

Leamington Lebanese Club

And

Our Lady of Lebanon

Shrine

When and how were they built?



نادي ليمنجتون اللبناني

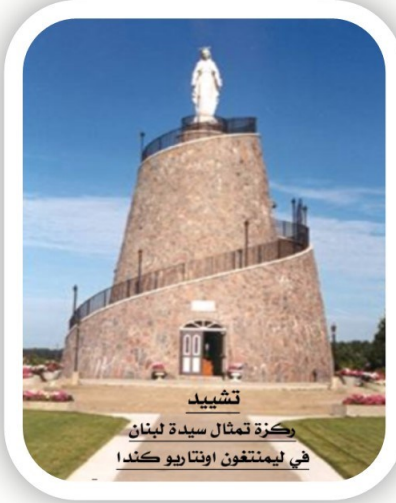
ومزار سيدة لبنان

متى وكيف تم بناؤهما؟

John Obeid

November 15, 2024

*Leammington Lebanese Club
And
Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine*



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20 November 2024

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A word of thanks and appreciation!

Today, the Lebanese club is at its best, thanks to the efforts of the current president, Mr. Maurice Raffoul, the club manager, Mr. Paul Tawil, the former president, Mr. Joe George, and the famous executive chef, Mr. George Harb, along with the mayor of the administration and members who have made achievements and work with the best quality that deserves praise and appreciation. We thank you for your dedication and mastery in your work and for contributing to the club achieving its lofty goals.

Yes, words fail to give you your due for the hard work and continuous work with sincerity to raise and advance the work, so thank you very much and I wish you to continue to achieve all your goals and reach the highest ranks!

Sincerely: John Obeid
November 20, 2024



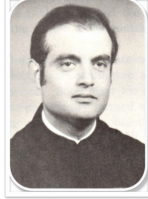
كلمة شكر وتقدير!

إن النادي اللبناني اليوم يتجلى بأفضل حالاته، وذلك بفضل جهود الرئيس الحالي السيد موريس رفول ومدير النادي السيد بول طويل والسيد الرئيس السابق جو جورج والشاف التنفيذي الشهير السيد جورج حرب مع عمدة الإدارة والأعضاء الذين بذلوا من الإنجاز والعمل بأفضل جودة تستحق الثناء والتقدير. نشكركم على الإخلاص في عملكم وإتقانه والمساهمة في وصول النادي إلى أهدافه السامية.

أجل، تعجز الكلمات أن توفيكم حقكم لما قدمتموه من جهد شاق وعمل مستمر بإخلاص من أجل رفعة العمل والنهوض به، فلكم جزيل الشكر وتمنياتي لكم بالاستمرار لتحقيق جميع أهدافكم ووصولها لأعلى المراتب!

بكل إخلاص: جان عبيد
20 تشرين الثاني 2024

THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR



REV. FATHER ANTOINE SLEIMAN, O.L.M.

Father Antoine was ordained on May 25, 1969, at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik in Lebanon. He later moved to Canada to further his education, obtaining a master's degree from the University of Windsor and a Public Relations Diploma from Michigan State University.

In 1975, John Obeid inspired the idea of establishing the Leamington Lebanese Club. He took this concept seriously and began working on the foundation of the club, eventually receiving a lifetime membership in recognition of his contributions.

He dedicated his efforts to serving the Maronite community in the Leamington and Detroit areas. His career included serving as an administrator at St. Antonios School in Chekka and later as the principal at St. George School in Aachach, North Lebanon. After moving to Canada, he established St. Antoine Monastery in Outremont, Quebec, and Our Lady of Lebanon Church in London, England.

After holding various principal positions in different monasteries and serving on numerous educational committees, he established North Lebanon College. His final project was constructing the Church of Mar Antonious, located adjacent to North Lebanon College. This achievement earned him the nickname "the Man of Mission impossible."

يا صورة الأجيال حملك هالكتاب

عربون للأخلاق للفضل المليح	يا صورة الأجيال حملك هالكتاب
للكاهن الماشي على درب المسيح	للاهب السلابس من العضة تياب
كلما فتحنا كتاب عنوانو المديح	منتذكرك كلما دخلنا هالبواب
بتدعي لك أهل اليتامى من الضريح	وكلما تطلعو عيون الشباب

To the rising Generations
I dedicate this historical summary

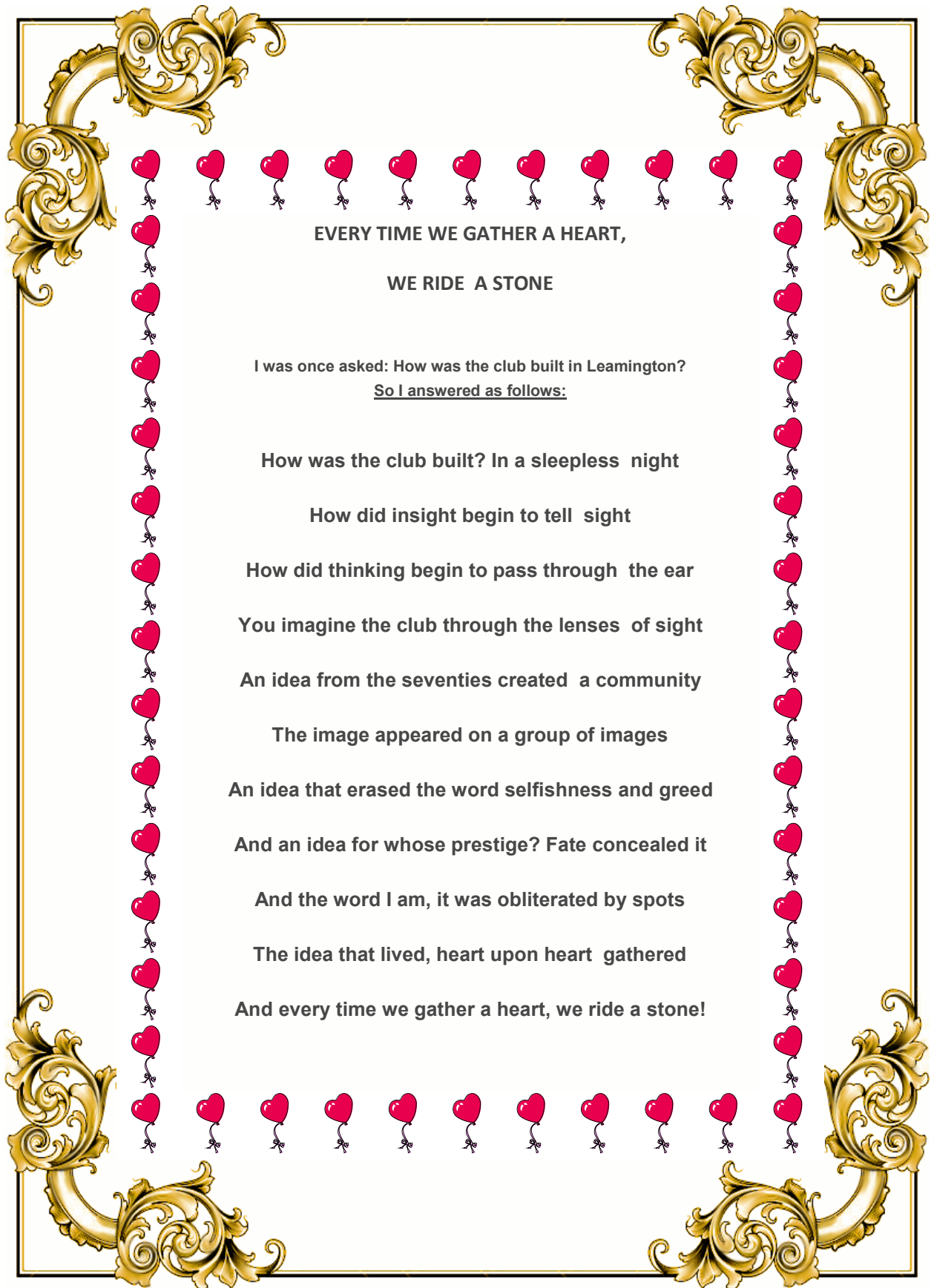
إلى الأجيال الطالعة
أهدي هذه النبذة التاريخية

Cedar Tree
A story and history of the pride of the Lebanese



شجرة الأرز
قصة تاريخ وفخر اللبنانيين!





**EVERY TIME WE GATHER A HEART,
WE RIDE A STONE**

I was once asked: How was the club built in Leamington?
So I answered as follows:

How was the club built? In a sleepless night

How did insight begin to tell sight

How did thinking begin to pass through the ear

You imagine the club through the lenses of sight

An idea from the seventies created a community

The image appeared on a group of images

An idea that erased the word selfishness and greed

And an idea for whose prestige? Fate concealed it

And the word I am, it was obliterated by spots

The idea that lived, heart upon heart gathered

And every time we gather a heart, we ride a stone!

THE FAMOUS EXECUTIVE CHEF

GEORGE HARB

Offers the finest and most delicious Lebanese & International dishes.
His cooking is truly worthy of praise, its taste is special and high-level!

COME AND TRY YOU WILL BE BACK!



The Cedars Hall is open
Thursday and Friday from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday from 5 pm to 8 pm



الشيف التنفيذي الشهير جورج حرب

يقدم أفخر وأشهى وألذ الأطباق اللبنانية والعالمية.

فطهيه يستحق المديح فعلاً، مذاقه خاص ورفيع المستوى!

قاعة الأرز تفتح أبوابها

نهار الخميس والجمعة من الساعة 11:30 إلى الثانية بعد الظهر

نهار السبت من الخامسة حتى الثامنة مساءً

John Obeid

is the first, who gave the idea of establishing.
the Lebanese Club and the shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon

in Leamington Ontario.

He then gave the idea to:

Father Antoine Sleiman,

and he asked him for guidance and help making these dreams come true..!



THE CHAIRMAN OF FUND RAISING

جان عبيد

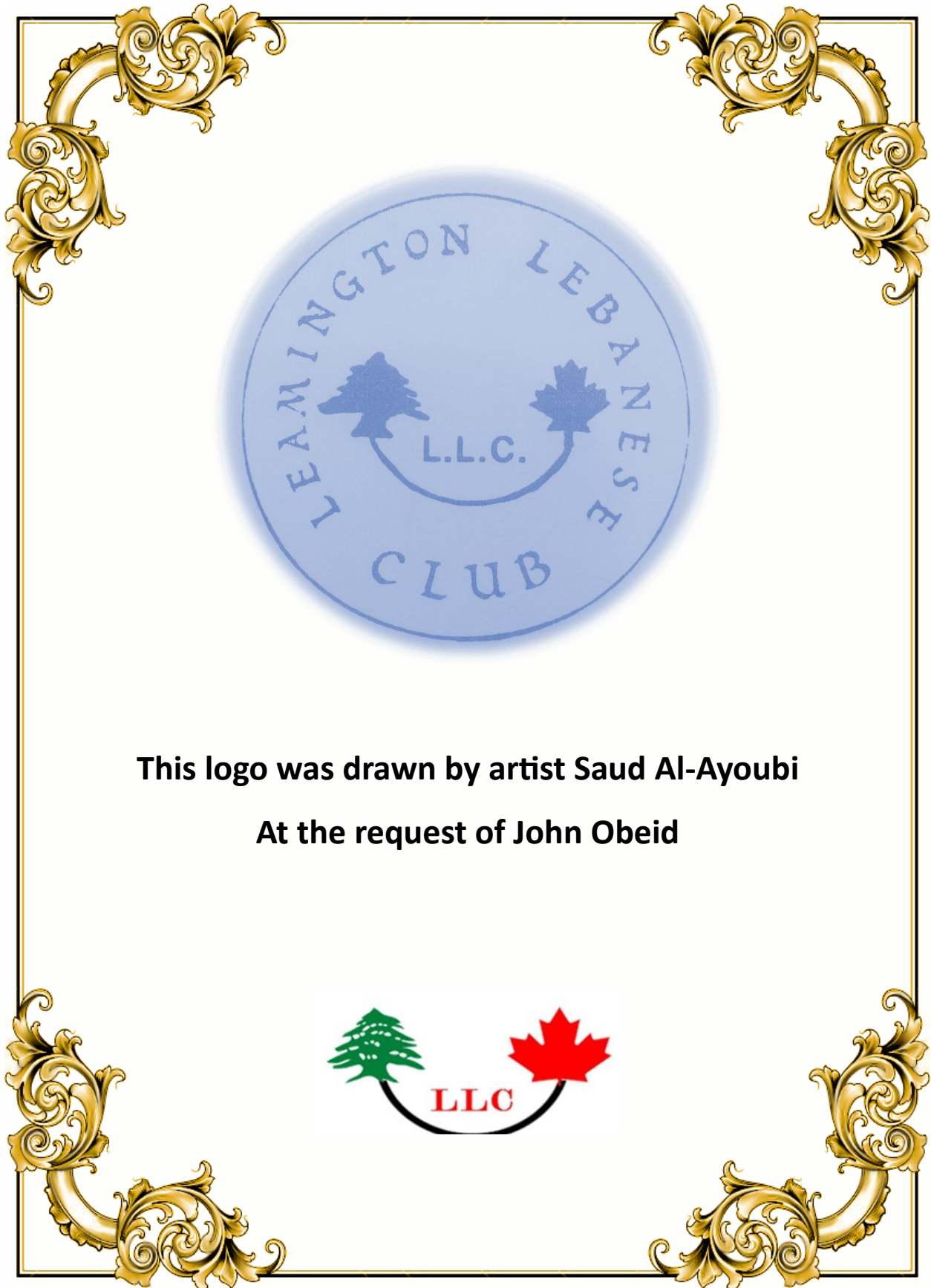
هو أول من أعطى فكرة إنشاء النادي اللبناني ومزارسيدة لبنان

في ليمنغتون أونتاريو.

ثم أعطى الفكرة إلى:

الأب أنطوان سليمان

وطلب منه التوجيه والمساعدة في تحقيق هذه الأحلام..!



**This logo was drawn by artist Saud Al-Ayoubi
At the request of John Obeid**



HOW DID THE IDEA OF THE LEBANESE CLUB START?

AND HOW DID IT COME TRUE?

First of all, I am pleased to cite what came in the book
“The Lebanese Presence” by Nabil Harfoush, page 15:

“Lebanon is everywhere, and expatriates gather in certain streets, markets, and neighborhoods to which they transfer Lebanon: Lebanon is the temple, the magazine, the newspaper, the restaurant, the Arab foods and the nightclubs, and they revive the Arabic language, their national customs and traditions, their dances and songs, and they establish associations, clubs and schools, and Lebanon remains a hub for their social, cultural, and national and political interests. So in every town and city a new Lebanon applies to it and to those who created it these two wonderful classic lines of our great poet Saeed Akl, which are echoed by everyone who talks about Lebanese alienation:


“From our little home, we roam the earth

We spread our villages on every shore

We challenge the world as peoples and homelands

And we build where we want Lebanon.”

What was mentioned above applies completely to any Lebanese community, whether it is in Canada or in any country in the world. The old emigration began to Canada since 1890, while the new emigration began in 1952, which intensified from 1956 until the mid-seventies during and after the horrific war that ravaged Lebanon over a period of seventeen years of death, destruction and loss until today.

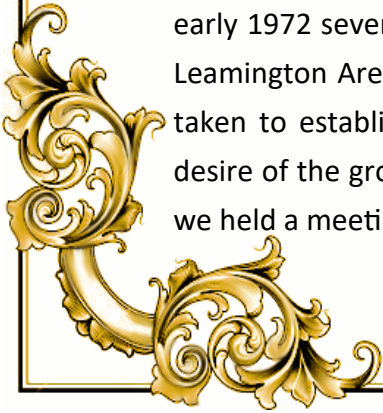


The Lebanese community in Leamington Ontario, Canada, which constitutes 95% of the people of the northern town of Tourza from Bcharre district. The sons of Tourza used to meet most of the time in the mid-sixties until the early seventies in the city's park, which is located on: Princess and Talbot Street East.

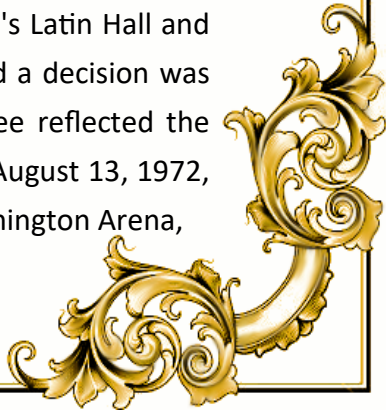
As for those who used to meet and gather in that garden almost daily after they returned from their work. They are: Mohsen Elias, Sam Elias, Elias Iskandar Gerges, Youssef Asaad Ibrahim, Antonius Boulos Seeman, Youssef Jabbour, Sarkis Raffoul, Boula Youssef Mikhael, Paul Sleiman, and many others...

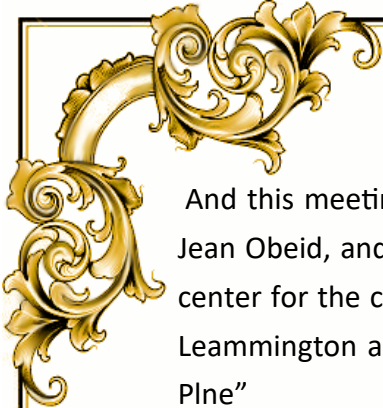
Father Antoine blessed the idea, encouraged the youth, and added, "I am with you, but above all, I want to visit the Lebanese community in Leamington, house by house, to seek their opinions and feelings regarding a project that would bring the community together as a whole."

A few days before Christmas 1971, he visited every home and every Lebanese family in Leamington and its environs to propose to them the idea of gathering and uniting. The response was encouraging, but varied among the many optimists, and there were a few who wanted more results.



But there is no doubt. In that Father Antoine got a direct insight from the congregation and the breadth of its ideas and vision. In early 1972 several meetings were held in St Michael's Latin Hall and Leamington Arena where ideas were exchanged and a decision was taken to establish the club. The founding committee reflected the desire of the group as a whole, and set its goal. On August 13, 1972, we held a meeting in the entertainment center, Leamington Arena,



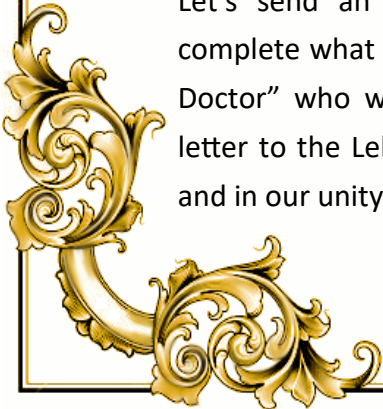


And this meeting included 70 people. This meeting was chaired by Jean Obeid, and he told the gathering about the establishment of a center for the club that brings together the Lebanese expatriates in Leamington and its environs. The poem is later titled "A tente of Plne"


With your support, will and communication, we will succeed in realizing and implementing this dream that we yearn for. Today, each one of us must extend a hand of generosity by paying a thousand dollars as a debt for ten years without interest, and the creditor is considered a founding member of the club. During this extraordinary meeting of generosity, generosity, and enthusiasm, we were able to raise 70,000 dollars. On August 17, 1972, the land was purchased, paid for, and registered in full at:

447 ON-77, Leamington, ON N8H 3V6.

The foundation stone was laid on May 25, 1976, after which 60,000 dollars were collected from the community, and construction began. To fulfill what we started with, we need more money, which has run out. Despite all of the foregoing, at that time a large segment of the community was against the idea, so they began to spray poison into the hearts of the community. In late August 1976, I brought the matter up to Father Antoine Suleiman, and he told me:



Let's send an open letter to the community, urging them to complete what we started. At that point, I sat down with the "Arab Doctor" who was following my example, and we wrote an open letter to the Lebanese community, entitled: "Our goal is our unity, and in our unity is our strength."



This letter was sent to every Lebanese home in Lemmington by Father Antoine Sleiman urging them to contribute to completing what we started with. The following is the verbatim text of the letter:

OPEN LETTER

"OUR AIM IS IN OUR UNITY AND OUR UNITY IS IN OUR TRENGTH".

MY NATIONAL SONS:


SINCERE FRATERNAL GREETING...

In all quiet and frankly I came in this letter to show you very clearly some points still coated with suspicion and misgivings on social issues, or nearly be a stumbling block to social progress and our objective. I will try to make a diagnosis our disease rampant in our society. If you allow, and you cooperate with me, let us hurry to treat it before it's too late. My message is based on three points:

First, how was started the idea of the Club?

When I came to Canada on the 17th of August 1971, I had no idea how good your community in this country that you have made it your home; and after a while, taking many of you asking for a way to reunite. And I took. And I took the ideas I've been having and I still remember that I visited your bountiful homes in the third week of December year 1971, Each of you have raised the idea of reunification and in consequence the rich debate that if anything, to your satisfaction the realistic thinking and intellectual then swung between pessimist and optimist, and the between..

After several meetings, in the Church of Saint Michael and the Recreation Center, I saw that the solution is to start building up the club. The Club was on 9 April in 1972. First and last objective is that



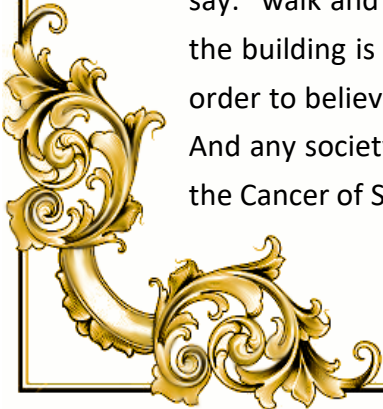
we must meld in one pot our differences, our trends and our strong unity non-monolithic all fragmented Lebanese family residing in Leamington and its surroundings. So, the Club is not our goal and our purpose only, "our aim is in our unity and our unity is in our strength". The Club is a way

to attain the end, if turned up to be a way and then the metrics flipped and our groups contract that we wanted.

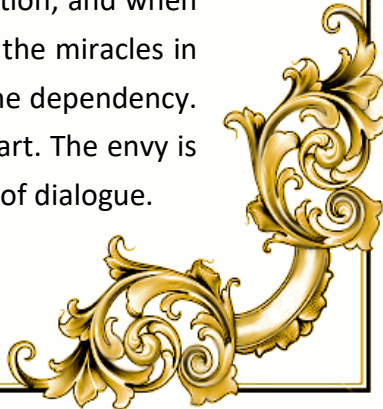
Second - what the Club was able to achieve so far?

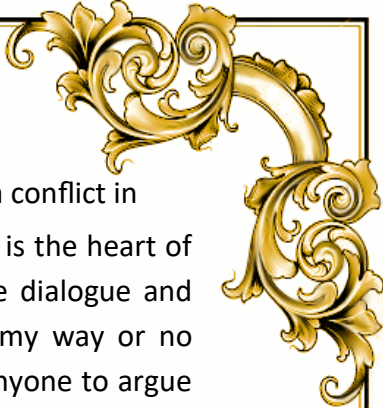
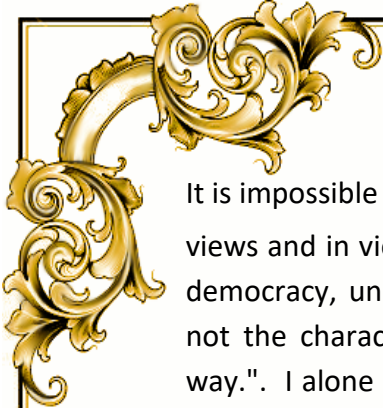
Bought a piece of land 7 acres and paid in full. Contribution to the Centennial of the establishment of the city of Leamington, then registration of the Club in the Canadian Government. Start building the Lebanese Centre project for all Lebanese without exception. A connection layout with every family Lebanese here to lend a thousand dollars on for 10 years without interest and that inscribe the lender as a founding member of the Centre. (\$60,000) was collected from the community and was spent on current construction on Route 77 North of the city. Construction project cost 250 thousand dollars. The Lebanese community is nearly 300 families. If each family contributed \$1000, we don't need anyone's help from the Canadian Government neither from the Lebanese Government

Third - the obstacles that stand in the way must disappear.




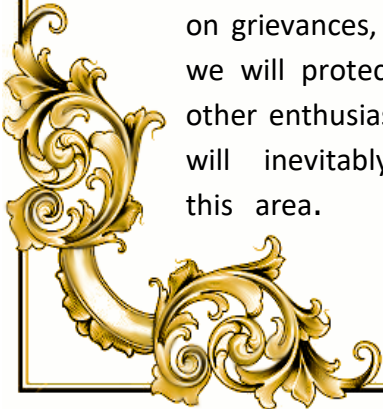
Dependency is a disease in the structure of the landscape. They say: "walk and we are with you. Start the construction, and when the building is finished, we are with you. Show us the miracles in order to believe. They clap with one hand. This is the dependency. And any society goes on this way is going to fall apart. The envy is the Cancer of Society, the tribal and family and loss of dialogue.



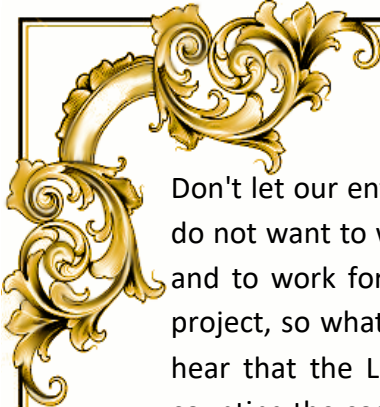


It is impossible to agree on a topic 100%, if there is a conflict in views and in view of the phenomena of things, this is the heart of democracy, unless this was a rich and constructive dialogue and not the character of the Byzantine controversy: "my way or no way.". I alone have the truth and I don't want anyone to argue with me, if I am wrong or right, there's 20, 30 back with me. If I want to cooperate, but fighting and sabotage, and at best quit and don't do. This is the spirit adopted communities. Come on be honest with ourselves, are we living this backward mentality now in the age of 20? We are almost lost our home Lebanon because these reactionaries.

Fourth - Lack of confidence in ourselves and in each other:



Self-confidence something claims something else. The growing up is pride, and the conceit its opposite. Do not praise yourself as victorious, but praises the Lord, I'm not saying that you have to believe in stone to be cure, but the proverb says: "goodness supposed evil proves him." sorry to tell you that the meter turned in our society and became evil presumably proves it. One solution is to renounce these habits and give confidence to each other and discard us envy and loathing and dependency and tribal stumbling on the way to the top of glory and success. Each one must examine his conscience dutifully in order to see and believe in my sincere words. It compels us to honor that e what had already started. And we the Lebanese are known by our pride and vigor, our young men reject humiliation and our elders refuse to sleep on grievances, and this trait honest inherited from grandparents we will protect it. Our great souls elevate outperformed over other enthusiasms, our campaign to build this lavish club, which will inevitably be focused and a reference for all the Lebanese in this area.

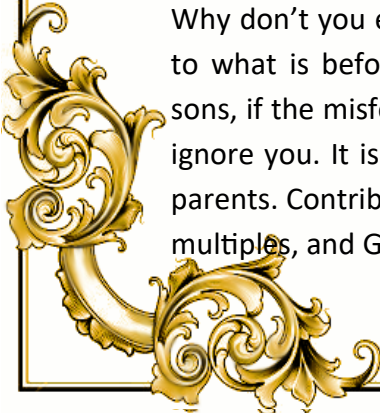


Don't let our enthusiasm fail for what the price of this project, if you do not want to work, again, do not wait of the stranger to generalize and to work for you. If we stop now, and lock our money for the project, so what are going to say our citizens about us? At least we hear that the Lebanese in Leamington started the project without counting the cost, they failed to complete it, and they divided among themselves, so the other will mock of us. God forbid that we accept the humiliation, ridicule, the gloat and disgrace, but of little money that found for human service, not to be sacrificed the honor and the decency on the altar of idol.

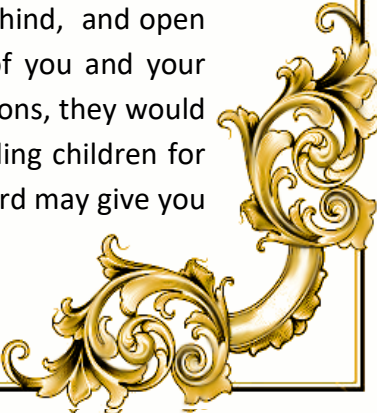
Get up as the lions, and endow as one man together to do good, you will get the glory, and your sons and the sons of your sons will bless your name from generation to generation.

On each family must contribute immediately and does not wait for others to work for her. If you don't believe in the way we gave, rather humbly and earnest, give your opinion and engage. And remember that the Club is a good link for all the community and not a goal or a distinction. We need to gather from now until end October \$200 thousand dollars, and I'm sure that this amount if we measure it comparing to your self-esteem and your desire to build, is a pittance. All of you at the height of affluence, and you all are working.

If we were taking you as individual, you sacrifice the precious in the way of matters that you attempt to reach now. Why don't you gather together? And why don't you join hands?



Why don't you eliminate evil and forget what is behind, and open to what is before you, and build a future worthy of you and your sons, if the misfortune not fell up on you from your sons, they would ignore you. It is a shame and injustice to masquerading children for parents. Contribute and work from your heart, the Lord may give you multiples, and God may grant you.



Establish the attachments of love and harmony. Dedicate the good doing to God who finished and sanctify this house that will be a spiritual and social status. You will have a spiritual and Social Center, where God makes his name forever and would be his eyes and his heart there every day comes in your needs that will be released, in your troubles, you call in your grief, and it relieves your tears. Let us ensure that his eyes watch over us with god's care.

Father Antoine Sleiman Leamington the first September 1976

NOTE

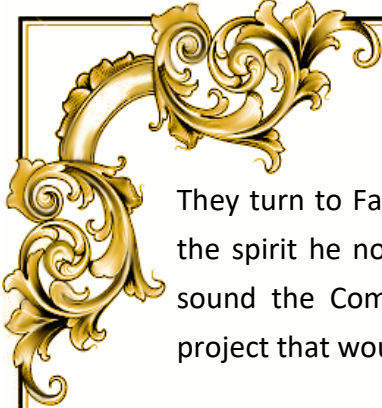
Within this letter a check, if you'd like to contribute and have not yet contributed, hoping that you fill this check, and you becoming one of the founders of the Lebanese Center. Please send it to the following address:

L. L.C.P.O. Box 535, Leamington, Ontario, Canada, or contact one of the Club's Administrators

A HISTORICAL GLIMPSE OF LEBANESE CLUB

The beginnings of the Lebanese Leamington Club go back to the 17th of August 1971, the date of the arrival of the Reverend Father Antoine Sleiman, a member of the Order of Maronite Monks of Lebanon.

New to that part of Ontario, Father Antoine was little aware of the Lebanese Community settled in Leamington and its suburbs. He was to be very happily surprised. Soon after his arrival, a dedicated group of young people led by John Obeid from the community formed a committee and expressed a strong desire to bring the Lebanese together.



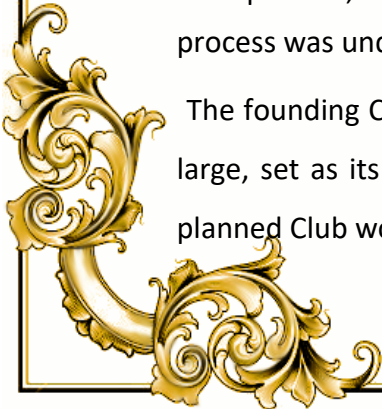
They turn to Father Antoine for ideas and direction. Encouraged by the spirit he noted in the newly formed committee, he decided to sound the Community at large about their feelings concerning a project that would bring them all together.

A few days before Christmas of 1971, he visited every home and every Lebanese family in Leamington and its suburbs to put to them the idea of getting together and uniting.


The response he got was encouraging but varied. Among the many optimists there were few who were non-committal and there were those who wanted more, also those who wanted to be sure. but there is no question that Father Antoine got a firsthand insight into the Community and the breadth of its thought and vision.

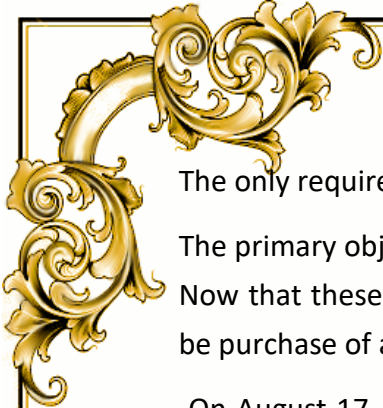
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In the early part of 1972, there followed several meetings, held in the hall of St. Michael's church and the Leamington Arena, during which ideas were exchanged. By April things were taking shape. On April 9th, 1972 the decision to set up a club was taken... the process was underway.



The founding Committee, reflecting the desire of the Community at large, set as its main objective, uniting the Lebanese together. The planned Club would serve the whole Community.





The only requirement would be a common Lebanese ancestry.

The primary objective: to unite the Community and keep it together. Now that these ideas were clearly defined, the next big step was to be purchase of a suitable piece of property for the Club.

On August 17, 1972 the land was purchased. All seven acres of it, fully paid up. The location of the land on Highway 77, north of Leamington was very beautiful one and would serve the purpose very well.

The breaking of the ground took place on the 25th of May 1976. In less than a year, the Club was ready.

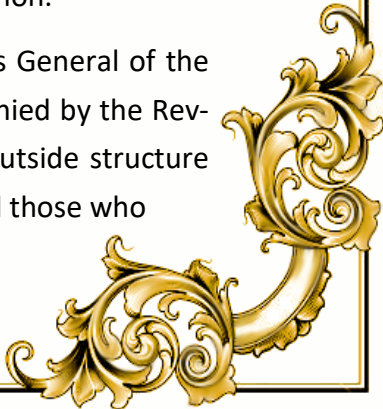
As early as February of 1977, the facilities were operational enough for the members to hold their first dinner party there.

It was an extremely successful fund drive at which enough money was donated to complete the installations needed by the Club.

The dedication Banquet celebrated May 21st coincides with the closest Saturday to the anniversary of the breaking of the ground.

During that period the Lebanese Community of Leamington and its suburbs has had the visits of Lebanese personalities such as Sheikh Habib Kayrouz, M.P. and president of the National Council for Tourism in Lebanon, who inspected the newly purchased site in 1974, before any building was erected. He was accompanied by His Excellency Samir El-Khoury, Counsel General of Lebanon.

During the summer of 1976, the Abati Charbel Assis General of the Order of the Maronite Monks of Lebanon, accompanied by the Reverend Father Antoine Sleiman, saw the Club with outside structure complete. He gave his blessing to the building and all those who



would use it in the future.

During the fall of 1976, when the Club was about complete, the Most Reverend Bishop Abou Jaoude, representing the Maronite Patriarch, visited the Club, while on a brief stop in Leamington to officiate at the funeral of the late Mr. Younan Younan.

And so, to the dedication, not so much of the building, but of a Club and a Community working together, united in a common Lebanese heritage and loyalty to this great country of ours CANADA.

But this only the beginning; planning for the coming phases of building are underway. **Father Antoine, we thank you.**



Visit of His Eminence Bishop Youssef El Khoury to the L.L.C. August 2, 1979

زيارة سيادة المطران يوسف الخوري للنادي اللبناني 2 آب 1979



IN THE NAME OF THE OWNERS OF THE IDEA

The first meeting is to be held in the unfinished club building. The earth is dust, and our chairs were made of pumice stones.

I was invited by the executive body of the club to give this speech explaining in detail what we have achieved so far and what is going on in the investigation phase because there are groups in the community that have begun to fabricate false rumours about the membership of the club, and put sticks between the wheels of the project, and also held to collect donations on January 23, 1977.

My brothers,

The dream has come true and become a tangible reality and a perspective. The dream that every Lebanese immigrant had in mind, that immigrant who used to repeat: "Oh on Hal brings us together. Oh, if we have Hal and Bass..."

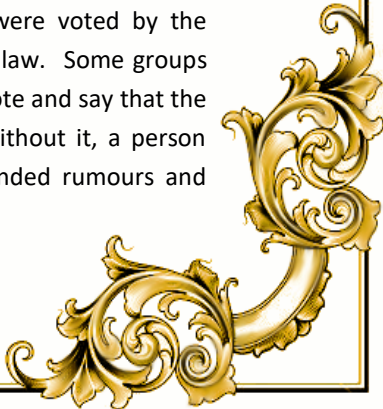
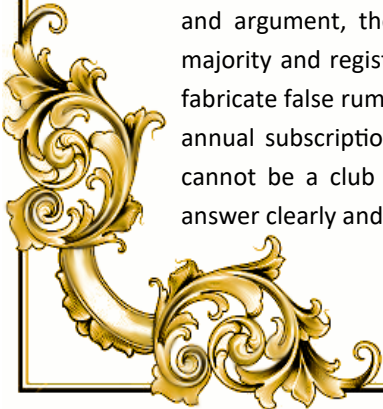
Yes, the club was built and stood tall in existence with the vigour of youth and the best, and here we are the hour we meet in its spaciousness. On behalf of the authors of the idea, I welcome and congratulate the Lebanese community in Leamington, and congratulations to the members of the club.

Dear brothers,

I stand today at the official invitation of the club's administrative body, to explain to you clearly all that has been done so far, what decisions have been taken and what must be done soon to complete what we started with in the best way.

The project to build the club started with the word, "We must have Hull", and we ended with "Building it". Hence, we will continue to go in the right direction that benefits all members of the Lebanese community.

Last Sunday, January 16, 1977, at five o'clock in the evening, the club's administrative body met and discussed some important points. After research and argument, the following decisions were taken, which were voted by the majority and registered in the section of amendments to the law. Some groups fabricate false rumours about club membership, as they promote and say that the annual subscription of the club is a thousand dollars, and without it, a person cannot be a club member... We, in turn, deny these unfounded rumours and answer clearly and frankly the following:





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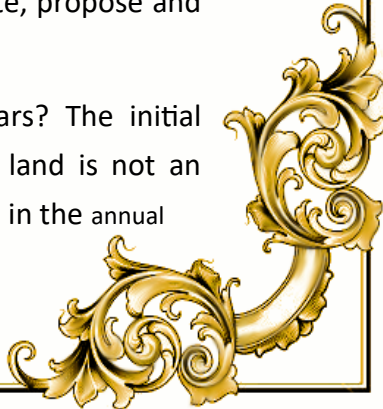
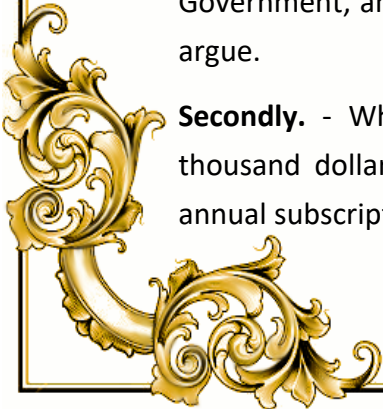
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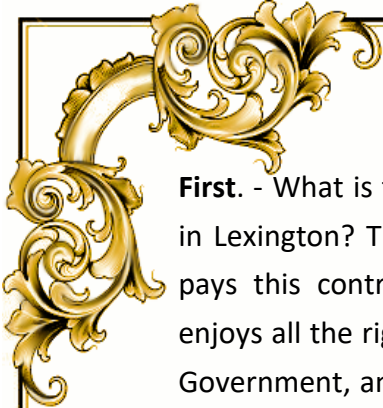
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First. - What is the annual subscription salary of the Lebanese Club in Lexington? The annual salary of the club is only \$ 25. Whoever pays this contribution becomes an active member of the Club, enjoys all the rights provided for by the Club Law and the Canadian Government, and has the right to elect, elect, debate, propose and argue.

Secondly. - What is the tale of a thousand dollars? The initial thousand dollars that we started with to buy the land is not an annual subscription salary and has not been counted in the annual



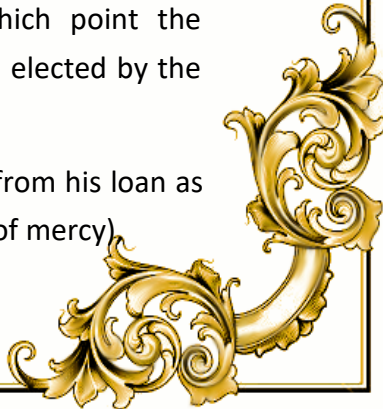
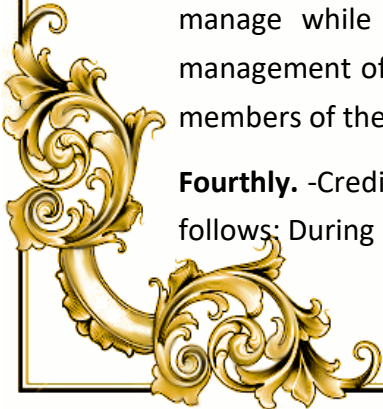


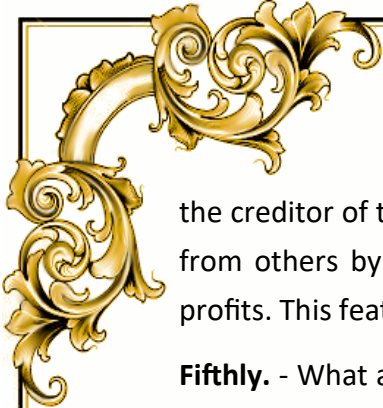
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Secondly. - What is the tale of a thousand dollars? The initial thousand dollars that we started with to buy the land is not an annual subscription salary and has not been counted in the schedule of donations, but a loan to the club for ten years without any interest, nothing more and no less.

Thirdly. - What are the privileges of a thousand dollars for a creditor? The person who lends the thousand dollars becomes a founding member of the club and is also elected, elected or appointed to the management committee of the club hall, and the members of this committee are individuals who owe the club a thousand dollars. This committee is solely responsible for managing the affairs of the Club Hall, and continues to manage while paying the debts in full, then returns as business management only. He is also elected or appointed to the club's hall management committee, and the members of this committee are individuals who owe the club a thousand dollars. This committee is solely responsible for managing the affairs of the club hall and continues to manage while the debts are paid in full, at which point the management of the hall is returned to a committee elected by the members of the club without any exception.

Fourthly. -Creditor statement the creditor benefits from his loan as follows: During a condolence feast, i.e. (the summit of mercy)





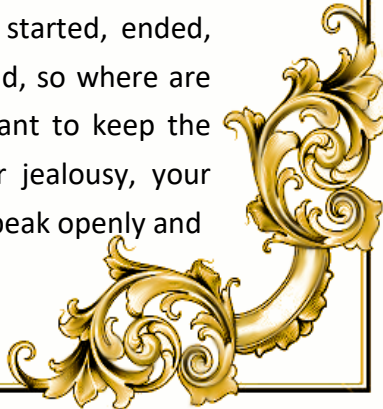
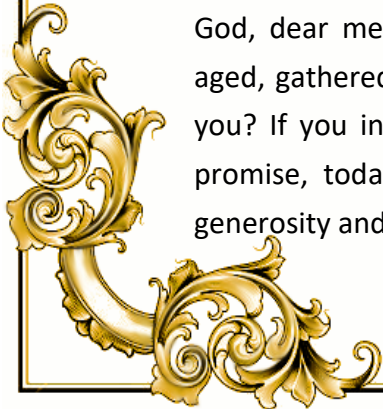
the creditor of the thousand dollars has the right to be distinguished from others by paying for the costs of the feast only without any profits. This feature is applied to the spouse and children.

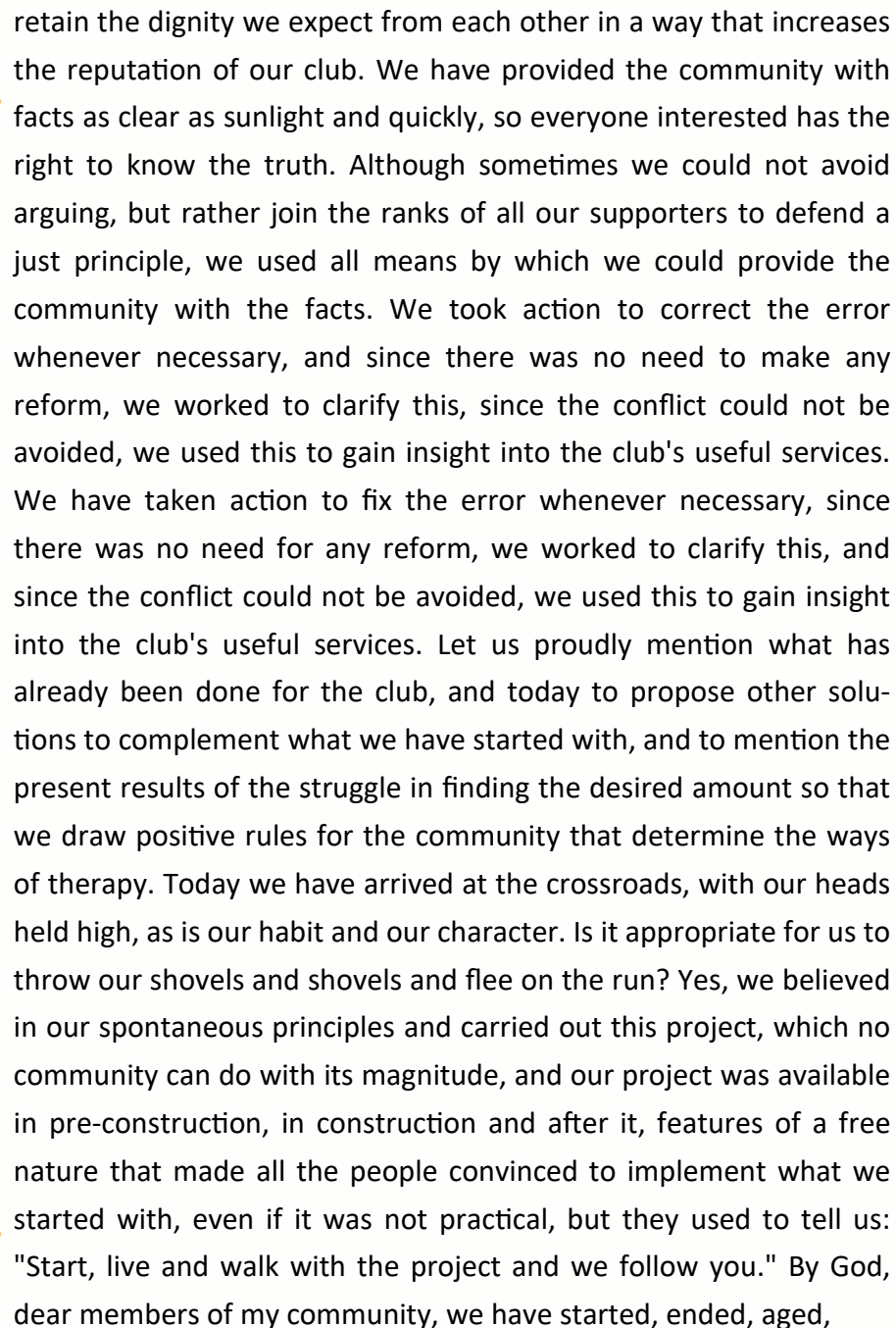
Fifthly. - What are the costs of building the club yet? The cost of the club's construction project is \$ 250,000. \$60,000 was collected from the community and spent on construction present, and about \$190,000 according to the contractors' agreement instruments.

Sixthly. - How many people paid a thousand dollars? So far, people have lent a thousand dollars, and 11 people have paid the thousand in installments.

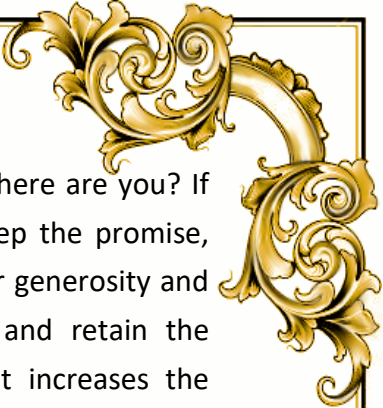
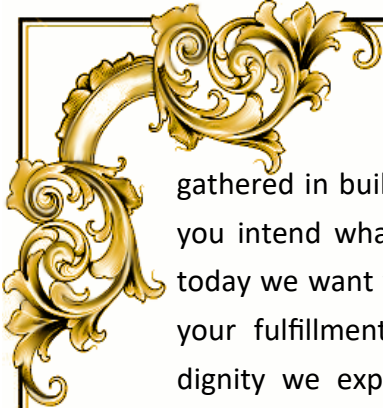
Yes, brothers, we were able to build this beautiful center, and now we only must work hard to raise about \$ 200,000 to get rid of debt once and for all.

Today we have arrived at the crossroads, with our heads held high, as is our habit and our character. Is it appropriate for us to throw our shovels and shovels and flee on the run? Yes, we believed in our spontaneous principles and carried out this project, which no community can do with its magnitude, and our project was available in pre-construction, in construction and after it, features of a free nature that made all the people convinced to implement what we started with, even if it was not practical, but they used to tell us: "Start, live and walk with the project and we follow you." By God, dear members of my community, we have started, ended, aged, gathered in buildings and walked on our land, so where are you? If you intend what you have told us and want to keep the promise, today we want you and we want your jealousy, your generosity and your fulfillment of promises. Let's speak openly and







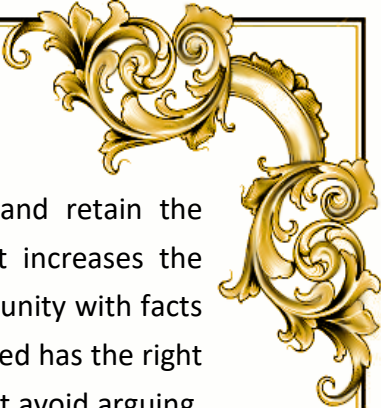

retain the dignity we expect from each other in a way that increases the reputation of our club. We have provided the community with facts as clear as sunlight and quickly, so everyone interested has the right to know the truth. Although sometimes we could not avoid arguing, but rather join the ranks of all our supporters to defend a just principle, we used all means by which we could provide the community with the facts. We took action to correct the error whenever necessary, and since there was no need to make any reform, we worked to clarify this, since the conflict could not be avoided, we used this to gain insight into the club's useful services. We have taken action to fix the error whenever necessary, since there was no need for any reform, we worked to clarify this, and since the conflict could not be avoided, we used this to gain insight into the club's useful services. Let us proudly mention what has already been done for the club, and today to propose other solutions to complement what we have started with, and to mention the present results of the struggle in finding the desired amount so that we draw positive rules for the community that determine the ways of therapy. Today we have arrived at the crossroads, with our heads held high, as is our habit and our character. Is it appropriate for us to throw our shovels and shovels and flee on the run? Yes, we believed in our spontaneous principles and carried out this project, which no community can do with its magnitude, and our project was available in pre-construction, in construction and after it, features of a free nature that made all the people convinced to implement what we started with, even if it was not practical, but they used to tell us: "Start, live and walk with the project and we follow you." By God, dear members of my community, we have started, ended, aged,



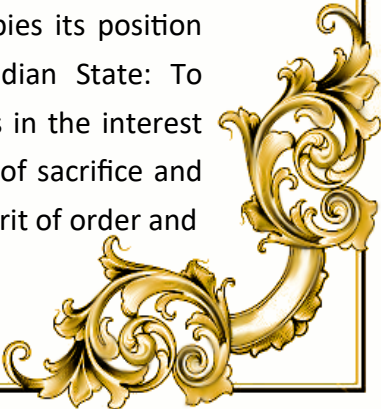
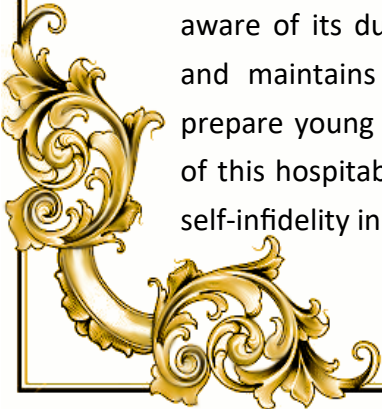
gathered in buildings and walked on our land, so where are you? If you intend what you have told us and want to keep the promise, today we want you and we want your jealousy, your generosity and your fulfillment of promises. Let's speak openly and retain the dignity we expect from each other in a way that increases the reputation of our club. We have provided the community with facts as clear as sunlight and quickly, so everyone interested has the right to know the truth. Although sometimes we could not avoid arguing, but rather join the ranks of all our supporters to defend a just principle, we used all means by which we could provide the community with the facts. We took action to correct the error whenever necessary, and since there was no need to make any reform, we worked to clarify this, since the conflict could not be avoided, we used this to gain insight into the club's useful services. We have taken action to fix the error whenever necessary, since there was no need for any reform, we worked to clarify this, and since the conflict could not be avoided, we used this to gain insight into the club's useful services. Let us proudly mention what has already been done for the club, and today to propose other solutions to complement what we have started with, and to mention the present results of the struggle in finding the desired amount so that we draw positive rules for the community that determine the ways of therapy.



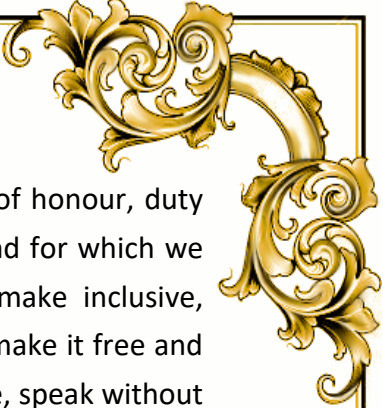
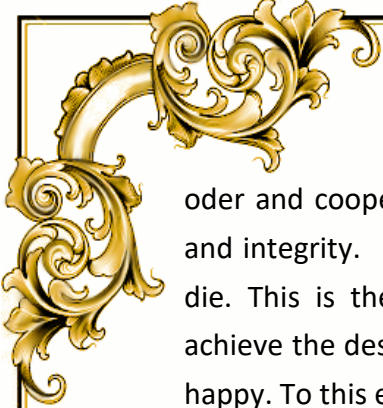
We must publish and preach, write and incite, speak out and say: Our club is nothing but a Lebanese Canadian association whose goal is to create a cohesive Lebanese community in this country, aware of its duties and enjoying its rights. It occupies its position and maintains its dignity in this sovereign Canadian State: To prepare



your fulfillment of promises. Let's speak openly and retain the dignity we expect from each other in a way that increases the reputation of our club. We have provided the community with facts as clear as sunlight and quickly, so everyone interested has the right to know the truth. Although sometimes we could not avoid arguing, but rather join the ranks of all our supporters to defend a just principle, we used all means by which we could provide the community with the facts. We took action to correct the error whenever necessary, and since there was no need to make any reform, we worked to clarify this, since the conflict could not be avoided, we used this to gain insight into the club's useful services. We have taken action to fix the error whenever necessary, since there was no need for any reform, we worked to clarify this, and since the conflict could not be avoided, we used this to gain insight into the club's useful services. Let us proudly mention what has already been done for the club, and today to propose other solutions to complement what we have started with, and to mention the present results of the struggle in finding the desired amount so that we draw positive rules for the community that the ways of therapy.



We must publish and preach, write and incite, speak out and say: Our club is nothing but a Lebanese Canadian association whose goal is to create a cohesive Lebanese community in this country, aware of its duties and enjoying its rights. It occupies its position and maintains its dignity in this sovereign Canadian State: To prepare young people to carry out their obligations in the interest of this hospitable country. By developing the spirit of sacrifice and self-infidelity in the community, coupled with the spirit of order and



order and cooperation by promoting the principles of honour, duty and integrity. This is the idea for which we live and for which we die. This is the idea we want and that we will make inclusive, achieve the desired destiny of the community and make it free and happy. To this end, we will give without compromise, speak without shame, and work without fear on the most beautiful song of an anthem: we are all brothers, and we are all for each other.

John Obeid,

Chairman of the Fund-Raising Committee



WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON

If we plant the lily among the rocks,
it grows weak in shape and leaves

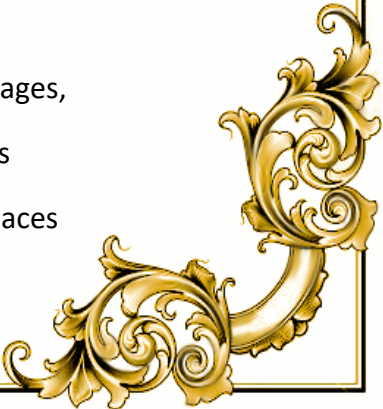
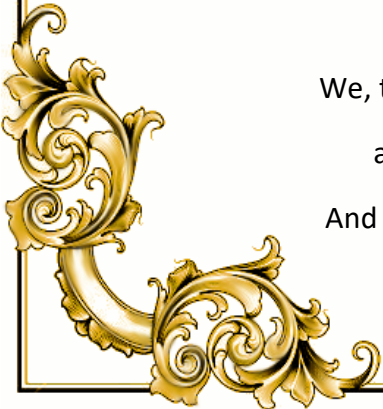
If we plant the lily among the rocks,
it grows weak in shape and leaves

If you plant the Ajrama between the rocks
suffocate the flowers in their thorns

And the high mountains of God other than eagles,
what fluttered on it but its wings

We, the people of Lebanon, confused the ages,
and we have told the world our stories

And in every spot of the land, we built palaces
Its banners beat at the gates of glory



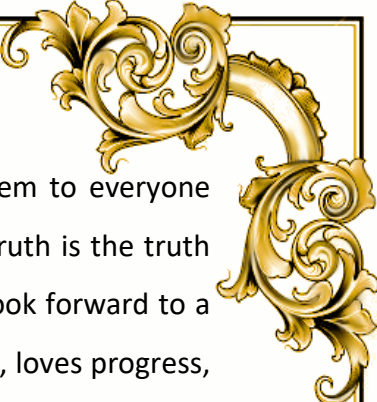
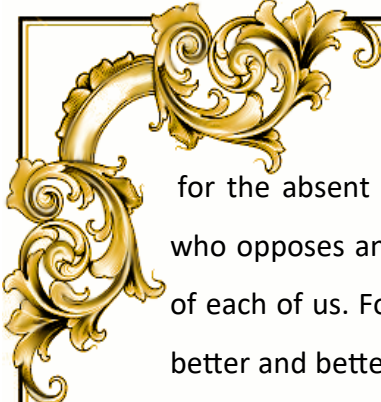
LEBANESE FAMILY HOME

I gave this speech at the first party held in the hall of the new Lebanese club for fundraising In early February 1977 Ladies and gentlemen, Brothers, On behalf of the authors of the idea and behalf of the Lebanese community, I welcome you to your home, the Lebanese family home.

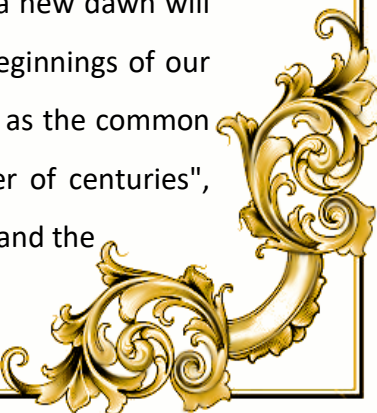
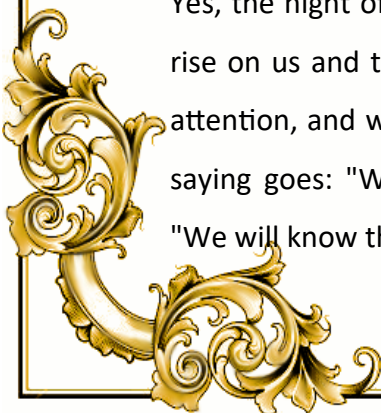
Excuse me, unfortunately, Father Antoine could not be with us tonight, so please raise your glasses with me, brothers, so let's drink together the toast of the young priest and the bomb of the Lebanese community in Leamington, Father Antoine Suleiman.

I will talk with you my brothers tonight in common Arabic so that the one who was born here can understand what we are talking about and saying. The vernacular language is the language of the heart. Wisdom says:

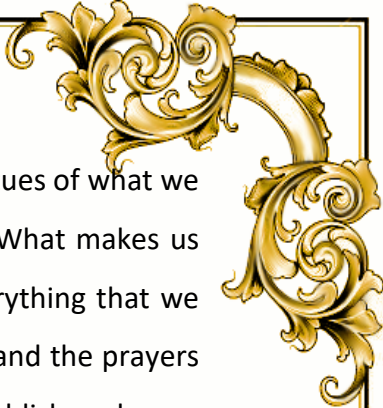
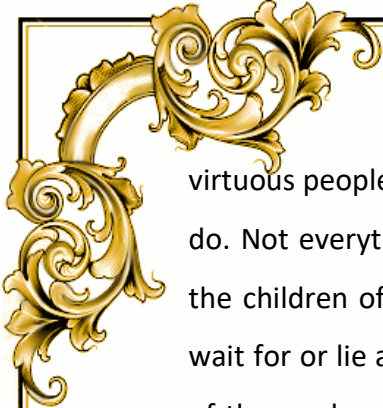
The words that come out of the heart fall in the heart, and the words that come out of the mouth do not exceed the ear. Tonight they invited me the good guys to talk and the night talk was different from all the talk I am not Gaye between my eloquence and the work of Cicero Gaye saying how many words come out of my heart that you put in your hearts, and bear them with your role



for the absent who seemed to convey and hear them to everyone who opposes and stands on the sidelines. And this truth is the truth of each of us. For my part, with all love and faith, I look forward to a better and better tomorrow. Like everyone ambitious, loves progress, loves love, loves intimacy and is a dignity and center today. And tonight, I ask you seriously and I hope that we put our hands honestly and honestly and trust each other because trust is a precious treasure that is not measured by the measure of material and superficiality. Trust is the basis for building a moral community and a pillar of solid foundations in achieving hopes and reaching the top of glory. Trust must be given to those who deserve it, without which we can achieve nothing and cannot reach knowledge and truth many thoughts about what is going on in my head I would like to clarify these ideas to each of you. Everything I wish that the faithful friend and companion of the faithful path hears these ideas and in turn convey them with all faith tonight and high hopes and optimism I am sure that the community in this center will have a bright future, Oh God, if we give this full confidence to each other and eliminate the trivial curses, and as the poet says: "The night must be cleared.







Yes, the night of the community will be cleared and a new dawn will rise on us and the sun of our love will rise on the beginnings of our attention, and we will know every human being, and as the common saying goes: "We will know the lot from the mother of centuries", "We will know the lot from the mother of centuries", and the



virtuous people will appear. which makes us the virtues of what we do. Not everything we don't know makes us kids. What makes us the children of those whom we pray for? Not everything that we wait for or lie about makes us pray. that makes us and the prayers of those who are oppressed. Not everything we publish makes us literati. What makes us the writers of those who do it? Yes, the time has come, and the dough is sour. And I repeat the words that you said here in the hall for two Fridays, the dream came true and became a tangible reality. Those who said, start and build and show us a result that is not a word, and we will be with you one hundred percent. We started and our age and the result before you are clear, what after Hal sweet what is in the form of this region, and where are you, good people, and where are you jealous? You promised, but you see, what is the time after our community digests, understands, preserves, works, prays, digests and does?

For the sake of loyalty, we must dedicate ourselves to achieving our dreams. For the sake of loyalty, we must all stand by all those who do good for the community. For the sake of loyalty, we must all stand up to every enemy who gloats over the opposition that is spraying poison in the hearts and shaking good intentions. For the sake of loyalty, we must repeat to all the envious people: We love this club, the club of girls and guys, our girls and boys are steadfast. We are the beneficiaries of this project, and we are complete with our blood and livers in any circumstance and in any case and





time. And no matter how far we are separated on the paths of life, we must never reunite with this beautiful club with our sorrows and joys. Our faith is strong, and our heads are held high, and we will not bow to the father of a group opposing them... I just stand here. Honor and I will see you like you in front of this platform, see these sweet girls, and each one with her is a notebook of checks for all the banks in Lymington, hoping from your good jealousy that you will come forward and give what allows you to honor the Lebanese. Enough pride for us, that our good young people opened the way for us and walked, and what are we after us, waiting for what they do and help with this work that benefits everyone? I just stand here. And now as you see in front of this stage see these nice girls and each one has a chequebook for all the banks in Lymington, hoping from your good jealousy to come forward and give what your generosity allows without limits. Come and donate, and may God increase your wealth and increase your age years over the years.

And here I began to expect the cheques and from time to time I would recite a paragraph of poetry.)

I no longer remember how much value I collected that night??



THE PEOPLE OF MY COUNTRY

On the fundraising party for the Lebanese Club in Leamington in February
1977

The people of my country are calling for familiarity in this alienation

Glory will only bring us together in this club

And glory does not bring us together and our paws do not clap with

in this club, we don't watch the hidden and the exposed

Excessive generosity in dollars

Instead of a thousand pay thousand ds

Oh, son of my country and more

The people of my country are calling for familiarity
in this alienation

Glory will only bring us together in this club

Glory will only bring us together in this club

Glory has brought us together from time to time,

and our position is great and high

We were raised in the homeland as brothers

and here we live as one family

We have a prominent place among all communities

If time has worsened for one of us in a bad situation

We rise men and women and sacrifice the most precious

These are our customs in Lebanon and what a nice habit

The people of my country are calling for familiarity in this alienation

Glory will only bring us together in this club

The people of my country are calling for familiarity in this alienation

Glory will only bring us together in this club





صورة تذكارية للجالية اللبنانية مع ضيوف الشرف في حملة افتتاح النادي اللبناني
لمنتفون أوتاريو 25 ايار 1977

OH COMMUNITY

Oh community, how many years of passed?
 For the inauguration party, we are waiting
 We built a center in the hands netting
 And we came in the name of love a unified league
 We came to the world as guests
 We came to prove our precious right
 In my opinion, we meant to unite the ranks
 We stood together in solidarity
 Where we let the world watching
 How love is stacked in our ranks
 Say with me, defeat the eyes of the envious!

IN A PINE TENT

In a pine tent on the shoulders of rocks,
 The hands of the gods blended our soil
 On a braided bed of eagle feathers,
 We fell asleep and woke up from the dream of our naps
 The dream was a journey to the depths of the seas
 For a place where we teach our customs

The second dream is for the country's men
 To attend our big club's inauguration
 The sleepless nights lasted longer than the tired ones
 And our bond was stronger than destiny.
 And tomorrow, when will our children see our work?
 The second dream will live in the eyes of the blind!

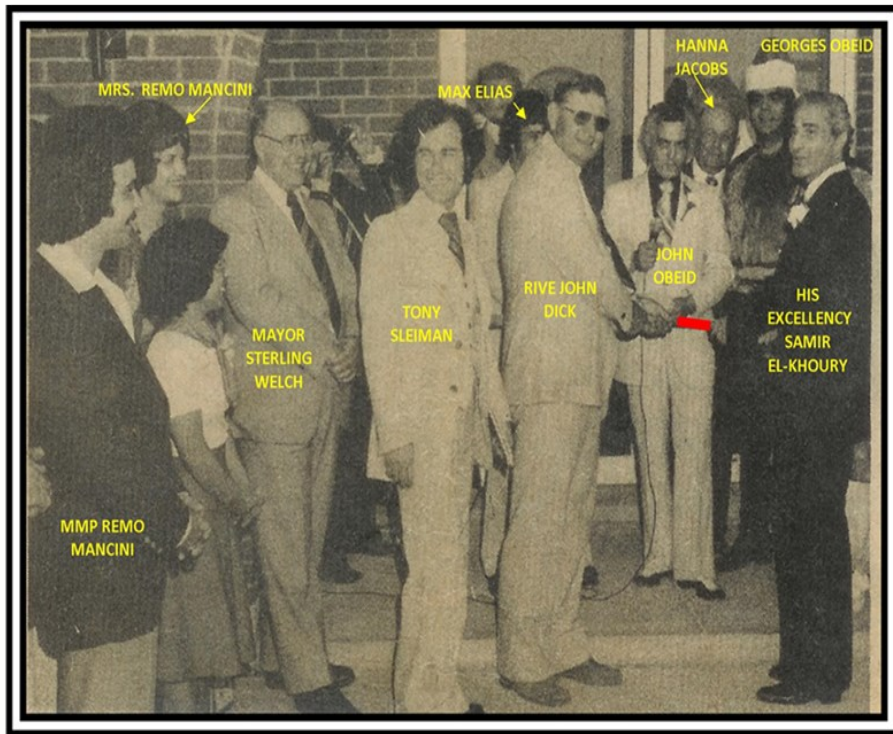
And the third dream that the immigrant got his destination
 And the owners of the house have no enemy
 And any way we look at the society
 We see the full moon of the night took his seat
 And the chest of jihad after his suffering is explained
 And from the shrine of the goat, we built his shrine
 O dream wake up to the bread of joy
 Cheers to the hearts of the young people who have worked

And the fourth dream of this land is to fill it with buildings
 We construct buildings that are suitable for all ages.
 Building for children who are still minors
 For sports, for the lesson, for waiting.
 And a building for those who have lived in this world for years,
 For the old woman and the old man of the house
 And a building for the young guys and girls,
 For dancing, for the singer, for the beats of the strings
 Even the people of the house will be together
 And the sun of our Lebanon shines day and night.

THE CEREMONY OF CUTTING THE RIBBON

This Happy occasion will go down in the history of our Community as a memorable one. For today we witness the culmination of years of planning and effort.

Today, we witness an event for which we have all waited a long time. Today, we put into a practical application the motto of our Club, by dedicating this building for the use of the Lebanese Community as well as of the others. At this time, I call upon His Excellency Samir El-Khoury, Consul General of Lebanon, representing His Excellency Nabih Nussaiyer, Ambassador of Lebanon to Ottawa to cut the Ribbon, and upon the Reeve of Mersea Township, Mr. John Dick in whose town the Club is located to witness the Ribbon cutting.



THE DEDICATION OF LEAMINGTON LEBANESE CLUB
THE CEREMONY OF CUTTING THE RIBBON

From left to right: MPP Remo Mancini, Mayor Sterling Welch, Tony Sleiman, Rive John Dick, John Obeid, Hanna Jacobs, Georges Obeid, His Excellency Samir El-Khoury, Consul General of Lebanon



GRAND OPENING COMMITTEE



Chairman: John Obeid

MEMBERS:

Sam Elias, Joe George, Mike Raffoul, Jim Boutrous, John Jacob,
Max Abraham, Sleiman Sleiman, Tony Sleiman, John Eid.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Max Elias, Vice President: Jim Boutrous

Secretary: Charles Raheb, Treasurer: S.A. Sleiman

MEMBERS

Tom Maksoud, Louis Obeid, Faye Zakaria, George Obeid,
Fred Nassif, John Eid, Sam Elias, Max Saad, Max Abraham.

MANAGEMENT OF THE FACILITIES

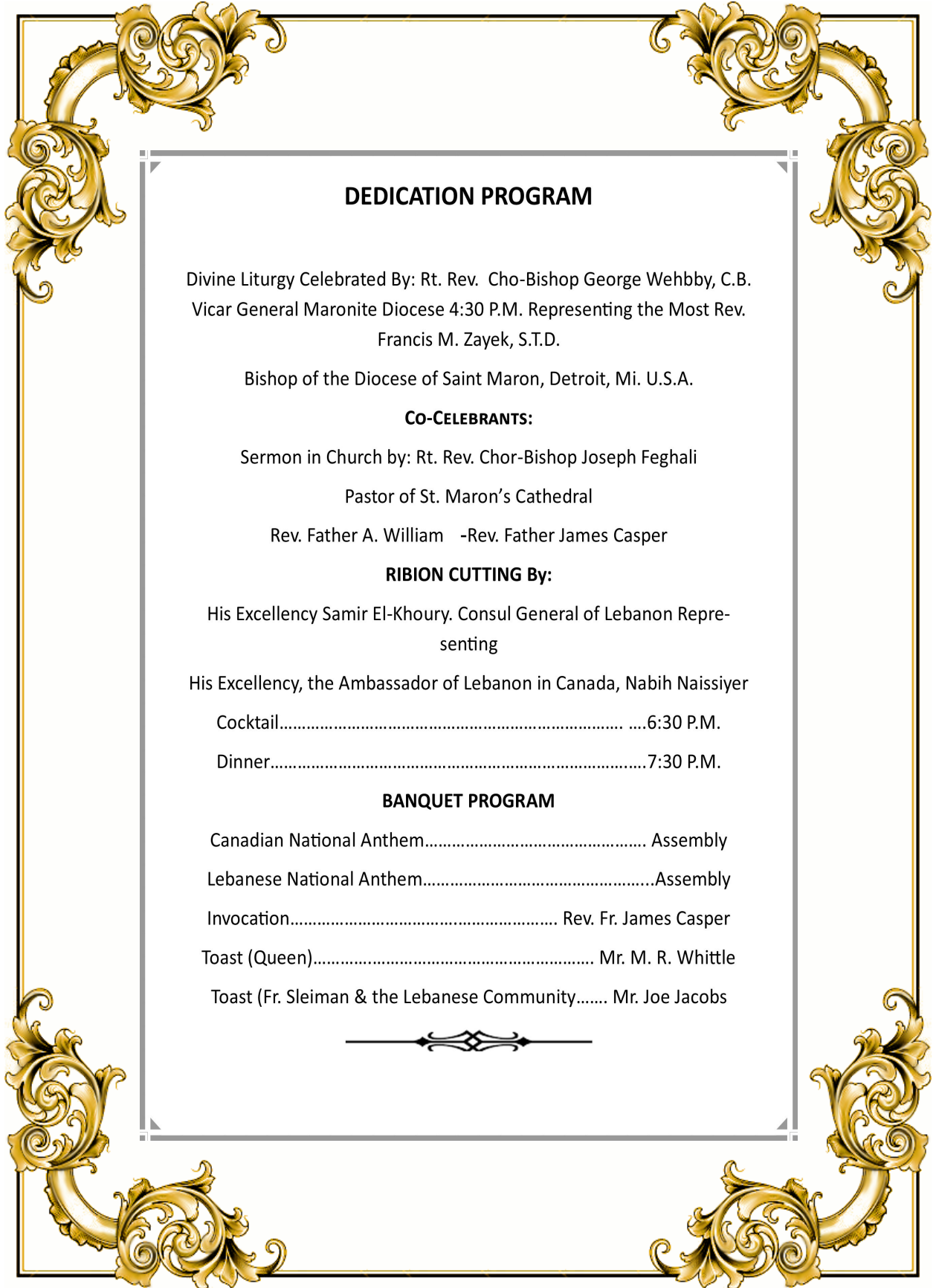
John Jacobs, Tony Sleiman, Mike Raffoul

TRUSTEES: BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE

Father Antoine Sleiman, Fred Jacobs, Tanous Sleiman,

Bakhous Aziz, Fayaz Zakaria





DEDICATION PROGRAM

Divine Liturgy Celebrated By: Rt. Rev. Cho-Bishop George Wehbby, C.B.
Vicar General Maronite Diocese 4:30 P.M. Representing the Most Rev.
Francis M. Zayek, S.T.D.

Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Maron, Detroit, Mi. U.S.A.

CO-CELEBRANTS:

Sermon in Church by: Rt. Rev. Chor-Bishop Joseph Feghali
Pastor of St. Maron’s Cathedral

Rev. Father A. William -Rev. Father James Casper

RIBION CUTTING By:

His Excellency Samir El-Khoury. Consul General of Lebanon Representing

His Excellency, the Ambassador of Lebanon in Canada, Nabih Naissiyer

Cocktail.....6:30 P.M.

Dinner.....7:30 P.M.

BANQUET PROGRAM

Canadian National Anthem..... Assembly

Lebanese National Anthem.....Assembly

Invocation..... Rev. Fr. James Casper

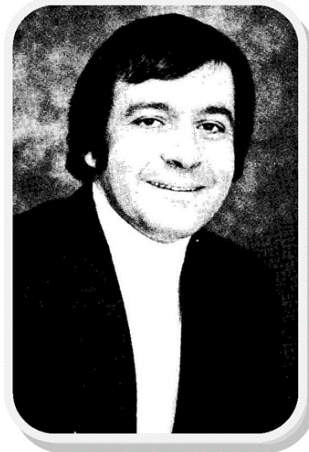
Toast (Queen)..... Mr. M. R. Whittle

Toast (Fr. Sleiman & the Lebanese Community..... Mr. Joe Jacobs



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF L.L.C.

MAX ELIAS



Word of Welcome and Introduction

On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to welcome each and everyone of you, who came from far or near to celebrate with us the grand opening of our new Leamington Lebanese Club.

Also I would like to take this opportunity to extend the expression of appreciation to each and every member of the club, who made our project possible. Hopping to stay united as we are for many years to come.

And now Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the master of ceremony for tonight, Mr. John Obeid.

Max Elias





Master of Ceremonies

Thank you, Max, for your lovely introduction.

Distinguish Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

From time to time during the program, I will be addressing the audience in
Arabic.

I beg your indulgence and patience.

Having asked for your indulgence, I will proceed with a few lines of poetry,
which I composed especially for this occasion.



O COMMUNITY IN THE FACE OF TIME RISE

The weather after winter and the frost makes
the meadow laughs with spring's arrival.

A mutual agreement has been made regarding satisfaction and success in love.

How beautiful you are, oh era of love and contentment.

We were created with a new dawn, leaving the past behind.

Loyalty became the focal point of our club's broadcast.

Even the Earth is joyful, and the skies are bright.

It seems that spring has come to visit us,
raising in one hand the fragrance and in the other the essence of the season.

Oh, community, within you resides both glory and nostalgia.

You are an immortal symbol through the years.

Among you are the strongest lions.

no den is more beautiful than yours.

Your reputation grows each day, fragrant as roses. Your roses bloom on both sides.

On the day of your club's inauguration

Your meeting is recorded in the history of the Book of Immortals.

O community, rise in the face of time and declare your unity with pride.

Every path ultimately leads to division,

it should be completely closed off.

Your intentions are as beautiful as Lilies.

Wherever your name is mentioned, you continue to gain recognition and respect.

What do we gain from idle gossip? Conversations like this only lead to negative out-comes.

Your home and youth represent the hope for your future.

Build up upon the foundation of your struggles!

Lebanese Celebrate Club Opening

The Windsor Star Tuesday, May 24, 1977

LEAMINGTON - The Leamington-area Lebanese community dedicated a \$500,000 club Saturday, May 21, 1977.

The dedication of the club building, on Highway 77 just north of town, ends five years of work by the community.

Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the afternoon and at 6 p.m., the Consul General of Lebanon, Samir El-Khoury, cut the ribbon to officially open the club.

Among the guests at the dedication were: Leamington Mayor Sterling Welch; Essex South MPP Remo Mancini; and Mersea Township Reeve John Dick.

The Windsor Star

Leamington Lebanese Club Officially Opened

May 21, 1977



Mersea Township Reeve John Dick officially opened the Leamington Lebanese Club on Saturday evening. In the photo on the left he is helped by Samir El Khoury, Consul General of Lebanon from Detroit. Other dignitaries in the photo include MPP Remo Mancini on the far left, Leamington Mayor Sterling Welch, Tony Sleiman, left, Leamington Mayor Sterling Welch, Leamington Mayor Sterling Welch, Tony Sleiman, a club director and between Mr. Dick and Mr. El-Khoury is John Obeid chairman of the ceremonies for the evening. In the photo right, on the right, Father Antoine Sleiman termed the founder of the club speaks during the ceremonies. Up until a day before the opening, it was thought he would not be able to attend as he returned for duties in Lebanon in October.

Leamington Post Photos

Wed. May 25, 1977



YOUR GENEROSITY IS THE BIGGEST TESTIMONY

Oh, community, my heart overflows with love and passion
for your kindness.

You have turned my concerns into hope among the people.
Because of your love, I am convinced that my fervour reflects
your growing affection.

I write this poem from my heart.

Oh community, understand the meaning of my words.

I have left my soul behind in your love as a martyr of victory,
who stands beside and in front of me.

Embrace knowledge, be resolute, and you will achieve glory and dignity.
Oh, generous community, you are unique; always avoid being stingy.

You have unique ideas, a sublime mind, and actions.

You possess hearts, not stray, but adorned with glory and generosity.
The happiness grows in the heart, and increases and raises awareness
in the community, my greetings to the people of our joyful community,
I depict their love with my blood and bones.

Respect and admiration.

I once dreamed of seeing such a beautiful smile on a face.

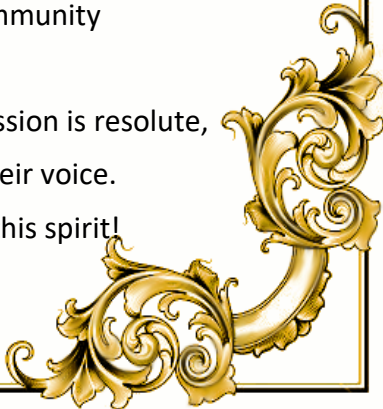
I dreamed of the beautiful smile on the faces of my community
that never turned a blind eye to grievances.

Those who think about building a strong community
have filled my heart with joy.

Their unwavering commitment to freedom of expression is resolute,
refusing to allow any weakness to diminish their voice.

Their generosity is the greatest testament to this spirit!

By: John Obeid

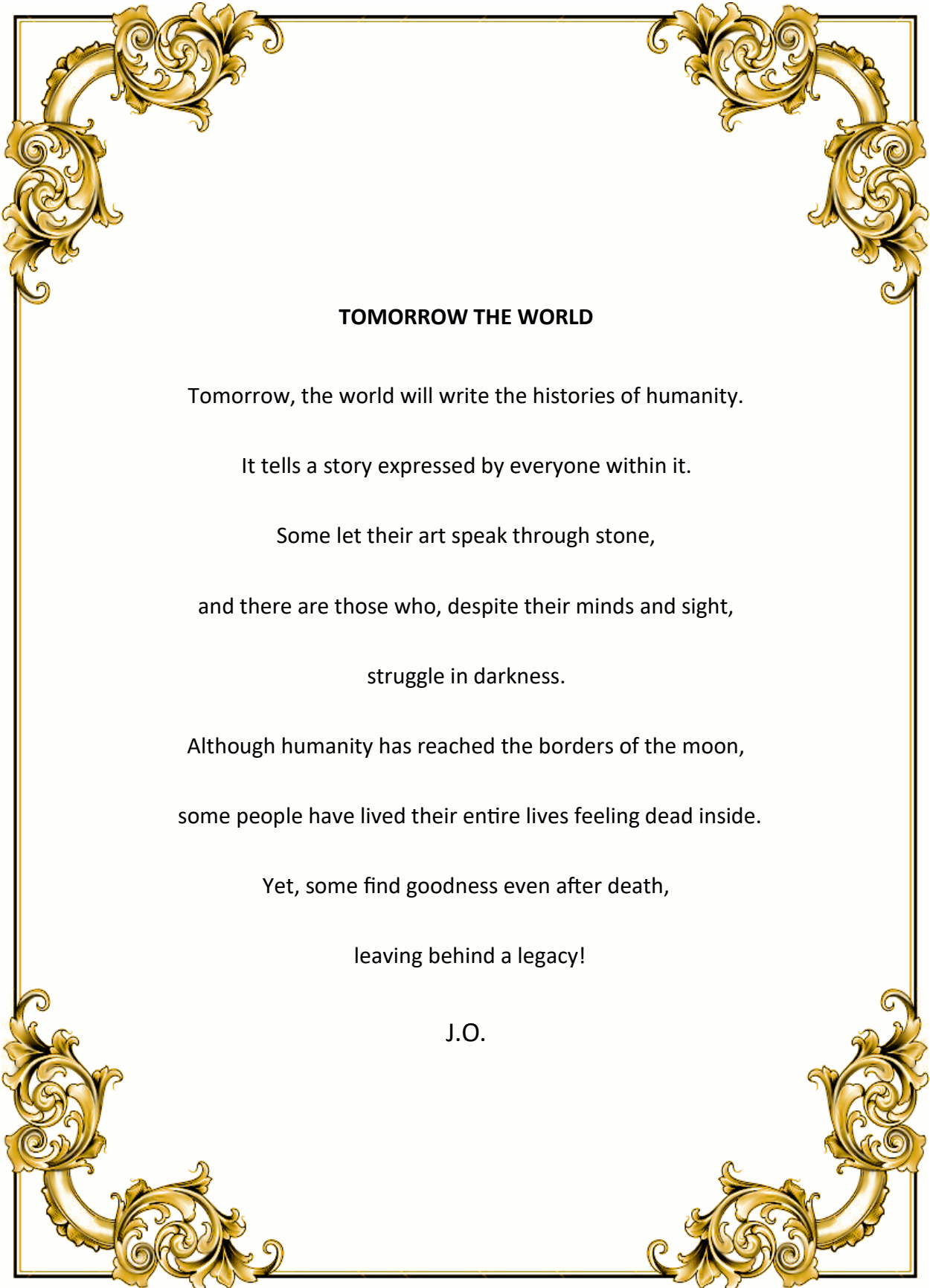




**تشيد
مزار سيدة لبنان**



**CONSTRUCTION
SHRINE
OF
OUR LADY OF LEBANON**



TOMORROW THE WORLD

Tomorrow, the world will write the histories of humanity.

It tells a story expressed by everyone within it.

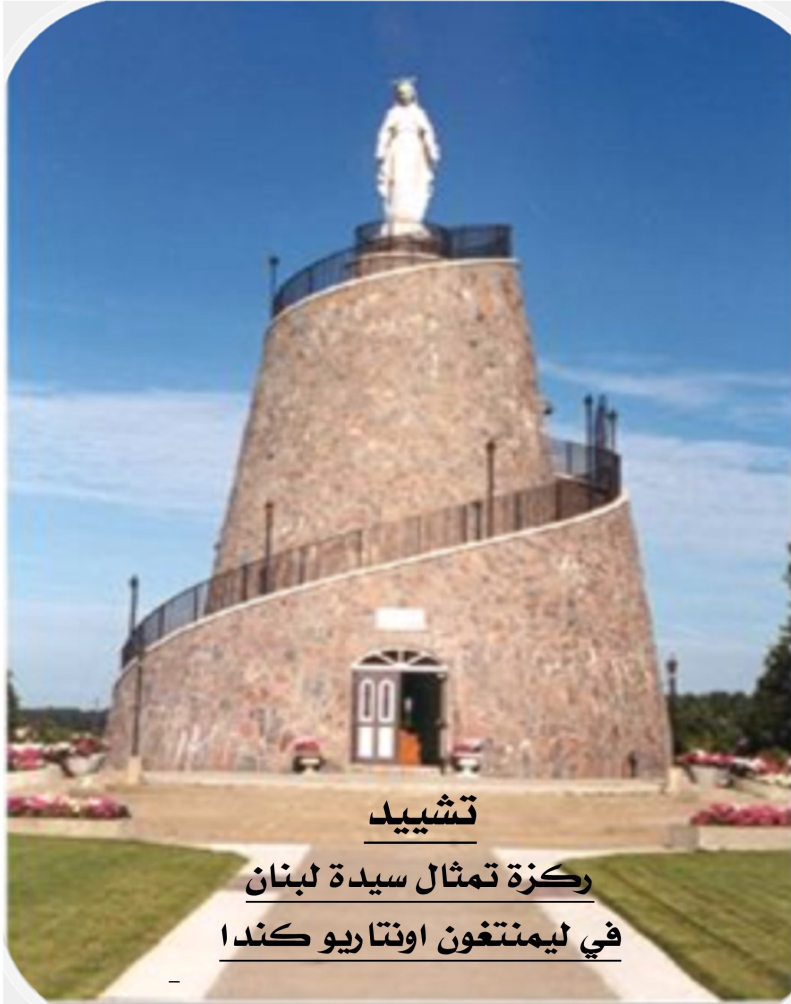
Some let their art speak through stone,
and there are those who, despite their minds and sight,
struggle in darkness.

Although humanity has reached the borders of the moon,
some people have lived their entire lives feeling dead inside.

Yet, some find goodness even after death,
leaving behind a legacy!

J.O.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATUE OF LADY OF LEBANON
IN LEAMINGTON ONTARIO CANADA



تشيد

ركزة تمثال سيدة لبنان

في ليمنتون اونتاريو كندا

The Idea of Building the Shrine

In the summer of 1979, John Obeid was the first to come up with the idea of building the Sanctuary of Our lady of Lebanon. Then he called the late George Obeid and his wife Mary; to give them the idea and then in their turn, they will spread the word among the Lebanese community of Leamington, Ontario. The idea fascinated George and Mary and carried out the news to the Lebanese community in Leamington.

In the meantime, John Obeid had contacted Father Antoine Sleiman and told him about the idea of building a monument for Our Lady of Lebanon on the property of the Lebanese Club. Father Antoine applauded the idea and gave us his blessing to develop the idea.

After discussions, studies, and consultations with the members of the Club and almost with the whole community, everyone was enthusiastic.

Happy and they thought of installing this religious monument that would perpetuate the memory of the Lebanese love for The Lady of our Lebanon.

إعداد نشرة المشروع والقرطاسية

PREPARING THE PROJECT PROSPECTUS AND STATIONERIES

1. The first step I have done is to design the official logo and letterhead.
2. The second step was to obtain permission from the religious authorities to build the shrine.

*Our Lady of Lebanon Auxiliary
Leamington Lebanese Club*



*P.O. Box 241
Leamington, Ontario N84 3W2*

Letterhead



Establishment of Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine Project



LOGO

Copy of the Brochure



Message from our Bishop Sherlock Bishop of London

MESSAGE
FROM
OUR BISHOP



Office of the Bishop
1070 Waterloo Street - London Canada



*Most Reverend
John Michael Sherlock
Bishop of London*

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The project of a Shrine to Our Lady of Lebanon has been under consideration for many years by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Leamington Lebanese Club, Leamington, Ontario.

They have initiated the project, but it has my approval. The people sponsoring it are devout, responsible and competent. I have no doubt that their dedication will bring it to successful completion.

Since the Shrine will become a place of pilgrimage for people particularly Lebanese Canadians, from all over Canada, the committee respectfully solicits your support and help.

I happily approve this request. It is my prayer that the Shrine may bring honor to Our Blessed Mother and blessings to those who support it.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Most Rev. John M. Sherlock, D.D.
Bishop of London

معبد سيدة لبنان في منتون انتاريو كندا

قد باشرت جمعية سيدة لبنان في منتون
أنتاريو كندا ببناء مزار سيدة لبنان على شكل
المزار الذي يعلو قمة جبل حريصا لبنان.

هذا المعبد فريد من نوعه في كندا.
سيكون تمثال العذراء من الحجر القاسي الطبيعي
علوه ١٤ قدماً ويزن ١٢ طناً.. علو القاعدة من
الإسمنت المسلح ٤٢ قدماً، دائرة القاعدة ٣٨
قدماً وفي القمة ١٦ قدماً.
بدأ أعمال تنفيذ البناء بما فيه تجهيز المكان
الذي سيقام فيه المزار وهندسة وخرائطه
وتعيين لجنة لجمع المال،
وجمع المال يكون على النحو التالي:

- ١- أي أنسان يكون عنده نذراً للعذراء فليعتبر
المساهمة في هذا المشروع وفاءً لنذره..
- ٢- كل من يتبرع بـ ١٠ دولارات يعتبر بانه
قد أسهم ببناء حجر في هذا المعبد،

وعليه سينشر اسمه مع القيمة التي تبرع
بها في كتاب التقدير وعرفان الجميل الذي
سيطبع عند إتمام المشروع ..

٣- كل من يتبرع بـ ١٠٠ دولاراً وما فوق
(أى بـ ١٠ أعمار وما فوق) سيحضر اسمه
على بلاطة في قاعة التمثال كما أنه
سينشر أيضاً في كتاب التقدير ..

فالأمل كبير في نيل كرمكم والاسهام لتحقيق
هذا المشروع ..

من فضلكم ارسال التبرعات على العنوان التالي:

لجنة بناء معبد سيدة لبنان

١٠ شارع إري لمنتون انتاريو - كندا بواسطة:

مصرف مونتريال

رقم الحساب - 7058317

لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الإتصال

برقم الهاتف ٣٨٨٣-٣٢٦-١

وشكراً

فلتبارككم العذراء مريم ولتسهر عليكم وعلى عيالكم

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON
IN LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO

THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON HAVE UNDERTAKEN THE TASK OF BUILDING A SHRINE TO OUR LADY OF LEBANON SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN HARISSA, LEBANON.

THE SHRINE WILL BE THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN CANADA.

THE STATUE OF THE VIRGIN MARY WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OF HARD NATURAL STONE. IT WILL BE 14 FEET HIGH AND WEIGH 12 TONS.

THE CONIC BASE OF THE STATUE IS MADE OF CEMENT AND WILL BE 42 FEET IN HEIGHT, WITH A LOWER BASE OF 38 FEET AND UPPER BASE OF 16 FEET IN CIRCUMFERENCE.

WORK IS PRESENTLY IN PROGRESS ON THE PROJECT.

A FUND RAISING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. TO DATE A SITE LOCATION FOR THE SHRINE HAS BEEN ACQUIRED AND THE BLUE-PRINTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

THE FUND RAISING WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

1. ANYONE HAVING A VOW OR A SOLEMN PLEDGE SHOULD CONSIDER THIS PROJECT AS A MEANS OF FULFILLING THE PLEDGE.
2. THAT FOR A \$10.00 DONATION HIS NAME WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AN APPRECIATION BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE SHRINE.
3. ANYONE CONTRIBUTING \$100.00 OR MORE WILL HAVE HIS NAME INSCRIBED ON THE BASE OF THE SHRINE AS WELL AS IN THE APPRECIATION BOOK.



PLEASE LET YOUR GENEROSITY MAKE THIS PROJECT A REALITY.

KINDLY SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:

OUR LADY OF LEBANON BUILDING FUND
c/o BANK OF MONTREAL
10 ERIE STREET SOUTH
LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO, CANADA
ACCOUNT # 7058317

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THIS NO. 1-326-3883.

THANK YOU.

MAY THE VIRGIN MARY BLESS YOU AND ALWAYS WATCH OVER YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES.

PLEASE SEND THIS STUB WITH YOUR DONATION

Name.....

Address.....

City..... Province.....

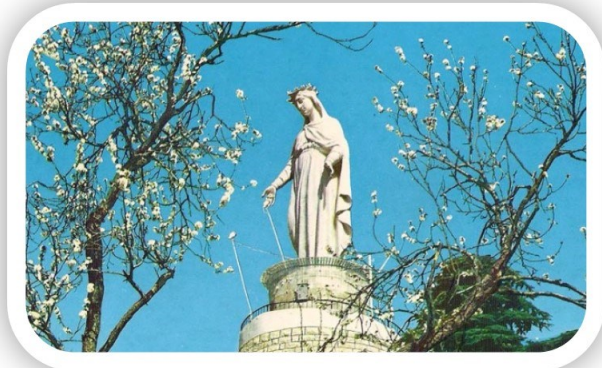
Zip Code..... Telephone.....

Amount Enclosed \$.....





YOU SEE A STATUE OF THE VIRGIN ABOVE ITS TOPS

Lebanon from its sea to its cedars
 is the fragrance of its incense
 Its beaches are like a flower carpet
 and its mountains are covered with snow
 In the winter you see the rainbow as a girdle
 wrapping its mountains and peaks
 And the summer is the tones of the flute of the guardian
 dancing on the light of his star
 And every spring that bursts from the mountain





its water that enchants the tourists.
 And each of us is obliged to do
 what is beneficial to Lebanon.
 O you who visit the land of revelation and light,
 wherever you have gone in Mount Lebanon.
 You see a statue of the Virgin above its tops!

J.O.



**HOW THE IDEA STARTED
OF
BUILDING THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON
IN LEAMINGTON ONTARIO**



The shrine's idea came to my mind since the construction of the club, which turned out to be a dream come true. I talked earlier about the establishment of the Lebanese Club, which continues to have the support and the will of the Lebanese community in Leamington where we have succeeded in achieving and implementing its inception, which is the first of its kind in this region of Canada .

The idea and the dream of building Our Lady of Lebanon's Shrine were in such manner:

Sunday morning November 6 ,1977, I called Mr. George Obeid and his wife Mary Obeid, who was at that time the President of Virgin Fraternal Ladies, and I said to them, literally: I need you to come here to Windsor, there is something to tell you. George said to me: "hoping is good... What is the important thing? Tell us on the phone. I told him I cannot now, but when you come to Windsor you will know the news. Georges said: Ok we will be there in one hour. When George arrived with his wife, the two were eagerly awaiting the news surprise. Georges said: Here we are... Give us what you have... I said to them: the idea that has been in my head since the opening of the club; If you like the idea, in your turn you take it to the Ladies Society and the club members and to the Lebanese community in general, and I am sure that everyone would welcoming the idea and cheering it gladly. At this point Georges' patience



ended and said: "Say it. "I said to them:

My idea is as a proposal to Leamington's community: What do you think as if we have a project to build a Shrine to Our Lady of Lebanon on the land of the Lebanese Club in Leamington, a duplicate Shrine which topped the summit of Harissa?

When Georges & Mary heard that flew with joy and welcomed the idea. On the same day they took the news to the community in Leamington, and the flame of enthusiasm starts raging in the heart of each person to the idea, because their strong faith and worship and love for the Virgin Mary, and especially, that super religious monument installation will immortalize their love for Our Lady of Lebanon, and as She is a lawyer for Resided Lebanon would be a lawyer for expatriate Lebanon.

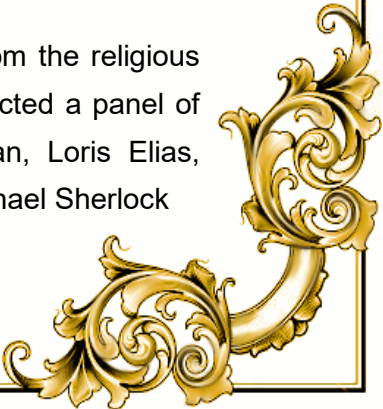
In the meantime, I called the father Antoine Sleiman and told him about the idea about the construction of a Shrine for Our Lady of Lebanon on the land of the Lebanese club. Father Antoine welcomed the idea and gave us his blessing to develop it.

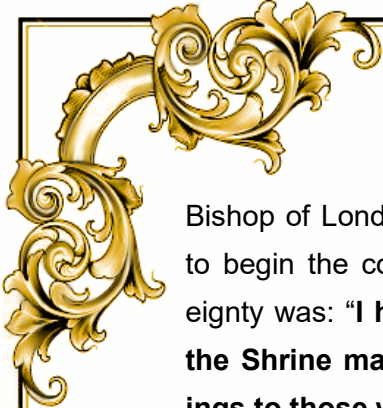
At this time, I called the Ladies' Association for a meeting at the Lebanese club. After discussions, and consulting with club members and Ladies Society members, all agreed to initiate the project.

The Ladies elected me as an arrangements and contributions' chairman to implement this blessed project. The work started as follows:

1. - The first step I have done is to design the official logo and letterhead.

2. – The second step was to obtain permission from the religious authorities to build the Shrine. For this task, we elected a panel of four women they are: (Mary Obeid, Amal Sleiman, Loris Elias, Souad Jacob) to pay a visit the Sovereign John Michael Sherlock



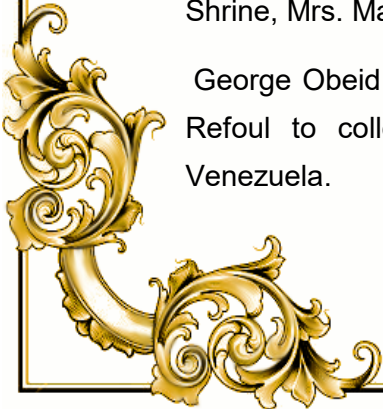


Bishop of London to seek the permission from he absolute powers to begin the construction of the Shrine. The answer of his sovereignty was: **"I happily approve this request. It is my prayer that the Shrine may bring honor to our Blessed Mother and blessings to those who support it"**.


3. - The third step is a press release of the project in English and Arabic brochure, and since it was not available at that time the computer, I went to search for a calligrapher in both Arabic and English, someone pointed out to me Mr. Saoud El-Ayoubi – artist, newly coming from Lebanon. I asked Mr. Saoud if he can design a pamphlet to publish the letter of the authorization from bishop of London, and to encourage everyone to donate generously and support this project. When Mr. Saoud finished the pamphlet, I offered to pay him. He said to me: "I seek refuge in God", that I get my wages and this Shrine is for "Sitna Mariam"? Consider me the first donor. (Mr. Saoud is Sunni Muslim, had deserted from Lebanon, because of the brute war; and in the end, Saoud became to be my best and sincere friend.


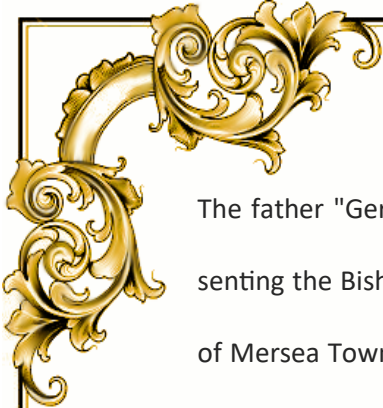
4.- However, the ladies started collecting donations from the Lebanese communities from Leamington, Windsor & Detroit and others suburbs.

In mid-April 1981, before laying the foundation first stone in the Shrine, Mrs. Mary



George Obeid headed to Venezuela, accompanied by Mrs. Sarkis Refoul to collect donations from the Lebanese community in Venezuela.


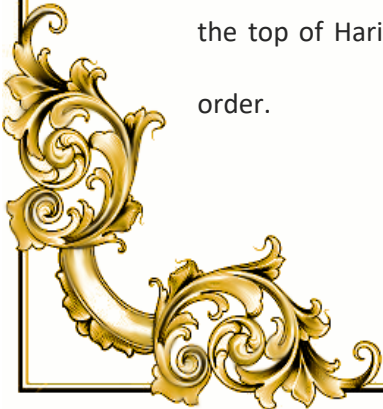




The father "Gerry Duchane" pastor of Saint Michael parish was representing the Bishop Sherlock of London assisted by Mr. John Dick Reeve of Mersea Township in cutting the ribbon for the opening ceremony to lay the foundation stone; and other dignitaries attended the celebration, including the Samir Shamma, Consul General of Lebanon in Detroit, Michigan, Dr Daher Raae, Father John Sader pastor of St. Peter church in Windsor, accompanied by his assistant Father Kaissar El-Ashkar.

Afterward, everyone went to the club hall for dinner. After dinner a poem was delivered by John Obeid entitled "The precious stones are the stones of our mine" where the donations begun, bringing the total contributions of \$ 32,000 from gala dinner, bringing the total sum to \$ 132,000, including \$ 28,000 from the Venezuelan Lebanese community.

After the stone laying ceremony, we agreed that the stone statue will be carved in Italy, and to be a replica of the statue of the Virgin Mary at the top of Harissa. We choose Father Antoine Sleiman to initiate the order.



During the month of May of 1983 arrived the Italian Sculptor, Reno Gtrazzi, accompanied with the statue, which is ranged of four meters long or 14 feet, weighing approximately 10,886 kilograms or 12 tons of white marble Carrara; and the base that the statue will be based on was actively ready by the architect Shehadi Mouawad, and a group of Lebanese youth. The base is built from three levels: the first level is 13 meters or 42 feet, the second is 12 meters or 38 feet and the upper part is 5.50 meters or 18 feet, all of which are based on the concrete base. The total height of the focus with the statue is 112 feet.

On May 22, 1983, in a magnificent ceremony, the statue of the Virgin Mary, was unveiled by Archbishop Elias Shaheen, the First Bishop of the Diocese of St. Maron in Canada.



AREA LEBANESE BREAK SHRINE GROUND

LEAMINGTON — The Lebanese Club broke ground Saturday, May 2, 1981, towards construction of a shrine on Highway 7 7, north of Leamington. Rev. Gerry Duchane, representing Roman Catholic Bishop Sherlock— whose London Diocese includes Mersea Township— cut the ribbon opening the ground – breaking ceremony.

Another dignitary present Included General Consulate for Lebanon, Dr. Rahi Daher, and Rev. John Sader, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Windsor. John Obeid, chairman for the fund-raising dinner which followed the ceremony, said the group raised more money than expected. Donations at the dinner amounted to nearly \$32,000, bringing the total raised to nearly \$132,000, including a \$28,000, donation by the Venezuelan Lebanese Community.

Donors of \$10 or more will their names included in a book of appreciation to be published once the shrine is completed; those donating \$100 will have their names inscribed on the base of the shrine itself.

Obeid said, "The Shrine is in memory of all the miracles Our Lady of Lebanon has performed in protecting our country and defending it from our enemies. And with all the problems Lebanon is now having, we believe Our Lady of Lebanon will help and everything will be all right. "

The statue of the virgin Mary will be four meters (14 feet) high and weigh nearly 10,886 kg (12 tons).

A meeting later this week will determine whether stone from Detroit, Italy, or Lebanon will be used. Bronze is also considered.

The statue will sit on a three-tiered base; the first tier will be 13 meters (42 feet) tall, the second 12 meters (38 feet), in height, and the top 51/2 meters (18feet) tall. All three sections will be made of finished concrete.

The shrine will be a duplicate of one which stands on a mountain near the town of Harissa, Lebanon.

The Windsor Star

Monday, May 4, 1981

A BIG THANKS TO THE LATE ANTONIOS YOUSSEF

WHO PROVIDED US PHOTOS THAT WE TREASURE FOREVER!
WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL THAT HE WAS ABLE TO SHARE HIS PHOTOS WITH US
AND WE ARE SO TOUCHED BY HIS PATIENCE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
IN SUCH TIME THAT PHOTOGRAPHS WERE SELDOM TAKEN.

THANK YOU, ANTONIOS,
YOU DID AN AMAZING JOB.

MAY GOD BLESS YOUR SOUL AND REWARD YOU WITH HIS ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, AMEN!



شكر كبير

للمرحوم أنطونيوس يوسف

الذي

أمدنا بصورتها لآخرها للأبد

كما نحن ممتنون له لتقاسمه معنا هذه الصور في وقت كانت الصور نادراً أن تُؤخذ.

شكراً أنطونيوس على عملك الرائع

نسأل الله أن يتغمد نفسك بنعمه الغزيرة، أمين!

وضع الحجر الأول في ركزة تمثال سيدة لبنان
لمنتغون اونتاريو كندا السبت 2 ايار 1981



التجمع في موضع ركزة التمثال 2 ايار 1981



The Shrine broke ground Saturday, May 2, 1981

نعمل جبل لبنان ثاني بهالبلاد

من إفتتاحية وضع الحجر الأساسي في ركزة تمثال سيدة لبنان،

ليمنتغتون اونتاريو كندا 15 ايار 1979

يا سيدة لبنان يا نجم الصباح
للخير إنت للمحبه وللوداد
يا ملبسي بلادي من وشاحك وشاح
عيدك ع قلب الجالي أغلى العياد



جان عبيد يفتح حفلة وضع الحجر الأساسي في بتيان تمثال سيدة لبنان

بتشييد تمثالك فجر بالنور لاح
ضوعتم نادي ونطق صخر الجماد
منسوكرا ليله باكليل النجـاح
رح ننقل العذرا من جبل لبناننا
ونعمل جبل لبنان ثاني بهالبلاد

PRAYER BEFORE BREAK SHRINE GROUND - SATURDAY MAY 2, 1981



صلاة تبريك الأرض قبل وضع اول حجر في ركزة التمثال 2 ايار 1981



BREAK GROUND SHRINE FIRST STONE - SATURDAY MAY 2, 1981



من اليمين إلى الشمال:
الأب جان صادر - الأب دوشان - الأب قيصر الأشقر - قنصل لبنان العام الأستاذ سمير شَمَّا



كلمة سعادة قنصل لبنان الأستاذ سمير شَمَّا



يا أرزة المجد الحريصه عالبلاد

يا أرزة المجد الحريصه عالبلاد
وانتي على قمة حريصا مشيدي
يا نعمة الايمان بقلوب العباد
كل الدني بعيدك بفرحه معيدي
انت الأمل فيكي الرجا والاعتقاد
وفيك عقيدتنا العظيمة مقيدي
عيدك تثبت شكل عن كل العباد
في كل عيد الناس بتعيد نهار
وبيعيدوا عاشر عيد السيده!



GEMSTONES ARE STONES FROM OUR QUARRY

On the fundraising for the construction of the statue of Our Lady of Lebanon for Menton May 15, 1979

This celebration is precious to our ears, it gathers us on its sweet night as brothers

No matter how bad the days are, our return to each other

If we are forced to sleep on mats, we will achieve our dreams

Even if we mix dust with tears, our actions will elevate us to glory

We didn't step back once, our projects are always moving forward

Prosperity and construction are our goals, and it is our habit to raise flags



جان عبید یلقی قصیدة من بعدها أبتدأت التبرعات

To achieve the construction of the statue, all people must follow us

The Virgin Mary is our hope and inspiration, her statue guards our community

The Virgin Mary is the hope of mankind, her love is lilies for our congregation

She has from us reverence and honour and prayers whenever we kneel in front of her

And for it to have a place it is not much that we pay

Extend the hands of goodness and blessings, precious stones are from our quarry

Tonight, our generosity has overflowed and if we want to build who prevents us

Donations increased thanks to the presence of monk Elias Andari

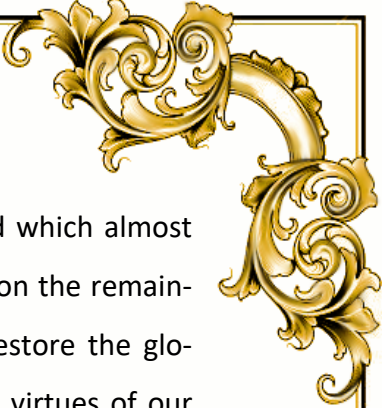
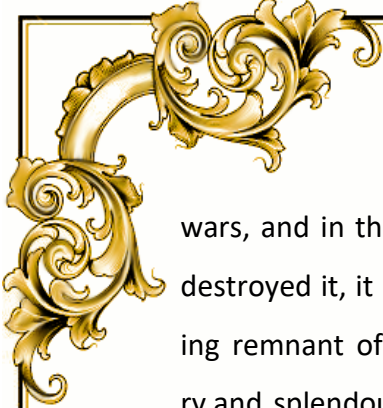
And the founder of the club is with us!



RAISE THE STATUE HIGH

This speech was delivered at the Stone Placement Party at the Statue for Fundraising Leamington on Saturday, May 2, 1981

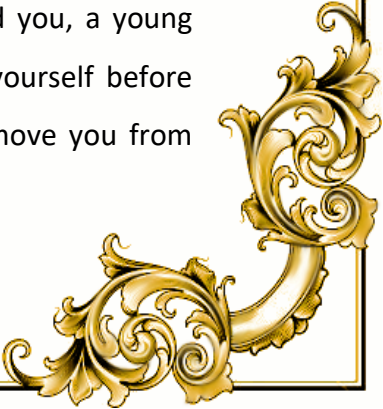
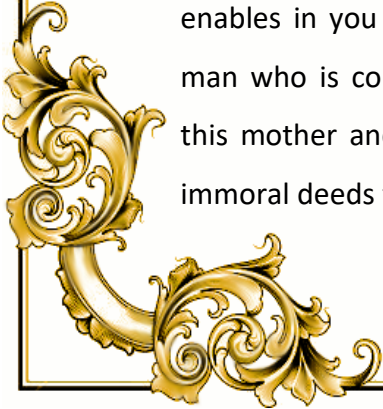
A white hand on the horizon of this community waving on every occasion, removing the night's handkerchief from the eyeball, giving hope to the desperate and strength to the weak. It is the hand of sincerity that has been instilled in the breasts of friendliness and loyalty. And when you see people awakened by the need for loyalty to seek something, they ally and join hands and harmonize, say this is magnanimity dawns like a full moon, and does not continue striving from age to age from that noblest mountain whose peaks were crowned with snow and its feet plunged into the sea, so it had messengers and men in every part of the globe. And you, my countrymen, you're gathering for righteousness, goodness, and urbanization, is an emotion for you tonight to strive for the glorious work that will decorate the history of our migration. One is in his exploits of glue, not in his empty words and words. We were united by the affection of the appeal made to us by the daughters of the Association of Our Lady of Lebanon, Brides of the Faith, to contribute with them to the construction of a shrine topped by the person of the Virgin. We, the Lebanese, who call it the cedar of Lebanon, have devoted worship to it since ancient times, and we have built many temples for it on the top of every mountain, at the foot of every valley and in the heart of every valley. It has preserved in us the deposit of the sacred faith and our time in centuries free from dangers and

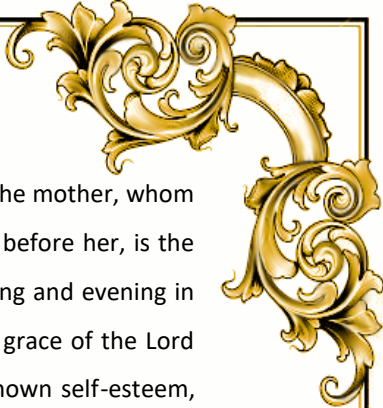
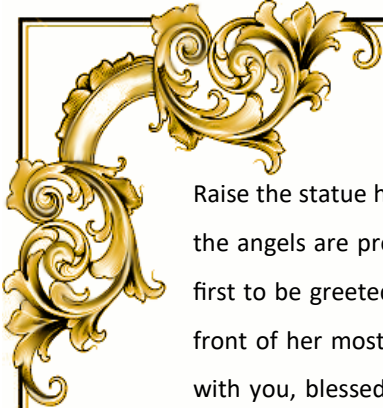


wars, and in this war that is sweeping Lebanon and which almost destroyed it, it has kept for us through its intercession the remaining remnant of our people. We hope that it will restore the glory and splendour of Lebanon and develop in us the virtues of our glorious ancestors who had good sons.

O sons of my beloved country, you are united by the affection of the Virgin, so raise her person high, and reign over her in your hearts, and take her as your emblem, and the people who take the Virgin as a slogan against which enemies cannot prevail and do not live in their land of delusion. Raise the statue high in the land of alienation and go to it in all your affairs, and who are the children other than the mother? I mean it, O father who struggles day and night for a dear family, as it strengthens your help to work and promotes your flimsy determination.

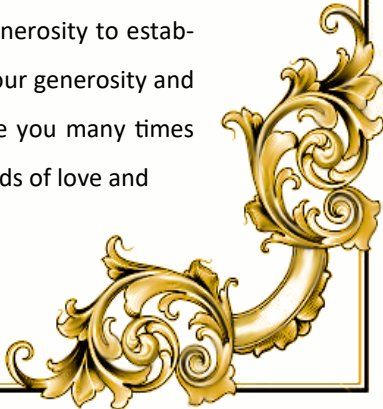
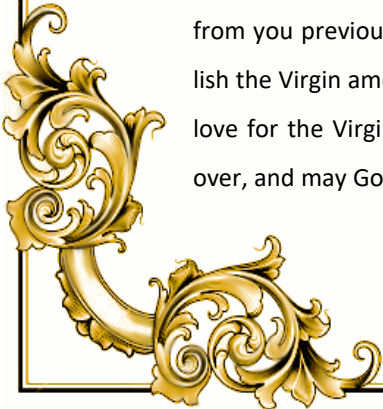
Go to her, O mother whose heart has been bereaved by difficult days, as she comforts your heart and dries your parental tears and brings you back joys and bliss. Go to her, a young woman who plays with her heart with concerns and worries, as she cleanses your heartbeat, protects her from every perverted movement and enables in you the love of chastity and purity. And you, a young man who is confused by corrupt passions, throw yourself before this mother and she will restrain your heart and move you from immoral deeds to honourable deeds.





Raise the statue high and go to all of you, old and young, for the mother, whom the angels are proud of greeting her, and the pleasant bows before her, is the first to be greeted by her children every day, chanting morning and evening in front of her most honourable person: "Hail Mary, full of the grace of the Lord with you, blessed are you in women." Brothers, you have known self-esteem, your little one refuses humiliation and your elder does not judge injustice. This is a defect that you inherited from your ancestors and preserved and transferred it with you to this country, you were called great souls who exceeded others' jealousy and enthusiasm, so I carried you on the idea of building a shrine for the Virgin Mary, which no one else like you tried to match in these areas. By God, you should not confine your wealth and vows to the Virgin, for they will compensate you many times over, and money is created to serve proud souls, not to be an idol sacrificed on its altar with honor and generosity of noble morals, not to be an idol and sacrifice on its altar with honor and generosity of morals.

So, rise as your renaissance was before in building this beautiful club in which we are now on the ground, rise as one man, joining hands on a work that you will complete, and you will receive pride and bless your name your sons and your children to generation. I have already stood this stand and seen your generosity and generosity, which made me praise you in every club and community, proud of your drive for charity and urban projects.



Now, at the invitation of the Ladies' Association, I was fortunate to return to you after two years for the same pause, and I was encouraged by what I met from you previously to knock on your door and base your generosity to establish the Virgin among you, and I am confident in the dew of your generosity and love for the Virgin. So give of your wealth, and God will give you many times over, and may God grant you success and consolidate the bonds of love and

harmony among you, and grant you His heavenly grace, and sanctify this shrine that you have built in gratitude to the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Merciful, the cedar of Lebanon and the Queen of the Seas. So, you will come to Him in your afflictions, and He will release your anguish, and you will go to Him in your pains, and He will heal your wounds, and He will secure Him in your sorrows, and He will dry your tears. Thus, the Virgin will be with us and rise above our club in the diaspora as she rose on the tops of the mountains of Lebanon, so that she will be ours and be hers, and will not leave us forever.

FINANCIONS THIS STATUE

**The idea of building the statue is noble to construct it
we don't have to be stingy**

Please listen to us so we can analyze the issue calmly

I am sure of your support because your hearts are big and kind

I am happy that you remain happy,

and I do not think that you will ignore this issue

I'm glad you're happy, and I don't think you're ignoring this issue.

Just as the club was built with our solidarity,

and our work was crowned with a laurel wreath

From our cedar carrying the most honourable message to the West

and we did not neglect to spread it

We construct a replica of Our Lady of Harissa Statue, let us Rejoice

Come together, present and absent,

we work together so that the statue is raised.

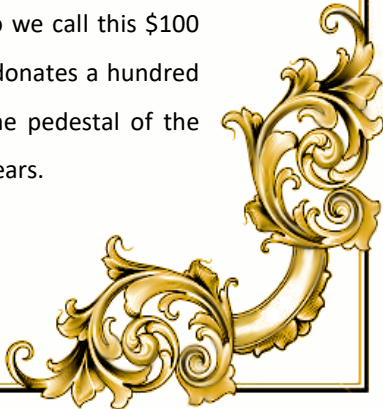
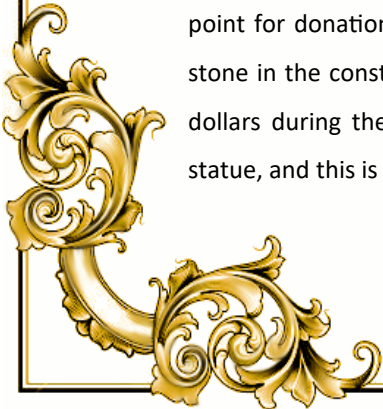
the treasures of the earth do not equal Mary's love

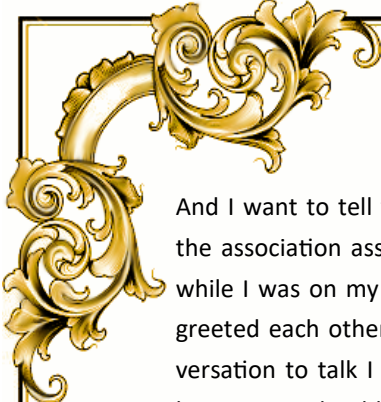


Now, brothers, let us talk in colloquial Arabic so that everyone understands us...

We will start with donations and seminars. The starting point for donation or Andora starts at \$100 and above, so we call this \$100 stone in the construction of the statue. For example, I can donate or less than 100 dollars, which means that I will have a stone percentage in our milk. Georges Bessawi buys 10 stones, which means \$1,000. And everyone who donates a hundred dollars during the reconstruction by carving his name on the pedestal of the statue, and this is how Khaled's remembrance remains over the years. Firstborn, the son of his son will come and my grandfather will say to him a share of this statue. After that, a committee of women will be formed to knock on every Lebanese door in Lementgon and its environs. And if the donor likes to give him a receipt for the value he donated, there is no objection to that. We collect more than the costs of the statue, so this will be good and blessed, because do not forget, we will not raise the statue of the Virgin and evacuate it around Hashir. We must clean the square and make sweet paths decorated with flowers, trees and cypresses, and in the future, we will work on stages of the cross, a synagogue, a playground, a house for the electricians and prepare a place for a picnic and for visitors to rest because this shrine will be a central point in all of North America. The world wants to go to it from every dawn and depth, and it will be a pilgrimage for the injured and the sick. For this reason, the statue and around the statue must be neat .

Now, brothers, let us talk in colloquial Arabic so that the one who was born here can understand us... We will start with donations and seminars. The starting point for donations or promises starts at \$100 and above, so we call this \$100 stone in the construction of the statue. And everyone who donates a hundred dollars during the reconstruction by carving his name on the pedestal of the statue, and this is how will remain a remembrance over the years.





And I want to tell you what happened to me in particular after the president of the association assigned me to buy flowers for the party that we will hold, and while I was on my way to buy flowers, I met a person from the community, we greeted each other and the conversation took place between us, and from conversation to talk I asked him if he would attend the party. Answer me honestly because we should go to church and pray to the Virgin Mary and all the saints. We should think about building a school, a playground, an office and a swimming pool.

Then after I bought the flowers, I left him and walked away. But after I left the suspicion became strong, and I started thinking about it...

I slept that night and started the ideas ... I dreamed that I was on a high mountain and the club was in the bottom of the mountain and coming down from this mountain is a pure water waterfall flowing on the club's land. And around the club rocks grew between them beautiful flowers and trees ... I mean, a scene that takes the mind... I started saying to myself that I knew the club in Leamington on 77th Road, what did this look like?

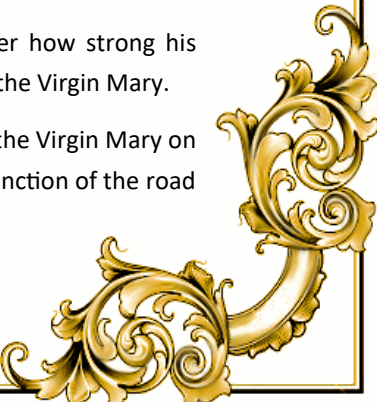
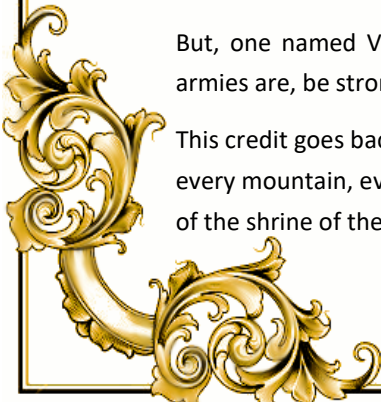
I only heard a voice calling me from among the rocks: "What are you doing here Hanna?"

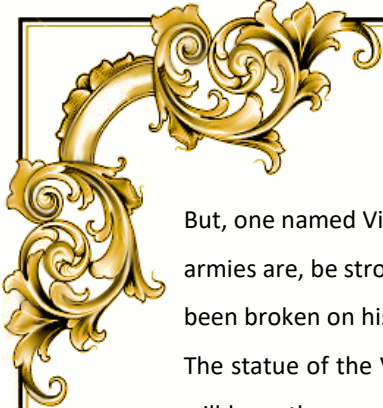
I turned and saw an old woman dressed in white... I told her who are you? And how did you know my name? She said to me, "You don't know me anymore?" I am beautiful um Wakim your neighbor, and the neighbor has the right to keep his neighbor. I shivered and said, "Jamila?" As far as I know, you're dead.

She said, "The soul does not die, my son, the body is the only one who dies." I am coming to you especially, so I warn you because you are my neighbour, and I do not want anything to hurt you... Don't shake your intention at the Virgin Mary party.

But, one named Virgin Mary doesn't let any enemy, no matter how strong his armies are, be strong against Lebanon, which is the property of the Virgin Mary.

This credit goes back to our ancestors who elevated a statue of the Virgin Mary on every mountain, every hill, every foothill, every valley and the junction of the road of the shrine of the Virgin.





But, one named Virgin Mary doesn't let any enemy, no matter how strong his armies are, be strong against many aggressions passed on Lebanon, and all have been broken on his rocks, the rocks of faith in the virgin.

The statue of the Virgin in this far western land pulls you to each other, and you will keep the sweet and kind customs you brought with you from the mountains of Lebanon.

Teach these customs to your children and the strange people, and with time they will appreciate the Awayed who you gave them with love of the unity.

Look, my son, there are a couple of people in this community who try to spray poison and lengthen their tongues against the statue project and try to throw stones in his path.

Before the statue is raised, one of them will die in a car accident, and the second person, whose son is a young man in full health, suddenly falls ill and turns over with woe, they will take him to the hospital two days later and die.

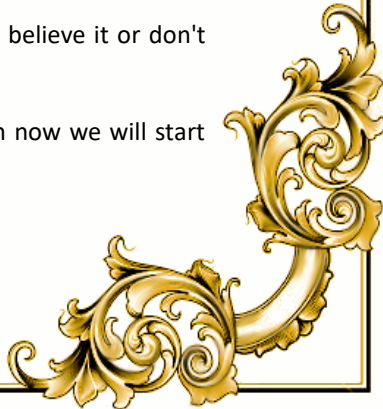
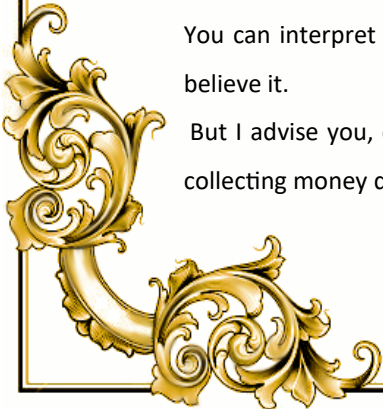
The two families pay attention and know the reason with divine inspiration, and they come back to contribute more than others. The whole community in general want to participate in the reconstruction of the statue of the Virgin.

And here I saw a very tall and beautiful woman wearing a white dress with a blue shawl on top of it, and she said to Jamila: Are you done, Jamila?

I tried to talk to her, but the alarm woke me up and I got up and started thinking about this dream.

This is what happened to me I am saying to you with no increase or decrease. You can interpret this dream as you wish. You are free if you believe it or don't believe it.

But I advise you, don't try to shake your intentions. Come on now we will start collecting money donate and don't be stingy.



And here began the donations generously and faithfully, unfortunately, I no longer remember

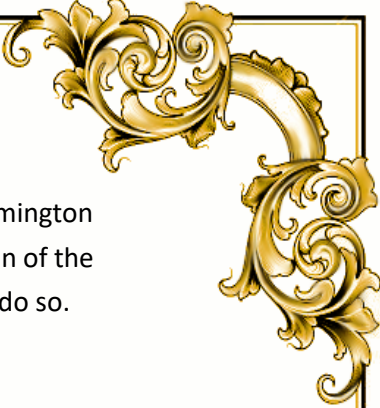
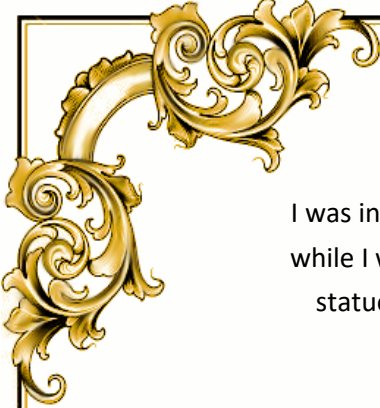
What the value was, and I occasionally throw a quartet of zajal. And here, donations began with generosity and faith, amounting to about \$40,000, in addition to donations from the Lebanese community in Venezuela amounting to \$35,000.

Here, joy prevailed, so the Association of Ladies asked me to head the leadership of the Dabke in acknowledgment of credit!



يا مريم بها لأرض رفعا رايك
 وزوارجينا اليوم طلبنا عنايتك
 الخير تا يغمر ولادك غايتك
 ونحنا بحاجة لكي وحمائتك
 وفي مجالات السما الممتلك قلان
 انتي الأمل انتي الرجاء في كل حال
 الله يزيدك نعم ويزيدك كمال
 تضرعي لأجلنا يا بيت الذهب
 يا باب السما وسيدة الانتقال!





I was invited by the Lebanese community in Leamington while I was in Venezuela to attend the installation of the statue of the Virgin Mary, but I was unable to do so.

April 15, 1983

Apology letter to the ladies



Dear President and members of the Our Lady of Lebanon Association:

Best regards,

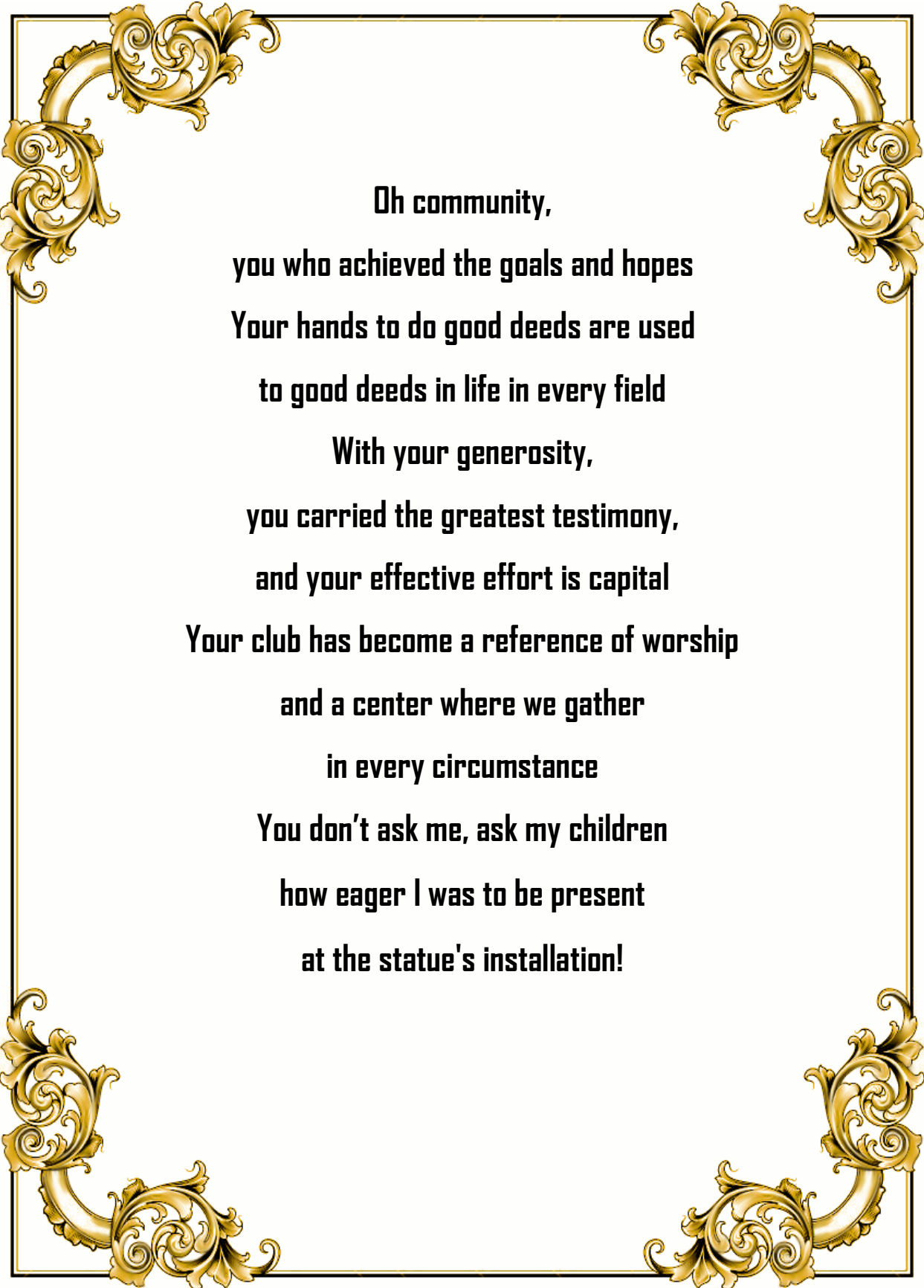
I have received your invitation to attend the unveiling of the statue of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Lebanon, this wonderful and unique celebration in our Lebanese Canadian community. With great regret and disappointment, I apologize for not being able to attend due to compelling circumstances. You cannot appreciate how eager I was to attend with you, and you are especially aware of my eagerness to attend this celebration, which I was the primary reason for its achievement...

By the way, I extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all of you on the accomplishment of this wonderful work. Thank you with my regards to all of you...

April 20, 1983, John Obeid







**Oh community,
you who achieved the goals and hopes
Your hands to do good deeds are used
to good deeds in life in every field
With your generosity,
you carried the greatest testimony,
and your effective effort is capital
Your club has become a reference of worship
and a center where we gather
in every circumstance
You don't ask me, ask my children
how eager I was to be present
at the statue's installation!**



May, 1983:

- Arrival and positioning of the statue of Our Lady of Lebanon (accompanied by Italian Sculpture, Rino Grazzi.
- Description of statue: White Carrara marble; 145 feet high weighing 12 tons sitting on a conical base of concrete 42 feet in height and totaling just under 60 feet with a spiraling staircase to allow accessibility.

May 22, 1983:

celebration to commemorate the Unveiling of the Statue and blessing by P
 'lency the Bishop of Saint Maron Diocese of Canada, Bishop Elias Shah



November, 1977:

- Establishment of Our Lady of Lebanon Auxiliary

Mission:

To establish a project of constructing a shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon duplicating that in Harissa, Lebanon.

To keep alive the Lebanese tradition of devotion to Mother Mary.

1978 – 1980:

Collection of donations for the project from the Leamington Lebanese Community (as the main supporter), Venezuelan, Lebanese Community, Ottawa, Toronto, Detroit, Windsor and surrounding communities.

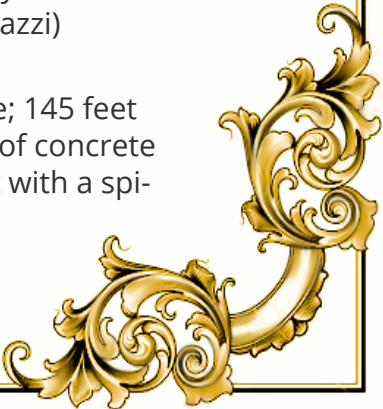
May, 1981:

Ground Breaking Ceremony (beginning of the construction of the Shrine.

May, 1983:

Arrival and positioning of the statue of Our Lady of Lebanon (accompanied by Italian Sculpture, Rino Grazzi)

Description of the statue: White Carrara marble; 145 feet high weighing 12 tons sitting on a conical base of concrete 42 feet in height and totaling just under 60 feet with a spiraling staircase to allow accessibility.



**May 22, 1983:**

Celebration to commemorate the Unveiling of the Statue and blessing by His Excellency the Bishop of Saint Maron Diocese of Canada, Bishop Elias Shaheen.

August:

Keeping alive the tradition of devotion to our Mother Mary with Annual Liturgical Celebration of Prayer and Feasting.

Committed work of committed members of Our Lady of Lebanon Auxiliary of the Leamington Lebanese Club, Ontario, Canada.

June, 1999:

Building of the Stations of the Cross outside of the Shrine, motivated by the love they have for the Prayers related to these Stations.

August, 1999:

Blessing of the Stations of the Cross by His Excellency Mgr. Joseph Khoury during the Assumption Festival.

President and Officers of Our Lady of Lebanon Auxiliary





August, 1999:

Blessing of the Stations of the Cross by His Excellency Mgr. Joseph Khoury during the Assumption Festival.

President and Officers of Our Lady of Lebanon Auxiliary

Mrs. Marie Obeid: Prayer Leader

Mrs. Bernadette Jraige: Secretary

Bishop Committee:

Mrs. Rita Tannous

Mrs. Micheline Nouhra

Mrs. Julia Raffoul

January 7th, 2000:

The Election held on this day resulted in favor of :

Mrs. Souad Jacobs: President

Mrs. Adele Thomas: Vice President



Mrs. Batty Saad: Treasurer

Mrs. Khazzoun Yacoub: Prayers Leader

Mrs. Najibe Mikhail: Secretary

Bishop Committee:

Mrs. Sharife Jabbour (also Vice President

Mrs. Anne Semaan

Mrs. Martha Eid

For administration information, you can call:

Mrs. Souad Jacobs (President) @ (519) 326-8291

Mailing Address: 16 Sherwood Ave., Leamington, On.,

N8H 4T8

The problem with conscience these days is
that it dies before its owner.!

مشكلة الضمير هذه الأيام
أنه يموت قبل صاحبه.!



Through the efforts of Monsignor Charles Saad, the Maronite Diocese of Canada obtained 6 acres and the shrine of the statue of Our Lady of Lebanon for free from the Lebanese Club. This fulfilled the dream of the Maronite Patriarchs for 40 years.

We thank Monsignor Saad for his dedicated service and love for the Lebanese community!



بمسعى المونسنيور شارل سعد قد حصلت الأبرشية المارونية في كندا على 6 اكر وعلى مزار تمثال سيدة لبنان مجاناً من النادي اللبناني. فحقق بذلك حلم البطارقة الموارنة من 40 سنة.

نشكر حضرة المونسنيور سعد على خدمته المتفانية ومحبهه للجالية اللبنانية!



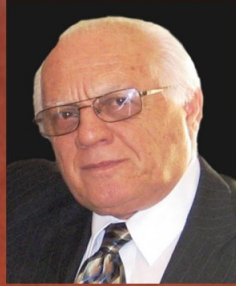
Leamington Lebanese Club Room





His Eminence Youssef El Khoury, the first Maronite bishop to visit the club
 The mayor of Leamington presented him with the key to the city,
 Then he held a 40th day memorial mass for the late Father Boutros Obeid who served
 the parish of Tourza for 57 years.
 That was on August 2, 1979

سيادة المطران يوسف الخوري، أول أسقف ماروني يزور النادي
 وقد قدم له رئيس بلدية ليمنغتون مفتاح المدينة،
 ثم أقام قداس ذكرى الأربعين للمرحوم الخوري بطرس عبيد
 الذي خدم رعية طورزا لمدة 57 سنة.



IN A PINE TENT

In a pine tent on the shoulders of rocks,
 the hands of the gods blended our soil
 On a braided bed of eagle feathers, we fell asleep
 and woke up from the dream of our naps
 The dream was a journey to the depths of the seas
 for a place where we teach our customs

The second dream is for the country's men
 to attend our big club's inauguration
 The sleepless nights lasted longer
 than the tired ones,
 and our bond was stronger than destiny.
 And tomorrow, when will our children see our work?
 The second dream will live in the eyes of the blind!

And the third dream that the immigrant
 got his destination
 And the owners of the house have no enemy
 And any way we look at the society
 We see the full moon of the night took his seat

And the chest of jihad after his suffering is explained
 And from the shrine of the goat, we built his shrine
 O dream wake up to the bread of joy
 Cheers to the hearts of the young people who have
 worked

And the fourth dream of this land is to fill it
 with buildings.
 We construct buildings that are suitable for all ages.
 Building for children who are still minors
 For sports, for the lesson, for waiting.
 And a building for those who have lived
 in this world for years,
 for the old woman and the old man of the house
 And a building for the young guys and girls,
 for dancing, for the singer, for the beats of the strings
 Even the people of the house will be together
 and the sun of our Lebanon shines day and night.

By: John Obeid

