

CONFERENCE ON CHARLES MALIK

March 30 and 31, 2016

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new generation in Lebanon is busy nowadays trying to face the challenges our country is facing. The little they know about our prominent men and women of letters keeps them far away from their own intellectual legacy, and from the real and significant identity of Lebanon.

One of the objectives of the Institute of Lebanese Thought, established at NDU two years ago, is to highlight the achievements of distinguished Lebanese authors, in literature, philosophy, theology, history, linguistics, sciences, and other disciplines of human and social fields of knowledge. The purpose is to create an awareness of our Lebanese national heritage and legacy. This is where the Charles Malik Project falls in place. It is a multifold project that started with the large collection of Charles Malik papers, collected mainly from the Library of Congress, and from Malik's Family, particularly through Dr. Habib Malik who has been very instrumental in supporting this project and doing his best to help making it true. The other side of this project is to start

publishing the Charles Malik manuscripts, whether in philosophy, or theology, or other areas of humanities and social sciences. This requires a serious endeavor and expertise along this direction.

Our conference today is in celebration of launching this project with the issuing of the first book in this series by Charles Malik with the hope to carry on with the process of editing and publishing the unknown works of Charles Malik as an outstanding part of our Lebanese national intellectual legacy. As an important example, I believe that his outstanding work entitled: ***A Christian Critique of a University*** should be a guideline to higher education in the twenty first century.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Institute of Lebanese Thought has a heavy load in relation to its plan of action for the up-coming five years. This five year Plan tries to cover several significant projects that carry the same objective: that is building a comprehensible consciousness of the Lebanese intellectual legacy which is in the core substance of our national identity. Celebrating today the Charles Malik Project is an illustrious part of the mission and plan of action of the Institute.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to all participants in this conference, especially our distinguished overseas guests who, I am sure, will enrich and revitalize the studies and discussions on Charles Malik.

Thank you for being with us today at NDU and tomorrow at AUB, and wishing you, and the conference, all the success expected.

Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa,

President of NDU