



2026 LENTEN APPEAL

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we approach the Lenten season, I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude for your steadfast and generous support of our beloved Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles. In a time marked by many challenges, both at home and around the world, your faithfulness and commitment continue to be a true source of strength and hope.

Lent is a sacred time to connect with our Almighty God and to renew ourselves through prayer, fasting, and works of charity. We are called to reflect on the many blessings we have received and to respond with compassion to those in need.

During this Lenten season, I humbly ask for your help in meeting our most urgent needs:

- Education and formation of our seminarians
- Care for our Retired Priests
- Support for our missions and parishes
- Development of ministries for our children, youth, and young adults
- Charitable assistance for our brothers and sisters in the U.S., Lebanon, Syria, and throughout the Middle East

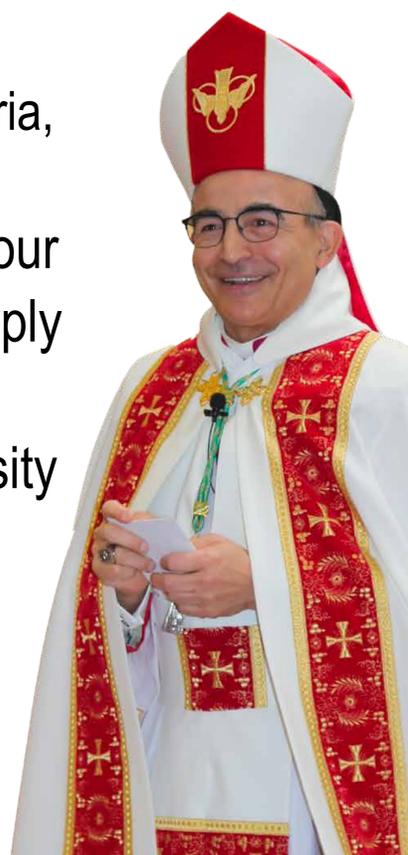
These needs are outlined in the enclosed Annual Appeal brochure. Your prayers and generous support make a profound difference and are deeply appreciated. On behalf of all those whose lives will be touched by your kindness, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your continued generosity and support.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

+A.E. Zaidan

+A. Elias Zaidan

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

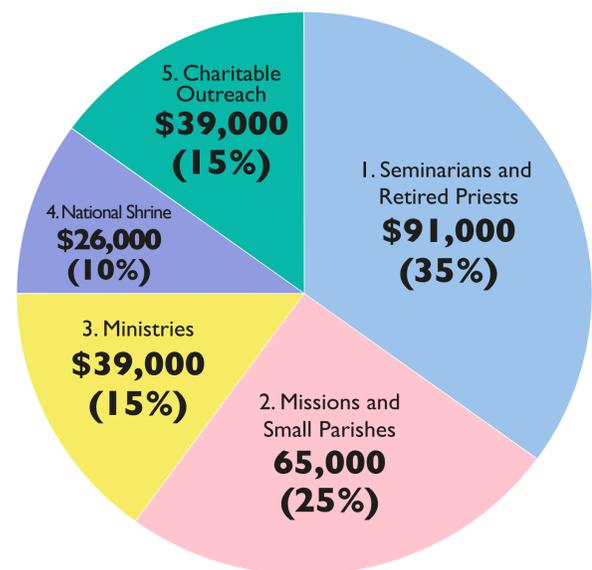


ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Last year, we set a goal of **\$260,000**, which was allocated as outlined below. We raised a little over the goal amount, which helped defray the expenses of printing and mailing the Eparchial Appeal. We are truly grateful to all who generously contributed to support our Eparchy.

REPORT ON 2025 LENTEN APPEAL USE OF FUNDS (\$260,000)

** The funds raised are not sufficient to fully cover the expenses in various areas. The Eparchy continues to provide subsidies and address additional costs as necessary.*



1. SEMINARIANS AND RETIRED PRIESTS



Our Eparchy is actively preparing two celibate seminarians and four married candidates for the Sacred Priesthood. Over the past year, the total expenses for their education, housing, formation, and living costs amounted to **\$283,618**. Additionally, we provide support for 10 retired priests, which incurs an annual cost of around **\$321,000**. **35% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will support Seminarians and Retired priests.**

2. MISSIONS AND AND SMALL PARISHES



Our Eparchy encompasses thirty-seven parishes and ten missions, serving over 46,000 Maronite Catholics across 34 states. Recently, we have established missions in New Orleans (LA) and Dallas (TX), as well as a plan to establish a new community in Mobile (AL). Many of these missions rely on financial assistance from the Eparchy to cover essential expenses. Your generous contributions will help us support these missions and connect with our cherished Maronite community throughout the country. **25% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will support Missions and Small Parishes.**

3. MINISTRIES



Our Eparchy plays a vital role in the lives of thousands of children, youth, and young adults, offering regional youth conferences and vibrant Catechism programs. Additionally, we have a thriving Family Life Ministry that works alongside our Subdiaconate and Diaconate Ministries. With these initiatives, the future of our Eparchy is looking very promising! **15% of this year's Annual Appeal proceeds will assist the Eparchy's Ministries.**

4. BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON



Established over 60 years ago, our Eparchy takes pride in serving as a spiritual home of renewal and rejuvenation for the faithful across the nation. We warmly welcome pilgrims and visitors throughout the year, with a special emphasis on 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 encourages the faithful to be generous, we also commit ourselves to supporting those in need. We provide assistance to the less fortunate in the United States, Lebanon, and the Middle East. Many religious institutions rely on our support to fulfill their basic needs and continue their ministries dedicated to helping 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 \$108,000 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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