

A young man from Deir al-Qamar who came to visit the sepulcher of Farther Beshara told us how at the time of the birth of his mother's eldest son, Father Beshara was parish priest of the above-mentioned town. He came to say a prayer over the mother and her newborn and said to her "God bless you, you are going to have seven sons!" The Mother exclaimed, "But I want a little girl as well!" After a short silence Father Beshara said "As you like, a girl as well!" The young man told us that he was the seventh son and that his little sister had just been married. Everybody in Deir Al-Qamar considered Father Beshara a holy priest and came to receive a blessing at his tomb.



On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2001 the Procurator General of the Salvatorian Order was visiting Cairo in Egypt to see the monastery's property there. He visited a young family there that had been going to the doctors for some years in order to conceive but all in vain. The priest gave the mother a picture of Father Beshara that happened to be in his pocket and urged her to ask him to intercede with God on her behalf. Four months later the Procurator was visiting Egypt again and had the surprise to learn from the lady that she was expecting twins!



**Father Beshara was famous for helping childless couples and for healing children.**

Mr. Joseph Simaan was complaining of an acute pain in his back that prevented him from carrying things or from bending over or from moving easily. After the necessary medical tests, the doctors told him that an operation was absolutely necessary. One day in 1998 during a visit to his relatives, his hand happened to fall on a leaflet about Father Beshara Abu Mourad concerning miracles taking place by the intercession of the Servant of God. When driving his car home he asked his wife to place her hand on his back while she read the leaflet to him aloud. He himself prayed while he drove. His wife had scarcely finished reading when he felt a strong burning sensation in his back followed by a powerful shiver. On arriving home he felt that he had been cured and found he could bend over without any pain and now at last carry heavy weights. Subsequent medical tests showed that there was no longer any need for an operation and that he was completely cured.



## Prayer for the Beatification of Father Beshara Abu Mourad

Merciful Savior, you who never cease to pour down your grace in abundance upon your priests, those who are your special inheritance, for their holiness and for the benefit of their flocks, we beseech you to look down and glorify your faithful servant Father Beshara Abu Mourad, who went before you following the paths of perfection in the religious life and of the priestly calling, and was your servant all the days of his life. If it be your will, O Lord, show in him your power that he may gleam like a shining star in the vault of our Church of the East, already resplendent with the glory of its saints. Let all know that the wells of sanctity have not yet run dry in your holy Church. Let the brow of your faithful priest be encircled by the crown of the beatified that we may find in him a perfect model and follow the example of his virtues. So may your holy name be glorified, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sidon, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1935

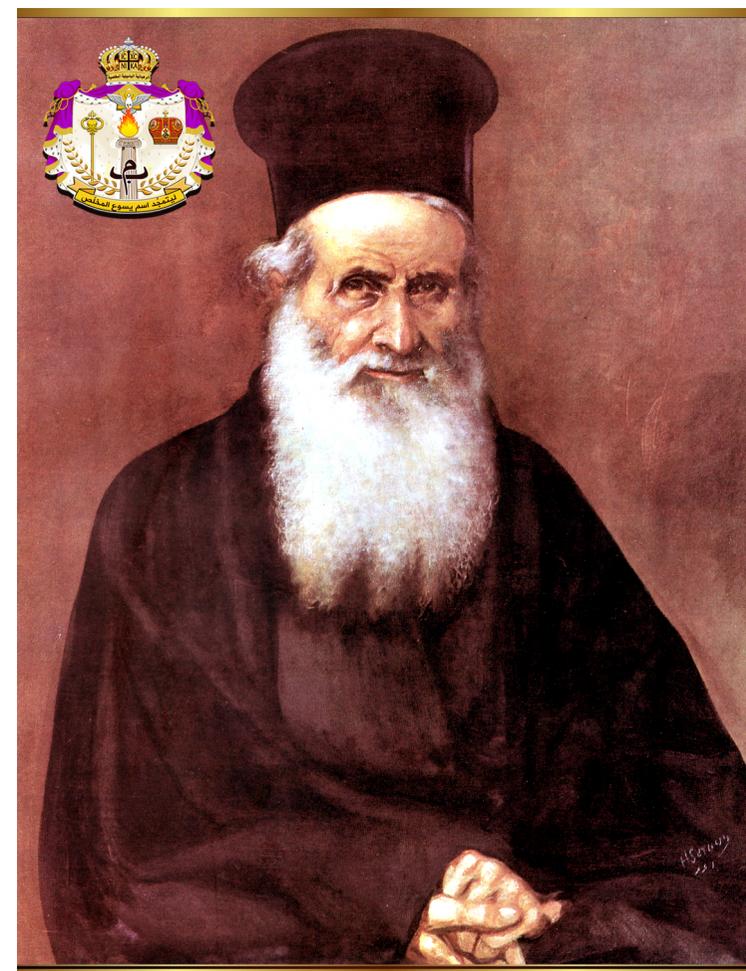
+ Nicholas Nabaa,

Archbishop of Sidon, of Deir al-Qamar and of their Dependencies.



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**The Servant of God  
 Father Beshara Abou-Mourad**

**Ascetic & Apostle  
 1853 - 1930**



**St. Savior's Monastery  
 Sidon - Lebanon**

## The Life of Father Beshara Abu Mourad and the Progress of the Cause for his Canonisation

He was born Selim Jabbour Abu Mourad in Zahleh in **May 1853** and was baptized and confirmed on 28<sup>th</sup> June of the same year.

To respond to a religious vocation, he entered St. Savior's Monastery on **5<sup>th</sup> September 1874** and took religious vows on **4<sup>th</sup> November 1876**.

On **26<sup>th</sup> December 1883** Bishop Basilius Hajjar ordained him a priest.

Between 1891 and 1922 he was in charge of the bishop's school in Deir al-Qamar and then served in the parish of Deir al-Qamar and the adjacent valley for a total of thirty-one years.

From **4<sup>th</sup> December 1922 to 1<sup>st</sup> February 1927** he was a parish priest in Sidon.

On **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1927** he returned to the motherhouse, St. Savior's.

At half-past six in the morning on **22<sup>nd</sup> February 1930** the Servant of God passed away in the fragrance of sanctity and, was buried in a particular sepulcher after a requiem attended by a large crowd.

On **8<sup>th</sup> June 1983** The Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome authorized the opening of the cause for the beatification of Father Beshara Abu Mourad at a ceremony in the Archbishopric of Sidon.

On **6<sup>th</sup> August 1984** the cause for his beatification was formally opened in the church of St. Savior's.

On **26<sup>th</sup> November 1993** the cause was officially concluded by the Archdiocese of Sidon.

On **2<sup>nd</sup> December** of the same year the cause was presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, where the decrees for its opening were issued together with recognition of the validity of the proceedings on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1994.

On **22<sup>nd</sup> April 1994** Father Daniel Ols of the Order of Preachers was appointed Postulator of the Cause by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Father Eftemios Skaff assisted him in compiling the file of the cause and in validating two principal points, namely Father Beshara's reputation for holiness and the way he practiced the theological and monastic virtues to a heroic degree.

On **6<sup>th</sup> May 1998** the file was presented to the secretariat of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints for examination and for setting a timetable.

On **10<sup>th</sup> February 2004**: The Committee of Historical Consultants examined the file, and unanimously approved the reputation of sanctity of Father Beshara and the life of the divine virtues in a heroic way.

On **18<sup>th</sup> December 2009**: The Committee of Theological Consultants examined the file, and unanimously approved the reputation of sanctity of Father Beshara and the life of the divine virtues in a heroic way.

On **10<sup>th</sup> December 2010**: Pope Benedict XVI declared Father Beshara venerable.

## Sayings of the Servant of God

If we open our hearts to our brothers the poor, Jesus Christ will open the gates of heaven to us.

I am ready to work with the children of my parish like any laborer in order to build the House of God.

Everything that a person sows in this life will be reaped in the after-life.

Prayer and repentance are the two powerful wings on which we soar to heaven.

Nothing overcomes the devil and allows you to conquer him but confession and prayer.

The poor man lacks some things but the rich man lacks everything.

Whoever rejoices in the good done by others will enjoy the same reward as they do.

The religious vows are indeed something great. They are a death chosen for the sake of God together with wholehearted faith, hope and love in God above all else.

*I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from me, warn them in my Name. If I say to a wicked man: You are to die, but you do not warn him... I will hold you responsible for his death. (Ezekial 3: 17-18)*

*Motto adopted on the day of Father Beshara's ordination to the priesthood.*

## Testimonies to the Holiness of Father Beshara

If this priest continues on the road of works of piety and austerity as at present, most certainly he will be proclaimed a saint. - Basilius Hajjar, Archbishop of Sidon and Deir al-Qamar, 1895.

Father Berhara is a lightning conductor who turns away the wrath of God from the world. - The Superior of the Brothers' School in Sidon, 1925.

When I look at him, I feel I am in front of the Cure d'Ars and everything about him speaks to me of God. - The Mother Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Sidon, 1927.

It is with deep emotion that we await the beatification of Father Beshara, for he is a blessing for us and for all the region. - Abbot Louis Bustany, Deir al-Qamar, 1935.

In every house (family) you will find the name Beshara, for it to be blessed by the name of our saint Father Beshara. - Wadih Bu Rjeily, Mukhtar of Sir Jbal, 1950.

## Wonders Attributed to Father Beshara

Mr. Yusuf Khalil Abu Safi, born in Sidon in 1903 and died in 2001, used to recount the details of how he was cured of the typhoid that was widespread after the Great War (World War I) and caused the deaths of many. In the year 1922, Yusuf fell ill and lay at death's door. After the doctors had given up all hope for him, Father Beshara happened to call on him as was his custom and blessed him and then blessed water which he gave him to drink. He further blessed a cross which he placed on the breast of Yusuf, who was cured that very same night. When the doctor heard about this, he said: "Truly Father Beshara is a saint". Yusuf Abu Safi felt a great joy and in his old age one of the priests would ask him to go along with him to a parish evening meeting, just as he had accompanied Father Beshara in his youth around St. Savior's and Deir al-Qamar. He would speak, with great emotion, about his acquaintance with Father Beshara. He used to proudly carry with him the cross as the finest heirloom that he could leave to his children and his children's children. When Father Beshara died, he took on himself the preparation of his sepulcher in the wall of the church of St. Savior's.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May 1929, after weeks of drought and hot weather in Iqleem al-Kharoub Father Beshara happened to pass in front of the Father General as he went to the church. After kissing his hand as was usual for him, the Father General told him to go into the church and to ask the Lord Jesus to send down rain out of pity for the children. Father Beshara replied that he was only a poor sinner, but the Father General said to him, "Maybe but under holy obedience go in and do as I say". About an hour after he had prayed, the weather changed, thunder rolled in the sky and down came an unusually heavy rain.

There is a small village near St. Savior's some of whose men work on the property of the monastery, while some of the women work in the adjacent convent of the Salvatorian Sisters. One of these employees, a certain Wordeh Rahhal, laundered the monks' clothes. She suffered from the onset of a malignant disease in her eye that caused her much pain. One day she picked out the clothes of Father Beshara to wash them and said to herself, "This holy priest must cure me". Out of her simple faith she took some of the water from the tub and washed her face with it, particularly her eyes. The next day she was cured and stopped using all her medicine.