



Discover the Riches of Byzantine Spirituality

in the works of

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH RAYA

*Archbishop Joseph Raya is one of the world's foremost writers
on the rich spirituality of Byzantine Christianity.*

*He is a priest and bishop of the Melkite Catholic Church
and Former Archbishop of Akka, Haifa, Nazareth and all Galilee.*

www.madonnahouse.org/publications/raya

Archbishop Joseph Raya

Archbishop Joseph Raya is a man permeated with the Gospel message of love. Having heard the hymns of the Resurrection from the very womb of his mother, it was no wonder that early in life, he made a clear decision to commit himself to the joy that is at the heart of all Christian faith: the glorious reality of Christ risen from the dead. It is this conviction and this joy that radiates from every cell of his being, in his preaching, writing and actions, in his dedication to the Byzantine Church, and in his courage to live the arduous Gospel message of love.

Born in Zahle, Lebanon on the Feast of the Assumption, 1917, Joseph Raya was nurtured in childhood by the Byzantine liturgy and traditions. After studies in Paris and having attended the Seminary of the White Fathers in Jerusalem, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1941 and sent to Cairo, Egypt as superintendent of schools and later director of the Patriarchal College there. At the Patriarch's request, he came to the United States in 1948.

In those years before the Second Vatican Council, Father Raya had the vision and courage to serve his people in the vernacular. Overcoming numerous obstacles, he translated and published the *Byzantine Missal* in English in 1958, together with Baron Jose de Vinck. Their *Byzantine Daily Worship*, published ten years later and covering the entire liturgical year, would become the standard English liturgical book for both Byzantine Catholics and Orthodox. From 1955–65 he was the official spokesman for the Patriarchates of Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem at the liturgical conferences and conventions of the United States.

In 1950 Father Raya became pastor of St. George's Melkite parish in Birmingham, Alabama. No stranger to prejudice, he became deeply involved in the civil rights movement, joining the struggle for the freedom and dignity of the human being, created in the image and likeness of God. He was a close friend of Martin Luther King Jr. and often marched at his side. Because of this, and because he insisted on welcoming African Americans into his church, he was twice badly beaten by the Ku Klux Klan.

In 1967 he was elected by the Holy Synod of the Three Patriarchates as Archbishop of Haifa, Akka, Nazareth and all Galilee. The years following the Six Days' War were a time of transition and turmoil in Israel. Archbishop Raya's Gospel vision encompassed all peoples and races. He was committed to building peace, justice and love between Christians, Muslims and Jews. He constantly translated his convictions into action, demanding of the Israeli government justice for all Palestinians, especially those living in Israel, and who had lost their homes and property. In August 1972, he led the historic Peace

March to the Knesset, involving 24,000 Arabs and Jews. His witness was a prophetic one, and he was often misunderstood and attacked.

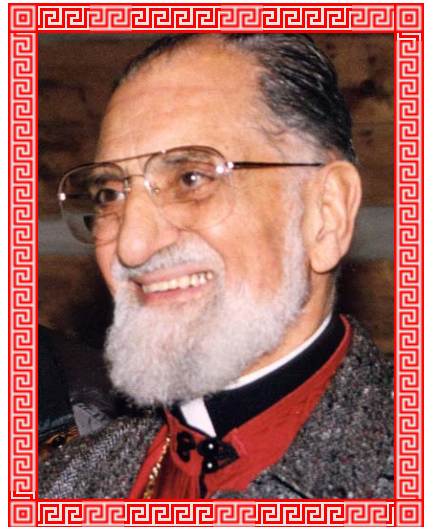
Returning to North America in 1976, the Archbishop took up permanent residence at the Madonna House Training Center in Combermere, Ontario, where he had become the first associate priest in 1958. Catherine Doherty, the Russian-born foundress of this community of lay men, lay women and priests, had instantly recognized him as one who could help incarnate her vision of a Church breathing with the two lungs of East and West. His teaching and celebration of the Byzantine liturgy was described as “overflowing with God.”

During the next seven years, Archbishop Joseph taught at Fordham University in New York City, St. Paul’s Seminary in Ottawa, Christ the King Seminary and Franciscan University in Buffalo, and the Theological Institute of St. Paul in Lebanon. He wrote poetry, composed music in the Greek and Arab traditions, translated ancient liturgical works into English, and wrote scholarly texts. In 1983 he was delegated by the Holy Synod to renew the theological studies in Melkite seminaries and monasteries according to Byzantine traditions. He wrote an entire theological curriculum in Arabic called *Byzantine Theology* for Lebanon, Israel, Egypt and Syria.

In response to the need of the Melkite Church, Archbishop Raya returned to war-torn Lebanon in the 1980’s to look after the spiritual needs of priests, nuns and lay people whose lives had been shattered by war and hatred. Symbolically, the Archbishop began planting trees—thousands of trees, and vineyards! This action gave people hope for the future and the courage to commit themselves to their land. He offered them the freedom of the Gospel.

Following his return to Canada in 1990, the Archbishop continued to write: *The Face of God*, *Abundance of Love*, and *Byzantine Church and Culture* were followed by the beginning of a series on the Twelve Great Feasts of the Byzantine Church.

A man of extraordinary inner freedom and spontaneity, Archbishop Joseph Raya is one of those rare individuals who understands the essence of the Gospel and transmits it simply. Stepping outside the usual conventions of spirituality, he sets us on fire with his vision of the beauty of all God’s creation, and of the freedom, dignity and divine worth inherent in every single person made in the image and likeness of God.



Celebration!



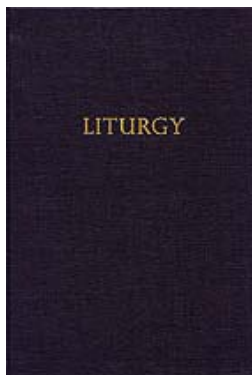
*Discover the glories
of the Byzantine
Divine Liturgy —
as explained by a
bishop who loves
them above all
earthly things*

In *Celebration!*, Archbishop Joseph Raya offers a series of profoundly felt and beautifully written meditations on the Divine Liturgy and its significance as an earthly paradise and a taste of Heaven, a garden of living truth, and a place of rebirth. He offers three principal ways to understand Byzantine worship and mines the writings of the great Fathers of the Church for poetic, evocative, and spiritually enlightening insights on the nature of God, the meaning and importance of worship, the true nature of the Liturgy, and much more. Along the way Archbishop Raya includes innumerable thought-provoking observations on a wide variety of subjects: why liturgical language should not be identical to modern speech, how and why Christians make the Sign of the Cross, why candles and incense should be used in worship, the meaning and importance of icons, how the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom should properly be celebrated, and much more. Every page is full of Archbishop Raya's radiant love for God.

"This book is not only for reading," says Archbishop Raya. "It must be reread several times in a prayerfully humble attitude. It is for study clubs, seminarians, priests and bishops alike." Whatever your state in life, these meditations will bring you to a new and deeper appreciation for the God who loves you so much that He gives you the gift of His very self.

166 pages. ISBN 1-892278-42-1
Hardcover: \$24.95 U.S. (\$34.95 Canada) Paperback: \$19.95 U.S. (\$24.95 Can.)

The Divine and Holy Liturgy of Our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom



*A handsome new
setting of the
celebration of the
most awesome and
sacred mystery of
our Christian
faith: the
Divine Liturgy*

Here is a stunningly beautiful revised edition of Archbishop Joseph Raya's translation of the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, the jewel and centerpiece of Byzantine spirituality. Archbishop Raya here instills into his translation a renewed sense of reverence and awe before the immense majesty and incomprehensible love of God our Father.

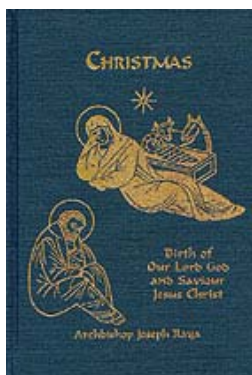
This edition contains a new Foreword by Archbishop Raya, explaining how the Divine Liturgy developed against the backdrop of the great ancient heresies about the Person and Nature of our Lord Jesus, and that as such it contains a full and serene exposition of who Christ is and why He came to earth. The Archbishop explores the meaning of our salvation and of the Holy Eucharist and Divine Liturgy on a cosmic level, a human level, and a psychological level, and shows how the gestures and rituals of the Liturgy should be performed and why they matter. He includes four prayers of thanksgiving, each halloved by centuries of use by faithful Christians, and a helpful section giving additional directions for celebrants and offering clarifications of various aspects of the Divine Liturgy that may puzzle newcomers to the glories of Eastern spirituality.

Like all of Archbishop Raya's work, this edition of the Divine Liturgy doesn't supply simply a text and some technical directions — rather, it is suffused with the Archbishop's joy in Christ and enthusiastic love for Him.

96 pages. ISBN 0-911726-64-0
Hardcover: \$12.95 U.S. (\$14.95 Canada)

Christmas

Birth of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ



*When God became
Man — the
Eastern Church's
perspective,
explained by
Archbishop Raya*

Think you know everything there is to know about Christmas? In *Christmas: Birth of Our Lord God and Saviour, Jesus Christ & His Private Life*, Archbishop Joseph Raya delves deeply into the traditions and spirituality of the Eastern Church in order to open up dimensions of this familiar Feast that even the most fervent celebrator of the Incarnation of God in Christ has probably overlooked.

Archbishop Raya begins at the very beginning, with an in-depth look at how God reveals Himself to man, detailing three “Bibles” that disclose something of His nature and purposes — the third being Jesus Himself, become man through the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. He explores the human face of God through iconography (particularly the icons of the Face of Christ and that of the Nativity) and

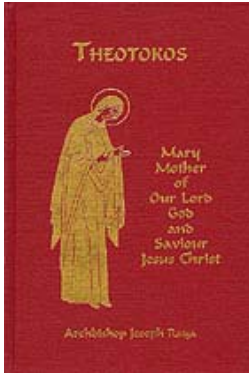
the Gospel stories of Jesus’ birth; elucidates the place of Christmas in God’s plan for the redemption of the universe; celebrates God’s pre-Incarnation “alliances” with Noah, Abraham, and Moses; and briefly surveys the development of the great Feast of Christmas in the life of the Church.

That’s not all. Archbishop Raya includes detailed explanations of the Jesus Prayer, which animates so much of Byzantine spirituality, and of the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus — the first public event in the life of Christ. Thought-provoking, exhaustively researched and imbued with a fervent love for God, *Christmas* is a perfect companion to your celebrations of Christ’s Incarnation.

140 pages. ISBN 0-921440-45-6
Hardcover: \$14.95 (U.S.) / \$16.95 (Canadian)

Theotokos

Mary Mother of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ



*Renew and deepen
your love for the
Mother of Jesus
with this
exploration of her
role in Christian
tradition —
and in Christian
living today*

If you love Mary, you're sure to love the superb celebration of our Blessed Mother that is *Theotokos: Mary Mother of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ*.

With enthusiasm and poetic sensibility, Archbishop Raya discusses Mary as both Virgin and Mother, explaining motherhood as a profound knowing of another person, a presence, a sharing, and a means of intercession, and virginity as perfect freedom and glory. He even provides a brief introduction to the historical developments leading up to Mary's being affirmed as the Mother of God at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D.

Archbishop Raya uses Byzantine icons in order to explore various ways the Church has understood and celebrated Mary and her special role in our salvation, as well as the meanings of pivotal events in her life — from her conception in the womb of St. Anne, her nativity, and her entrance into the Temple to her giving

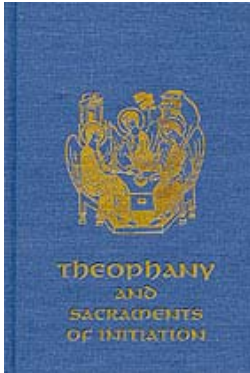
birth to Jesus and her Assumption into Heaven.

Above all, Archbishop Raya examines Mary's role in our Christian life. He gives a concise history of how the Church has honored Mary in the Liturgy, in preaching, and in pilgrimages, and uses the Acatist Hymn of the Eastern Church in order to emphasize her importance for each individual Christian. Here, then, is Archbishop Joseph Raya's outpouring of love for the Mother of God.

138 pages. ISBN 0-921440-40-5

Hardcover: \$14.95 U.S. (\$16.95 Canada) Paperback: \$9.95 U.S. (\$12.50 Canada)

Theophany and Sacraments of Initiation



*Baptism,
Confirmation, and
the Holy Eucharist:
a theological
exploration
and a spiritual
celebration!*

In *Theophany*, you'll find a comprehensive introduction to the three sacraments that mark our entry into the fullness of the Christian life: Baptism, Confirmation (or Chrismation), and the Eucharist.

Overflowing with love and gratitude, Archbishop Joseph Raya explains how the sacraments allow us to experience the presence of God. Then he discusses each of these sacraments in turn, through the prism of the Feast that the Western Church calls Epiphany and the Eastern Church Theophany. He shows why exorcism has a place in Baptism; how Baptism enables us to enter the Kingdom of God; the effects of Confirmation in giving us access to the gifts of the Holy Spirit; how the Eucharist is a participation in Christ's sacrifice; and how the Church came to understand the Trinity, the Incarnation, redemption, and

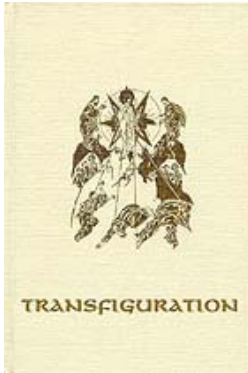
the divinization of the individual Christian. He also illuminates many other key elements of these sacraments. With a keen awareness of the implications of God's sacramental presence, he even explores the spiritual meaning of the universe.

Finally, Archbishop Raya unfolds the Nicene Creed as a spiritual text, awakening you to riches within it that most likely you never knew were there. This book is no dry theological exposition! Instead, it's a celebration of the mercy and compassion of the God who so loved the world that He gave us His Son and left us these sacramental means of growing closer to Him.

198 pages. ISBN 0-921440-37-5

Hardcover: \$15.95 U.S. (\$17.95 Canada) Paperback: \$9.95 U.S. (\$12.50 Canada)

Transfiguration of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ



A wonderfully accessible and profoundly mystical exploration of the Transfiguration: the manifestation of God's glory in Christ

In the sumptuously illustrated book *Transfiguration of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*, Archbishop Joseph Raya explores the meaning of this great Biblical event as a sign of God's glory, a manifestation of the Holy Trinity, and a revelation of Christ as a Divine Person. He also explores Old Testament manifestations of God to Moses, Solomon, and Elijah; Gospel notions of divinity including light, whiteness, and glory; and the transformative effect of the Transfiguration on the Apostles, particularly Peter and John. Above all, he helps you see the Transfiguration as a glorious celebration — of God in Christ and of the renewal of your own heart by His grace.

Most importantly, Archbishop Raya shows how the Transfiguration provides a mystical pattern for your Christian life, foreshadowing the divinization that awaits every Christian: as a great early saint put it,

“God became man so that man might become God.” He details the spirituality of the Transfiguration in four steps: purification, prayer, contemplation, and illumination, culminating in a breathtaking summation of the mystical meaning of the Transfiguration.

Making frequent reference to Scripture and to the writings of the great saints and Fathers of the Church, *Transfiguration* is grand appreciation of the event that Archbishop Raya sums up as a call to each of us “to love and forgive as God Himself loves and forgives. It is to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.”

120 pages. ISBN 0-921440-29-4
Hardcover: \$14.95 U.S. (\$16.95 Canada)

Byzantine Church and Culture



A brief, enlightening introduction to the profound spirituality of the Christian East — and the culture that it created

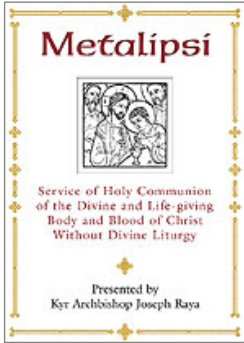
Byzantine Church and Culture is the perfect introduction to the East for a Western Christian who is intrigued by Byzantine spirituality and wants to learn more. Long ago, Archbishop Joseph Raya's friend, Martin Luther King, Jr., asked him, "Father Joe, what are the roots of your Church culture?" In this book is the answer.

Archbishop Raya traces the influences that formed, in the cauldron of first-millennium Constantinople, the Byzantine Church and its unique and profound perspective on the great truths of our Christian faith. He outlines the Emperor Constantine's decision to build a new imperial capital in the East, which became the great city of Constantinople, and provides a brief but comprehensive sketch of the historical development of the Eastern and Western churches. He explains how and why differing views of papal power and the Creed (particularly the notorious "Filioque" clause) ultimately led to a breach that has lasted a thousand years and remains unhealed today. Recalling history and pious legend, Archbishop Raya recounts the tale of the last Divine Liturgy in the great Hagia Sophia cathedral in Constantinople, the radiant devotion of the people of Constantinople for the Mother of God, the union in Constantinople of heavenly Jerusalem and Babylon, and more. He even includes a bibliography, so that you will know where to turn for more information about this glorious civilization that has given so much to the universal Church.

72 pages. ISBN 0-911726-55-1

Hardcover: \$9.95 U.S. (\$12.50 Canada) Paperback: \$6.95 U.S. (\$8.95 Canada)

Metalipsi



*From the
Byzantine
tradition:
a stirring service of
Holy Communion
without
Divine Liturgy*

This compact and attractive book contains a series of prayers and hymns for a service of Holy Communion without Divine Liturgy — a service suffused with the spiritual power and majesty of the Eastern Church. Archbishop Joseph Raya, an internationally renowned authority on the Byzantine liturgical and spiritual tradition, includes an informative preface containing a Byzantine perspective on Holy Communion, explaining why it is the most sacred and most awesome sacrament of the Christian religion. Archbishop Raya also brings all the richness of his deep, traditional, and wonderfully enthusiastic faith to brief meditations on the Church, explaining why the Eucharist not only symbolizes but also expresses the Christian reality of the Church. And that's not all! He discusses union with Christ (showing why Holy Communion is the climax of our participation in the offering of Christ) — as well as Heaven, transformation into Christ, and much more.

Sturdily spiral-bound so that it lays flat easily on a crowded altar or service table, this book contains the hallowed Biblical hymn of repentance, Psalm 50; an ancient Canon of nine odes including prayers to

the Theotokos, the Mother of God, translated by an Eastern nun from Old Church Slavonic; a prayer to the Theotokos by Paul the Cenobite; and four prayers of thanksgiving after Holy Communion. Hallowed by time and the profound devotion of multitudes of believers, these prayers will bring the splendor and reverence of the East to your Communion service.

32 pages. Spiral bound: \$4.95 U.S. (\$6.95 Canada)



Abundance of Love *The Incarnation and Byzantine Tradition*

Archbishop Joseph Raya shares what the Eastern Byzantine Church has experienced of the life and love of the Lord.

144 pages. Paperback: \$8.95 U.S. (\$11.25 Canada)



The Face of God *An Introduction to Eastern Spirituality*

Archbishop Joseph Raya provides an easy to read synopsis of the doctrinal themes pervading Eastern Christian spiritual life.

220 pages. Paperback: \$8.95 U.S. (\$11.25 Canada)

“All that Archbishop Raya is – and all that he has done in his life – can be summed up as a hymn of praise to the Trinity.

“He has touched many lives because he is able to communicate through his own generous and loving heart, the immense, incomprehensible tenderness of God. He has written many books, books that open doors to the mystery of God, not to explain or argue some fine points of theology but to bring the Gospel to us in a vibrant, joyous way.” — *Catherine de Vinck, American Catholic poet*

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