

Eastern and Latin Rites—by Fr. Vincent

In total, there are five rites and 22 Churches under the Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church.

Alexandrian liturgical tradition: Coptic, Ethiopian, Eritrean Catholic Churches.

Antiochian liturgical tradition: Maronite, Syrian, Syro-Malankara Catholic Churches.

Armenian liturgical tradition: Armenian Catholic Church.

Chaldean or East Syrian liturgical tradition: Chaldean and Syro-Malabar Catholic Churches

Byzantine liturgical tradition: Albanian Byzantine; Belarusian Greek; Bulgarian Greek; Byzantine Church of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro; Greek Byzantine; Hungarian Greek, Italo-Albanian; Macedonian Greek; Melkite Greek; Romanian Church United with Rome, Greek-Catholic; Russian Byzantine; Ruthenian; Slovak Greek; Ukrainian Greek Catholic Churches.

Under the Roman Rite there are seven Churches. Oddly, most members of the Latin Roman Catholic Church haven't any knowledge of the other Western Churches.

Latin Roman Rite of the Catholic Church:

Anglican Use: Since the 1980s, the Holy See has granted some former Anglican and Episcopal clergy converting with their parishes the faculty of celebrating the sacramental rites according to Anglican forms, doctrinally corrected.

Mozarabic: The Rite of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) has been known from at least the 6th century but has roots that probably go back to the original evangelization. Beginning in the 11th century, it was generally replaced by the Roman Rite, although it has remained the Rite of the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Toledo, Spain and six parishes which sought permission to adhere to it. Its celebration today is generally semi-private.

Ambrosian: The Rite of the Archdiocese of Milan, Italy, thought to be of early origin and probably consolidated, but not originated, by St. Ambrose. Pope Paul VI was from this Roman Rite. It continues to be celebrated in Milan, though not by all parishes.

Bragan: The Rite of the Archdiocese of Braga, the Primatial See of Portugal, derives from the 12th century or earlier. It continues to be of occasional use.

Dominican: Rite of the Order of Friars Preacher (OP), founded by St. Dominic in 1215.

Carmelite: Rite of the Order of Carmel, whose modern foundation was by St. Berthold c.1154.

Carthusian: Rite of the Carthusian Order founded by St. Bruno in 1084.

The Raven



St. Benedict

Newsletter

Spring 2014

At the Easter Vigil last Holy Saturday evening, St. Benedict Parish embraced a group of 13 including converts to Catholicism and Catholics completing the sacraments. Delany Andrews, Brett Fellows, Allison Fletcher, Josh Headley, Michael Jauch, Kelsy Land, Paul Millar, Sarah Parnham, Stuart Parnham, David Richardson, David Twardowski, Chuck Williams, Robert Woodul.

We congratulate and feel joy for each one of this group at this special time in their lives. To give us insight into what they themselves are feeling, here is an account by Stu Parnham writing for himself and his wife Sarah.

My wife Sarah and I are both really excited as we approach the Easter Vigil. We have led a blessed life and have experienced so much in our lifetimes. We got married August 25, 1990 at the tender age of 19 and are approaching our 25th wedding anniversary. I served in the Royal Air Force for 16 years, and during that time we lived in Germany and all over Great Britain. We moved to Charleston in 2007 from Peterborough in England, and since then we have attended many churches in the area but none of them seemed to fit. They were all welcoming, but we both knew something was not quite right. The last couple of years our family has been praying for a special intention. God answered our prayers and also directed us to St. Benedict parish. Our neighbors' mother, Bonnie Wilcome, a very dear friend of ours, was visiting from Kentucky and attends St. Benedict parish every time she is here. She mentioned to us that RCIA was going to start and that we should come down to the Church. We met with Father Vincent who told us all about the Catholic faith, and from that point on everything felt right.

The yearning to be part of something bigger and far grander than anything we have experienced has been answered. We love the community of the parish, and we both love the RCIA classes and have learned so much about the Catholic faith. We are looking forward to receiving our Sacraments and becoming more involved with the parish activities and learning more about our wonderful faith.

The RCIA classes have been absolutely fantastic, and we appreciate all that Father Vincent, Andrea, Joanne, David, Delores and our sponsors Bob and Barbara have done for us. We love everyone at St. Benedict parish. They all make us feel welcome and assured in our faith. We continue to pray for our special intention, but we do so with so much more strength because we have God at our side and through Him all things are possible.

✠ St. Benedict News



There are 64 children celebrating the sacrament of First Communion this year. We will have two celebrations of the sacrament, one on May 2 and the other on May 9, each celebration at 10:00 AM. Please keep our children in your prayers.

We thank God for the grown children of our parish family members who serve in our military. We ask for God's blessing and protection upon them. We also acknowledge the blessings that are evident at this time in that the son of Dawn and Michael O'Connor, Mike, who is in the Marines, and the son of Mary Nowe, Joe, who is in the Navy are stationed together for a brief time on the same ship. Please keep them in your continue prayers.



Spotlight



As Roman Catholics, we don't encounter married priests very often, but happily Father Vincent Maroun and his wife Andrea have made St. Benedict parishioners very familiar with one such couple. Father Vincent is a Maronite priest from the Catholic Church's Eastern rite which has maintained the Early Church's tradition of ordaining married priests (see sidebar by Father Vincent on the Eastern and Latin Rites of the Catholic Church). The Maronite Church is the only one of the five Eastern rites that never broke ties with Rome and the only one named after a person, the hermit priest St. Maron after whom a monastery (Bet Maroon or the House of Maron) was founded on the Orontes River in Syria. Later, during the persecution of Christians, Bet Maroon was moved to the mountains of Lebanon for refuge.

The early Maronites were the direct descendants of those who received their faith from the Apostle Peter at Antioch where the followers of Jesus first became known as Christians (Acts 11:26).

Father Vincent and Andrea grew up across the globe from each other. Vincent was born and grew up in Beirut, Lebanon and was studying at the Maronite Lebanese Monks' Seminary. Father Vincent was not the first in his family to study to be a Maronite Monk. Indeed, his fourth cousin, the first cousin of both of his grandmothers, a Maronite Monk named Charbel, was canonized a saint by Pope Paul VI in 1977. Born Youssef Antoun Makhluf in 1828, St. Charbel lived as a hermit priest and was known for his holiness. The Sanctuary of St. Charbel is at the Monastery of St. Maron in the mountains of Lebanon where he studied as a young man and died in 1898.

Father Vincent lived in Lebanon until his family left for the U.S. due to unrest in the Middle East. Almost immediately after arriving in MA with his family, Vincent began helping the pastor at his local Maronite church in Boston. It was there that he met Andrea who was born and raised in Boston and graduated from Northeastern University. About two years after they met, in July 1972, Vincent and Andrea were married.

After Vincent had helped at the Maronite church for 10 years, the pastor there offered him the opportunity to become a married priest. A Maronite Bishop in Lebanon agreed to sponsor Vincent for ordination to the priesthood and arranged for him to study at a seminary there. Just as Vincent and Andrea prepared to leave for Lebanon, they discovered that Andrea was pregnant with their first child after 10 years of marriage. Vincent had to leave Andrea behind in Boston and go to Lebanon to study, with plans to return before the arrival of the baby.

When their first child was a month old, Vincent and Andrea left together for Lebanon where they lived in a convent with Franciscan nuns while Vincent attended seminary. During this time, war between Israel and Syria spilled over into Lebanon. A plane crashed just behind the convent where Vincent, Andrea and the baby were living. Just as terrifying, Andrea could look down from the hilltop on which the convent sat and see firsthand the fighting in the valley where Vincent studied at the seminary. After having been in Lebanon for a year, because it was considered unsafe for them to stay there, the young family returned to Boston where Vincent continued to study and prepare for his ordination at Blessed John XXIII Seminary in Weston, MA. During the years Father was studying and waiting for his assignment, Andrea was the breadwinner in the Maroun family. At John Hancock, she was Group Pension Consultant. At State Bank in Boston, Andrea was Assistant Vice President for Group Pension Compliance. Then at Putnam Investment Bank, she held the position of Managing Assistant Vice President of Pension Compliance.

On November 30, 1985, Father Vincent became the first married Maronite to be ordained in this country. Father Vincent proudly maintains the liturgical traditions of the Maronite Church. One of the Eastern Rite traditions, perhaps the one with which we've become most familiar, is the use of the handheld cross Father Vincent always carries. This cross symbolizes Christ's victory over death, which led to His Resurrection and our salvation. The cross also symbolizes Christ Himself so that when Father Vincent carries the cross, he's representing Jesus the Good Shepherd, our shepherd. The cross is also used to bless "in the name of Jesus." Most of us know what Father Vincent does since he's so visible in his role as Pastoral Associate at St. Benedict. We see him everywhere—at Mass, in our homes, at hospitals, etc. Fewer of us know just how much Andrea does in her role as Volunteer Pastoral Assistant. Andrea assists Father Vincent by coordinating the RCIA Program as well as the efforts of the Small Faith Groups. She provides spiritual mentoring and support when asked and as needed. She also helps out in pre-marriage preparation when couples seek more input on determining their marriage readiness. Andrea works as Father's case assistant for completing paperwork needed for filing applications for marriage annulments. She attended the chaplaincy training program (CPE) at Roper-St. Francis Hospital and has provided chaplaincy services at hospitals, nursing homes and hospices in the local area.

Father Vincent and Andrea have three children. Vincent, his wife and their son live in Boise, ID. Anthony, his wife and their son live in West Palm Beach, FL. Andrea, and her husband live in Hilton Head, SC and are expecting their first child this summer.

Father Vincent and Andrea are truly a team in every sense of the word, and we at St. Benedict feel so very fortunate to have them here among us.

Heart to Serve

Serve Saturday is scheduled for Saturday April 25th from 8:00 AM—Noon. St Benedict parishioners will be rolling up their sleeves and showing their dedication to Heart to Serve. Volunteers will again visit nursing homes, write letters to the military and St. Benedict's adopted ten children from Unbound, clean up yards of our home-bound parishioners, and clean up the inside and outside of our parish including the Darrell Creek Trail roadside. Lunch in the triple room to thank you. Please see Sign Up boards in the Narthex.