



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

28 November 2016

Prot No. 691/1/16
Circ No. 16.24

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God is almighty, and yet he chose to become small, to enter his world humbly, to accept suffering and death, to show mercy to his enemies, and to reveal his extravagant love for us. If we are truly his sons and daughters, then we are, by our very nature, like him. Christmas, God's coming among us, makes us even more like him because we see with the eyes of our heart who he really is: Emmanuel, God among us. Christmas makes us new again.

Lebanon has a new President, so does the United States. Soon we will have a New Year. In the midst of all this "newness" we celebrate Christmas, when God became man and dwelled among us (John 1:14). For over two thousand years, our God, or as Saint Augustine refers to him in his *Confessions*, "Beauty, Ancient, yet Ever New", dwells with us.

At Christmas time, what is true for us today has also been true for every age since his first coming. Because of Christmas we too become small, enter our world more humbly; we too accept suffering and death, and show mercy to our enemies, we too witness to a God who became small in order to raise us up. "O Beauty, Ancient, yet Ever New", make us new again; reshape us in your image and likeness. Be for us the source and inspiration of our coming and going, and set us on the straight path that leads to you.

To you be glory forever!

Merry Christmas everyone!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+Gregory John Mansour

GJM/rl