



The Life of the Blessed Brother Estephan Nehme

Born Joseph, son of Estephan Nehme and Christina El Badawi Hanna Khaled from Lehfed – Jbeil. One of six children and the youngest of four boys: Sarkis, Nimatullah, Haykal and Joseph, and the girls Toufica and Froussina. He was born in March, 1889.

He grew up in an agricultural mountainous environment, but he acquired some principles of reading and writing in the village school and in Our Lady of Grace School in Sakii Rishmaya (a school pertaining to the Lebanese Maronite Order).

Two years after the death of his father, in the year 1905 he joined the Lebanese Maronite Order in St. Cyprian & Justine monastery in Kfifan. In the Novitiate he took the name of Estephan, after his father's name and the village patron.

The Novice teacher in Kfifan was then the righteous Father Eghnatious Dagher El-Tannouri. After two years in the Novitiate, he took his monastic vows on 23 August, 1907. He was chosen to be one of the assistant brothers, so he specialized in carpentry and construction, in addition to the work in the field. He was known for his strong built body.

He spent his life in the LMO working on the gardens of the monasteries in which he lived: Our Lady of Mayfouk, Saint Antonios- Hoob, Saint Challita – Kattara, Saint Maroun – Aanaya, Our Lady of Help (Maouneit) – Jbeil and St. Cyprian & Justine – Kfifan. In all these monasteries he used to be the head of the field. He used to work with his brothers the monks and the laborers in silence, love and respect. Everybody admits to his righteousness and honesty. He was the faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, reflecting his image wherever he went, and transmitting his Good News to all of his contemporaries.

He was never at rest, his life centered at living the bylaw of the Lebanese Maronite Order and its spirituality with preciseness and integrity, following the steps of the monks who were righteous, distributing his time between work and prayers, till the last days of his life when he passed away on 30 August, 1938 at the age of 49. He was buried in Kfifan Monastery where his corps remained intact. His sanctity was first debated on 27 November 2001, until Pope Benedictus XVI confirmed his heroic virtues on 17th of December 2007 becoming the fourth among his brothers, the children of the Lebanese Maronite Order: Charbel, Rafka and Nimatullah.