

## **Archmandrite Mikhael Razzouk**

I was born into an Orthodox Christian family in Beirut, Lebanon in 1980 to Labib and Lisette Razzouk. I have two younger brothers, Gaby and Tony. Today, my parents and youngest brother, Tony, reside in Ottawa, and my brother Gabriel and his wife and children live in Beirut.

I attended the Saint Vincent De Paul School, the Nazareth School and graduated in 2000 from the Dekwaneh High School. After passing the Lebanese BaccaLaureates I and II, I enrolled in the Lebanese University and graduated with a Bachelor's in History in 2006.

I studied Byzantine music in the Beirut Archdiocese in 1993 and later taught in the Archdioceses of Beirut, Mount Lebanon and Tripoli Byzantine music department. I was a member of the Beirut Archdiocese choir, Mount Lebanon choir (SEM) and the Russian church choir in Beirut.

From my early childhood, I attended the church of the convent of the Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple in Achrafieh Beirut, where I became the conductor of the choir.

Thanks be to God, I have one recorded Byzantine chant CD of the Nativity of Christ (2005) and many other recordings.

I conducted a girls youth choir in Boston in 2009 called "The Unfading Rose" where they recorded their first CD.

In 2006, during the summer war in Lebanon, I moved to Canada and later wrote a letter to Metropolitan Philip Saliba (of thrice blessed memory) requesting his blessing to enter seminary. I was directed to attend Holy Cross Greek Orthodox seminary in Brookline, MA, from which I graduated in 2009 with my Masters of Divinity.

By the grace of God, I have been able to author many spiritual articles in Arabic and translated many books from English to Arabic including "Saint Paisios the Friend of Children" and from Church Slavonic to Arabic "Matins, Orthros and the nine Odes of the Feast of Saint Elizabeth Fiodorovna" and "the new martyr Barbara". I translated and composed many services into Byzantine music including the Paraklisis of Saint Stelianos. I have written and composed many lyrics for church songs.

After graduating from Holy Cross in May of 2009, I returned back to Lebanon for a spiritual retreat in Saint Archangel Michael monastery in Mount Lebanon where I was Ordained to the Diaconate on November 29, 2009. After my ordination I returned back to Canada to serve in Saint Mary church in Montreal where I was ordained to the priesthood on May 16, 2010.

Following my ordination, I returned back to Lebanon to serve in the Tripoli Archdiocese in November of 2010 and continue to serve to the present day.

I helped establish a new church and parish of Saint Elias in Dahr El-Ain, Koura. This parish has approximately five hundred families.

I was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite on May 29, 2016.

Glory to God, I am able to serve the Divine Liturgy in five languages: Arabic, English, French, Greek and Church Slavonic.