



Blessed **Abouna Yaacoub** was born on 1 February 1875, in the village of Ghazir from two pious parents. He was baptized at the Church of Our Lady of Habshieh given the name of *Khalil*. He grew up in his village and attended school at St Francis Parish. He was then moved to St Louis School known as the 'Mazar' School.

After his graduation from 'La Sagesse' School in Beirut, he worked as a teacher at Alexandria, Egypt, to assist his parents in raising his brothers and sisters. He was an excellent tutor; he taught his students virtues and knowledge. There, he heard the *call* telling him to leave the world, hold the Cross and follow Christ, so he said: "*I shall be a priest*".

His wish was answered and he entered the Saint Anthony Convent of the Capuchin Fathers in Khashbau, Ghazir in 1893. On 26 March 1894, he was given the *robe of novitiate* and the name of Brother Yaacoub.

Brother Yaacoub the Capuchin lived the novitiate with great conviction and idealism. He became a good example in all his attitudes, surrendering to the Providence and responding to the will of his superiors with much obedience, joy, patience and morality. He was a **ROLE MODEL OF PRIESTHOOD**.

In 1951, on his 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood, *Abouna Yaacoub* has transformed the Convent of the Cross from an asylum to a hospital for mental and psychological diseases. He attained an official recognition by the Lebanese government of the *Lebanese Cedars' Medal*. He was the Pioneer in Philanthropy.

After a life full of struggles, *Abouna Yaacoub* was struck by a disease and sight shortage. He passed away holding the Cross of the Lord, on Saturday morning, 26 June 1954, and was buried near the altar at the new Church.

On 23 June 2008, *Abouna Yaacoub* was beatified, making him one step closer to sainthood. Tens of thousands of people gathered in *Martyrs' Square* in Beirut to witness the beatification of *Abouna Yaacoub Haddad*, the late Capuchin priest who gained fame for his prolific work. This Founder of an order of nuns expanded the Capuchin school network and established a number of religious and social institutions, some of which have gained iconic status in Lebanon.