



**METANOIA**

LISTENING CENTER مرکز اِصْفَاء

# REPORT

## Family Day Event -3-

03 – JULY – 2022

[www.metanoialb.org](http://www.metanoialb.org)

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## I. EVENT DETAILS

- **Event title:** Yes For Family!
- **Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2022
- **Venue :** Foyer de la providence Salhiye - Saida
- **Duration:** 08:30 am to 16:30 pm
- **Organizer:** Metanoia Listening Center-MLC Team- and partners
- **Sponsoring Organization:** Aid to the Church in Need (A.C.N.)
- **Participants:** Families from four dioceses, volunteers from different organizations, priests, and archbishops.
- **Number of participants:** around 1600 participants



## II. INTRODUCTION

The family day event of this year was under the title “**Yes For Family!**” organized by Metanoia Listening Center (MLC). The event was in collaboration with the four dioceses present in south Lebanon (Greek Catholic Archdiocese of Saida and Deir Al Kamar, Maronite Archdiocese of Saida, Greek Catholic Archdiocese of Tyr, Maronite Archdiocese of Tyr). It took place in the Foyer de la Providence Salhiye on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2022.

It was the first event since 2018, due to covid-19 pandemic and the impact of the economic crises in Lebanon.

The big day that many people have been waiting for, finally came through the help of MLC team, and cooperative partners (Maronite Scout- Darb-Es-Sim, MIDADE, JEC, CJS, Caritas, metanoia’s family committee) they all gave their best to accomplish this mission till the end.

Moreover, the well-organized coordination between the MLC team and the priests in the parishes, along with the good help from key persons in villages in publishing info about the event and mobilizing families in the communities to register their names and facilitate their access for participation... All the hard work manifested on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July with an amazing family day touched the minds and hearts.

In fact, one of the main objectives of this collaboration with the social and religious entities is to create a mutual support and a strong network of relationship to re-activate and refresh the sense of responsibility among parishes members toward social services in the greatest communities. The result of all efforts put in by all these different actors who worked shoulder to shoulder by following all the detailed instructions and ensuring

the best interest according to each category of participants (infant, children, youth, parents, adults...).

## Participants

Around One thousand six hundred person (1600 participants) attended this event:

# 40 infants 0-3 years old

# 400 child 4-13 years old

# 136 youth 14-18 years old

# 870 adults 18+ years old

#150 volunteers (Maronite Scout- Darb-Es-Sim, MIDADE, JEC, CJS, Caritas, metanoia's members, family committee)

## III. DESCRIPTION OF FAMILY DAY EVENT

Behind the exceptional success of the family day, there were series of preparation steps that came before, in collaboration with these following partners:

### 1. Pre-event (between 29<sup>th</sup> of April and 2<sup>nd</sup> of July)

Partners	Responsibilities	Main Tasks	Notes
<b>Metanoia Team</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning, Coordination, Organizing, Communication</li> <li>- Logistics (materials, equipment, decoration...)</li> <li>- Preparation, Distribute roles and tasks</li> <li>- Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing and advertising for the campaign: designing and publishing flyers, posters, as well as sharing videos through social media (Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram...).</li> <li>- Develop and distribute registration forms.</li> <li>- Metanoia contacted local priests and focal points individually to share details about the event and how to take part through completing a specific registration form.</li> <li>- Daily follow-up with all the partners.</li> <li>- Encourage priests and responsible figures to</li> </ul>	Metanoia was the main organizer for the event.

		<p>motivate parishes to attend and benefit from the importance of the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow-up and regular meetings with all partners.</li> <li>- Making sure that the implementation process is on track and provide support when necessary.</li> </ul>	
<b>Family Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggesting the event's theme</li> <li>- Logistics</li> </ul>	<p>Coordinating and helping in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Choosing the theme of the year</li> <li>- Develop the program, and preparing for the spiritual and communication parts of the day</li> <li>- Setting several meetings in order to distribute roles and responsibilities</li> <li>- Prepare and deliver family testimony</li> <li>- Facilitating the discussion groups</li> <li>- Working on logistics aspects (locations, materials, equipment, meals) looking for price quotations, and making reservations....</li> <li>- Facilitators on the field</li> </ul>	<p>The family committee was coordinating with Metanoia and providing assistance for two months before the event day.</p>
<b>JEC</b>	<p>Preparing and implementing a full day program for young adolescents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participating in the coordination meetings to prepare targeted activities for youth</li> <li>- Sharing ideas and preparing all necessary materials for activities related to the main topic of the year "the Family"</li> <li>- Provide logistics support on the day as well as taking on the responsibility for filming and recording the event</li> </ul>	<p>The number of participants was 136 divided into 5 groups, during which they discussed 6 different topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- unwinding</li> <li>- You are important</li> <li>- our small family</li> <li>- Family is a blessing</li> <li>- Our big families, Jesus and us</li> </ul> <p>Regular meeting took place with JEC team in</p>

			person as well as zoom meetings
<b>MIDADE</b>	Developing and implementing a full day program for children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participate in coordination meetings in order to prepare recreational and entertainment activities for children.</li> <li>- Ensure all equipment and materials are available for the activities and preparing a team of professional animators for children.</li> </ul>	On the day 400 children joined MIDADE team. All participants were divided into smaller groups of 15 each. During the day the children enjoyed different type of activities such as (Welcome show, prayer, spiritual topic, communication, games, painting, outdoor games, fiesta, dancing, hand craft etc.)
<b>Nursery</b>	Looking after babies and young kids, in a safe and suitable environment	In collaboration with qualified caregivers in order to ensure healthy and safe environment for babies and young kids.	Number of babies on the day was 40, they were looked after by 6 child caregivers and one main coordinator
<b>CJS</b>	Making all the necessary preparations related to prayers	Preparing a repertoire of hymns Preparing all tasks related to prayers and the divine liturgy	
<b>Maronite Scout Darb- Es-Sim / Caritas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helping in logistics and organizing the arrival of participants.</li> <li>- Provide support on the field</li> </ul>	On 2 successive days, the day prior to the event and on the main day, the volunteers of Maronite scout provided support on the field, from looking after the logistics, to decorating the rooms and helping with the registration process	This group of young supporters were a great help on the field. Full of energy and enthusiasm for the event, they were essential and reliable.

All different tasks were executed in a participative, very understanding, and harmonious channels amongst organizers, partners, and volunteers.

## 2. On the day, July 3rd 2022

### a. Program / Schedule

On Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, the Committee members and volunteers gathered since the early hours in the designated location for the final preparation. Around 8 o'clock participants started gathering in a family friendly ambiance at the Foyer de la Providence Salhiye from various dioceses. Family arrived either by their own cars or buses (approximately 20 buses were used).



With positive attitude the Participants



came from 64 different neighboring villages from Tyr, Saida and Deir Al Kamar, (Tyr- Greek Catholic: 6 villages / Tyr- Maronite: 5 villages / Saida - Greek Catholic: 31 villages / Saida -Maronite: 20 villages).

A reception committee was there ready to welcome and guide participants to the registration zone. Each family followed the direction according to the first letter of its “surname” in order to register their attendance in an organized way (many volunteers were there to help families).



After registration, families took a souvenir photo, before joining a specific group according to their ages.

Meanwhile, a professional team took care of babies under three years old throughout the day, to give parents the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way.

MIDADE looked after children between the age of 3 and 13 years old and delivered a program full of games and activities adapted to their age groups.





JEC looked after young adolescents between the age of 14 and 18 years old by preparing for a social and interactive youth day for them.

Around 10 o'clock a welcome speech was delivered followed by a collective prayer.

The launch of the sharing sessions was presented by Father/Professor Nabil Chhadeh. Following the speech each person joined his small talking group. There was a 28 talking circles/30-35 persons each.



During one and half an hour the small groups discussed the subject, and every person shared his point of view. After that participant above 18 met again in the big hall and listened further to the subject from Father/Professor Nabil Chhadeh.

Families met again with their kids and relatives for lunch, and they all came together to celebrate love to our family and community in a cheerful and happy ambiance. Attendees were not shy to sing and dance and celebrate family love together.



Around 3:00 p.m. a couple "Maroun and Huda chalhoub" shared a testimony with the attendees, before joining the divine liturgy presided by their Eminence Archbishop of

Maronite Archdiocese of Saida and Deir el Kamar- Mgr. Maroun - El -Amar & Archbishop of Greek Catholic Archdiocese of Saida and Deir el Kamar- Mgr. Elie Bechara El Haddad and end the day in a spiritual ambiance.



## **b. The importance of the event**

Lebanon has been facing unprecedented multiple humanitarian crisis since 2019, generating urgent and widespread needs for assistance and protection.



Followed by the extreme effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, especially on families. With mental health impact recognized as a growing concern, due to high level of anxiety and depressive symptoms among family members. The majority of parents expressed concerns about finance and social isolation as well as emotional experience of sadness and loneliness affecting their parenting.

The combined effects of these crises are leaving a growing number of people in extreme need of support.

The family day event was well received after more than 2 years of lockdown. It was the first opportunity to come together and embrace our connectivity as families and the broader community.

### **c. Characteristics of Participants**

As aforementioned attendees were from different age groups as well as different economic and social status. Everyone felt invited and welcomed, everyone felt the event is for him/her. They came together with one thing in common which is their love to their families and their yearning for social interaction and to revive their social interaction.

## **3. Post - event (Feedback)**

### **a. From participants**

- They enjoyed social time and getting together especially after long period of lockdown *“I’m very happy to be here, long time I didn’t go out but today I’m coming for the 1<sup>st</sup> time despite my illness...” (Mariam - tyr)*
- Participants attended for the first time and expressed their desire to have such a day more than once a year. *“This is my first participation in the family day, and it was really great, I wish coming every time there is a gathering like today” (Sonia - Safad El Batith)*
- Young families were very happy to feel welcomed, looked after, heard by the older generations and Shared life problems *“first I was shy but now I’m very comfortable and I feel good after sharing my family and personal challenges, wishing this day didn’t finish” (Rita – Ein Deleb)*
- In general, we had an exciting collaboration, delightful moments,
- well organized event day, very thankful
- Providing safe space of gathering to exchange feelings, experiences, about family life by sharing their worries and their good time *“we are happy as parents because our children had a great time and enjoyed their day out” (Elias - Kfour)*
- An Opportunity to go out and to meet other parents from their communities *“I’m very happy to get to know new people from different regions, and meet families long time no see” (Emil - Chouf)*

- Period they Like the most, Fiesta part to satisfy the need of joy and dance, discussion group the need to express and socialize, spiritual part the need of faith to live in peace with themselves and others,

### **b. From organizers and volunteers**

- Plenty to do, everyone was busy to ensure the day ran smoothly. The joy on the attendees made all the hard work worth it at the end.
- It was a rewarding experience to participate in this big event, it was well prepared and organized.
- I learned a lot from different situations and I had the chance to develop and improve my skills.
- The great collaboration and the teamwork spirit made us one family doing our best.
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## **IV. Challenges**

Below we will share a list of challenges raised by the team as a learning lesson for future event:

### **On the organizational level**

The event was received by a big number of participants, higher from what was originally expected. As a result, we needed more people to support the current team.



### **On the logistic level:**

- More suitable venue to meet the high number of attendees, provide additional support with the materials given the unexpected number signing up for the event
- Financial support: ensure the currents budget can cover all new expenses and new demands given the high number of participants
- Ensuring transportation support for many parishes to give them the opportunities to attend the celebration
- Completing unfinished registration forms in the last minute before the event
- Dealing with new comers (new unregistered people) on the day

## V. Conclusion

We truly appreciate all joint effort that contribute it to the success of the annual event and allowed us to live an extraordinary family day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. We are grateful for all families and participants who took part in the day.

We are more determined to continue our work and to do our best to assist families that need support on a different level in order to survive their daily challenges



A big thank you for ACN for sponsoring the event, as an initiative we decided to sign a big THANK YOU letter from organizers, volunteers and participants. We look forward to working together on similar events in the future, your humanitarian work has a great influence on Christian families in our small parishes in south Lebanon. Through your humanitarian work, families in help can be heard, supported and looked after. Family is a fundamental block for a strong and healthy society, it is a masterpiece of God's creation, Yes For Family.

Date: 08-Aug-2022

