

February 23, 2022

Re: Maronite Enrichment Days April 26-28, 2022

Dear Brothers in the Priesthood:

The Maronite Seminary is finally ready to re-open its doors and to welcome you once again to its yearly event, the Maronite Enrichment Days, which has evolved into a venue for continuing education for Maronite clergy and laity.

From Tuesday, April 26, until Friday, April 28, 2022, Msgr. Azar, the seminarians, and I are eager to host you. We are excited to inform you that the preparations for these days are underway.

Dr. Jeanne-Nicole Mellon Saint-Laurent, a professor at Marquette University, and Fr. Claude Franklin have accepted our invitations to be the main guest speakers at this year's in person Maronite Enrichment Days event. (Please see below for more details).

For planning purposes, the organizers ask you kindly to **register online ASAP but no later than Friday, April 20, 2022**. There is no fee associated with registration.

The organizers have secured the rate of \$129.00 at the Courtyard by Marriott **until April 8, 2022**. You may book your hotel room **online at the Courtyard By Marriott** or by calling (301) 589-4899 (**Rate Code: Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary**). The hotel is a mile away and provides a shuttle service to the Maronite Seminary.

The organizers ask **priests** who wish to concelebrate at the Divine Mysteries to bring their *Jibbehs* and stoles.

Deacons and Subdeacons who want to serve at these celebrations should bring their **albs** and stoles.

Please share this information with your deacons, subdeacons, and parishioners. We wish you a blessed Season of Great Lent. We look forward to seeing you in person in April.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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Professor Jeanne-Nicole Mellon Saint-Laurent

Biography

Jeanne-Nicole Mellon Saint-Laurent is an Associate Professor of Historical Theology and Syriac Patristics at Marquette University. She is the author of *Missionary Stories and the Formation of the Syriac Churches*, *The History of Mar Behnam and Sarah: Martyrdom and Monasticism in Medieval Iraq* (with Kyle Smith), and an associate editor of syriaca.org, a digital portal for Syriac studies. She is active in the field of the Digital Humanities and the Study of Early Christianity.

The Syriac Fathers and Pope Francis's *Laudato Si*

1st Session Wednesday, April 27, 2022

This talk will introduce the audience to the rich integral theology of the cosmos that we find in the early Syriac fathers of the church. It will bring these sources into dialogue with Pope Francis's Encyclical *Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home*.

Syriac Saints and Their Communities

2nd Session on Wednesday, April 27, 2022

This talk will discuss models of holiness in the Syriac Tradition: monks, martyrs, and healers. It will present the strong theology of the incarnation that Syriac hagiography incorporates into its narrative, and it will discuss the role of local churches and communities in fashioning feasts and celebrations to honor the saints of their sacred past.

Female Saints

3rd Session on Thursday, April 28, 2022

Syriac Christianity has a rich tradition of female saints in its hagiographic literature. This talk celebrates their memory by discussing female martyrs, mothers, and nuns of the Syriac heritage. We will discuss how their witness helps Christians (male and female) today.

Fr. Claude Franklin

Biography

Father Claude W. Franklin, Jr. was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina on the 12th of February 1972.

Father Claude was Baptized as a Maronite, along with his father and sister, on May 25th, 1980, at Archangel Michael Maronite Church in Fayetteville, NC. Father Claude entered Our Lady of Maronite Seminary in the Fall of 1991, where he graduated from Oblate College with a *Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy* degree in May of 1994 and a *Master of Arts in Theology* degree in May of 1997. His Master's Thesis was entitled: *The Use of Symbols and Typology by the Syriac Fathers in Teaching Salvation History*.

Father Claude was ordained as a Maronite Priest of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn on November 29th, 1997, by Bishop Stephen Doueih, at Archangel Michael Maronite Church in Fayetteville, NC. Following ordination, Father Claude was sent by Bishop Doueih to Lebanon from February until September of 1998, where his assignment was to "have an experience in Lebanon". While "experiencing Lebanon", Father Claude began to learn to speak and read Arabic, visit the historic sites of both Maronite and Lebanese importance, as well as make many contacts.

Upon his return to the United States, Father Claude was assigned as Parochial Vicar of St. Ann Maronite Church in Scranton, PA for five and half years. In the Summer of 2003, Bishop Doueih asked Father Claude to go to Rome and study for a degree in Liturgy from the Pontifical Oriental Institute and reside at the Maronite College. In June of 2005, Father Claude received his *Licentiate in Oriental Ecclesiastical Sciences*, with a specialty in Liturgy, "Summa Cum Laude". His Licentiate Thesis was entitled: *Oil of Gladness: The Historical Origins of the Maronite "Rite of the Lamp"*.

With the blessing of Bishop Gregory J. Mansour, Father Claude remained in Rome for an additional year, completing his course work for beginning the Doctoral Studies program in Liturgy from the Pontifical Oriental Institute. His Doctoral Dissertation is still a work in progress but is an examination and comparison of eight Syriac Maronite Manuscripts of the "Rite of Lamp", in an attempt to reconstruct the original form of the ritual.

In May of 2006, Father Claude returned to the United States and was Assistant Pastor at Our Lady of Victory Maronite Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania until May of 2007, when he was assigned as Pastor of St. Elias Maronite Church in Roanoke, Virginia, where he remained until the Winter of 2010 when he returned to Rome and Lebanon to pursue work on his Doctoral Dissertation. Due to a Priestly shortage at the time, Bishop Gregory asked Father Claude to return to the United States, where he was assigned as Pastor of St. John the Baptist Maronite Church in New Castle, Pennsylvania for 10 years, until he was assigned as Pastor of St. Joseph Maronite Church in Olean, New York in the Fall of 2020.

In the last couple of years, Father Claude began a little side project comparing various Maronite Calendars; a project which he is currently working on in his spare time between pastoral duties.

The Maronite Sanctoral Calendar

4th Session on Thursday, April 28, 2022

The *Maronite Sanctoral Calendar* has seen many changes over the centuries to how it is in its current form. In this talk, Father Claude will be explaining the various sources he has been examining and comparing. Examples from the various sources will be shown and a basic timeline of when some minor and major changes in the *Maronite Sanctoral Calendar* occurred, of which the Synaxarion of Germanus Farhat, which will be given special attention.

Registration

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Accommodations

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Vestments

The organizers ask **priests** who wish to concelebrate at the Divine Mysteries to bring their *Jibbehs* and stoles.

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**Save the Date
For the Next
Maronite Enrichment Days
April 26-28, 2023**

Schedule—Maronite Enrichment Days

Guest Speakers:

Professor Jeanne-Nicole Mellon Saint-Laurent

Fr. Claude Franklin

Schedule Maronite Enrichment Days April 26-28, 2022				
	Tuesday, April 26, 2022	Wednesday, April 27, 2022	Thursday, April 28, 2022	Friday, April 29, 2022
8:00 – 9:00 am	Arrivals	Divine Mysteries		Divine Mysteries
9:00 – 9:50 am		Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast	Continental Breakfast
10:00-11:30 am		1st Session:	3rd Session:	Until
		The Syriac Fathers and Pope Francis’s <i>Laudato Si</i>	Female Saints	
12:00-1:00 pm		Lunch	Lunch	Next
1:30-3:00 pm		2nd Session:	4th Session:	Year
		Syriac Saints and Their Communities	The Maronite Sanctoral Calendar	Save the Date:
5:30-6:30 pm	Divine Mysteries	Free Time	Divine Mysteries	April 18-20, 2023
6:30 pm—?	Dinner and Camaraderie		Dinner and Camaraderie	