



Our Lady of Purgatory

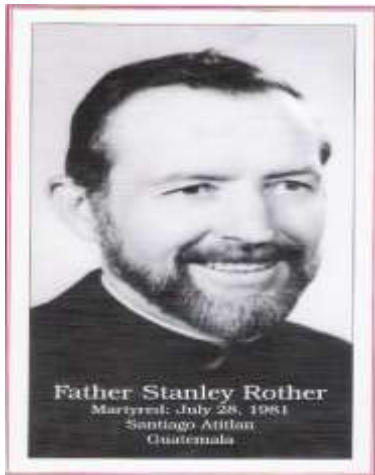


Maronite Catholic Church

July 24-25, 2021

TENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

FEAST OF BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER



The latest American to be beatified (a step in the process of becoming a saint) hails from a small town in western Oklahoma. His name is Father Stanley Rother. Not only is he the first recognized American martyr, he is also the first beatified American-born male.

Father Rother was born on March 27, 1935 in the small German farming community of Okarche, OK. He arrived in the middle of Oklahoma's Dust Bowl years and the Great Depression. Little Stanley had two brothers and two sisters. His only living sibling is his sister Marita, a member of the Adorers of the Precious Blood. (In the 1990's, I gave some talks in Oklahoma. The sister who picked me up at the airport was Sister Marita. That's

when I first heard her brother's inspiring story.)

As a youth, Stanley was quiet and unassuming. He was very active in 4-H and seemed destined to be a farmer. But upon graduating from high school, Stanley surprised his family by announcing he wanted to become a priest. He entered St. John's seminary in San Antonio where things did not go well for him. He struggled with academics—especially Latin—and was asked to leave. Back home, Stanley appealed to his bishop to help him get into Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The bishop agreed and Stanley was accepted. There Stanley worked very hard and was eventually ordained in 1963 for the then-Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. He served in parishes in the area for five years. But everything changed when he volunteered for Oklahoma's mission in Guatemala. Father Rother arrived in Guatemala in 1968. He was sent to Santiago Atitlan to serve the Tz'utujil people, an agricultural community proud of their ancient Mayan culture. Immediately Father fell in love with the beautiful land and the beautiful people. By now, he had learned Spanish, but he wanted to speak directly to his people in their native language. The young seminarian who got D's in Latin, mastered the complicated Tz'utujil language so well, he even helped to

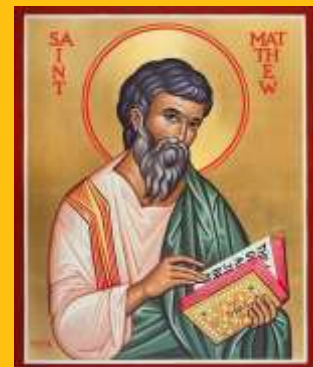
transcribe this oral language into written form. During his 13 years of service at the mission, Father Rother helped develop a farmers' co-op, a nutrition center, a medical clinic, a school, and the first Catholic radio station in the area. But what endeared him most to the people was his gentle presence among them and his willingness to fix tractors and engage in everyday farm work.

Since 1960 Guatemala was engaged in a bloody civil war that lasted 36 years. Eventually this war reached even Atitlan. Because the Catholic Church spoke out against the injustices to the poor, church leaders were targeted. Father Rother's own

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”

Matthew 12:30



Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

catechists began to disappear. But he continued to defend the dignity of his people against a government that was bent on silencing the Church. This only made his situation more dangerous for him. In January 1981, Father Stanley received several death threats. He decided to leave Guatemala, but, shortly afterward, he had a change of heart saying, "The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger." In April, he returned to the mission and resumed his priestly ministry there.

Only July 28, at 1:30 in the morning, three men (non-indigenous) snuck into the rectory, beat Father Rother and shot him twice in the head. His death was deeply mourned by the people he served as well as his family and friends back home. His body was sent back to Oklahoma for burial, but, at the request of his parishioners, his heart was entombed under an altar in his beloved Santiago Atitlan.

Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, a fellow graduate of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, said this of his friend: "The life and witness of Father Rother is a gift to the Church of America, especially in the way he lived his priesthood: selflessly, generously, heroically... after the manner of Christ."

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of July are in memory of the deceased members of the David and Daher families requested by Mariam David and family. May their souls rest in peace.

Anyone who would like to give an offering in memory of a loved one or for a special intention for the month of July, 2022, please see Fr. Vincent. The cost for the month is \$75.00, which covers the cost of the communion bread and wine. Thank you and God bless.

SAVE THE DATE SUMMER FESTIVAL

I am very happy to announce that we will be having our summer festival this year. As you know, last year we were planning to have a three-day celebration but Covid had other plans for us. Because we did not know what to expect this year, we will begin our festival journey with a one-day festival to be held on Saturday, **September 18**. We will have live entertainment, great food, dancing, and games for the children, all under the BIG TENT.

If you are interested in helping us with this fundraising effort for the Church, I welcome and encourage you to let me know. I look forward to extending the days in 2022 but this will be a great start for our Church. More details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, I hope you will mark your calendars and tell your friends to join us on Saturday, **September 18**, here on the Church grounds. Thank you and God bless you and the parish of OLOP.

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we prepare for our Summer Festival on Saturday, September 18, we would you to help in any capacity with our Church's major fundraiser. Please notify any of the following people how you can help us prepare food, and to serve during the day of the festival. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated. I pray that this, my first major fundraiser since my arrival, will not only strengthen our financial needs, but also strengthen the unity of our community. Please let us know if you can help. God bless you and Our Lady of Purgatory Church.

Fr. Vincent

ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net, Deacon Jean Mattar- jean.mattar@comcast.net, Gaby Baroody-gabrielbaroody61@gmail.com, Matthew Thomas, Thomfam5@comcast.net.

FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERS

As we prepare for our festival, you will be receiving in the mail sponsorship forms as well as raffle tickets. Sponsors for the festival help the Church to pay for the many items needed such as food, liquor, publicity, tents, live band, and many other incidentals that will help make this event a successful and enjoyable fundraiser.

We will also be having a cash raffle that will be drawn on Saturday evening. Prizes will be \$1000.00, \$500.00, and \$200.00. Tickets are 1 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. You will receive a book of five tickets in your mailing. If you have any leftover tickets, perhaps you can help sell them to your friends. If you need additional tickets to sell, please contact Smitty Cabral or Lorraine David and they will make sure you get additional tickets.

We are also looking for volunteers before and during the festival. I am appealing to all of you to offer whatever time and talents you can give. Everyone is vital and important to this community and I invite each of you to help. Blessings.

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 7, 2021

Please join Bishop Gregory Marsour and friends

for the

Twelfth Annual Benefit Event
of the

Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn

A virtual event via Zoom



This benefit will help strengthen our Eparchy in its service to its people here and for the vulnerable in Lebanon.

We gratefully honor and recognize the many dedicated people and organizations who serve and support the people and country of Lebanon during these difficult times.

Details to follow.

EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

718-237-9913 • www.stmaron.org • stmaron@yahoo.com

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 24, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Christine of Tyre) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Adeline and Andrew Riley requested by Nicole Uwanagho and family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the souls of George and Mary C. Saba by their family (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, July 25, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Ann, Mother of Our Lady the Virgin Mary) liturgy is being offered as a 40 Day Memorial for the soul of Hiam Chaib requested by her Amal and Gaby Baroody and her family. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of HC Ibrahim Hanna requested by the parishioners of OLOP. May his soul rest in peace.

Monday, July 26, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Bridget the Queen)
Tuesday, July 27, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Pantaleon)

Wednesday, July 28, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Blessed Stanley Rother)
Welcome Me Into Your Kingdom Liturgy, Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Hiam Chaib requested by Mae Dickinson. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Book of Life.

Thursday, July 29, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Ezekiel the Prophet)

Saturday, July 31, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Ignatius Loyola) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by Mike and Marie LeBlanc. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, August 1, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Shmouni and Her Sons) liturgy is offered in memory of Tanos Sadek requested by friends of the family.

WELCOME ME INTO YOUR KINGDOM DIVINE LITURGY

As we celebrate one year of celebrating for the souls of our faithful departed in the book of life, we will have a special Divine Liturgy of Welcome Me Into Your Kingdom on Wednesday, July 28, at 6:00 PM. Our friends from the New England area will join us for this Liturgy which will be followed by a dinner in the rectory basement. Please join us for this special anniversary celebration for our faithful departed. Please notify the office if you plan to attend to ensure we prepare the enough food all. Thank you.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

Periodically we will be publishing news and coming events from the St. Joseph Sodality. The Sodality is the oldest organization in the Parish, having been founded in 1918. Through their devotion to St. Joseph, Sodality Members seek to emulate the life and faith of St. Joseph, and by doing so, hope to achieve eternal happiness as he did. The Sodality encourages you to consider becoming a member.

Please save the date and join the Sodality on Saturday, October 16, 2021 for the St. JosephFest.

If you would like more information about the St. Joseph Sodality, or are interested in becoming a member please contact Fr. Vince, or Matt Thomas.

LECTORS FOR JULY 2021

Saturday, July 24,
Carol Ann Maslanka

Sunday, July 25,
Jean Barbour/Jano Baroody

Saturday, July 31,
Mae Dickinson

LECTORS FOR AUGUST 2021

Sunday, August 1,
Ann Dupre/Gaby Baroody

Saturday, August 7,
Racheal Higgins/Intercessions Anna Higgins

Sunday, August 8,
Mae Dickinson/Jano Baroody

Saturday, August 14,
Smitty Cabral/Intercessions Mariam Uwanogho

Sunday, August 15,
Joan Mello/Hiba Chedid

Saturday, August 21,
Carol Ann Maslanka

Sunday, August 22,
Jean Barbour/Jano Baroody

Saturday, August 28,
Mae Dickinson

Sunday, August 29,
Ann Dupre/Gaby Baroody

(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Octavia David, Kenza Sellami, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Leo and Ida Roderick, Theresa John, Laurette BouRamia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed Da Rocha, Edmond Salameh, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

WEEK OF JULY 17-18, 2021

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,070.00
Online Giving July	\$ 368.97
Candles	\$ 36.00
Total	\$ 2,474.97

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR WEELY COLLECTIONS VIA MAIL. THIS HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

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[Sample bulletin block / graphic is optional / In email.]



Joseph & Marie Kenyon

*How empty life is without you.
Your Love and Patience has made
us into who we are today. Your
Guidance has set our path in life.
We Miss seeing your face, hearing
your voice, seeing your smile and
hearing your laugh. We Love you
and miss you even more with each
passing day*

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