

## ***2007 NAM Convention to be Held July 25-29 in Richmond, Va.***

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) will be held July 25-29, 2007 in Richmond, Va. – the heart of a region rich in history and family-friendly attractions ranging from Colonial Williamsburg and Monticello to the Busch Gardens and King’s Dominion amusement parks and white-water rafting.

The convention will be sponsored by NAM and hosted by the parish of St. Anthony Church, Glen Allen, Va., and its pastor, Monsignor George M. Sebaali. It will be the first NAM convention in the eastern United States in three years.



Richmond Skyline.

“We are honored to host our fellow Maronites at this annual gathering of spiritual renewal, education, fellowship, culture and friendship,” said Monsignor Sebaali. “Our entire parish is very excited about the opportunity to be of service to the Lord and our community of faith, as well as to show off our city and region.”

Arthur Zohab of St. Anthony has been appointed General Chairman of the 2007 convention, working with Monsignor Sebaali, the NAM board and NAM Executive Director Mike Naber to organize the convention.

“We are extremely grateful to everyone at NAM, 2006 convention chairs Joe and Vera Maalouf, and all who worked on the successful 2006 convention in Chicago for the help they have given us,” Zohab said. “They have given us a great start to what we know will be another outstanding convention. Our committee is already hard at work.”

Richmond is located conveniently at the center of the East Coast, within driving distance for many convention attendees. For example, Washington, D.C., is less than two hours away by car, Philadelphia 4½ hours, Pittsburgh 5½ hours, and Cleveland eight hours. Even Atlanta, Boston, Cincinnati and Jacksonville are less than a day’s drive.

For those traveling by air, Richmond is served by eight major airlines: AirTran, American, Continental, Delta, JetBlue, Northwest, US Airways and United. Southwest Airlines serves Washington-Dulles and Norfolk, Va. – both less than a two-hour drive to Richmond. Amtrak has regular service to Richmond, as does Greyhound/Trailways.

Other city and regional attractions include: historic Jamestown, which will be celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first permanent European settlement in North America; the White House of the Confederacy; St. John’s Church, where there is a re-enactment of Patrick Henry’s “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” speech; Mount Vernon; the Civil War Visitors Center and numerous Civil War battlefields; historic plantation homes; Edgar Allan Poe Museum; Virginia State Capitol, designed by Thomas Jefferson; and the Science Museum of Virginia. The city is also well known for its wide variety of excellent and affordable restaurants.

The convention will be held at the Marriott Richmond, 500 E. Broad Street, in downtown Richmond. The recently renovated Marriott is the city’s largest hotel and offers an indoor swimming pool and whirlpool, fitness center and high-speed Internet access. Two restaurants are onsite and there is concierge service.

For more information about NAM2007, please contact Monsignor George M. Sebaali at St. Anthony Church, 4611 Sadler Road, Glen Allen, Va. 23060. He also may be reached by telephone at 804-270-7234, by fax at 804-273-9914, or by e-mail at [gmsebaali@aol.com](mailto:gmsebaali@aol.com). □