

August 25th

Blessed MARY OF JESUS-CHRIST,
"Miryam, the Little Arab."
Virgin of the Carmelite Order

Memorial

Mariam Baouardi was born in the middle of the nineteenth century to a Melkite (Greek Catholic) Arab family in the village of Ibilin in Galilee. She lost her parents at a tender age and after some years went to live in Alexandria with her uncle. When she refused to be wed (at the age of 13) her uncle maltreated her. A neighbor even tried to murder her when she refused his proposal that she become a Muslim. Later, she attributed her survival to the intervention of the Virgin Mary.

After she had worked as a servant for a rich family in Lebanon and Galilee, she was attracted to the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition and she was sent to France. However, the congregation refused to accept her because of her visions. Finally, she entered the Carmelite monastery in Pau, France. As a Carmelite nun she was active in establishing Carmelite monasteries in India and in Bethlehem. In the tradition of the Carmel, these were places of deep and constant prayer and intercession.

She died at the age of 33 in 1878 in the Bethlehem monastery before plans to establish another Carmel monastery in Nazareth could be completed.

She also contributed to the installation of the Betharram Fathers in Bethlehem, near the Carmel.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Isa 35: 2b

The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

COLLECT

God, Father of mercy and all consolation, You raised Blessed Mary, a humble daughter of the Holy Land, to contemplation of the mysteries of your Son and made her a witness to the love and joy of the Holy Spirit. Grant us, through her intercession, so to share in the sufferings of Christ that we may rejoice in the revelation of your glory.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8: 26-30

In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will. We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

The Word of the Lord.

Or else:

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1: 26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise,

and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 45: 11-12. 14-15. 16-17 (R. Matt 25, 6b)

R. "Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

1. Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father's house.
So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your LORD, pay homage to him.

2. The daughter of the king is clothed with splendor;
her robes are threaded with gold.
In fine clothing she is led to the king;
behind her are her maiden companions, brought to you.

3. They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.
Sons will be yours to succeed your fathers;
you will make them rulers over all the earth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matt 11: 25

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

11: 25-30

At that time Jesus said in reply, 14 "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, 16 and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We treasure the life that God has given us as adopted children of a generous Father and we ask for the strength we need to live out a godly kind of life.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the community of the Church, that we might all find our rightful and true place in God's family.

2. For all leaders, both civil and religious, that they might know how to bring out the best in all their associates.
3. For those who do not believe in any religious faith, that they might find the good God through the kindness and understanding of people.
4. For the sick, that they might be helped to bear their ills by the skills of the medical professions and by the support of those around them.
5. For our inner intentions and present them in the silence of our own hearts ... pause ...
6. For the dead, asking God to accept them graciously in their heavenly dwelling.

Father, we trust in your constant kindness and care. You know better than us what is for our good. Grant us what we need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, Lord our humble homages; we offer them in memory of Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified. By the sacrifice of your Son turn us into ardent apostles of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

PREFACE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf Luke 10: 42

The wise virgin "has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, renew us, by our participation in this divine mystery. We pray that by the example of Blessed Mary of Jesus Crucified who took into her mortal life the passion of your Son, we may also have the strength to belong to you alone.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...