



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN  
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4 December 2021

Prot. No. 820/1/21

Dear Family and Friends,

I join my "cry of the heart" to that of Mother Marie Makhoul of the Franciscan Sisters of the Cross in Lebanon, see her letter enclosed. The Sisters serve the poor and special needs persons with an unparalleled love in all of their 19 institutions throughout Lebanon.

As you know Lebanon is going through one of the most difficult times. The devaluation of the Lebanese Lira, from 1,500 to 23,000 per US dollar (USD) means that a family that could live on 100.00 USD per month, now, with the same salary, lives on less than 10.00 USD per month.

Would you please join me in helping the Sisters stay out of bankruptcy as their 170 Sisters, 1,700 employees, and hundreds of volunteers continue their loving service in testimony to Christ? Any amount will be appreciated. Please go online to [www.stmaron.org](http://www.stmaron.org) to click on Franciscan Sisters, or send a check made payable to Eparchy of Saint Maron, to 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, and write in the memo: for the Franciscan Sisters of the Cross.

For more information about the Sisters you can visit [www.flfs-usa.org](http://www.flfs-usa.org)

Thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory John Mansour

GJM/rb

Enclosure (1)

*thank you for considering this request.*



Date : 19/11/2021

Nº : 388/21

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We lift to God and to you a cry for help asking for your prayers and for any kind of support to help us continue our mission by serving the poorest of the poor patients and students. They need you. We need you also to support us to keep our well-trained and valuable staff whose average salary dropped to an average of \$ 60 per month cutting dramatically their purchasing power and depriving them from their basic needs in medicines, food, fuel, and other vital resources. We recently lost more than 120 employees among nurses, doctors, and teachers. We need to retain the rest through an encouraging Christmas gift that would regenerate some hope in their heart.

Our non-profit and non-governmental Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Cross in Lebanon was founded in 1930 by Blessed Abouna Yaacoub, with a sacred mission to care for the needy and educate the youth, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or race.

Our community consists of 170 nuns in administrative and nursing positions serving in 19 institutions, out of which the Psychiatric Hospital of the Cross, Hospital of Deir El Qamar, Our Lady Hospital for Chronic diseases, St Joseph Hospital, Hospital of Chlifa, Hospice of Christ the King, and Val Pere Jacques School. Our mission serves 3,000 patients, 3,000 students and is composed of 1,700 employees.

Lebanon is going through an unprecedented economic and political crisis. The Lebanese currency lost more than 90% of its value, and capital control is exercised nationwide. Our major support comes from the government and most of our receivables in local currency are evaporating dropping down to the average of 1\$ per patient per day, thus we are barely able to manage our basic daily needs.

We can only count on divine providence and the generosity of donors, to meet our communities' critical needs.

A few months ago, the Sisters were aided in the United States by a newly established organization: the Friends of the Lebanese Franciscan Sisters of the Cross ([www.flfs-usa.org](http://www.flfs-usa.org)). Please visit their website for more information about our Congregation.

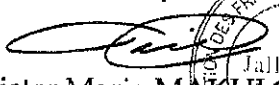
His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, his Excellency, Bishop Gregory Mansour, and his Excellency, Bishop Elias Zaidan, along with myself serve on the Honorary Board of the organization.

For donations by check, please address and mail to the Eparchy of Saint Maron, 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, add in the memo, "for the Lebanese Franciscan Sisters of the Cross". Online donations can be made at:

<https://eparchy.org/lebanese-franciscan-sisters-of-the-cross/>

With much gratitude to you and all who collaborate with you in the Lord's service.

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40).*

  
Sister Marie MAKHLOUN  
General Superior

