

# + St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church +

Sunday Bulletin – July 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 A.D.



We continue to pray for **Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi (Antiochian Orthodox Metropolitan of Aleppo, Syria)** & **Metropolitan Youhanna Ibrahim (Syriac Orthodox Metropolitan of Aleppo, Syria)** who were abducted on April 22 by terrorists in Syria. Please keep them and the other 2 abducted Priests and all Christians of the Middle East in your prayers!

Still after almost 3 months, there has not been any official news about their location or condition or any known demands from their abductors. The whole world might forget about them for political reasons, but their Church: the Holy Orthodox Church, will never forget them! **A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep ... and good sheep never forget a good shepherd!** Take a moment and read the prayer on the back cover of this Bulletin for them!

Pictured above is Metropolitan Boulos (left) with his biological brother, our new Patriarch, H.B. Youhanna X, taken shortly before his abduction.

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+ **Fr. Mark-Arsenius Wyatt (Pastor)**

## The Holy Epistle (Titus 3:8-15)

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ. وَأُرِيدُ أَنْ تُفَرِّرَ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ، لِكَيْ يَهْتَمَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِإِلَهِ أَنْ يُمَارِسُوا أَعْمَالًا حَسَنَةً. فَإِنَّ هَذِهِ الْأُمُورَ هِيَ الْحَسَنَةُ وَالنَّافِعَةُ لِلنَّاسِ. وَأَمَّا الْمُبَاحَثَاتُ الْعَبِيَّةُ وَالْأَنْسَابُ وَالْحُصُومَاتُ وَالْمُنَارَعَاتُ النَّامُوسِيَّةُ فَاجْتَنِبْهَا، لِأَنَّهَا غَيْرُ نَافِعَةٍ، وَبَاطِلَةٌ. الرَّجُلُ الْمُبْتَدِعُ بَعْدَ الْإِنذَارِ مَرَّةً وَمَرَّتَيْنِ أَعْرَضَ عَنْهُ. عَالِمًا أَنَّ مِثْلَ هَذَا قَدْ انْحَرَفَ، وَهُوَ يُحْطَى مَحْكُومًا عَلَيْهِ مِنْ نَفْسِهِ. حِينَمَا أُرْسِلُ إِلَيْكَ أَرْتِيمَاسَ أَوْ تِيخِيكُسَ بَادِرًا أَنْ تَأْتِي إِلَيَّ إِلَى نِيكُوبُولِيَسَ، لِأَنِّي عَزَمْتُ أَنْ أَشْتِيَ هُنَاكَ. جَهِّزْ زِينَاَسَ النَّامُوسِيَّ وَأَبْلُوسَ بِاجْتِهَادٍ لِسَفَرِهِ حَتَّى لَا يُعْوِزَهُمَا شَيْءٌ. وَلْيَتَعَلَّمْ مَنْ لَنَا أَيْضًا أَنْ يُمَارِسُوا أَعْمَالًا حَسَنَةً لِلْحَاجَاتِ الضَّرُورِيَّةِ، حَتَّى لَا يَكُونُوا بِلَا ثَمَرٍ. يَسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ جَمِيعًا. سَلِّمُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَنَا فِي الْإِيمَانِ. النِّعْمَةُ مَعَ جَمِيعِكُمْ. آمِينَ.

## The Holy Gospel (St. Matthew 5:14-19)

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

أَنْتُمْ نُورُ الْعَالَمِ. لَا يُمْكِنُ أَنْ تُخْفَى مَدِينَةٌ مَوْضُوعَةٌ عَلَى جَبَلٍ وَلَا يُوقَدُونَ سِرَاجًا وَيَضَعُونَهُ تَحْتَ الْمِكْيَالِ بَلْ عَلَى الْمَنَارَةِ فَيُضِيءُ لِجَمِيعِ الَّذِينَ فِي الْبَيْتِ. فَلْيُضِيءِ نُورُكُمْ هَكَذَا قُدَّامَ النَّاسِ لِكَيْ يَرَوْا أَعْمَالَكُمْ الْحَسَنَةَ وَيُمَجِّدُوا أَبَاكُمْ الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ. «لَا تَظُنُّوا أَنِّي جِئْتُ لِأَنْقُضَ النَّامُوسَ أَوْ الْأَنْبِيَاءَ. مَا جِئْتُ لِأَنْقُضَ بَلْ لِأُكْمَلَ. فَإِنِّي الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ: إِلَى أَنْ تَزُولَ السَّمَاءُ وَالْأَرْضُ لَا يَزُولُ حَرْفٌ وَاحِدٌ أَوْ نُقْطَةٌ وَاحِدَةٌ مِنَ النَّامُوسِ حَتَّى يَكُونَ الْكُلُّ. فَمَنْ نَقَضَ إِحْدَى هَذِهِ الْوَصَايَا الصُّغْرَى وَعَلَّمَ النَّاسَ هَكَذَا يُدْعَى أَصْغَرَ فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ. وَأَمَّا مَنْ عَمِلَ وَعَلَّمَ فَهَذَا يُدْعَى عَظِيمًا فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ.»

A big hand to our Bible Bowl Coach: **Larry Zakaib** & his teams who did an amazing job at the PLC. Our Junior Team: **Mary-Eve Anderson, Justina Anderson & Myriam Zakaib** - came in 4th place, *only 4 points behind the first place team, and one point behind the third place team.* And our Senior Team: **Nicholas Habak, Alexa Zakaib & Kh. Karen Anderson** - came in 2nd Place, *only two points behind the first place team!* Special mention was made at the Awards Brunch on the improvement of the St. Nicholas teams compared to previous years! Congratulations also to our Creative Arts winners: **Angela Azakie** (Grade 2) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Writing & **Marco De Vito** (Grade 4) - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Art. Great job everyone! We are proud of you! Keep up the good work for your Church!

Today's Memorial Prayers are offered for the Eternal Memory of the Servants of God:

\* For Jeanette Zacard (2<sup>nd</sup> year); John Zacard (21<sup>st</sup> year). *Remembered also all the deceased of the Zacard & Tomy Families.* Offered by Gary (Annick), Karen, Bruce (Lana) & Grandchildren.

## "Martyrs of Love" (By: Fr. George Massouh – Balamand University, Lebanon)

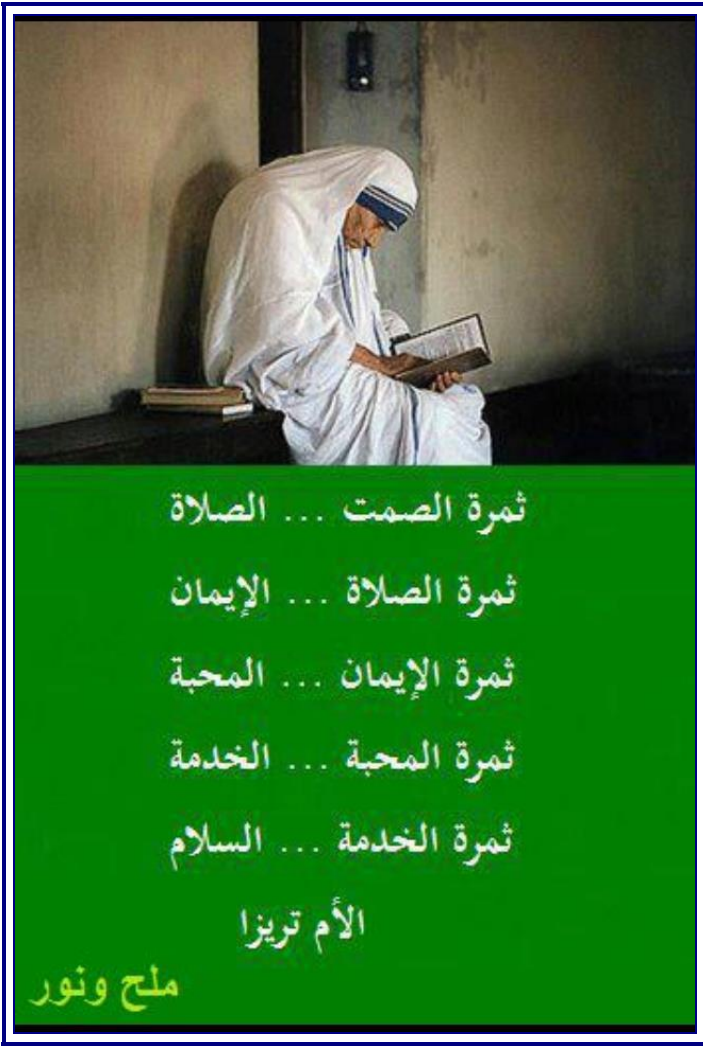
Martyrs are the greatest saints. They are greater than the prophets, the monks, the righteous, and every type of saint. Martyrdom of blood is more powerful than martyrdom of the word and martyrdom of life. They cross over to eternal life without judgment, because they loved God and preferred abiding with Him to all the joys of this world, and those who love God shall not see death. They realized the true meaning of the noble verse, "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16). Those who abide in God and those in whom God abides shall not die. They realized that those who are armed with love shall not be touched by fear, because "there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). They did not fear death in order to bear witness to their faith, because they "had trust in the day of judgment." The lives of the martyrs inform us that they imitated the crucified Christ and they believed Him when He said, "Take heart—I have conquered the world," meaning the spirit of this world that is subject to evil, with His precious blood. Saint Ignatius of Antioch (d. 107) implores the people of Rome, "Let me be offered as a sacrifice upon God's altar." Saint Eubulus cried out in the face of the person who was flogging him, demanding that he offer sacrifices to idols so that he could be pardoned and stay alive, "Yes, I will offer a sacrifice. But I shall offer up myself before Christ God and I have nothing else to offer..."

**In Christianity, a martyr is one who offers the liturgy by offering his body as a living sacrifice in place of bread and wine. His body changes into the body of Christ. His body changes into the Church, in every meaning that word bears.** Did the Holy Apostle Paul not liken the Church to "the body of Christ"? Did he himself not say that the bodies of the faithful are temples of the Holy Spirit? For all these reasons, we honor their relics, since they have become a holy sacrifice. Thus the seventh canon of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787) says, on the basis of the ancient tradition of erecting churches upon the tombs of martyrs, "Let the remains of the holy martyrs be placed in the churches that were consecrated without them. May anyone who consecrates a church without any remains of the martyrs be anathema." The Apostle John makes man's love for his fellow man the true proof of man's love for God. He says, "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 John 4:20-21). He himself connects knowledge of God with love when he says, "He who has not loved has not known God, because God is love" (1 John 4:8). A martyr, then, is one who dies while his heart is replete with love, love of God and love of his fellow man.

**Anyone who claims that he knows God and His decrees but kills and justifies it in God's name is deluded: if he dies, he is not a martyr and has no connection to martyrdom.** When Cain sought to kill Abel, Abel said to him, "Even if you stretch out your hand against me to kill me, I shall not stretch out my hand against you to kill you, lo! I fear God, the Lord of the Worlds" (Surat al-Ma'ida 28). One who loves God or fears Him does not kill his fellow man, but rather loves him and dies for his sake. Only then is it fitting to call him a martyr.

## A Prayer for those in Captivity

O Lord, Heavenly Father, in Whom we all have our beginning and end: We come to Thee with humble heart and contrite spirit, entreating mercy, salvation and help in our time of need. By Thy infinite power move to compassion and mercy the hearts of those who hold in cruel captivity our fathers, **Metropolitan Boulos & Metropolitan Youhanna and other captive Christians in Syria & the Middle East**. Restrain their captors from bringing harm to them. Cause them to relent and release them. Restore the captives to their families and friends and Churches whole and unharmed, that together with them we all may lift our voices in prayers of thanksgiving and praise to Thee, O Heavenly Father, our merciful Benefactor. For Thou art the King of Peace, and the Giver of Life, and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.



From the writings of  
Mother Teresa

The fruit of **Silence** ...

**Prayer**

The fruit of **Prayer** ...

**Faith**

The fruit of **Faith** ...

**Love**

The fruit of **Love** ...

**Service**

The fruit of **Service** ...

**Peace**

"We pray and work for the stability of our country and for the **spread of peace and truth** in every place in the world...There must be people or voices that call for rationality and moderation, which is what we constantly call for...Christianity, Islam, and spiritual leaders have a fundamental role in calling for **love**." (H.B. Patriarch Youhanna X)