**Patriarch, Patriot and Humanitarian, Anthony R. Abraham**

**1911-2011**

Mr. Anthony R. Abraham was born February 25, 1911 in Youngstown, Ohio. Growing up in less than modest means, Anthony Abraham made a vow . . .

“**If by the grace of God I ever could, I would feed the poor and help the sick.”**

He was able to live out that vow and devoted his life to helping others. Few people are capable of the type of philanthropy that changes lives. He saw the world with empathetic eyes and made a difference through his unparalleled generosity to so many needy causes around the world.

Mr. Abraham was a very successful Lebanese–American businessman. He built the legendary Anthony Abraham Chevrolet Company in Miami, the largest Chevrolet dealership in the U.S. He was an honored leader in children’s philanthropy, a benefactor of numerous orphanages and children’s medical facilities throughout the world including ones in Lebanon and Haiti.

A devout Roman Catholic of the Maronite Rite, he has received numerous papal honors. A true gentleman-knight and keeper of our faith, he has been bestowed with the following titles:

Knight Commander, Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great (KCSG)

Knight Commander with Star, Pontifical Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem (KC\*HS)

 Knight of Magistral Grace of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (KM)

 Knight of Columbus, Fourth Degree

He has made major donations of time, talent, and treasure to the Maronite Church in the U.S., which includes:

The Maronite Seminary, Washington D.C. ($1million)

The Eparchy of Saint Maron, Brooklyn N.Y. ($1million)

Our Lady of Lebanon Church, Miami (over $1 million)

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Fort Lauderdale

The Maronite Church in Washington D.C

In addition, millions of dollars more to other churches, schools, and organizations:

Archdiocese of Port au Prince, Haiti

Brothers of the Good Shepherd

Christopher Columbus High School

St. John Bosco Learning Center

Church of the Epiphany

St. Jude Melkite Catholic Church, Miami

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Miami

Boys Town Catholic Charities

Anthony Abraham was extremely generous to many hospitals and charities in his beloved Lebanon donating millions of dollars over the years. Here are some of those organizations:

Catholic Near East Welfare Association, which includes:

Eucharistic Center of Charity

Maronite Order of the Holy Family

Little Sisters of Nazareth

The Spastic Center (Araya, Lebanon)

The Crèche Saint Vincent de Paul (Ashrafieh, Beirut)

The Lebanese Hospital (Geitawi), which includes:

The Genevieve Abraham School of Nursing

The Anthony and Genevieve Abraham Intensive Care Unit

The Anthony and Genevieve Abraham New Emergency Center

An entire Pavilion of Anthony and Genevieve dedicated to Neuro Cardio Vascular Diseases

Ambulances and Elevators

In addition, other charities in Lebanon:

The Secretariat General of the Maronite Patriarchate (Bkirki, Lebanon)

The Pontifical Mission (Zalka, Lebanon)

The School for the Blind and Deaf (Babda, Lebanon)

The Orphanage of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family (Ibrine, Lebanon).

Our Lady of Joy Orphanage (Ain Saade, Lebanon).

Caritas-Liban (Beirut, Lebanon)

The Eucharistic Center Orphanage (Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon)

Saint Jude Children Research Hospital (Beirut, Lebanon)

The Lebanese Red Cross (Beirut, Lebanon)

Al Younbou'h (Jounieh, Lebanon)

In addition, $1 million to Patriarch Sfier in to Middle East to establish a Secretariat Office.

In 1962, Mr. Abraham was one of the founding members of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, founded by Danny Thomas. One of 12 original board members, Abraham has contributed millions of dollars to the hospital in his lifetime, including a $1 million donation in 1994 for an Atrium honoring the memory of his late wife Genevieve Harris Abraham. He and Genevieve were the perennial sponsors and Chairpersons for the Greater Miami Miracle Ball held annually for over 30 years at the Fontainebleau Hotel on Miami Beach that raised several million dollars for the St. Jude hospital.

In addition to St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Mr. Abraham has helped the terminally ill thru his personal and financial work and sponsorship in the following organizations:

 Miami’s Children Research Hospital

Maronite Order of the Holy Family Lebanese Hospital ($1 million for renovations in 2001)

Geitawi Hospital, Lebanon

Doctors without Borders

Miami Heart Research Institute

Cancer Link

Mr. Abraham and the Anthony R. Abraham Family Foundation has donated untold sums to care for the homeless and needy, including but not limited:

Camillus House, Miami

Camillus Health Concern, Miami

Brothers of the Good Shepard (school, farm, and housing for children in Haiti)

Feeding South Florida

America’s Second Harvest, Chicago, and Miami

Miami Rescue Mission

Boys Town of Italy (under the direction of Monsignor Carroll Abbing)

Haitian Boy’s Orphanage

In addition, to other worthy causes:

The Victory Center for Autism and Behavioral Challenges

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Best Buddies

Barry University

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Jackson Memorial Hospital

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami

Alonzo Mourning Charities

The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind

Mr. Abraham was the honorary consul of Lebanon in Miami for more than thirty years. He received numerous awards and recognitions including The Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Syrian-Lebanese–American “Man of the Year”, Big Brothers Big Sisters “Man of the Year”, Outstanding Catholic for the Year Award by the National Conference of Christian and Jews, the Rene Moawad Foundation “Man of the Year” for his outstanding humanitarian efforts throughout the Middle East, and the “American Hero Award” from the American Ambassador to Lebanon. He was elected President of the World Lebanese Cultural Union and awarded the Commander of Cedars Medalist award, the highest civilian honor bestowed on a non-citizen of Lebanon.

Anthony Abraham devoted his life to helping others personally and through the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation that he founded in 1976. In addition to the extraordinary number of charities identified, he did so many things behind the scenes. Everyone has a different story about his generosity. When a man became ill and could no longer support his family, Mr. Abraham sent bags of groceries and provided dairy products to the family for several years. This is one of hundreds of similar stories.

He was considered an icon in this community. There are many Cuban-American immigrants to whom he gave their first job, several of whom have named their children “Anthony” after him. Early in his career, when the City of Miami couldn’t afford holiday lights to decorate downtown Flagler Street one year, he paid for that. A seasonal delight for hundreds of visitors and passersby was the Christmas lighting and Nativity display extravaganza at the Abraham home each December, which became a cherished holiday tradition for over 40 years. This coupled with personally paid for full page color advertisements routinely taken out in The Miami Herald graphically depicting the true meanings of Christmas, Easter, and his beloved United States patriotic holidays, were trademark Anthony R. Abraham characteristics.

If there was ever a Knight of Malta whose every living day was dedicated towards service to others and devotion to God, Family, and Country, as evidenced by his deeds, it was Sir Anthony R. Abraham, who lived long enough to reach 100 years, and whose life is celebrated each day by the thousands of people all over the world who praise his memory.