

SAINT ANTHONY MARONITE CHURCH

A Parish Family of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, NY



ألأحَد، 3 كاتون ألأول 2017 Sunday, December 3, 2017

145 Amesbury St * Lawrence, MA 01841 Phone: 978.685.7233 * Fax: 978.688.4475 email: rectory@stanthonylawrence.org *Website: www.stanthonylawrence.org

OFFICE HOURS M-TH: 9 AM - 4PM Friday: Office is Closed Saturdays: By Appointment

LITURGIES

Daily Liturgies: M & W: 9 AM T & TH: 7 PM Weekend Liturgies: Saturday Vigil Liturgy @ 4 PM Sunday Liturgies: 8:30 AM - Arabic 9:30 AM - English 11:30 AM - English & Arabic

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Vigil Liturgy @ 7 PM Feast Day @ 9 AM

Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation 1 month in advance with the Pastor Sacrament of Matrimony Couples should make arrangements six months prior to the wedding date Sacrament of Reconciliation One hour Before Thursday & Saturday Liturgies, or by appointment Anointing of the Sick Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or unable to come to

Church and would like to receive communion at home

Please refer to our website for more Sacrament Celebrations Guidelines

Season the Glorious Birth of Our Lord

The first person to recognize Jesus was an unborn child. Luke 1:41

Facebook: Saint Anthony Maronite Church Lawrence, MA



Meet our staff: Clergy Father Elie Mikhael, Pastor pastor@stanthonylawrence.org

> Father Joseph Abisaad, Parochial Vicar Father Tony Youssef, Parochial Vicar

Phone: 978-685-7233

Emergency Contact: Fr. Elie Mikhael 305.807.9087

Fr. Joseph Abi Saad 978.457.5889

Sub-Deacon James T.Demers Sub-Deacon Nadim B. Daou

Secretary: Mrs. Susan Fuccillo 978.685-7233 rectory@stanthonylawrence.org

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 (Coming Soon)
Bereavement Ministry
Cenacle of the Rosary (Thursdays @ 6PM)
Cenacle of Divine Mercy

(Sundays Before the Liturgies) Sacristan (s)



أحد زيارة ألعذراء لأليصابات to Elizabeth

| Saturday, December 2 | 4:00 PM | For: +Habib and Alice Bistany, By their loving Children and Families. |
|-------------------------|------------|---|
| Sunday, | 8:30AM | <i>For: + Harris, Faride and Michael</i> <i>Bijjani</i> By the Family |
| December 3 | 9:30AM | 40 Day Anniversary– Helen Hajj, By her children and families. |
| 11:30 AM | | For: + John El-Helou By His Son Tony El Helou and His wife, Jeanette, His daughter, Lola, wife of Mr. Abrahim Ata and their families. |

Week of the Visitation to Elizabeth

أسبوع زيارة ألعذراء لأليصابات

| Monday, December 4 @ 9 AM— <i>St Barbara, M</i> | Private Intentions. | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Tuesday, December 5 @ 7PM <i>St Saba the Hermit,C</i> | For : +Aida Chemali By The Pastor | | |
| Wednesday, December 6 9AM, <i>St Nicholas, C</i> | For: Adma Nasrallah By the Pastor | | |
| Thursday, December 7 @ 7PM - <i>Vigil Liturgy</i> | Feast of the Immaculate Conception عيد ألحبل بها بلا دنس For Parishioners <i>By The Pastor</i> | | |
| Friday, December 8 @ 9AM | Feast of the Immaculate Conception عيد ألحبل بها بلا دنس For Parishioners <i>By The Pastor</i> | | |

أحد مولد يوحنا ألمعمدان The Birth of John the Baptist

| Saturday, December 9 4:00 PI | | For:+ <i>Edward Harb,</i> by the Pastor. | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Sunday, December 10 | y, 8:30AM For: + Miriam, Naim & Antoine A. Sleiman By the Family | | |
| | 9:30AM | For:+ Carol and Joseph Greico, By their loving Family. | |
| | 11:30 AM | For:+ Nassif Abdou and Hilene and Farid Abdou, By Martha, Mary and Abdo. | |

Saint Anthonys Maronite Church كنيسة القديس أنطونيوس المارونية

برنامج الميلاد المجيد Christmas Calendar

Christmas Concert - Sing Along

St Anthony Choirs, The Children Choirs, St Augustine & St Bernard Bellarmine Choirs

Saturday, December 2 - 6:00PM

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17, - 9:30 AM Liturgy

| Christmas Weekend Liturgies | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|------------------|--|
| Day Date Time | | | | | |
| | Saturday, | December 23rd | 4 PM | English | |
| | Sunday | December 24th | 11:30 AM | English - Arabic | |
| | | | | | |

تساعية الميلاد - Christmas Novena

| Day | Date | Time | |
|-----|----------------|---------|--|
| | Dec 15- Dec 23 | 7:00 PM | |

قداديس أعياد الميلاد - Christmas Liturgies

| Occasion | Day | Date | Time | Language | |
|--------------------|--------|---------------|----------|------------------|--|
| Vigil Liturgy | Sunday | December 24th | 4 PM, | English | |
| MIDNIGHT Mass | Sunday | December 24th | 12AM | English - Arabic | |
| Christmas Day Mass | Monday | December 25th | 10:00 AM | Arabic | |
| Christmas Day Mass | Monday | December 25th | 11:30 AM | English - Arabic | |
| | | | | | |

قداديس عيد رأس السنة - New Year's Week End

| Occasion | Day | Date | Time | Language | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|
| Divine Liturgy | Saturday | December 30th | December 30th 4 PM, English | | |
| Divine Liturgy | Sunday, | December 31st | 8:30 AM, | Arabic | |
| Divine Liturgy | Sunday, | December 31st | 9:30 AM, | English | |
| Divine Liturgy | Sunday, | December 31st | 11:30 AM, | English - Arabic | |
| Ney Year's Liturgy | Monday | January 1, 2018 | 5 RM | English - Arabic | |
| | | | | | |

145 Amesbury St. Lawrence, MA 01841 Phone: 978.685.7233 * Fax: 978.688.4475



Religious Education - Sunday School

On Sunday, December 3, the grade 1 students will be serving the 9:30 liturgy. Please have your child to the church no later than 9:15 on that Sunday.

Grade 6 & 7 parents, as mentioned in my e mail, your students will be leading the pageant this year. Rehearsal will be on Saturday December 2, 9, and 16 from 12 until 2. Students should be prepared to attend all three rehearsals. We know this is a busy time and appreciate your help and support.

Knights of Mary have invited all CCD students to attend the annual **Christmas party on December 9** in the hall. Further details will follow.

Christmas ornaments will be on sale in the Church lobby after the liturgies. Please stop by and take a look as we have some new and different ornaments this year. Some include pictures from our church.

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

> **Online Donation** http://stanthonylawrence.org/donate-now/



BE IN TOUCH!! STAY CONNECTED !!

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/

THE KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR

The Altar Servers will be meeting on **Saturday, December 9th** at 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the church. If there are any questions of conflicts, please call Sub-Deacon



conflicts, please call Sub-Deacon KNIGHTS OF THE ALTAR Jim Demers at 978-685-8423.

MYO SCHEDULE 2017-2018

- December 1st Faith Formation
- December 17th MYO Christmas Party

Old and new members are encouraged to attend, Grades 9-12~Dates are Subject to change~

| | • • • • • • • • • • • • • • |
|---|-----------------------------|
| KNICHTS OF | 2017- 2018 |
| | December 2 |
| All Events run from 🛛 🕅 🚿 | Christmas |
| 5PM - 7PM | Recital |
| After 4PM Liturgy | January 6 |
| *Dates are Subject to change* | January 20 |
| ••••••• | ••••• |
| K of M Child | ren's Choir |
| Januar | n, 13 |
| Practices will be held from 5:00 | |
| Fractices will be field from 5.00 | |
| Come, Print Rosary Group Every W | ednesday @ 6PM |
| the Rosary ملاة ألمسبحة ألوردية | ۵ |
| ى كل أسبوع ألساعة ألسادسة مساء | |
| | ، در بعاد مر |
| \bigcirc | 1 |
| BibleSt | 1 the |
| Divie,) | nay |
| everyone is welco | |
| Pibla Studias will resume on Tues | In Innuam Oth |
| Bible Studies will resume on Tuesd ت ألأنجيلية نشاطها في 9 كانون ألثاني | |
| | |
| | Same |
| | 100 |
| CAL a. | |
| Adoration | |
| of the Blessed Sacramer | at |
| of the Ostessed Outramet | |

Will be reserved to the Christmas Novena during the month of December

Saint Anthony Maronite Church, Lawrence, MA, Sunday, December 3, 2017 Christmas Liturgical & Social Celebrations



Saturday, December 9th -from 5:30 - 7 PM ALL Children are invited to attend the Annual Kids Christmas Party



Poinsettia Dedication In Honor or In Loving Memory

Saint Anthony's Church invites you to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary for Christmas <u>"In Honor" or "In Mem-</u> ory" of special loved ones.

Please complete this form and either place it in the offering plate, hand in at the rectory, or mail it to the church, along with your payment of \$15.00 per plant. **The deadline to order is Tuesday, December 19th.**

Given By:

In honor of: 1. 2. 3. 4. In memory of: 1. 2. 3. 4. 4.



Men's Christmas Party! Friday December 8, 2017

Tickets are now on sale. Contact Rodney Pica @ 603.489.8363 or Jason Azzi @ 413.364.3333 or Peter Sarkis @ 603-303-3165 To purchase your ticket



Sunday, December 10th @ 4 PM Tickets are on sale Contact: Lori Corey @ 978-273-3594 Mounira Daher @ 603-235-0801



DAUGHTERS OF SAINT ANTHONY

The Daughters of Saint Anthony will hold their annual Christmas Party on **Monday**, **December 4th** at Saint Anthony's *Cedar's Hall*, starting at 12 NOON. The luncheon will be a donation of \$15.00 per person and all are welcome.

Everyone attending is kindly asked to participate in a Christmas gift exchange by purchasing a \$5.00 Lottery ticket.

Also, please bring your donations for the Lazarus House Donation bins. For reservations and more information, please contact:

> Elaine Ferris @ 978-682-2112, Elaine Azzi @ 978-687-7454 or Dianne Dewan @ 978-273-0693 by Friday, December 1st.

| | | | | 017 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| TITHES & OFFERING | 5 | ALTAR | SE. | RVERS |
| WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Altar Servers</u> | |
| November 26, 2017 | | Saturday, December 2 | 4:00 PM | Jacob Godfrey Youssef Chahine |
| Sunday Collection | \$ 2486.00 | Sunday, December 3 | 8:30 AM | Volunteers |
| Candles | \$ 80.00 | Sunday, December 3 | 9:30 AM | Antonio Hbaiter Caleb Hassan |
| Fuel Total Deposit | \$ 70.00 \$ 2,636.00 | Sunday, December 3 11:30 AM | | Sadek, Charbel Sadek nmine, Michael Merheb |
| | | Date | Time | Altar Servers |
| <i>The Sanctuary</i> The Light that Sym | Lamp | Saturday, December 9 | 4:00 PM | Elias Saab Sharbel Saab |
| the Light that Symbolizes | | Sunday, December 10 | 8:30 AM | Volunteers |
| | | Sunday, December 10 | 9:30 AM | George Hbaiter Joseph Safi |
| Left Sanctuary Lamp In Loving Memory of John El-He Offered by his son, Tony El-Helou, and | Sunday, December 10 11:30 AM | • | Chaya, Geryes Geha oury, Sebastian Ramey | |
| <u>Right Sanctuary Lamp</u> <i>In Loving Memory of John El-Helou,</i> <i>Offered by his son, Tony El-Helou, and Family.</i> | | | Lect | ors |
| <u>Guidelines:</u> | | Date | <u>Time</u> | <u>Lectors</u> |
| Baptismal Guidelines: (Check our Website ◆ Guidelines & Registration Form M · · · · C · · 1 1: · · · (Cl · 1 · · · W / 1: / ·) | | Saturday, December 2 | 4:00 PM | Christine Ryan |
| Marriage Guidelines: (Check our Website) Guidelines & Check List Forms Banquet Hall Guidelines: | | Sunday, December 3 | 8:30 AM | Guita Bou-Habib |
| Contract Form (Check our Website) Banquet Hall Usage Donations: | | Sunday, December 3 | 9:30 AM | Sub-Deacon Jim |
| \$500 (For 6 Hours) \$250 For Registered & Active parishi | oners (<i>with</i> | Sunday, December 3 11:30 AM | English: Mounira Daher Arabic: Marcel Saade | |
| contribution history) 3. Security Deposit \$250 (Returned after | the court | | | |
| if no Damages) | the event, | Date | <u>Time</u> | <u>Lectors</u> |
| 4. Cleaning Donations: \$100 | | Saturday, December 9 | 4:00 PM | Joel Habib |
| POPE PRAYER INTENTIONS ~ DECEMBER 2017 THE ELDERLY | | Sunday, December 10 | 8:30 AM | Hugette Sfeir |
| That the elderly, sustain families and Christian com | munities, | Sunday, December 10 | 9:30 AM | Elizabeth Frias |
| may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations. | | Sunday, December 10 11:30 AM | | h: Mansour Chaya c: Gretta Merheb |

Giving Tree Angels Tree All gifts MUST be **UNWRAPPED** and the angel should be attached to the gift. All gifts need to be brought to the church for collection on Sunday, December 10th.

تساعية ألميلاد: تبدأ ليلة 15 كانون ألأول و تنتهى في 23 كانون ألأول

> قداديس عيد ألميلاد المجيد ألأحد 24 كانون ألأول: 4 مساء باللغة ألأنكلبز بة قداس نصف ألليل إباللغة ألعرببة و ألأنكلبزبة قداديس يوم ألعيد. ألأثنين 25 كانون ألأول: 10:00 صباحا:باللغة ألعربية 11:30 صباحاً :باللغة ألعربية و ألأنكليزية

قداس عيد راس ألسنة المجيدة ألأثنين 1 كانون ألثانى: ألساعة 5 مساء





Our Deepest Sympathies and Condolences

Go to the Ata, Geha, Aoun and Abdou Families

On their great loss of their beloved, Farid (Fred) Waniss Ata who died at age 39.

May the hearts of his family be consoled and his memory be eternal.



Saint Barbara was an early Christian saint and martyr. While imprisoned in a tower by her father, she became a Christian. He was so upset, he drew his sword to kill her. Her prayers created an opening in the tower allowing her to escape to a mountain gorge. She was eventually captured and martyred by her father.

Formed | Your Faith Matters to Us!! Parish Code: N3CCNK



In this presentation from the 2017 FOCUS SEEK Conference, Sr. Miriam James Heidland gives an incredibly affecting and passionate talk about how each person can hear God's voice in prayer. Sr. Miriam relates the majestic beauty and simultaneous simplicity of God's call to every person and each person's opportunity to respond to him. She describes our lives as a drama, an adventure story in which we must be willing to continue forward in faith rather than with piercing sight. This captivating presentation will help listeners to understand the ways in which God wishes to speak to them, and will encourage listeners to respond with the fullness of their selves.

Ephesians 1:1-14 Sunday of the Announcement to the Virgin Mary

أقسس 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

مِنْ بُولُس، رَسُولِ ٱلْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ بِمَشْبِيئَةِ الله، إلى الْقِدِّيسِينَ الَّذِينَ هُم في أَفَسُّسَ والْأَمَنَاءِ في الْمَسِيح يَسُوع: ألنِّعْمَةُ لَكُمُ والسَّلامُ مِنَ اللهِ أَبِينَا والْرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسْبِحِ! تَبَارَكَ اللهُ أَبُو رَبِّنَا يَسُوعَ الْمَسِبِّحِ، الَّذَى بَارَكَنَا بِكُلِّ بَرَكَةٍ رُوحِيَّةٍ في السَّمَاوَاتِ في الْمَسِيحَ؛ فإِنَّهُ آخْتَارَنَا فيهِ قَبْلَ إِنْشَاءِ الْعَالَمِ، لِنَكُونَ في حَضْرَتِهِ قِدِّبِسِين، لا عَبْبَ فبِنَا؛ وقَدْ سَبَقَ بِمَحَبَّتِهِ فَحَدَّدَنَا أَنْ نَكُونَ لَهُ أَبْنَاءَ بِالثَّبَنِّي بِيَسُوعَ المَسِيح، بِحَسَبِ رِضَي مَشْبِيَئَتِهِ، لِمَدْحٍ مَجْدٍ نِّعْمَتِهِ ٱلَّتِي أَنْعَمَ بِهَا عَلَيْنًا فَي الحَبِيب؛ وفيه لنا الفِدَاءُ بدَمِه، أي مَعْفِرَةُ الزَّلاَت، بِحَسَبِ غِنَى نِعْمَتِهِ، الْتَى أَفَاضَهَا عَلَيْنَا في كُلِّ حِكْمَةٍ وَفَهْم؛ وقَدْ عَرَّفَنَا سِرَّ مَشْبِيَنَتِهِ، بِحَسَبِ رَضَاهُ الَّذِي سَبَقَ فَجَعَلْهُ في المَسِيح، لِيُحَقِّقَ تَدْبِيرَ مِلْءِ الأَرْمِنَة، فَيَجْمَعَ فِي الْمَسِيحِ تَحْتَ رِ أَسِ وَاحِدٍ كُلَّ شَيءٍ، مَا فِي السَّماوَاتُ ومَا عَلَى الأرْض؛ وفيهِ أَيْضًا ٱخْتَارَنَا مِيرِ اتَّا لَهُ، وقَدْ سَبَقَ فَحَدَّدَنَا بِحَسَبِ قَصْدِهِ، هُوَ الَّذي يَعْمَلُ كُلَّ شَيءٍ بِقَضَاءٍ مَشْبِئَتِهِ، لِنَكُونَ مَدْحًا لِمَجْدِهِ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ سَبَقْنَا فَجَعَلْنَا فِي الْمَسِيحِ رِ جَاءَنَا؛ و فِيهِ أَنْتُم أَيْضًا، بَعْدَ أَنْ سَمِعْتُم كَلِمَةُ الْحَقِّ، أَي إِنْجِيلَ خَلاصِكُم، وآمَنْتُم، خُتِمْتُمْ بِالرُّوحِ القُدُسِ المَوْعُودِ بِهِ، و هُوَ عُرِبُونُ مِيرَ اثِنَا، لِفِدَاءِ شَعْبِهِ الَّذي ٱڤتَنَاه، ولِمَدْحِ مَجْدِهِ

Luke 1,39-45

أحد زيارة مريم ألعذراء لأليصابات

لوقا 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' في تِلْكَ الأَيَّام ، قَامَتْ مَرْيَمُ وَدَهَبَتْ مُسْرِعَةً إلى الجَبَل، إلى مَدِينَةٍ في يَهُودًا. ودَخَلَتْ بَيْتَ زَكَرِيَّا، وسَلَّمَتْ عَلَى إليصابات.

ولَمَّا سَمِعَتْ إليصابَاتُ سَلامَ مَرْيَم، ٱرْتَكَضَ الْجَنِينُ في بَطْنِها، وَٱمْتَلأَتْ مِنَ الرُّوح القُدُس. فَهَتَفَتْ بأعْلى صوتِها وقَالَتْ: »مُباركَة أَنْتِ في النِّساء، وَمُباركَة تَمَرَةُ بَطْنِكِ! ومِنْ أَيْنَ لي هذا، أَنْ تَأْتِيَ إليَّ أُمُّ ربِّي؟ فَهَا مُنْدُ وَقَعَ صَوْتُ سَلامِكِ في أَدُنَيَ، ٱرْتَكَضَ الجَنِينُ ٱبْتِهَاجًا في بَطْنِي! فَطُوبَى لِلَتي آمَنَتْ أَنَّهُ سَيَتِمٌ ما قِيلَ لَهَا مِنْ قِبَلِ الرَّبَّ! .«

By Ronald Rolheiser

THE VISITATION – REVISITED

We are all familiar with the biblical story of the Visitation. It happens at the beginning of Luke's Gospel. Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth, both pregnant, meet. One is carrying Jesus and the other is carrying John the Baptist. The Gospels want us to recognize that both these pregnancies are biologically impossible; one is a virginal conception and the other is a conception that occurs far beyond someone's childbearing years. So there is clearly something of the divine in each. In simple language, each woman is carrying a special gift from heaven



and each is carrying a part of the divine promise that will one day establish God's peace on this earth.

But neither Mary nor Elizabeth, much less anyone around them, consciously recognizes the divine connection between the two children they are carrying. The Gospels present them to us as "cousins", both the children and their mothers; but the Gospels want us to think deeper than biology. They are cousins in the same way that Christ, and those things that are also of the divine, are cousins. This, among other things, is what is contained in the concept of the Visitation.

Mary and Elizabeth meet, both are pregnant with the divine. Each is carrying a child from heaven, one is carrying Christ and the other is carrying a unique prophet, the "cousin" of the Christ. And a curious thing happens when they meet. Christ's cousin, inside his mother, without explicit consciousness, leaps for joy in the presence of Christ and that reaction releases the Magnificat inside of the one carrying Christ.

There's a lot in that image: Christ's cousin unconsciously leaps for joy in the presence of Christ and that reaction draws the Magnificat out of the one who is carrying the Christ. Christian de Cherge, the Trappist Abbott who was martyred in Algeria in 1996, suggests that, among other things, this image is the key to how we, as Christians, are meant to meet other religions in the world. He sees the image as illustrating this paradigm:

Christianity is carrying Christ and other religions are also carrying something divine, a divine ""cousin", one who points to Christ. But all of this is unconscious; we do not really grasp the bond, the connection, between what we are carrying and what the other is carrying. But we will recognize their kinship, however unconsciously, when we stand before another who does not share our Christian faith but is sincere and true to his or her own faith. In that encounter we will sense the connection: What we are carrying will make something leap for joy inside the other and that reaction will help draw the Magnificat out of us and, like Mary, we will want to stay with that other for mutual support.

And we need that support, as does the other. As Christian de Cherge puts it: "We know that those whom we have come to meet are like Elizabeth: they are bearers of a message that comes from God. Our church does not tell us and does not know what the exact bond is between the Good News we bear and the message that gives life to the other. ... We may never know exactly what that bond is, but we do know that the other is also a bearer of a message that comes from God. So what should we do? What does witness consist in? What about mission? ... See, when Mary arrives, it is Elizabeth who speaks first. Or did she? ... For most certainly Mary would have said: 'Peace, Peace be with you'. And this simple greeting made something vibrate, someone, inside of Elizabeth. And in this vibration, something was said. ... Which is the Good News, not the whole of the Good News, but what can be glimpsed of it in the moment."

Christian de Cherge then adds this comment: "In the end, if we are attentive, if we situate our encounter with the other in the attention and the desire to meet the other, and in our need for the other and what he has to say to us, it is likely that the other is going to say something to us that will connect with what we are carrying, something that will reveal complicity with us ... allowing us to broaden our Eucharist."

We need each other, everyone on this planet, Christians and non-Christians, Jews and Muslims, Protestants and Roman Catholics, Evangelicals and Unitarians, sincere agnostics and atheists; we need each other to understand God's revelation. Nobody understands fully without the other. Thus our interrelations with each other should not be born only out of enthusiasm for the truth we have been given, but it should issue forth too from our lack of the other. Without the other, without recognizing that the other too is carrying the divine, we will, as Christian de Cherge asserts, be unable to truly release our own Magnificat. Without each other, none of us will ever be able to pray the Eucharist "for the many".