

St. Elias Parishioners Honored

On April 15, 2018 Bishop Elias Zaidan inducted Mary Milton and Jeanette Milton Wyrick of St. Elias Maronite Church in Birmingham, AL into the **Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Sylvester Pope and Martyr**. This is one of the 5 Orders of Knighthood awarded directly by the Pope. It is intended to honor Catholic lay people who are actively involved in the life of the church, particularly as exemplified in the exercise of their professional duties and mastership of the different arts. The ladies were recommended by their Pastor, Chorbishop Richard D. Saad and nominated by the Bishop.

Mary and Jeanette are sisters and are both active, lifelong members of St. Elias, beginning with membership in the MYO and continuing into leadership positions in the parish on the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee. Both ladies have been very involved in every aspect of parish life. Both work in the parish office helping with administrative tasks.

Beyond the parish level, both have been active members of NAM and have served on its Executive Board in the past. Jeanette served on the Eparchial Pastoral Council of Bishop Robert Shaheen and is presently on the Eparchial History Committee. Jeanette received the Silver Massabki Medal in 1982 and the Gold Massabki Medal in 1998; Mary received the Silver Massabki Medal in 1989.

Mary is an active member of the Order of St. Sharbel and has recruited many new members. Presently, St. Elias has the largest number of members of the Order of any parish in the country.

Professionally, Jeanette was certified as a Chaplain by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains and worked as a Chaplain and the Manager of the Pastoral Care Department at St. Vincent's Hospital for 28 years before retiring.

Mary is a professional licensed Realtor with RE/MAX Advantage and has served many clients and won many awards in her 31 years and she is still active in the business.

Both ladies credit their parents and grandparents for being role models for them in service to the church. Their paternal grandparents were among the first members of St. Elias which was established in 1910. Their maternal grandparents were among the original members of St. George Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Birmingham.

The ladies are humbled by this honor and pledge to continue their work for the church.