

February 5, 2024

Re: Maronite Enrichment Days APRIL 09–12, 2024

Dear Brothers in the Priesthood:

The Great Fast is around the corner. Msgr. Peter and I hope that the Season of the Great Fast will be a time of reflection and blessing for you, your families, and your parishes.

We invite you to attend the 2024 Maronite Enrichment Days, a yearly event for continuing education for Maronite clergy and laity. We are eager to host you from Tuesday, April 09, until Friday, April 12, 2024. The preparations for these days are underway.

Dr. Robin Darling Young, a professor at The Catholic University of America, has accepted our invitation to be our guest speaker at this year's Maronite Enrichment Days. She will introduce us to Evagrius of Pontus (AD 345-399) and his influence on Syriac theology and spirituality.

We are also excited to inform you that the Maronite Seminary Chamber Choir will perform for the first time in the history of the Maronite Seminary and sing traditional Maronite hymns.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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Professor Robin Darling Young

Biography

Dr. Robin Darling Young (BA, Mary Washington College; MA, PhD, University of Chicago) is associate professor of Church history at The Catholic University of America. She has published and lectured widely on topics in the history of early Christianity and its thought, including the areas of scriptural interpretation, the history of asceticism and monastic thought, and the Christian cultures of ancient Syria and Armenia.

Professor Darling Young is currently preparing an annotated translation of the Letters of Evagrius of Pontus from the surviving Syriac translation for the Fathers of the Church series (CUA Press), and directing a translation team that will produce English translations from the Greek texts and Syriac translations of the same author's Gnostic Trilogy (Praktikos, Gnostikos, Kephalaia Gnostika) for Oxford University Press.

Letters Traveling into Syriac

1st Session on Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Evagrius of Pontus (345-399), a philosopher and monastic, wrote elaborate, compressed works over the course of three decades in the late fourth century. His letters, however, have almost entirely disappeared from their original, yet they endure in Syriac. Why did Syriac monastics find them appealing, and Syriac translators preserve them? How did they understand the value of the correspondence?

Disillusioned in Constantinople

2nd Session on Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Like many young men of his time, Evagrius left his native Asia Minor to serve in the offices of the newly built eastern imperial capital. His refined education did not save him from delusions and danger; but escaping east and then south, he learned a strategy built on tactics of resistance: how did he record these, and how did Syriac translators understand them?

The Holy Place in the Desert

3rd Session on Thursday, April 11, 2024

In Egypt, surrounded by a new kind of society, Evagrius created a curriculum mingling philosophy, scriptural exegesis and the insights of a solitary, shared in his writings – and particularly in his curriculum for the monastic leaders of the Christian path – The Gnostic Trilogy. It brought an originally Jewish philosophical path into Christianity through the port of Alexandria, sending it to Syria by way of Jerusalem.

A New Syriac Library for the Learned Solitary

4th Session on Thursday, April 21, 2024

Syriac teachers of the fifth and later centuries made Evagrius' teaching their own, bringing his approach and his vocabulary into a foreign language. How did they accomplish this – and how did this new library spur the thinking of its recipients, such as Philoxenos, Babai and Isaac of Nineveh?



Seminary Registration

For planning purposes, the organizers ask you kindly to [register online](#) ASAP but no later than Friday, March 31, 2024. There is no fee associated with registration.

Hotel Reservations

The organizers have secured the rate of \$169.00 at the Courtyard by Marriott Silver Spring Downtown until March 18, 2024. You may book your hotel room [online at the Courtyard By Marriott](#) or by calling (301) 589-4899 (Rate Code: Maronite Seminary). The hotel is a mile away from the seminary and provides a shuttle service to and from the seminary.



Vestments

The organizers ask **priests** wishing to concelebrate at the Divine Mysteries to bring *jibbehs* and **stoles**.

Deacons and Subdeacons willing to serve at these celebrations should bring **albs** and **stoles**.

Save the Date

Maronite Enrichment Days
April 29–May 2, 2025

Guest Speaker:
Professor Joseph P. Amar

Schedule—Maronite Enrichment Days

Guest Speaker: Professor Robin Darling Young

Schedule Maronite Enrichment Days April 09-12, 2024				
	Tuesday, April 09, 2024	Wednesday, April 10, 2024	Thursday, April 11, 2024	Friday, April 12, 2024
8:30 am–9:30	Arrival	Celebration of the Divine Mysteries		Celebration of the Divine Mysteries
9:30–10:00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
		1st Session:	3rd Session:	
10:00–11:30		Letters Traveling into Syriac	The Holy Place in the Desert	Until
12:00–1:00 pm		Light Lunch	Light Lunch	Next
		Concert	4th Session: 1:00–2:30	
1:00–1:30		Maronite Seminary Chamber Choir	A New Syriac Library for the Learned Solitary	Year
		2nd Session:		
1:30–3:00		Disillusioned in Constantinople		Save the Date:
5:45–6:45		Celebration of the Divine Mysteries	Free Time	April 29–May 02, 2025
6:45 pm—?	Camaraderie		Professor Joseph P Amar	

MARONITE ENRICHMENT DAYS

AT THE MARONITE SEMINARY

📍 7164 ALASKA AVE NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20012

2024

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10



LECTURE 1

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

LETTERS TRAVELING INTO SYRIAC



MARONITE SEMINARY CHAMBER CHOIR

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM



LECTURE 2

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

DISILLUSIONED IN CONSTANTINOPE



LECTURE 3

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

THE HOLY PLACE IN THE DESERT



LECTURE 4

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

A NEW SYRIAC LIBRARY FOR THE LEARNED SOLITARY



DR. ROBIN DARLING YOUNG

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF CHURCH HISTORY
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



FOR REGISTRATION

www.maroniteseminary.org