



**EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

109 Remsen Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212
Tel: (718) 237-9913 Fax: (718) 243-0444
chancerystmaron@verizon.net www.stmaron.org

April 15, 2013

Prot. No. 300/1/13

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to extend a special invitation to you to join the Order of Saint Sharbel this year.

The Order was founded in 1980 with two purposes: first, to support seminarians; and second, "when it will be possible", to support retired priests. The education of our seminarians, now eight of them, has proven to be very expensive. Thus far, the Order's support has been devoted solely to supporting seminarians, and has not been able to help our retired priests as we ought. We need your help.

There are two membership levels in the Order: Annual Membership and Perpetual Membership. Annual Membership dues are \$500 per year, payable every year. Perpetual Membership is a one-time gift of \$5,000. Perpetual Membership dues are placed into the Sharbel Endowment Fund, the interest on which is used each year to support Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary in Washington, DC.

Sadly, the Order's growth slowed after its first few years, and now the interest on the Sharbel Endowment Fund is not adequate to pay the Seminary's expenses: last year it provided less than half of the needed funds. We need to increase the size of the Endowment. There is an opportunity to do this in 2013 because The Catholic Extension Society has awarded the Eparchy, after a competitive application process, a "one-for-two" matching grant of \$25,000 (Catholic Extension will give \$1 for every \$2 donated for the Seminary Endowment). The practical effect of this is that every donation will be increased in value by 50% if we can raise \$50,000 for the Endowment by December 31, 2013.

I would like to ask for your help so that we can obtain the maximum matching grant from Catholic Extension this year. Will you consider joining the Order in 2013, as either an Annual Member or a Perpetual Member? Also, if there is someone that you know who might be interested in joining the Order, I ask you to please reach out to them and invite them to join.

If an application is not attached to this letter, you may obtain one at your local parish, on line at www.orderstsharbel.org, or by writing to me at the Chancery.

Thank you for your dedication to the Church, and for considering my invitation.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ *Gregory John Mansour*

+ Gregory John Mansour