

What's after? EXPECTATIONS

In our home countries, we see that immigration had pushed our families and young generations to leave because of the economic, political, and lack of secured future. We, head of families and religious leaders, should look for a better future and better relation for our Middle Eastern Families and future generations.

Let us think (some suggestions only) about the following.

- 1) Creation of a Middle Eastern association of intellectual people and religious leaders who could meet periodically to study common issues at the service of our People. (kids, teens, young adults, families and seniors)
- 2) Think more seriously on common ways to prepare a flourishing future of our young children. E.g., a space that educates and trains our youth to love their own language, heritage and build relations between themselves. Children built on the rock of principles will grow solid and strong in life.
- 3) Coordinate the work between Churches and associations for the Kids, Teens, Young adults and create opportunities where they can meet and share their present and build their future together. United, our communities can provide a unique and powerful structure that benefits all of us.
- 4) Create an association that unites the effort of our youth in harmony with what is good in our Middle Eastern heritage and to be updated on what they should live .
- 5) Providing opportunities to our new graduates to present their talents and accomplishments (thesis, invention, writings...) to the Middle-Eastern community. and tell about who really we are.
- 6) Creation of a common website where Churches and associations can publish their own agenda of events and links to our respective Church and association websites.
- 7) California is the heart of America. Creation of an ad hoc committee that can research the needs of our future generations to bolster their skills and instill new potentials in them.
- 8) Reunite our efforts to be more present in different sectors of the US public space aiming at looking for opportunities to support one another & build a common vision for an effective influential presence in the US society.
- 9) Create an electronic newspaper that publishes the achievements of our people (music, art, poetry, books, influential persons in economics, invention, science, electronic, intellectual presence, accomplishments). This would help our new generations to find models for life and be proud of their heritage and people.

Prayer

For

Peace



In the

Middle

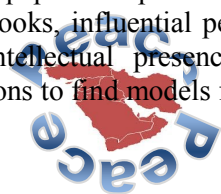
East



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Sunday, November 3, 2013

5:30 p.m.





Introduction

Greeting: Msgr. Labib Kobti, Pastor St. Thomas More Church, welcomes and greets attendees in the name of all the Priests.

First Part

Let us praise the Holy Lord and listen to His word of Love.

All: O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who is everywhere and fills all things; Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Trisagion in Syriac, Greek and Armenian:

Qadishat Aloho, Qadishat hayeltono, qadishat Imoyuto.

Itrahame elein.

Reader: The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Agios o Theos, Agios ischyros, Agios athanatos, eleison imas

Reader: Great peace have they who love your law, and

nothing can make them stumble.

Sourp Asdvadz, sourp yev h'zor, sourp yev anmah, vor haryar i merelotz, voghormia mez.

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 2: 14-22 and 1Cor: 4:9-13

(designates the reading of one Priest, the ** the Priest)*

*For Jesus Christ himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.



Second Part

Let us listen to what is going on in Syria.

Fr. Samer Youssef introduces **Mother Agnes Mariam**

Featured talk: (20 Minutes)

Followed by (10 minutes) written questions only will be answered. Paul Larudee, facilitator

MC invites All Religious Leaders to recite:

Statement on Peace and Justice

All Priests and Pastors:

We, the Religious Leaders of the Bay Area at the service of the American Middle Eastern Communities - and all American people, with the people whom we serve - declare that we are very concerned - on the killing between brothers and sisters in our home Countries.

We denounce the destruction or burning of any religious places or symbols - in Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Soudan, Libya, Nigeria and anywhere in the world.

We are concerned about all the kidnapped people of different religions and ethnicities - and in special way of the two Bishops: Greek Orthodox Paul Yazigi and Syriac Orthodox John Ibrahim - and ask for their immediate release.

We denounce any Media that brainwashes the public with many misfits - vilify the people of the Middle East - and generate divisions by sending arms to different conflicting parties.

We ask our Country America to work only for justice, peace and truth.

As Religious leaders and people we denounce any violence and any killing - and ask for peaceful solutions based on human dignity.

We join our voice with our Head religious leaders in the Middle East, who are calling for reconciliation, love, forgiveness and good will - between the different Religions and ethnicities.

Emcee: Acknowledgement, Dismissal and Invitation to the Church Hall for reception.

♪ ♪ ♪ *Choir* ♪ ♪ ♪





All: Glory to you,
O God, Glory to You.

المجد
لك يا رب، المجد لك

All: Jesus Christ, Son of God
and Prince of Peace,
Who sustained the joy of
Cana's wedding, answer the
prayers of your Church assem-
bled here today.

Holy Spirit, the Spirit of
adoption, dwells in us and help
our weakness so we confidently
turn to God as "Abba, our
Father."

Almighty eternal Father, source
of all compassion, source of all
compassion, the promise of
your saving help fills our hearts
with hope.

☉ Holy Trinity, hear the cries
of the people of the Middle
East; bring healing to those
suffering from the violence;
comfort those mourning the
dead; strengthen the faith of
those who are losing hope in
this continual violence; give
voice to the voiceless smashed
by the law of Jungle; protect
and rear the children who grow

in this hostile environment; ac-
company those who immigrate
seeking refuge; encourage
those who stay in their coun-
tries enduring hardship;
empower all peacemakers; in-
spire leaders to choose peace
over violence.

☉ God of hope and Father
of mercy, do not abandon
your children in the Middle
East. Lead them to the resur-
rection, as they carry their
crosses.

Bring off your kingdom, the
kingdom of peace, in the land
that hosted Your Beloved
Son.

☉ God, you grant justice to
your chosen ones who cry to
you day and night.
Let our weak faith, strength-
ened by your Holy Spirit,
reaches Your fatherly Heart
through Your Beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, always, now
and ever, and unto ages and
ages. Amen.

♪ ♪ ♪ *Choir* ♪ ♪ ♪



**His purpose was to create
in himself one new humanity
out of the two, thus making
peace, and in one body to
reconcile both of them to
God through the cross, by
which he put to death their
hostility.

*He came and preached
peace to you who were far
away and peace to those who
were near. For through him
we both have access to the
Father by one Spirit.

**It seems to me that God
has put us apostles on display
at the end of the procession,
like those condemned to die
in the arena.

*We have been made a spec-
tacle to the whole universe, to
angels as well as to human
beings. We are fools for
Christ, but you are so wise in
Christ!

**We are weak, but you are
strong! You are honored, we
are dishonored! To this very
hour we go hungry and
thirsty, we are in rags, we are
brutally treated, we are
homeless.

* We work hard with our
own hands. When we are
cursed, we bless; when we
are persecuted, we endure it;
when we are slandered, we
answer kindly. We have be-
come the scum of the earth,
the garbage of the world—
right up to this moment.

** Consequently, you are no
longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's
people and also members of his
household, 20 built on the foun-
dation of the apostles and
prophets, with Christ Jesus him-
self as the chief cornerstone.

*In him the whole building is
joined together and rises to be-
come a holy temple in the Lord.
And in him you too are being
built together to become a
dwelling in which God lives by
his Spirit.

*/** Praise be to the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit, One
God, always and forever and
ever. Amen

♪ ♪ ♪ *Choir* ♪ ♪ ♪





Psalms 85

(* designates the reading of one priest, the ** the other's)

* You showed favor to your land, O LORD; you restored the fortunes of your people.

** You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

* You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.


** Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

* Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?

** Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

* Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

** I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints-- but let them not return to folly.



* Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

** Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

* Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

** The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

* Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.


*/** Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

♪ ♪ ♪ *Choir* ♪ ♪ ♪

The Beatitudes (Mt 5:3-12)

* Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.



* Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

* Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

* Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

* Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*/** Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit now and unto ages of ages. Amen.

♪ ♪ ♪ *Choir* ♪ ♪ ♪



John 14:1, 27-29

لَا تَضْطَرِبْ قُلُوبِكُمْ. أَنْتُمْ تَوْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

فَأَمِنُوا بِي (...) سَلَامًا أَتْرَكُ لَكُمْ.

سَلَامِي أُعْطِيكُمْ. لَيْسَ كَمَا يُعْطِي الْعَالَمُ

أُعْطِيكُمْ أَنَا. لَا تَضْطَرِبْ قُلُوبَكُمْ وَلَا

تَرْهَبْ. سَمِعْتُمْ أَنِّي قُلْتُ لَكُمْ أَنَا أَذْهَبُ

ثُمَّ آتِي إِلَيْكُمْ. لَوْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَنِي لَكُنْتُمْ

تَفْرَحُونَ لِأَنِّي قُلْتُ أَمْضِي إِلَى الْآبِ لِأَنَّ

أَبِي أَكْبَرُ مِنِّي. وَقُلْتُ لَكُمْ الْآنَ قَبْلَ أَنْ

يَكُونَ حَتَّى مَتَى كَانَ تَوْمِنُونَ. حَقًّا

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. [...] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.