

Saint or Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Feast Day: August 2

Birth: August 2, 1630

Death: May 3, 1704

Beautified: August 2, 2024

Canonized:

Estephan Boutros Douaihy (also Etienne Douaihy) was born in Ehden, North-Lebanon on August 2, 1630. He had pious and good parents: Deacon Mikhael Douaihy and Mariam Douaihy. He had one brother, Moussa; an uncle, Bishop Elias Douaihy. He lost his father when he was 3 years old.

When he was 5 years old, he entered the Parochial School of St. Peter in North Ehden, acquiring basics of arithmetic, Arabic & Syriac languages and a solid Christian formation. He distinguished himself by his intelligence.

Aware of his intellectual capacity and of his religious and moral qualities, Patriarch Gerges Omayra Douaihy and Bishop Elias Douaihy, sent him to Rome June 1641, he was only eleven years old.

He joined the Maronite College of Rome, founded in 1584 by Pope Gregory XIII and directed by the Jesuit Fathers.

He became almost completely blind, because of the intense studying, but through the intercession of Mother Mary he miraculously regained his sight, never having to wear glasses.

He earned a Doctorate in Philosophy and Theology. He was fluent in Arabic, Syriac, Latin, Italian, Greek and Hebrew. Later he obtained some knowledge of French and Turkish

In 1655, He refused to stay in Europe and returned to Lebanon, after visiting all the libraries and gathering precious documents about the Maronites.

He was ordained priest on March 25, 1656, by Patriarch Youhanna at the Monastery of Sts Sarkis and Bacchus in Ehden.

In May 1668, he went with his mother and brother for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. After his return he was surprised by his election as Bishop of Cyprus, on July 8, 1668.

He resided in Nicosia, and visited all Maronite cities on the island, preaching and organizing the Diocese which has been vacant for 34 years.

On May 20, 1670, Bishop Estephan Douaihy was elected Patriarch.

He built 27 churches and many monasteries; he protected the Maronite Church from Latinization and gave her the proper and distinguished identity. He has a major role in the foundation of the Lebanese Order and in the conversion to the Catholic Faith of the

Melkite Patriarch Cyril and of the establishment of the first Syrian Catholic Patriarch.
Patriarch Estephan Douaihy, died as he wishes in Quannubine on May 3, 1704.