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Dear Brother Priests, Deacons and Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women:

Attached please find the appeal of our Patriarch for help. It is a sincere appeal to everyone to assist Lebanon.

I will send a follow up letter soon with more information on how we can help. We have received so many requests from here asking how they can help. Our website and Facebook pages also give some clear ways.

We will focus now on **Caritas Lebanon** and **Saint Vincent de Paul Societies** of Lebanon. Other charities will also be on our social media as well.

Thank you for all you are doing in this most trying of times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory John Mansour

GJM/rs

Attachment (1)



Appeal to the Nations of the World

Beirut is a devastated city. A catastrophe struck the city because of a mysterious explosion that occurred in its sea port. Beirut, the bride of the East and the lighthouse of the West, is injured. Destruction and desolation are visible in virtually all its streets, neighborhoods, and homes. Hundreds of citizens have lost their lives; thousands are injured. Hospitals, places of worship, residences, public and private institutions, hotels, shopping malls and stores have been totally or partially destroyed.

Many of the city's inhabitants are homeless. This national disaster comes at a time when the country is in a situation of economic and financial bankruptcy which renders the government incapable of facing this human and urban catastrophe. In addition, the Lebanese people are also in a state of poverty and indigence.

The Church, which has set up a relief network throughout Lebanon's territory, today finds itself faced with a new and greater responsibility which she cannot assume alone. This being said, however, the Church stands in total solidarity with the afflicted, the dead and their families, the wounded, and the displaced in placing her institutions at their service.

On behalf of the church in Lebanon, I wish to thank all the states that have expressed their readiness and willingness to aid the devastated city of Beirut. I also take the liberty to address Lebanon's friends throughout the world, especially the super powers, as well as the United Nations, to mobilize their efforts for the purpose of providing immediate aid to save the city of Beirut, without any political considerations, because what has happened is beyond politics and conflict. I also call on charities in different countries to help Lebanese families, the inhabitants of the Beirut in particular, so that they can heal their wounds and restore their homes.

During these last years, Lebanon has not ceased to experience successive political, security, economic and financial catastrophes, which require interventions to save the country. Lebanon, which offered the alphabet to the world, deserves the support of its brothers and friends to help it restore its capital, through the immediate establishment of a fund under UN control to manage aid. I am speaking to you because I know that you love Lebanon and that you will answer this call. I am addressing you because I know how much you want Lebanon to regain its historic role in the service of mankind, democracy, and peace in the middle east and in the world.

Dimane, August 5, 2020


+ Bechara Boutros Card. RAI

Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

**President of the Lebanon's Assembly
of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon**

البطريكية المارونية: بكركي - لبنان: تلفون ٩١٥٤٤١ - ٩ - ٩٦١ - فاكس: ٩٣٨٨٤٤ - ٠٩

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