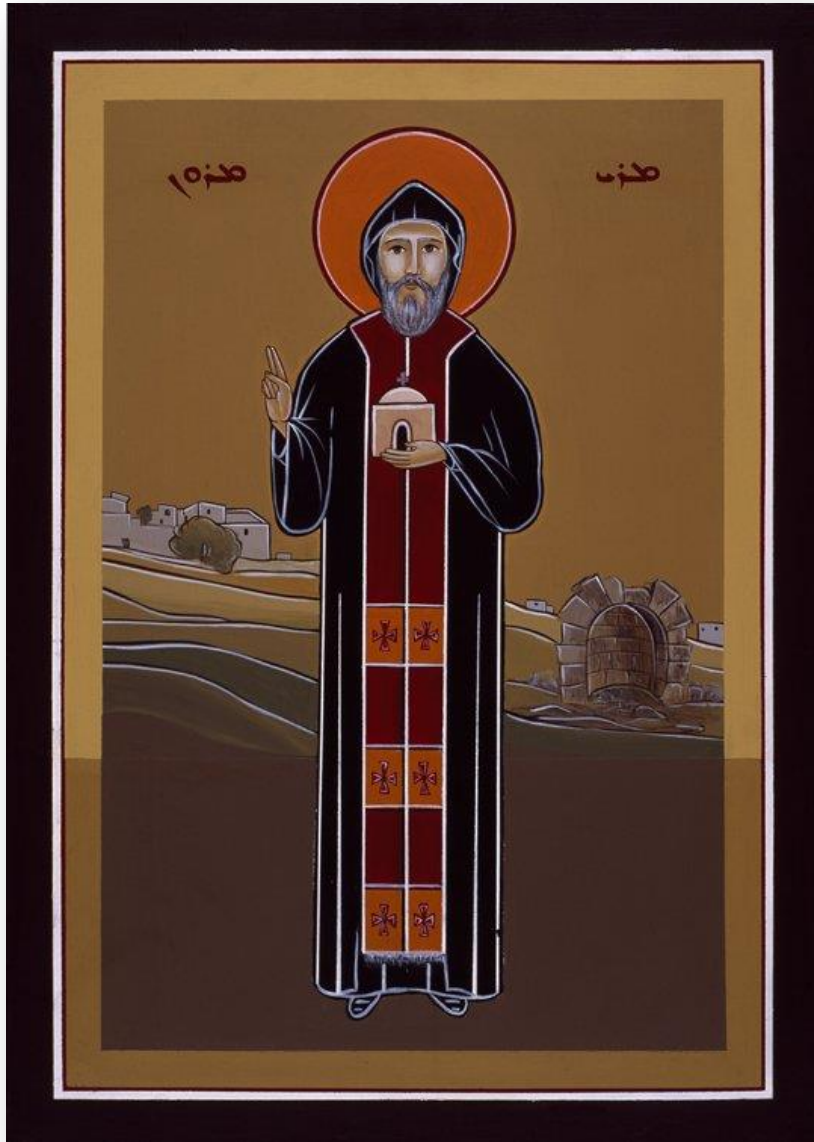


Saint Maron -- مار مارون



St. Maron's Feast Day is celebrated on February 9.

Maron was born in the fourth century and died around the year 410. He was a priest that later became a hermit, who lived near Cyrrhus in Syria on a mountain which we believe was called *Kefar-Nabo*.

He was known for his missionary work, miraculous healing, and teachings of Christian monotheism. His life of sanctity and miracles attracted many followers and drew attention throughout the Mediterranean empire.

Among his friends was Saint John Chrysostom, one of whose letters to him has survived. Maron was buried at a place between Apamea and Homs, where a monastery was built over his tomb.

Maron is the Father of the spiritual and monastic movement now called the Maronite Catholic Church, which bases its name on that monastery, which in Syriac was called: *Bet Moroun*.

After his death, the Maronite movement reached Lebanon, and has had a profound influence there. To this day, Lebanon remains the Spiritual home of the Maronites.

The followers of Saint Maron, clergy, religious, and laity, have always remained faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, in union with the Pope of Rome.