



## *Maronite Bishops of the United States of America*



June 26, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Thursday July 1, 2021 the Holy Father will gather in Rome with Catholic, Orthodox and Evangelical leaders of Lebanon for a day of discussion and prayer for the future of this beloved country. As we know so well Saint Pope John Paul II called Lebanon “more than a country, a message.”

Over 100 years ago, after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the Maronite Patriarch, Elias Peter Howayek, at the age of 76, traveled to France to urge the allied leaders of that time to create Greater Lebanon, whose boundaries included Christians and Muslims in a common pact that has made Lebanon a haven for all believers.

Today this beloved Lebanon is in great need, and all people of good will are urged to support her. The governing class has failed her, and she can easily fall prey to forces that don't have the same vision as those who fought for her special identity one hundred years ago.

Therefore, we ask each of you to join us, and all the Lebanese people in a sincere prayer to God for her good. At 6:00 pm Rome time we can each pause for a moment to be with the Holy Father and Lebanon's Christian leaders to pray. Likewise, at 10:00 am Eastern Time we also invite you to pray with us at a Zoom prayer service sponsored by In Defense of Christians on their Website or Facebook page.

May our loving God guide all of Lebanon's leaders to strive for the common good, and may Lebanon soon regain her peace and prosperity. Thank you

With best wishes and prayers, we remain

Yours in Christ,



+Gregory Mansour  
Bishop of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn



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