



Our Lady of Lebanon  
Shrine at Harissa  
First Sunday in May



*To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception by Pope Pius IX on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1854, Maronite Patriarch Elias Hoyek, Patriarch of Antioch and the Whole Orient, and the apostolic delegate in Lebanon and Syria, Archbishop Carlos Duval, were the first to come up with the idea of building the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lebanon on the hilltop at Harissa.*

*The statue of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Lebanon, was made in France from molded bronze. It has a diameter of five metres and height of 8.5 metres, and weighs ten tons. The Virgin Mary stretches her hands towards the capital, Beirut. The statue was consecrated on the first Sunday of May, 1908. Pope John Paul II visited the shrine in May, 1997.*

O Mary, Mother of the Church by Pope Paul VI

O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,  
to you we entrust the whole Church.  
You, who were given as mother  
to the beloved disciple by your Divine Son  
at the moment of his redemptive death,  
remember the Christian people  
who commend themselves to you.  
Remember all your children;  
sustain us in our prayers to God;  
keep our faith steadfast;  
strengthen our hope;  
increase our love.  
Remember all those who suffer.

Unite all Christians into a single family.  
Temple of light without shadow of stain,  
intercede for us before your only-begotten Son,  
mediator of our reconciliation with the Father,  
so that he may grant us mercy in our shortcomings,  
and keep far from us every discord,  
filling our hearts with the joy of loving.  
And grant that the whole Church  
may always raise a hymn of praise and thanksgiving  
to the God of Mercy,  
a hymn of joy and exultation,  
because the Lord has done great things by means of you,  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.  
Amen.



Thanksgiving for our Common Humanity  
(We remember Lebanon's precarious peace)

Gracious God, we thank you for our country -  
for its history, its traditions,  
its indigenous cultural heritage,  
its culture,  
and its abundance of good things.  
**You have given us much to celebrate: receive our praise!**

We thank you for the riches we enjoy as a society -  
material comforts in abundance,  
freedom of speech and worship,  
security through our health service and welfare state,  
beautiful countryside and thriving towns and cities;  
all this and so much more.  
**You have given us much to celebrate: receive our praise!**



We thank you that we have so much  
to be proud of and grateful for.  
But we thank you also today for our world -  
its rich assortment of nations,  
and the histories and traditions which are part of them,  
an awesome diversity of countries and continents,  
and languages within them:  
a fascinating mixture of people, places, customs, cultures,  
with so much to teach us and so much to offer.  
**You have given us much to celebrate: receive our praise!**

We thank you for everything that contributes  
towards the world-wide community -  
the insights of different religions and philosophies,  
the interchange of ideas between races and cultures,  
the promotion of dialogue concerning global issues,  
the desire to establish justice and peace among all nations.  
**You have given us much to celebrate: receive our praise!**

We thank you that we all have something to receive  
from the wider world,  
and something to offer it;  
that our horizons are constantly being stretched,  
and our thinking broadened.  
**You have given us much to celebrate: receive our praise!**

Gracious God, you have given us one world.  
Help us to live as responsible citizens within it,  
united together in our common humanity,  
and bound together in you.  
**You have given us much to celebrate: receive our praise,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
Amen.

### Act of Consecration to Christ through Mary

With full knowledge of my Christian vocation,  
I renew this day in your hands, O Mary,  
the commitments of my Baptism.  
I renounce Satan,  
all his works and all his empty promises,  
and I consecrate myself to Jesus Christ,  
in order to carry my cross together with him  
by fulfilling the duties of my daily life with faithfulness,  
according to the will of the Father.  
In the presence of the entire Church,  
I acknowledge you as my Mother and Queen.  
To you, I offer and consecrate  
my being, my life,  
and the value of my good works,  
those of the past, present and future.  
Dispose of me and of all that belongs to me  
for the greater glory of God,  
in time and in eternity.  
Amen.

