THE LIGHT

Behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed...
Luke 1: 48

I am the Good Shepherd who lays down His Life for the sheep
John 10:11

Religious, Liturgical, Cultural Monthly Newsletter | **Volume** 2 | **Issue** 1 | **Date:** May , 2004
Publisher : Good Shepherd Chaldean Church
Toronto - Canada

OUR LADY OF HARVEST

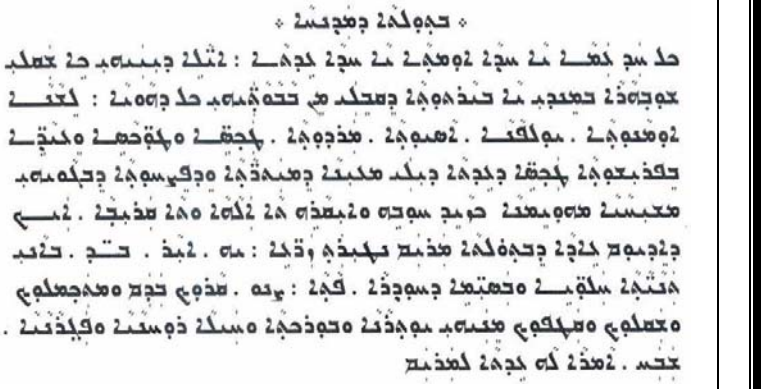
Our Church celebrates On this month (May)the memorial of our *Virgin Mother* under the title of *"Our Lady of the* Harvest *"*. In origin this is an agricultural feast which arose from the needs of the farmers to seek God's help for a fruitful harvest. The farmers were at the mercy of the elements and depended upon sufficient rain and good weather. As a result they sought God's assistance and begged the intercession of Mary for their crops.

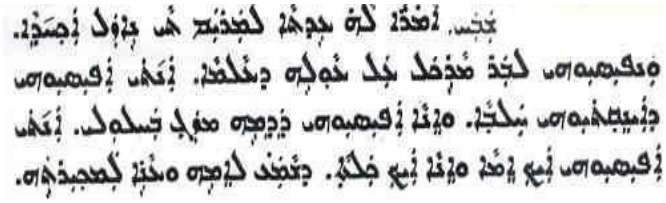
The dew spread all over the region where John wrote the Book of the Virgin, in which is found: "Let the memory of the blessed One be celebrated three times a year: in January, for the seeds; in May, for the ears of wheat; in August, for the grapes which symbolizes the sacrament of life: *Bless them!"*

The ancient texts speak of Mary's protection not only material terms of the crops of the field, but also of her role in the *incarnation* as the *Mother of the Source of Life, Jesus Christ.* Saint **Ephrem** speaks of Mary in this regard when he says that Mary became of the field who received the grain of wheat in her womb and this grain of wheat, Jesus Christ our Lord, gives life to the world. Through the harvest we receive the gifts of bread and wine which become for us the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Hence we pray during the transfer of the offerings:

I am the Bread of Life, said our Lord. From on high, I came to earth, so men might live in me. Pure Word without flesh, I was sent from the Father. Mary's womb received me like good earth a grain of wheat. Behold! The priest bears me aloft to the altar. Alleluia! Accept our offering.

Let us put all our lives and the crops of the fields under the protection of Our Lady of the Harvest May she assist us with her prayers. Amen.





المجد للآب والأبن والروح القدس الأله الواحد...آمين

تقول الكنيسة للعذراء مريم:
تعالي نذهب سوية ونترجى لأبن العلي من اجل مغفرة خطايا العالم.
أنت تطلبين منه لأنك ارضعتيه من حليبك, وانا اترجاه لأنه سفك دمه في عرسي.
أنت يا مريم اطلبي منه كوالدة, وأنا اطلب منه كعروس.
اذ أنه يصغي لوالدتـه, ويستجيب لخطيبتـه.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
Come, together we will go and intercede to the Son of the Master of the Universe for the iniquities of all the world. You intercede with Him because you suckled Him and gave Him milk. I intercede with Him because he mixed His blood for my banquet. You can intercede as a Mother and I as a fiancée, because He listens to His Mother and answers His fiancée. (Chaldean Breviary, Part I, Page 366)