



Wonderworks



Official Newsletter of The Order of St. Nicholas

"Come you faithful and let us serve the Master eagerly, for He gives riches to his servants."

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2002: The Year in Review

The Order of St. Nicholas held its sixth general assembly and annual meeting during the weekend of May 31st to June 2nd at the Church of the Virgin, Brooklyn, NY with Bishop John A. Elya, Grand Protector and Spiritual Advisor and Auxiliary Bishop Nicholas J. Samra, Grand Advisor and attended by some 23 members of the Order



(l to r) Therèsè Raheb, Rev. Deacon Edmund Raheb, Monem Mazawi, Raymond Kayal Sr., Edmond Nahom, Nabil Takla, and Rev. John Faraj (pastor of Church of the Virgin Mary)

Chairman Gregory Oussani and Bishop John A. Elya welcomed the members and elaborated on the relevancy of the OSN in the Eparchy. Bishop Nicholas J. Samra addressed the assembly, emphasizing the need for continued stewardship as a required ingredient for increasing membership.

Additional participants in the weekend were Joseph and Samira Ajlouny (West Bloomfield, MI), Dr. Frances and Mr. John Colie, Esq (West Paterson, NJ), Madeleine Behette, Adele and Marlene Dacken, Albert Doumar, Jacqueline Lutfey, Norman Lahage, Gregory P. Oussani (Brooklyn, NY), Raymond and Loraine Kayal (Miami, FL), Bob Leathers (San Jose, CA), Antoine Lutfy (Staten Island, NY), Monem and Cynthia Mazawi (Miami, FL), Jomana Mansour (Parma, OH), Edmond and Maria Nahom (Danbury, CT), Rev. Deacon Dr. Edmond and Thérèse Raheb (Dayville, CT), Joseph and Marie Antoinette Shawy (Massapequa, NY), Nabil and Hind Takla (Danbury, CT),



A group photo at Byblos Restaurant in New York City

The meeting coincided with the visit of our beloved Patriarch, His Beatitude Gregory III to the New York area Melkite Churches and the 50th Anniversary re-dedication of the Church of the Virgin Mary at its present location in Brooklyn, New York. During the business Saturday business meeting, three members of the Order, Jomana Mansour, Robert Leathers, and Joseph Shawy were elected to the Board of Governors of the Order.

Among points of discussion at the meeting was a proposal for the Order to make an annual contribution to the Clergy Retirement fund based on a percentage of the income of the Order from



[photo: Bob Leathers]

(l to r) Albert Doumar, Jomana Mansour, Adele Dacken, Jacqueline Lutfey, Raymond Kayal Sr., Samira and Joseph Ajlouny, and Edmond Nahom outside Byblos Restaurant in New York City.

membership dues during that year. Bishop Nicholas Samra suggested that the contribution can serve as an incentive for priests to help to recruit members of the Order. Order Chairman Gregory Oussani and Diocesan Development Office Director Edmond Nahom will follow up with Economos Rev. Andre St. Germain to resolve the details of implementing such contribution program.

Bob Leathers made other proposals that will be investigated to develop funding programs to foster priestly vocations and to bring speakers to NAMY conventions and meetings.



(l to r) Norman Lahage, Samira Ajlouny, Eparch John Elya, Gregory Oussani, His Beatitude Gregory III, Rev. John Faraj, Monem and Cynthia Mazzawi

During the weekend of the annual meeting, members of the Order had a welcoming reception at Church of the Virgin Mary on Friday evening. After the Saturday morning business meeting, the Order hosted His Beatitude at a luncheon at Byblos Middle Eastern restaurant in New York City, visited Ground Zero, visited a special at the Museum of the City of New York called "Arab Americans in New York City - A Community of Many Worlds," toured Manhattan on a chartered bus, enjoyed a reception honoring Patriarch Gregory III at the residence of the Consul General of Lebanon, H.E. Ramy Mortada and attended the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy celebrating the 50th anniversary rededication of the Church of the Virgin Mary in Brooklyn and banquet at the Brooklyn Marriott.

The Order made a US\$10,000.00 contribution to His Beatitude Gregory III during his visit to New York for the restoration of the Patriarchate building in Lebanon.

Bishop John Elya, the Grand Protector and Spiritual Advisor of the Order, approved a proposal by Board of Governor Joseph Shawy to add the designation "OSN" for active Order of St. Nicholas members at the end of their names as a title designation in recognition of a members dedication to the Order and the Melkite Eparchy.

(Continued)

What "OSN" Means

The Order of St. Nicholas is comprised of a growing number of faithful stewards in the Melkite Church who willingly give back to God a portion of His gifts to insure the support of the programs and project that serve the people of the Melkite Diocese.

What does the designation as "OSN" for an active member of The Order of St. Nicholas symbolize? In a word: **commitment!**

It is an ongoing commitment to the vitality of the Melkite Church and to lead by the example of generosity. It is an ongoing commitment to allow our bishops, priests, and youth concentrate on faith-building before fund-raising and to affirm a strong personal, moral and religious character in the Melkite Church and in our local communities.

The Order is not an organization of exclusivity, but to the contrary, one of inclusivity. Being a member of The Order of St. Nicholas is a member's way of saying, "I want to do my share; I want to be a part of the process in serving the Melkite Church." The Order of St. Nicholas currently has approximately 70 members, including 15 memorial memberships, whose contributions support the vitality of the Melkite Eparchy in the United States.

Over the past several years, the Order, through the generosity of its members, has accounted for over \$500,000 in contributions given in the name of the Order towards Diocesan charities and special needs and works programs. The annual \$1,000 contributions of members is maintained in the Order's interest-earning Diocesan account that is administered by the Diocesan Economist, Rt. Rev. Andre St.Germain, in accordance with the Order's bylaws

2003 Meeting Date Announced

The Order of St. Nicholas will hold its Seventh Annual General Meeting during the 39th National Melkite Convention during July 16th through 20th, 2003 at the Providence Marriott Hotel (Providence, RI) hosted by St. Basil the Great Church of Lincoln, RI. Please mark your calendars. Details will follow in the Spring.

An Exemplary Steward

During the past four years, Raymond J. Kayal, Sr., Chairman Emeritus, has skillfully and diligently steered the efforts of the Order of St. Nicholas as National Chairman.



[photo: Paulina Muratore]

(l to r) Raymond J. Kayal, Sr., His Beatitude Gregory III Laham and Monem Mazzawi (Southeastern Regional Chairman)

Under Raymond's guidance, the Order has established bylaws that set forth its mission, guide its administrative procedures and solidify its continuity. All in the Diocese of Newton owe Raymond a debt of gratitude for his years of exemplary service to the Melkite Church. May Raymond reap the Master's riches well deserved!

We're on the Web!

The Order is grateful for the efforts and talents of diocesan webmaster Paul Stamm of Milwaukee for adding information about the Order of St. Nicholas to the diocesan website: www.melkite.org To encourage prospective new members, an

application form for the Order is available on the website. Please visit the website and bookmark it as a "favorite"!

New Member Inductees

Bishop John Elya, Grand Protector of the Order, inducted several new members to the Order of St. Nicholas in 2002. Jayne Mardo (see profile below), wife of Order member Tony Mardo of Providence, RI was inducted in Roslindale, MA on May 18, 2002. Jacqueline Lutfey, James J. Oussani, Jr. and Isabel Lutfy of Brooklyn, NY and Jomana Mansour of Cleveland, OH were inducted on June 2, 2002 in Brooklyn, New York.

Those interested in joining the Order of St. Nicholas or nominating a candidate to the Order should contact any current member of the Order or the National Chairman.

Profiles from the Order of St. Nicholas

Anthony and Jayne Mardo, OSN, live in East Greenwich, RI. "Tony" is a life long parishioner of St. Basil the Great parish in Lincoln, RI. In the 1960's he was president of the C.Y.A. Presently he is the chairman of the Parish Advisory Council and the Finance Committee. A graduate of Bryant College, Tony is a certified public accountant and a member of various professional organizations. He founded his own accounting company, Mardo, Lachapelle & Co., Inc. in 1966 and serves as its president. Tony is past president of the RI Society of CPA's, past president of the Estate Planning Council of RI and has served on the Governing Council of the American Institute of CPA's for four years.

Jayne is a graduate of Rhode Island College and Bryant College. Jayne is Vice President of Maron Construction, a general contractor doing business in the northeastern part of the country. She is past president of "NAWIC" (National Association of Women in Construction) and has served on various professional and civic organizations.

Tony and Jayne are co-chairs of the Souvenir Program Book Committee for the Melkite National Convention in July, 2003 and look forward to welcoming more new members to the Order!

Remembering our Patron and Members

To commemorate the patron of our Order, St. Nicholas of Myra, whose feast day is the 6th of December, Bishop John Elya remembers the intentions of the members of the Order of St. Nicholas at the Liturgy that he offers on the 6th of every month.

2003 Dues Contributions

Notices for year 2003 dues contributions for each member are in the mail. Annual dues contributions are payable by April 2003 or in installments by September 30, 2003. In order to meet our goals, we need your prompt response. Also, if you have not yet sent in your dues for 2002, please do so now.

In Memoriam

Sadly, the Order of St. Nicholas has lost a longtime member, **Alice Jadda**, who has passed on to her heavenly reward during the last year. We extend our sympathy to her sister, OSN member Josephine Jadda-Paquette. May Alice's memory be eternal!

**The Order of St. Nicholas
for the Melkite Greek-Catholic Eparchy of Newton**
Bishop John A. Elya, Grand Protector and Spiritual Advisor
Auxiliary Bishop Nicholas J. Samra, Grand Advisor
Rt. Rev. Economist Andre St.Germain, Treasurer

Rt. Rev. Gabriel N. Ghanoum, Eastern Regional Chaplain
Rt. Rev. Ibrahim Ibrahim, Central Regional Chaplain
Rev. Albert Wehby, Western Regional Chaplain

Gregory P. Oussani, National Chairman
Dr. Frances Colie, Vice Chairman
Monem Mazzawi, SE Regional Chairman
Raymond J. Kayal, Sr., Chairman Emeritus