



December 4, 2019
St. Barbara's Feast Day



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas is a time of rejoicing, giving and spreading love. By His incarnation, Christ expressed his love to humanity by becoming one of us in all things but sin. He became the source of our joy and the "reason for the season".

During this season, we exchange gifts, send cards, show our care and compassion towards others, the less fortunate. At this time, our brothers and sisters are going through countless difficulties in Lebanon. We know about the crisis ravaging Lebanon, the ongoing protests of the Lebanese citizens demanding their basic rights, and asking for reform and an end of corruption in the government. Many businesses have closed, people have lost their jobs along with the country's ongoing and spiraling economic crisis. It is estimated that 45% of the Lebanese are now living under the poverty line and unemployment has reached 40%.

Therefore, we appeal to your goodness to assist the less fortunate. Your donation could go a long way in subsidizing the basic needs of food: you can feed a person for \$40 per week, a family of 6 for \$240 per week, milk and diapers for babies and toddlers for \$135 per month...and the list could go on for many other urgent needs.

We are asking every parish to have a special collection on the weekend of Dec. 14th-15th, 2019, to promote it through their social media outlets, and to raise awareness of this humanitarian crisis. People can make donations to their own parish, to the respective Eparchy or even to Caritas Lebanon-USA directly at <https://www.caritaslebanon.org/>. We count on your generosity and support.

We wish you a season filled with good health and happiness. Please be assured of our prayers for you. May the Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace, shower his graces upon you and all our brothers and sisters.

Yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+Gregory J. Mansour
Bishop of the Eparchy of St. Maron

+A. E. Zaidan

+A. Elias Zaidan
Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of
Lebanon of Los Angeles