



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

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters in Lebanon who are enduring their greatest difficulties since the civil war. The economic situation has deteriorated over the past year, the banking system is straining, and the COVID-19 crisis has pushed Lebanon to the brink.

Caritas Lebanon. Founded in 1972, *Caritas Lebanon* is the official socio-pastoral arm of the Catholic Church and is under the authority of the Assembly of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Lebanon. Caritas Lebanon assists both individuals and communities through direct assistance to the poor, sick, refugees, victims of sex abuse and trafficking, and others in need. *Caritas Lebanon* is a member of *Caritas International*, one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world. www.Caritas.org.lb

Tele-Lumiere/Noursat. Tele-Lumiere/Noursat, the “Television of Light”, is the first established Christian Television network in Lebanon and the Middle East. It was founded in 1991 by a group of committed lay people. Tele-Lumiere/Noursat has become a daily bread and hope for the Christian minorities in the Middle East, as well as a source of peace for many viewers from different denominations. www.noursat.tv

Missionary Sisters of the Very Holy Sacrament. The Missionary Sisters of the Very Holy Sacrament, founded in 1966, is an order of religious Sisters that operated several ministries: schools for poor children, orphanages, free health clinics for the poor in rural villages, and a retirement home for the aged, among others. These people served by the Sisters would not receive help from anyone else. www.smssacrament.org

Oum El Nour. Oum el Nour is a Lebanese not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization that is committed to serving individuals suffering from drug addiction. Oum El Nour “Mother of the Light” provides a home for those who need shelter, help, understanding, and a place away to recover so that they can begin to live a full life, free of their past shackles. www.oumelnour.org/

SESOBEL. The name “SESOBEL” is an abbreviation from French – Service Social pour le Bienetre de L’Enfant au Liban – Social Service for the Well-Being of the Child in Lebanon. SESOBEL’s mission is to assist children suffering from mental and physical disabilities by improving their quality of life and supporting their families. SESOBEL cares for over 400 children annually and has helped thousands of families. With over 34 years of experience, SESOBEL has a shining reputation of service in the Middle East. sesobel.org

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Founded in 1833 by a group of young laymen, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization of women and men who put their faith into action. The Society is very close to the people. Most parishes and villages have a Society that is active. From the start, the Society has been under the patronage of Saint Vincent de Paul, a great saint, well-known for his works of charity. www.stvincent-lb.org/vincent/

Antonine Social Orientation School – Mrouj, Lebanon. The school educates and cares for orphans and poor children living in difficult circumstances. It also promotes intellectual, human, social and spiritual formation. Due to the bad socio-economic situations in Lebanon, we need financial support in order to keep operating. All donations must be sent to our Chancery to assist them.

Oraunion. Oraunion helps build communities and civil society in Lebanon through several initiatives: Labora, which provides job training and employment to young people in order to stem emigration from Lebanon; Groact, which supports civil society associations in cities, towns and villages; Ucipliban, which supports the free press; and Aulib, which supports Lebanese universities. <http://www.oraunion.org/>

Cénacle de La Lumière (“CDLL”). CDLL works in the field of rehabilitation for people suffering from drug and alcohol addiction. It was founded in 2006 as a volunteer initiative when a group of concerned friends came together to help individuals who were losing their lives to drugs. <https://www.cdll.org.lb/>

Our three Maronite Catholic Eparchies (Dioceses) in Syria:

- **Archeparchy of Aleppo.** The Maronite Catholic Archeparchy of Aleppo is an archeparchy of the Maronite Church currently governed by Archbishop Joseph Tobji. All donations must be sent to our Chancery to forward to him.
- **Archeparchy of Damascus.** The Maronite Catholic Archeparchy of Damascus is an archeparchy of the Maronite Church currently governed by Archbishop Samir Nassar. All donations must be sent to our Chancery to forward to him.
- **Eparchy of Latakia.** The Maronite Catholic Eparchy of Latakia is an eparchy of the Maronite Catholic Church governed by Bishop Antoine Chbeir. All donations must be sent to our Chancery to forward to him.

We pray that our effort will continue to bear good fruit for Lebanon and God’s people. Thank you.

Please consider joining with me in helping some Catholic and other institutions doing important work in helping the poor in Lebanon. I am personally familiar with each of these organizations, know their leadership and have observed their work in action over the last few years. Generally speaking, they help the “poorest of the poor”, and the people who most need help. The Eparchy can assist you if you wish to support one of these worthy causes. You can send us a check and designate which agency you want to help. We will be sure it gets there.

Thank you for considering their needs and responding generously.

May God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Gregory". The plus sign is a simple cross, and the name "Gregory" is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+ Gregory John Mansour

GJM/rs