

Maronite Enrichment Days 2025

St. Ephrem The Man and the Myth



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PhD

April

30

The Stories We Tell

10:00–11:30 am

We do terrible things to the saints. Instead of modeling ourselves on them, we recreate them in our own image. This session opens with an overview of how the Ephrem of history has been systematically erased and replaced by a caricature of someone who never existed. The reasons for this are as troubling as they are destructive.

Ephrem's World

1:30–3:00 pm

Recovering the Ephrem of history begins by letting him speak for himself, from his own time and place. How did the circumstances of Ephrem's life shape him? How did Ephrem become Ephrem?

May

01

The Work of Your Helper

10:00–11:30 am

How did Ephrem understand himself? He informs us that he has the anointing of heaven, that he speaks for God, that the power that animates and enlivens scripture flows into him, and through him, into his own time. But there are skeletons in his closet: Ephrem carries a dark secret from his past.

Why Ephrem Matters

1:00–2:30 pm

Ephrem's vision offers a path that is simple but hard. It is not the path of orthodoxy (right doctrine) or orthopraxy (right morality) but of orthopathy (authentic spirituality), which is nothing less than an embrace of ROZO.

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