



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

**109 Remsen Street**

**Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212**

**Tel: (718) 237-9913 Fax: (718) 243-0444**

[chancerystmaron@verizon.net](mailto:chancerystmaron@verizon.net) [www.stmaron.org](http://www.stmaron.org)

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Dear Brother Priests, Deacons and Subdeacons, Consecrated Men and Women, Lay Faithful:

In these unprecedented times in which we are living and in light of the recent explosion in Lebanon, I ask that we take this opportunity as an invitation to increase our practices of *fasting, prayer and almsgiving*. These three recommended practices are given to us by Christ and the Church to draw us closer to God and one another. Thus, I ask each of you to join me in a special time from the Feast of the Assumption, August 15<sup>th</sup> until the Feast of the Holy Cross, September 14<sup>th</sup>, for a time to increase our Christian generosity by these special spiritual practices.

Let us **pray** for Lebanon and her people. May God have mercy on our dear Lebanon. Let us pray for an end to the pandemic; for the safety, health and well-being of our children, elderly and the vulnerable and for those serving the public good, and those who are in harm's way. Let us pray for the Church, for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, faithful married life, and the generous single life. Let us pray for our world, for a resolution of civil strife, and for political stability, both here and in Lebanon. Let us pray for a renewed appreciation of the innate dignity of each human person, for a deeper solidarity with the poor, for an increased respect for the common good, and for a deeper engagement of all of us in what we call Catholic Social Teaching.

I also ask each of you to join me in a **fast**. Let us add **Wednesdays** to our traditional **Friday** fast. The traditional fast consists of eating nothing before noon, as well as abstaining from meat, eggs and dairy products. But I invite each of you to fast in any way you can on those days. Fasting reminds us that our deepest longing is for God and for his Kingdom to rule over us.

Lastly, I know many of you are already extended beyond your usual means to helping others, but I ask each of you to practice an even greater charity these days in **almsgiving**. This includes your own family members in need, your parish, the poor who are near you, and the poor who are far away. I ask for donations to **Caritas Lebanon** and **Saint Vincent de Paul Society** of Lebanon. This can be done by way of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn with a check payable to the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, or a donation made on our website [www.stmaron.org](http://www.stmaron.org).

These unprecedented times call for unprecedented *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*. May God hear our prayers and accept what we offer him, so that our world, and we ourselves, can be more just and pleasing to him.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory John Mansour