



*Eparchy of  
Saint Maron of Brooklyn*

*Eparchy of Our Lady of  
Lebanon of Los Angeles*



July 23, 2020  
Feast of Saint Sharbel

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The world is going through a difficult time due to the coronavirus pandemic, civil unrest, and political divisiveness which impact the various aspects of our lives. The Church, like a mother, loves her children and cares for each one of them. We realize many are facing hardships and economic uncertainty. We assure you of our spiritual closeness with each one of you. We call on every person to support the less fortunate and suffering, and we stand in solidarity, as did the early Christian community.

The situation of our brothers and sisters in Lebanon is critical and getting worse. Governmental corruption, hegemony of the political system, financial hardships from the banking crisis, the devaluation of the Lebanese pound, government debt, high unemployment, and financial sanctions threaten to bring more than half of the population under the poverty line. Moving forward will bring Lebanon to the brink of a failed state that threatens the lives and hopes of people, the fragile stability of the region, and the face of the Lebanon we know and love.

We actively support the positions of our beloved Patriarch, His Eminence and Beatitude Bechara Peter Rai, in his call to safeguard Lebanon as independent state, sovereign over all its territory, free from any political hegemony and corruption, neutral in order to build proper relationships with the world, and initiate a constructive dialogue among the various factions. We hear the cry of the people who are demonstrating peacefully for justice, for fundamental rights. We applaud the efforts of the Church and many nonprofit organizations that provide the basic needs of those less fortunate and in need of help on a daily basis.

In view of this crisis, we have redoubled our efforts in support of our brothers and sisters in Lebanon. We work with different organizations to lobby the U.S. government in support of the sovereignty of Lebanon, and to provide much needed humanitarian aid. We also work closely with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops so that our voices will be stronger and more efficient.

We thus appeal for your help and support in these different areas:

- Let us increase our financial aid to our own families and relatives. They truly need this help now.
- We are in an election year. Bring the plight of Lebanon to all government leaders, and to all candidates for public office so that they can support the sovereignty and continued strength of Lebanon and help its people and Catholic institutions.

- Support Caritas Lebanon and other Church organizations. You can go directly to their website and Facebook pages make your donation online:

- Caritas Lebanon: [www.caritaslebanon.org](http://www.caritaslebanon.org)

You can also visit our respective Eparchy websites and Facebook to make an online donation with the memo: charity/support Lebanon:

- Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn: [www.stmaron.org/donate-1](http://www.stmaron.org/donate-1) and @eparchyofstmaron
- Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles: [www.eparchy.org/donate](http://www.eparchy.org/donate) and @OLOLEparchy.

You can also make your donations through your local Churches.

- Pray for peace in Lebanon and the region, asking our loving God to provide the necessary needs for the suffering and less fortunate.

We thank you for your heartfelt support and all your endeavors. We remember the words of Christ in Matthew 25:40 “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done to me.”

Yours in Christ,



+ Bishop Gregory J. Mansour  
Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn



+ Bishop A. Elias Zaidan  
Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles