



OUR LADY OF VICTORY MARONITE CHURCH

February 1, 2017

RE: Eparchial Charities Appeal

My dear family in Christ,

May the Peace of the Lord be with you during this Holy Season of Lent.
As you know every Lent, our Bishop Gregory Mansour appeals to all our Maronite Churches to help with all the charity projects of the Eparchy:

- *Educating our seminarians who will be serving our churches as priests.
- *Assisting our Maronite missions who are in their way to become fully independent churches.
- *Supporting our retired priests who served our Church for many years of their lives.
- *Lending a helping hand to our suffering Christians brothers and sisters in Lebanon and in the Middle East.

Your generosity and support are very much needed for the success of these worthy causes.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Rodolph Wakim".

Father Rodolph Wakim

encl.



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Lent 2017

Prot. No. 027/1/17 S

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year we celebrated 50 years since Archbishop Francis M. Zayek arrived as our first Maronite Bishop in the United States. Today our Church flourishes, and your financial support has made all the difference. You sustain the Church throughout the 16 states, stretching from Maine to Florida that make up the Eparchy of Saint Maron. Thank you for building on that legacy.

Each year during Lent, I ask you to make a sacrificial gift to help the Eparchy. Here are the particular needs of the Eparchy that I ask for your assistance with this Lent:

- ✓ **Seminarians:** We have three seminarians preparing to become priests to serve our Eparchy. It costs about \$40,000 per year to educate and support each seminarian, in the form of tuition payments, books, room, board and health insurance. This is a large but necessary expense each year.
- ✓ **Missions:** We have several missions serving Maronites in places that a Maronite parish did not previously exist. The missions reach out to our people to keep them close to the Church. Some missions need help to pay for basic necessities in the early days of their existence.
- ✓ **Retired Priests:** The 12 retired priests of the Eparchy gave a lifetime of service to the faithful in our parishes. Now, we help them with a modest pension of \$1,800 per month.
- ✓ **Helping Lebanon and the Middle East:** The Eparchy is helping Christians of Lebanon and Syria by introducing Church leaders to American foundations and donors, advocating for their needs, applying for grants for them, and providing direct financial assistance. Part of the donations to this Lenten Appeal are allocated for this effort.

Your support addresses these needs and helps to build up the Church of our forefathers. Please open your heart once again to help your Eparchy. Like a good and faithful mother, the Church asks for your help so that she can fulfill her mission. Any gift you give will have a positive effect.

Thank you for considering my appeal. May God bless you for your generosity! I wish you a holy Lent and a blessed Easter.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory J. Mansour

PS: Would you also consider remembering the Eparchy and your parish in your estate plan, or as the beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable gift annuity? Thank you.

EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN ANNUAL LENTEN APPEAL 2017

