



**EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

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Dear Brother Priests, Deacons/Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women, Order of Saint Sharbel Members, National Apostolate of Maronites, Parishioners of every parish in the Eparchy and Friends:

I approach you with a request to help make a dream come true.

The Maronite Church claims as one of her most beloved and well-known saints, and whom Pope Paul VI pointed to as a model for personal renewal, Saint Sharbel Makhlof, a hermit priest and intercessor. The Eparchy of Saint Maron, comprised of 46 parishes and missions, a Seminary, Convent, and Monastery, would be even more well-equipped for its God given mission if we had a Spiritual Life Center to help form our interior lives according to the great longing for holiness that Saint Sharbel exemplified. We now have that possibility in the sale of the Epiphany Center in Pittsburgh, adjacent to our parish, Our Lady of Victory.

The Center was created intentionally thirty years ago by the late Fr. Adrian Van Kaam and Dr. Susan Muto with the purpose of helping to form men and women in the mystical tradition of the Church, based on Catholic doctrine and teaching, and now has a chapel, conference rooms, a library of 10,000 books on spirituality, offices and places for prayer and reflection.

The opportunity for us to purchase this Center is only two months old, but by God's grace Dr. Anne Borik has agreed to serve as its Director. We will soon have a Board of Advisors and Financial Advisors. We have a Mission Statement, a brochure (see attached), and we have great hopes for the future. We will focus our efforts on couples, single people, young adults, and on any person of goodwill who wants to grow in the spiritual life. The Center will be accessible to all people, in person and online. We will promote the good work of Dr. Susan Muto, who will continue to serve at the Center, and we will also create our own programs in Eastern spirituality.

Although Saint Sharbel is known as an intercessor for so many miracles, we will also focus on his example of holiness and interior integrity in God's presence. This Center will be unique in the Maronite world because of this emphasis and the opportunities we will create at the Center to deepen our interior life.

In order to make this dream a reality we turn to you and others like you. We need to raise 1.25 million by October 31, 2023, to purchase the Center. We now have over \$600,000 in hand and/or in pledges. We estimate that we will need around \$80,000 a year to operate it. We think this is possible with the many people who have already expressed their interest.

We seek your help. Would you be open to a donation? Do you also know someone whom you or we can approach? We would be so grateful for any help or advice. Donations can be sent to us online at [www.stmaron.org](http://www.stmaron.org), or by check payable to the Eparchy of St. Maron to the address above. Saint Sharbel pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Gregory John Mansour*

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Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron