



EPARCHIAL MYO NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

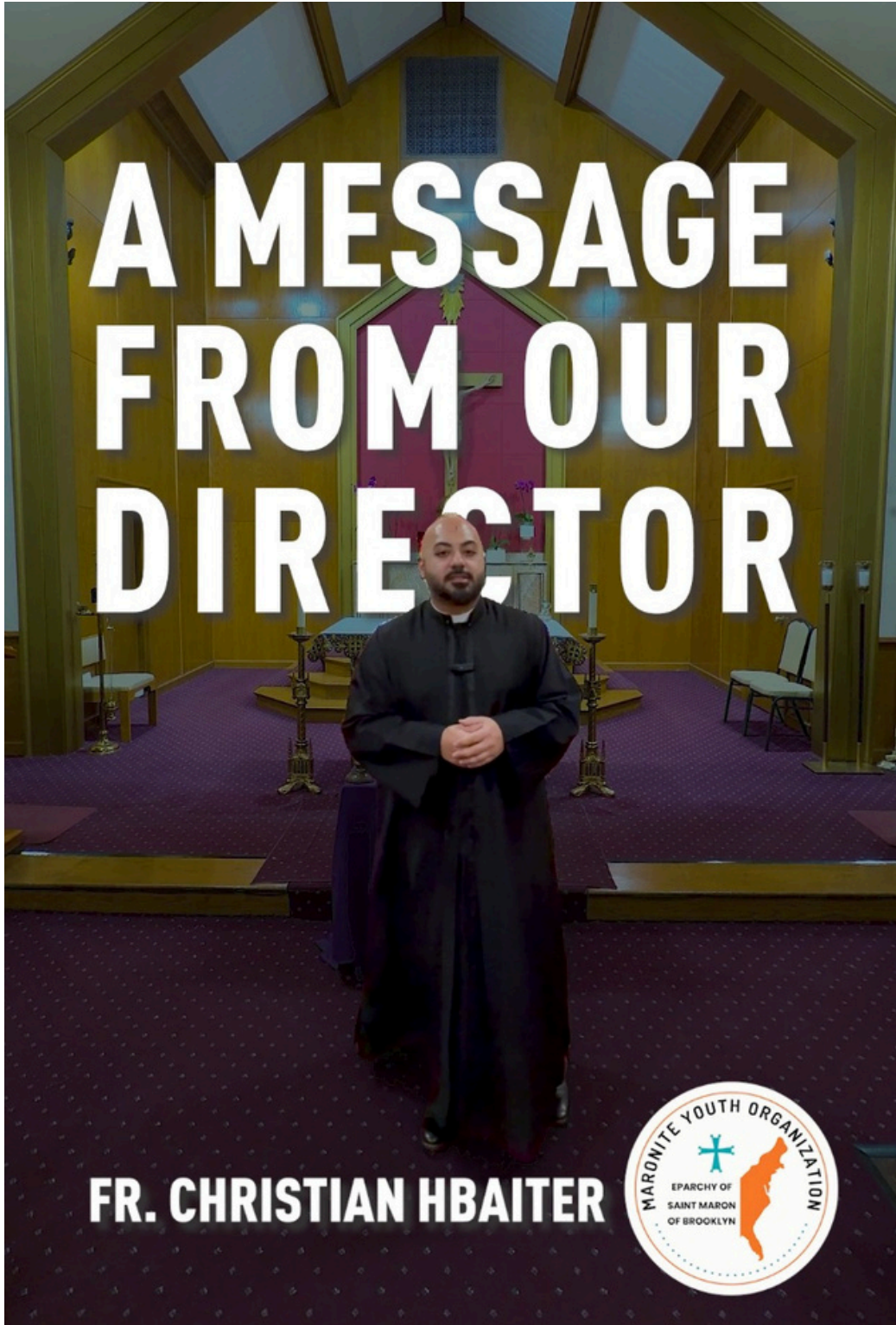
What's
Inside...

- ***NEWS***
- ***RESOURCES***
- ***IMPORTANT
DATES***
- ***& MORE!***



**EPARCHIAL MYO
NEWSLETTER
February 2026**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



FR. CHRISTIAN HBAITER



A MOMENT TO REFLECT...



They say that a man without God is like a cake without flour and milk; he lacks the essential ingredients. During this Lenten journey, each one of us decides to give up something in order to share in a small part of the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

What makes our Lent even more meaningful is that this season is a season of joy, because it calls us to new birth, a moment of reconciliation, and a return to the house of our Heavenly Father, the source of our happiness and the goal of our journey.

The Lenten season, although limited to forty days, is an unending journey in which we are continually called to remain in deep communion with Jesus, just as He is in communion with the Father. Let us be generous with our time for the Lord, so that He may give it greater value.

RECENT EVENTS



EPARCHIAL MYO REGIONAL RETREAT 2026 - FAR SOUTH

What a powerful weekend at our South and Far South Youth Retreat at San Pedro Center, in Winter Park, Florida. From February 6-8, around 100 individuals from 6 parishes learned what it means to “Chase the Crown,” in that we must run the race on Earth with the goal of achieving everlasting life with Christ. From deep prayer and inspiring talks by Deacon Jon Dick & Rosa Calabria, to hiking through the woods down to the lakeside, to late-night fire-side reflections —God’s presence was everywhere.

We encountered His mercy in Adoration and Confession, strengthened our faith and friendships through breakout group discussions, and remembered that we’re all running the race toward Heaven —each step bringing us closer to becoming the saints we’re called to be.

Let’s encourage our youth to keep chasing the Crown together!



[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)



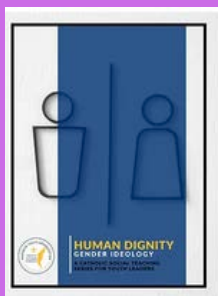
RETREAT SNAPSHOT: KEY TAKEAWAY



This weekend at the regional retreat, we really dove into the message of “chasing the crown” and what that actually looks like in our everyday lives. One of the biggest takeaways for all of us was learning about perishable and non-perishable goods, not just in the physical sense, but spiritually too. We realized that we’ve never really taken the time to distinguish between the two, often finding ourselves chasing things that fade like popularity, money, or appearance without even noticing. Being able to understand that difference and talk about it together was honestly really touching and eye-opening for our whole group. It made us reflect on what we value most and reminded us to put more of our energy into faith, love, and service, the things that don’t disappear, but instead help us grow closer to God while continuing to chase a crown that truly lasts.

HELPFUL RESOURCES & MORE!

TOPIC SPOTLIGHT: HUMAN DIGNITY PT. 3



click to read!

We've developed **resources** to aid youth leaders in MYO meetings or in discussing challenging topics with youth.

We encourage youth leaders to use these as part of your meetings.

Enjoy our newest resource Part III of the Human Dignity resource series!

View this resource, and others, on the MYO website!

CLICK HERE!

NAM PRESENTS
UNDER THE NAM FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM
CREATIVE VIDEO CONTEST
SHOW YOUR FAITH. SHARE YOUR STORY!
Ages: 12-18 | Due: May 1st

Themes:

- Maronite Liturgy
- Story of a Maronite Saint
- Unique Traditions in the Maronite Church

Guidelines:

- Short video clip (1 - 2 minutes)
- Two age groups: 12-15 and 16-18

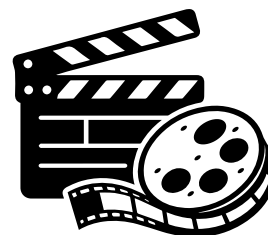
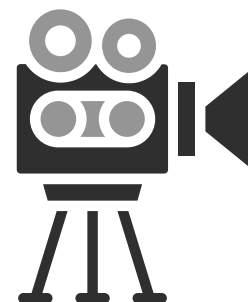
Prizes:

- 4 winners total!
2 per eparchy (1 from each group)
- \$500 prize for each winner
- Names recognized at the national MYO gathering and at the national NAM convention

Get creative! Videos documentary style, animation, skit, or even spoken words!

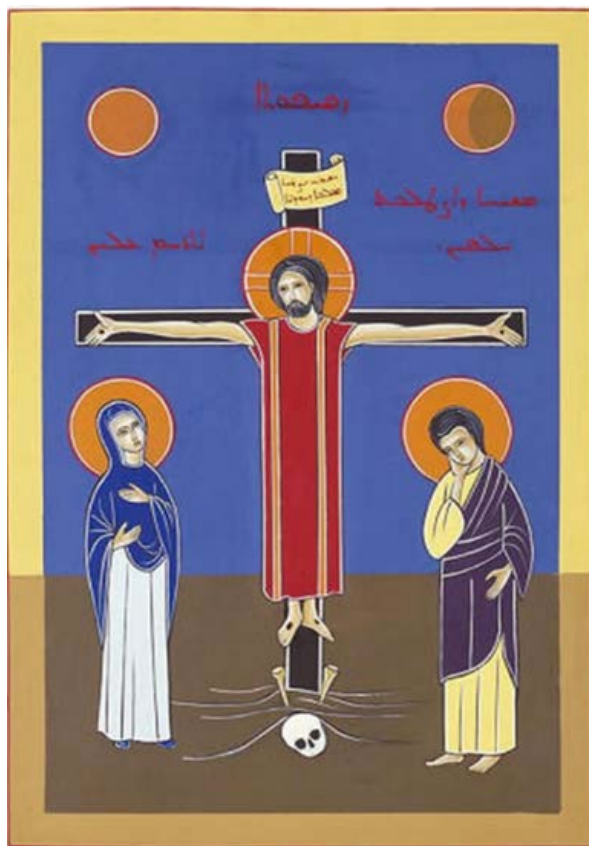
WANT MORE INFO?
www.namaronites.org/faith-formation-contest

QUESTIONS?
faithformation@namaronites.org



Be sure to check out this NAM video contest for a chance to win \$500!! You can find more information at www.namaronites.org/faith-formation-contest.

GREAT LENT AND PASSION WEEK



Check out our event idea for the Great Lent and Passion Week on our Website!!

[CLICK HERE!](#)



Great Lent is a time for personal change and conversion. The Maronite Church begins Great Lent with Cana Sunday, a commemoration of the transformation of water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana at Galilee. This change prepares us for the evening when we change wine into his blood and bread into his body. The Season lasts for seven weeks, which is then followed by Passion Week. The seven Sundays of this season focus on the miracles that the Lord performed, as signs of the faith of the ones that were healed. We too are called to respond to Jesus as they did by deepening our faith in the Lord.



Introducing: MYO Official Merch!

Tees, totes, hats, keychains, stickers, and more - featuring minis of your favorite Maronite saints!

Purchase at upcoming MYO events!

Stay tuned for a digital store: *coming soon*

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE HANDS OF
CHRIST

EPARCHIAL MYO LENTEN DAY RETREAT

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| FEB 28 | NEW ENGLAND | OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH JAMAICA PLAINS, MA |
| MAR 14 | MID-ATLANTIC | OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH EASTON, PA |
| MAR 21 | SOUTH REGION | SAINT ELIAS CHURCH ROANOKE, VA |

COST PER PERSON **\$45**

GRADES 7-12 REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE MYOEPARCHYSTMARON.ORG

Join us at our upcoming Lenten Retreats for all regions within our eparchy! Click the icon to the left for registration and more details!

NEW ENGLAND

- 27 SEP 2025: YOUTH LEADER ENRICHMENT DAY - St. Theresa Church, Brockton, MA
- 11-13 OCT 2025: EPARCHIAL NORTH RETREAT - Marist Brothers Center, Esopus, NY
- 28 FEB 2026: LENTEN DAY RETREAT - Our Lady of the Cedars, Jamaica Plain, MA
- 23-28 JUN 2026: NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE (TBD)

MID-ATLANTIC

- 11-13 OCT 2025: EPARCHIAL NORTH RETREAT - Marist Brothers Center, Esopus, NY
- 15 NOV 2025: YOUTH LEADER ENRICHMENT DAY - St. Maron Church, Philadelphia, PA
- 14 MAR 2026: LENTEN DAY RETREAT - Our Lady of Lebanon, Easton, PA
- 23-28 JUN 2026: NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE (TBD)

SOUTH

- 6-8 FEB 2026: EPARCHIAL SOUTH RETREAT - San Pedro Retreat Cntr., Orlando, FL
- 21 MAR 2026: LENTEN DAY RETREAT - St. Elias Church, Roanoke, VA
- 23-28 JUN 2026: NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE (TBD)

FAR SOUTH

- 6-8 FEB 2026: EPARCHIAL SOUTH RETREAT - San Pedro Retreat Cntr., Orlando, FL
- 23-28 JUN 2026: NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE (TBD)

2025 2026
EPARCHIAL EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 NATIONAL MYO CONFERENCE
ChatGOD
THE ANSWERS YOU NEED

JUN 23  **JUN 28**

REGULAR REGISTRATION
FEB 1 - MAR 31 \$559

LATE REGISTRATION
APR 1 - MAY 15 \$609

 UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
MARONITEYOUTH.ORG

Join us for the **2026 National MYO Conference**, themed **ChatGOD: The Answers You Need** - a transformative faith experience for today's generation - taking place June 23-28, 2026, at the University of Dayton. Click above to register!!



[click to check out our website!](#)

STAY IN TOUCH!

