّرِيعَةِ فَقَالَ: «مَنْ يَعْمَلُ بِأَحْكَامِ الشَّرِيعَةِ يَحْيَا بِهَا». «أَمَّا عَنِ الْبِرِّ الَّذِي هُوَ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ فَيَقُولُ: «لَا تَقُلْ فِي قَلْبِكَ: مَنْ يَضَعُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ؟»، أَيْ لِيُنْزِلَ الْمَسِيحُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ. وَلَا تَقُلْ: «مَنْ يَهْبِطُ إِلَى الْهَابِئَةِ؟»، أَيْ لِيَصْعَدَ الْمَسِيحُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ. بَلْ مَاذَا يَقُولُ؟ «الْكَلِمَةُ قَرِيبَةٌ مِنْكَ، فِي فَمِكَ وَقَلْبِكَ»، أَيْ كَلِمَةُ الْإِيمَانِ، الَّتِي تُنَادِي بِهَا. فَإِنْ اعْتَرَفْتَ بِفَمِكَ أَنَّ يَسُوعَ هُوَ الرَّبُّ، وَآمَنْتَ بِقَلْبِكَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَقَامَهُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، تَخَلَّصَ. فَإِلَّا الْإِيمَانُ بِالْقَلْبِ يَقُودُ إِلَى الْبِرِّ، وَالاعْتِرَافُ بِالْفَمِ يَقُودُ إِلَى الْخَلَّاصِ؛ لِأَنَّ الْكِتَابَ يَقُولُ: «كُلُّ مَنْ يُؤْمِنُ بِهِ لَا يُخْزَى». «فَلَا فَرْقَ بَيْنَ يَهُودِيٍّ وَيُونَانِيٍّ، لِأَنَّ الرَّبَّ هُوَ نَفْسُهُ لِجَمِيعِهِمْ، يُفِيضُ غِنَاهُ عَلَى جَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَهُ. فَكُلُّ مَنْ يَدْعُو اسْمَ الرَّبِّ يَخْلُصَ.

Luke 24:36-48

6th Sunday of the Resurrection - الأحد السادس من زمن القيامة

لوقا 24:36-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

فِيمَا الرُّسُلُ يَتَكَلَّمُونَ بِهَذَا، وَقَفَّ يَسُوعُ فِي وَسْطِهِمْ، وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ!». «فَازْ تَاغُوا، وَاسْتَوَلُوا عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَوْفُ، وَكَانُوا يَطْفُونُ أَنَّهُمْ يُشَاهِدُونَ رُوحًا. فَقَالَ لَهُمْ يَسُوعُ: «مَا بَالُكُمْ مُضْطَرِّينَ؟ وَلِمَاذَا تُخَالِجُ هَذِهِ الْأَفْكَارُ قُلُوبَكُمْ؟ أَنْظَرُوا إِلَى يَدَيَّ وَرِجْلَيَّ، فَإِنِّي أَنَا هُوَ. جُسُونِي، وَأَنْظَرُوا، فَإِنَّ الرُّوحَ لَا لَحْمَ لَهُ وَلَا عِظَامَ كَمَا تَرَوْنَ لِي!». قَالَ هَذَا وَأَرَاهُمْ يَدَيْهِ وَرِجْلَيْهِ. وَإِذَا كَانُوا بَعْدَ غَيْرِ مُصَدِّقِينَ مِنَ الْفَرَحِ، وَمُتَعَجِّبِينَ، قَالَ لَهُمْ: «هَلْ عِنْدَكُمْ هُنَا طَعَامٌ؟». «فَقَدَّمُوا لَهُ قِطْعَةً مِنْ سَمَكٍ مَشْوِيٍّ، وَمِنْ شَهْدٍ عَسَلٍ. فَأَخَذَهَا وَكَلَّمَهَا بِمَزَامِيرِ مَنْهُمْ، وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «هَذَا هُوَ كَلَامِي الَّذِي كَلَّمْتُكُمْ بِهِ، وَأَنَا بَعْدَ مَعَكُمْ. كَانَ يُبَغِي أَنْ يَمَّ كُلُّ مَا كَتَبَ عَنِّي فِي تَوْرَةِ مُوسَى، وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمَزَامِيرِ. «حِينَئِذٍ فَتَحَ أَذْهَانَهُمْ لِيَفْهَمُوا الْكُتُبَ. ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُمْ: «هَكَذَا مَكْتُوبٌ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَتَأَلَّمُ، وَيَقُومُ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ. وَبِاسْمِهِ يَكْرَرُ بِالتَّوْبَةِ لِمَغْفِرَةِ الْخَطَايَا، فِي جَمِيعِ الْأُمَمِ، ابْتِدَاءً مِنْ أُورُشَلِيمَ. وَأَنْتُمْ شُهَدَاؤُ عَلَى ذَلِكَ.



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Thursday, October 4, 2018

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Thursday, October 4, 2018



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WHEN DOING NOTHING IS ENOUGH

What can you do in the face of powerlessness? What can you do in a situation where, it seems, anything you can say or do will only make things worse?

For instance, what can you do when you are standing in front of one of your own children, who no longer accepts your values or faith, and are powerless to say or do anything that will help? What can the church do when it stands before a society that no longer understands or accepts what it, the church, cherishes in terms of marriage and sexuality and it has no adequate words, convincing explanations, or ways of defending itself so that it isn't seen as narrow and fundamentalist? What can anyone do when he or she is so wounded by an abuse of body, sexuality, or soul that, right now, he or she is paralysed and cannot move beyond that hurt?

What can we do in these situations? Nothing! Or, at least, so it seems. But perhaps nothing is enough! Let me explain:

All of us know the feeling of standing within a situation and being powerless, at least in that we are helpless to change anything practically. What can we do when faced with that? Nothing – except live with the powerlessness, carry the tension, try to transmute it into something else, and wait for a new day – a day of new opportunity for resolution of the pain (which is very much contingent upon a deeper love and compassion on our part). In terms of resolving the issue practically, we can do nothing. But nothing can be enough!

That might sound fatalistic, but is in fact the opposite of resignation. To stand powerless, in a biblical way, before a situation is to ponder. We see the prototype of this in Mary, Jesus' mother, under the cross. Faced with the reality of the crucifixion, she "ponders". What's she doing exactly? On the surface, nothing; but, of course, we know that something very important is occurring underneath the surface. What precisely? That answer is not so immediately evident.

All scripture tells us is that Mary stood there. Standing, however, connoted strength. Thus, even in the face of the crucifixion, she was strong, not prostrate in helplessness (as artists sometimes depict her). And what's she saying? Nothing. Mary said not a single word; not, I suspect, because she didn't want to protest, but because there wasn't anything that she could have said at that moment that would have made any difference. Under the cross, she was powerless both in that there was nothing she could do, not a single thing, to stop the crucifixion and in that she was just as helpless to protest her son's innocence. Hence, she's not standing under the cross protesting to the bystanders, trying to explain her view of things. She's powerless. Silent. There's no protest. All she can do is ponder, that is, hold the tension, stand silently amidst the misunderstanding, bigotry, and jealousy and, in that, try to gestate its opposite – understanding, compassion, and love.

This concept – of pondering, of silently carrying the tension so as to transform it – is both important and consoling. It's important because, as we know, we often find ourselves in situations not dissimilar to what Mary experienced under the cross. We are sometimes in situations within which all that is dearest to us is misunderstood and crucified and we are helpless to do anything about it. We are, in those moments, inadequate, powerless, mute. What can we say? What can we do? Nothing, except ponder. Like Mary under the cross, we can live without answers, without being able to justify ourselves, without being able to resolve things, bearing what seems unbearable. Can this be fruitful? Yes. When the unbearable is born, space is created for things to be resolved later, by a new circumstance and a new power. In the meantime, we agree to carry tension, not for its own sake, nor even because the fire of tension can forge a noble soul, though it can, but in order to transmute that tension into something else. Whatever pain we don't transmute we will transmit. Mary didn't make that mistake. Neither did Jesus. They pondered. Pondering, bearing the unbearable, is waiting inside of tension in order that our souls can grow so that we don't give back hurt for hurt, bitterness for bitterness, hatred for hatred.

This can be consoling to know. We are too hard on ourselves because of our inadequacies. In many of the most intimate and painful situations of our lives we are precisely not able to fix things, be adequate, or redeem the situation. Sometimes there's nothing to be done ... but nothing can be enough, as it was for Mary, under the cross. Sometimes all we can do is to stand silently, in strength, bearing an bearable tension, waiting for our hearts do something our actions can't, namely, transmute misunderstanding into understanding, confusion into insight, anger into blessing, and hatred into love.