BISHOP’S LETTER ON TALENT

December 14, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In a previous letter to you I addressed the issue of using our time wisely and for God’s purposes. In this letter I turn to our talent as a gift to God and to others.

When the time had come for the people to construct the Tabernacle of God, a proper enclosure for the Ark of the Covenant, Moses asked the people to bring their gold and silver and other material items to be used for the construction, but then he tells them “All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the LORD has commanded.” Moses tells the people to use their talents to glorify the Lord. In writing to the Church in Corinth, St. Paul tells us “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (I Cor. 12:4-7) There are many other times in the Bible when the idea of the use of our talents is mentioned. The proper use of our God-given talents runs throughout the Bible.

We are all not all blessed with wonderful voices for singing, or the ability to write beautiful words or great wisdom, but all of us have a talent that can and should be used to do the work of the Lord.

A “talent” is an aptitude or skill that comes to us naturally or is cultivated in our lives. Every one of us have certain talents—sometimes we may have to spend a little time understanding what they may be. But then we must learn to use them and importantly as well, to learn to cultivate and to grow our talents.

Every parish needs your talents. The entire Church needs your talent. We should generously offer our talents to the Church, but never impose them, remembering that as St. Paul tells us in the quote above we use our gifts and talents “for the common good”. You may have the talent of leadership or the ability to be compassionate to those who need to experience compassion in their lives. Your talents can be truly spiritual gifts when we use them in God’s service. When in our parish communities we reach out to others and build up the Body of Christ, your talent is truly a spiritual gift.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

To be read in church and distributed over parish social media