

Vigilance

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

New Testament Reading

“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

If you had a choice, would you rather hang out with someone who is rude and discouraging to you, or someone who is kind and encouraging?

Imagine this scenario: you have never played kickball before, but your friends are playing and you’d like to join them. One says, “Ah man, I don’t want you on my team. You’d just mess it all up since you haven’t played before.” The other says, “That’s awesome that you want to try! Join my team and I’ll help you out if you need it!”



Who was the kind and encouraging friend? Who made you feel good and welcome?

The second one, of course!



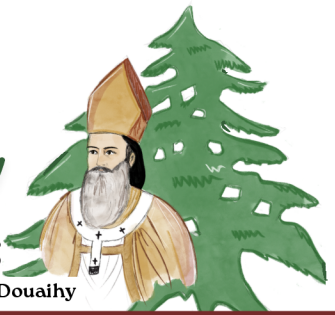
If you look at the life of any saint, you will see an encourager. That’s how Jesus wants His followers to be. He wants us to encourage everyone around us and to help others feel good and persevere through their challenges. Our attitudes toward others now will affect us for eternity!

In addition to the verse above from Saint Paul, this quote from Saint Mother Teresa may help us remember the attitude we are suppose to have:

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

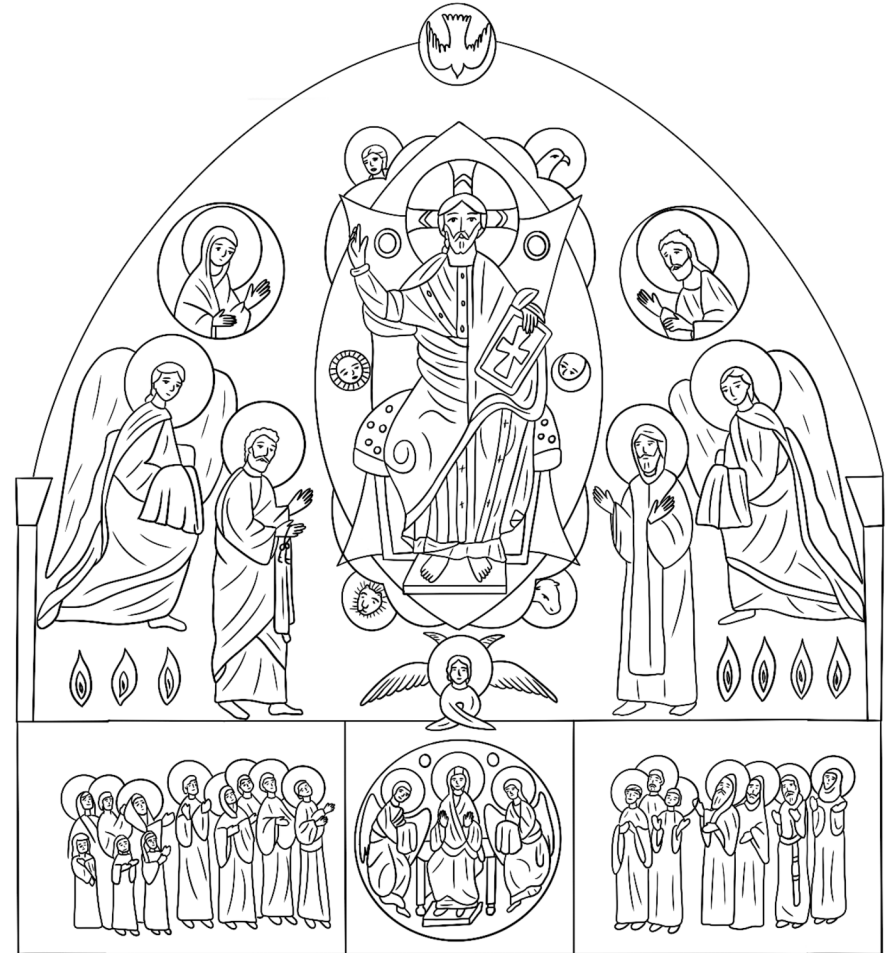


Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Vol 2, No. 19



Receive the faithful
in your Church on high, the new Jerusalem.
Lord, remember them.

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Gospel Corner

Luke
16:19-31

Have you ever wondered what is your purpose in life? Why are you here on this earth? The Baltimore Catechism gives a great answer to the question: Why did God make you? The answer is simple -- God made me to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in heaven.



Our Lord Jesus came to earth, suffered, died and rose from the dead in order to open the gates of Heaven for us. Because of His sacrifice, we are now able to live eternally in heaven with Him. Our main goal on earth should always be to do God's will and one day enjoy eternal happiness with Him in heaven.

The Bible tells us that nothing impure can enter Heaven. (Revelation 21:27) When a person in friendship with God dies, if they still have any venial sin or attachments to sin, then they will need to be purified before achieving the fullness of Heaven. Those of us still on earth can help them on this journey by praying for them.



This week in the Maronite Church we remember the Faithful Departed, those people who died in the friendship of God but are still on their journey to eternal happiness. Let us always remember to pray for those who have died to help them on their final journey to Heaven with our Lord.

Did you know?

PURGATORY

When a person dies in God's friendship, but they still have some attachments to sin, they must first go through a process of purification before entering the full vision of God. We call this process purgatory as it is a cleansing, or purging, of those sins and oftentimes described as a refining fire that burns away all sins to make the soul pure.

What you can do



Make an extra effort to use kind and encouraging language this week.

Light a candle in your parish for everyone in your family who has died.

Stop by a cemetery on the way home and pray for the souls buried there.

Prayer List

Talk with your parents or grandparents and make a list of all your family members and family friends who have died. Write the list below and remember to pray for them every day this week.

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