



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

Office of the Bishop

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Lent 2019

Prot. No. 018 S / 19

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During our short time on this earth, we prepare ourselves for the day when we shall stand before God to make an account of how we have spent our lives. In the meantime, we serve with love. The Church, founded by Christ, is the prime vehicle of this love, and of our service, and this is the sole purpose of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.

Today, I write to ask you to help your Eparchy fulfill her divine mission with love. We have a blessed opportunity to share our gifts so that the Eparchy can continue to serve the faithful throughout its entire 16-state area.

Your generosity towards this year's Annual Eparchial Appeal will support:

- ✓ **Our Seminarians** are our future. We need your help so that we can invest in their education and formation. We currently have six. Each seminarian costs about \$45,000 per year, in the form of tuition, books, room, board, health insurance and other costs. **40% of your contribution to this year's Annual Appeal will go for Seminarian Expenses.**
- ✓ **Retired Priests:** Collectively, the 15 retired priests of the Eparchy have served the faithful for over 500 years. We help them with a modest pension of \$1,900 per month. **20% of your contribution will go to support our Retired Priests.**
- ✓ **Helping in Lebanon and the Middle East:** The Eparchy assists Lebanon and Syria in countless ways, for example: by applying for grants to American foundations and donors, advocating for the persecuted Christians of the Middle East with the U.S. government, and channeling direct financial assistance. **10% of your contribution will go to support Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East.**
- ✓ **Endowment:** The Eparchy's Endowment Fund provides a source of income each year for the needs of the Eparchy and ensures that the Eparchy will have solid resources in the future. It also provides a "rainy day fund" in case of disaster. **30% of your contribution will be deposited into the Eparchy's Endowment.**

I pray that you will open your heart once again and consider giving a gift. Your participation in this Annual Appeal makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people throughout the Eparchy, from Maine to Florida, and in the Middle East. Any gift you make will help.

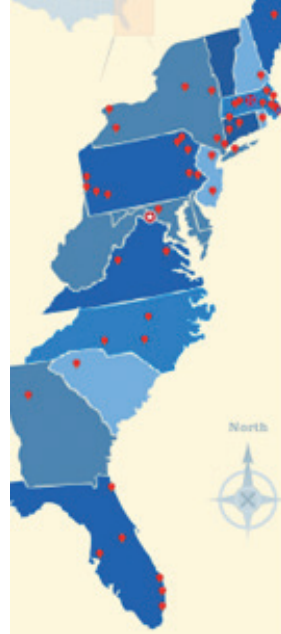
Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity. I wish you a holy Lent and a blessed Easter.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory J. Mansour

PS: Please 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.



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2019 ANNUAL APPEAL

