



2024 LENTEN APPEAL

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Words cannot express how thankful I am for your ongoing support for our beloved **Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles**, especially amidst the challenges at home and abroad. **Lent is an ideal time to deepen our faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time to recall the great blessings God has given us, and to give back to those in need.**

I return to you this Lent **seeking your support for our most critical needs** including:

- *Seminarians' Education and Formation*
- *Support to Missions and Parishes in Need*
- *Growing Ministries with our Children, Youth, and Young Adults.*
- *Charitable Aid to our Brothers and Sisters at home in the USA, or in Lebanon, Syria, and the Middle East*

The Annual Appeal seeks your help for the Eparchy's critical and immediate needs as detailed in the enclosed brochure.

Your generous contribution and prayers are greatly appreciated.

On behalf of all those who will benefit, I want to personally thank you for your consideration and contribution.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

+A.E. Zaidan

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

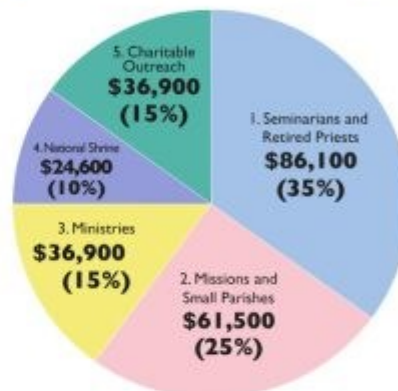


ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Our goal last year of **\$246,000** was spent according to the list below. We raised an additional **\$3,525** which was spent on the areas of greatest need. We are sincerely thankful to all those who generously gave to help our Eparchy.

REPORT ON 2023 LENTEN APPEAL USE OF FUNDS (\$246,000)

** Amounts raised are not enough to fully cover the expenses of the different areas. The Eparchy continues to subsidize and cover additional expenses as needed.*



1. SEMINARIANS AND RETIRED PRIESTS



Our Eparchy is currently preparing five men as celibate seminarians and six married men for **Sacred Priesthood**. It cost our Eparchy **\$451,000** in expenses this past year including their education, housing, formation, and living expenses. In addition to the seminarians, our Eparchy supports eight retired priests at a cost of approximately \$228,000 per year. **35% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will support Seminarians and Retired priests.**

2. MISSIONS AND PARISHES IN NEED



Our Eparchy consists of **thirty-five (35) parishes and ten (10) missions with over 46,000 Maronite Catholics across 34 states**. In recent years, our Eparchy has opened missions in Seattle (WA), Fort Bend (IN), and Nashville (TN). Many missions require financial support from the Eparchy with critical expenses such as insurance and utilities. Your contributions will support our missions to reach our beloved Maronite faithful across the country. **25% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will support Missions and Parishes in need.**

3. MINISTRIES



From regional youth conferences to thriving Catechism programs, our Eparchy serves thousands of children, youth, and young adults. In addition, we have a flourishing Family Life Ministry in conjunction with our Subdiaconate and Diaconate Ministries. The future of our Eparchy is very bright! **15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the Eparchy's Ministries.**

4. BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON



Founded over 55 years ago, our Eparchy is proud to sustain this spiritual home of renewal and rejuvenation for all faithful across the country. We welcome pilgrims and visitors 365 days a year, especially during the Assumption Pilgrimage in August. **10% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the National Maronite Shrine.**

5. CHARITABLE OUTREACH



As our Eparchy asks the faithful to be generous, we also strive to be generous to those in need. Our Eparchy helps the less fortunate in the United States, Lebanon, and the Middle East. Many religious institutions depend on our support to meet their basic needs and sustain their ministries to help the poor. **15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will go to charity.**

“GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER!”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

Lenten Appeal Gifts can be accepted through your local parish. Please **label your envelope/note/check “Bishop’s Appeal”**. You can also make a contribution online at **www.eparchy.org**.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO HELP

- Make a Bequest (naming the Eparchy) in your will. This can be for a specific amount of money, or a percentage of your estate. Please include this language in your will:
“I give and bequeath to the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles _____% of the residue of my estate [or the sum of \$_____].
- Give to the Eparchy from your IRA. Generally speaking, taxpayers who are age 70½ years old and older may give up to \$100,000 each year from their IRA to the Eparchy without paying the mandatory tax on IRA distributions. The practical effect of this is that you can give more, tax free, from your IRA – and this makes it a very effective way to support the Church. Contact your broker or the Eparchy for more information about this.
- Make the Eparchy a Beneficiary of Your Retirement Plan. We invite you to name the Eparchy as the beneficiary of your retirement plan. This avoids estate taxes (which are often very high on retirement plans) – and can be immensely helpful to the Eparchy.
- Share the Gift of Life Insurance. Naming the Eparchy as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy is a way to help the Eparchy in the future while not impacting your income or lifestyle today. Ask your insurance agent or contact the Eparchy for more information about this.



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