

Estephan II Boutros El Douaihy -- اسطفانوس الثاني بطرس الدويهي



Patriarch **Estephan II Boutros El Douaihy** (Arabic: اسطفانوس الثاني بطرس الدويهي) was born in Ehden, Lebanon on August 2, 1630. He was the Patriarch of the Maronite Church from 1670 to 1704.

He is considered one of the major Lebanese Historians of the 17th century and was known as “The Father of Maronite History”, “Pillar of the Maronite Church”, “The Second Chrysostom”, “Splendor of the Maronite Nation”, “The Glory of Lebanon and the Maronites”. He was declared Servant of God by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints under Protocol number 2145. On July 3, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to draw up a decree on the **heroic virtues** of Patriarch El Douaihy who will be referred to as **Venerable** from the moment of publication of the decree. This is an important step in the ongoing Beatification process.

Douaihy strongly believed in the social importance of education and science (being an amateur scientist himself). Given the importance of learning, and his experience in how far European education exceeded Oriental, he pursued a successful policy of sending as many Maronites to Rome as possible, to become capable of returning to the villages in which the Maronite peasantry lived, and raising the level of general education. Douaihy established a college in Aleppo, which became the base for the development of renewed monastic orders. As with his educational policy, his monastic renewal was a success, and still bears fruit today.

Of the many works of Patriarch El Douaihy, the vast bulk are still available only in Arabic. A selection has been translated into French by Youakim Moubarac in *Pentalogie antiochienne/domaine Maronite*. That selection focusses upon his discussion of the rites and ceremonies of the Maronite Church. However, his major work is a general history book, *Tarikh Al Azminah*, available in several versions. The official website of Patriarch Douaihy was launched in September 2010, in which his Biography, Beatification, Videos, Audio, Photos, Prayers, Testimonials, Books from him and about him can be found at www.douaihysaint.com