



# **VISION** FOR THE future **MISSION** FOR today

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE PEOPLE AND PARISHES OF THE EPARCHY OF OUR LADY OF LEBANON OF LOS ANGELES

# INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ZAIDAN

Dear Friends,

Since its inception 25 years ago, our Eparchy has steadily grown over the years. Thanks to the efforts of our clergy and religious along with the collaboration of generous lay faithful, our community of faith thrived and prospered. However, we still have a long way to go.

As the inheritors of this spiritual legacy, we are tasked with making Christ present and strengthening our heritage for the generations to follow. We have developed a **Vision for the Future, Mission for Today** Campaign that will address the eparchial needs. In order to accomplish our goals, we are planning an Eparchial Capital Campaign – the first of its kind in the history of our Eparchy.

Therefore, with great excitement, we embark on a Capital Campaign to raise \$15 million – the funds necessary to bring our Pastoral Plan from goal to reality. We have a pastoral vision that will provide support for new and existing parishes, build and enhance our ministries, invest in our seminarians and priests, and expand charitable outreach. Investing in this Campaign allows us to fuel our mission and leave a rich spiritual legacy for future generations.

As God has richly blessed us, it is time for us to make a generous return to the Lord. After prayer and reflection, I invite you to strengthen your commitment to our Eparchy by making a pledge toward this Campaign. Let God inspire you to make the proper decision and let us all participate in the **Vision for the Future, Mission for Today**.

Thank you for reading this letter, and thank you, in advance, for your contribution to our Campaign. This is a bold endeavor for the Eparchy, flowing from the importance of our mission. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are a people of hope. It is hope in the Lord's faithfulness, "a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul," (Heb 6:19) that gives us strength, sustains us, and directs our actions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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

## Campaign Prayer

O Christ, our Lord, source of all that is good, grant your blessings upon the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon and upon all the faithful. We turn to you with gratitude for what we have and with great anticipation for what is yet to be.

As we celebrate this Silver Jubilee Year of our Eparchy, grant our Bishop wisdom and give our priests, deacons, subdeacons, seminarians, monks and nuns the strength to persevere in their mission of care and love. Bless our families and instill in our homes peace and love. Enlighten the hearts of our youth to generously answer your call to the service of your Church. Grant eternal rest to all our faithful departed who served our Churches along the years.

You have seen fit to grant us many gifts and abundance in our lives for which we are grateful. If it is your will, we ask that our endeavors be successful to secure the future, and to strengthen the mission of our Eparchy. Motivate us to always place ourselves under your guidance and to respond generously with our Time, Talents, and Treasures.

Through the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Lebanon, and our patron saints, we raise glory and thanks to you, to your Father, and to your Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.



**“LET US REMEMBER THE PAST WITH GRATITUDE, LIVE THE PRESENT WITH ENTHUSIASM, AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE.”**

**ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II**

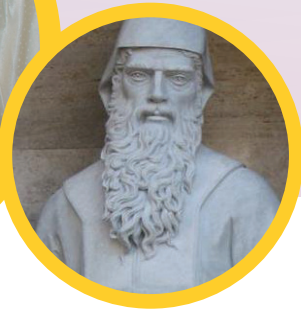
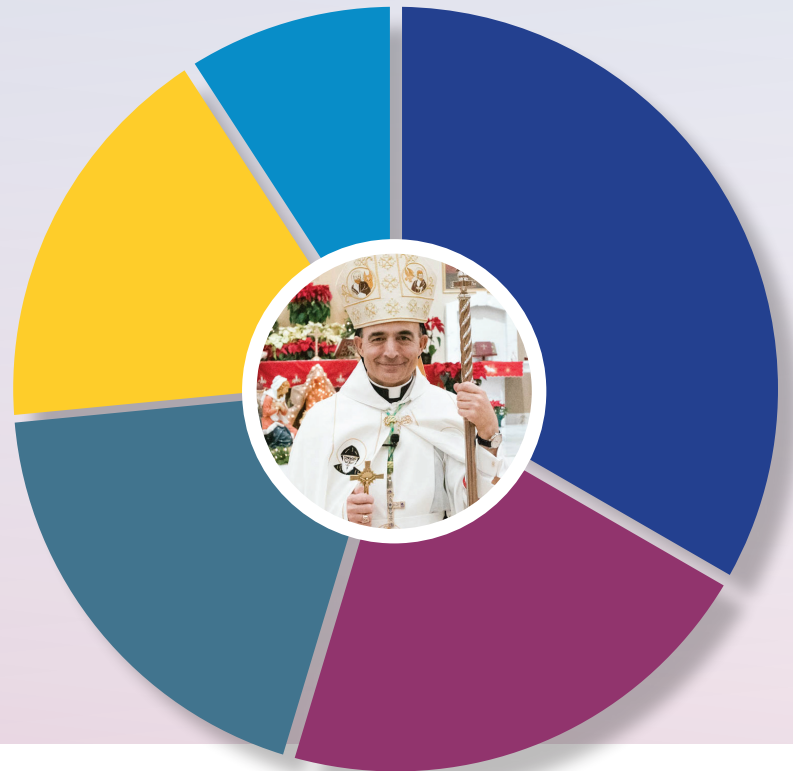


Thanks to a generous designated gift made specifically to underwrite all Campaign expenses, 100 percent of your gift will go directly to the goal priorities listed below.



## CAMPAIGN GOALS

<b>Seminarians' Education</b>	<b>\$5 million</b>
<b>Parishes and Missions</b>	<b>\$3 million</b>
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>\$3 million</b>
<b>Priests' Retirement</b>	<b>\$2.5 million</b>
<b>Charitable Outreach</b>	<b>\$1.5 million</b>
<b>OVERALL GOAL</b>	<b>\$15 MILLION</b>



## WHAT CAN I DO?

PAUSE, PRAY and ASK what God may be calling you to give on behalf of this effort to serve our local parishes and Eparchial community through this Capital Campaign. Then, as a good steward, you will step out in faith and you will know what your generous gift will be.

Together, let us join Pope Francis in his call to “encounter, invite and accompany” all those we meet in Christ’s love. Supporting the mission, vision and ministries of our Eparchy at this time is vitally important to our present and future as Maronite Catholics.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father”

– Matthew 5:14-16

# EPARCHIAL NEEDS: MISSIONS, MINISTRIES AND MINISTERS

These Eparchy-supported initiatives require sound financial footing, and in some cases, capital improvements to effectively carry out the Lord's mandate to "go and make disciples." The Church demonstrates care for God's people by maintaining her presence in all Maronite parishes and missions throughout our Eparchy. Meeting the challenges that face communities in transition demands that the Church provide the resources to maintain her vibrant, vital presence. The larger church must share in this responsibility. In order that the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles remains strong for generations to come, we must invest in our faith today. Education, outreach, and evangelization are the primary needs described within this document and must be addressed now to ensure we have the necessary resources to shape our present and the future for our faith descendants.

## MISSIONS

“God never goes back; He always moves forward. ... God always wants our future to be bigger than our past, and God always moves forward.”

– Matthew Kelly, *Rediscovering Catholicism: Journeying Toward Our Spiritual North Star*

### HEALTHY, VIBRANT PARISHES AND MISSIONS: \$3 MILLION

One of the main priorities of the **Vision for the Future – Mission for Today** Capital Campaign is ensuring we have healthy, vibrant parishes – both spiritually and financially – in all our communities. Parish life is often the cornerstone of an ongoing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and continued growth is essential to the survival of the Maronite Church in America.

Every Maronite in our Eparchy should have equal access to the sacraments and a local parish community. We estimate that there are more than one million Maronites living in our Eparchy but sadly less than 50,000 belong to a parish. Our Eparchy covers 34 western, central and southern states yet we only have churches and missions in 18 of these states. Places like Seattle, Washington; Omaha, Nebraska; and Albuquerque, New Mexico, are eager to have their own place to gather and worship together as Maronites, yet the resources are not yet available to support these new communities.

As we celebrate our Silver Jubilee, it is Bishop Zaidan's 20/20 vision and goal to create 20 new missions over the next 20 years. Newly established Maronite communities need start up financial assistance with rent, insurance, and paying for a priest. The Eparchy is currently supporting these obligations for new locations out of operating funds, but those limited resources severely impact the rate of growth.

Additionally, there is a need to help already established churches meet existing financial obligations. To enable all our parishes to grow and thrive, a portion of the funds raised will be dedicated to providing support for all Maronite communities in our Eparchy with a significant identified need. These goals could include such initiatives as capital improvements to parish facilities, enhancing existing and/or creating new parish ministries, and reducing debt. Having a pool of funds at the Eparchy level to loan at rates significantly lower than commercial lenders, possibly even zero interest for qualifying locations, will ensure more of the funds raised locally are applied directly to parish growth and support.



# MINISTRIES



## Ministry Support: \$3 Million

The primary mission of our Eparchy is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people. This is what ministry is essentially about. The majority of this ministry takes place in our parishes. We are one church comprised of many parishes and missions and we must pool our resources so that we can provide vibrant ministries for the benefit of all parishioners and all people in our diocese. Our goal is to create an endowment that will provide on-going financial support to ensure the continuation, improvement, and growth of these ministries.

### The Ministry Endowment Fund will support these ministries:



YOUTH AND YOUNG  
ADULT MINISTRIES



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY  
LIFE MINISTRY



LITURGY AND  
MUSIC MINISTRY



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
AND FAITH FORMATION



COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICE



LAY MINISTRY TRAINING  
AND DEVELOPMENT

# MINISTRIES



## The first three priorities for ministry growth and development are:

### 1. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

“How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.”

– Psalm 118:9

The formation in our Maronite Catholic faith and the education of our youth and young adults takes place throughout the Eparchy. Through the Capital Campaign we seek to establish permanent and professionally staffed offices of Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry. **Through programs, events and activities these ministries will seek to help young people find true happiness by coming to know and love Jesus Christ in His Church.** We must minister to and engage the future of the Church now if we are to exist in the future.

One of our most critical missions as a Church centers on helping our youth and young adults to know Jesus Christ.

### 2. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION

“To make disciples, we have to provide students with the opportunities to encounter Christ in classrooms, churches, and schools.”

– Jared Dees, *To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach*

The Religious Education Ministry for our Eparchy is committed to providing Maronite Catholics lifelong faith formation. Catechesis is a priority and the centerpiece of evangelization. It is rooted in Sacred Scripture, tradition and the liturgy and is a response of the Church to the missionary mandate of Jesus Christ to spread the Good News to all peoples.

The Office of Religious Education and a committee of leaders from all across the Eparchy are working to produce a variety of materials that incorporate technology and other essential elements into the learning experience. These materials are being designed to correspond to the Faith of the Mountain series for our parish based religious education programs.

We know that Maronite religious education is a lifelong process that shapes the mind, touches the heart, and leads persons to embrace Christ fully and completely. **This critical ministry to our faith strives primarily to prepare our children and enable adults to fulfill their responsibility to share this faith with other adults, youth, and children.**

Enhancements to the faith formation program will focus on developing a universal religious education curriculum for use in all parishes and missions, continuing formation and training for lay volunteers, parish and Eparchy staff, and providing the necessary resources and tools to support all our parishes.

### 3. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

“Every effort should be made to strengthen and develop pastoral care for the family, which should be treated as a real matter of priority in the certainty that future evangelization depends largely on the domestic church.”

– Pope John Paul II, *Address to the Third Assembly of the Bishops of Latin America*, 28 January 1979

Marriage and family life are created to be a “visible sign” of God’s love in the world. We offer resources to help form, strengthen, and heal families in carrying out our mission to build a culture of marriage and family life. The mission of the newly created Eparchial Office of Family Life Ministry is to directly serve parishes and families, so that families may answer their call to holiness and become rooted in Christ. The Family Life Ministry will promote and coordinate programs for marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, marriage healing and family centered catechesis. Additionally, this ministry will offer resources to help form and strengthen families in carrying out our mission to build a culture of marriage and family life as we navigate modern day challenges

# MINISTERS

## SEMINARIANS' EDUCATION AND PRIESTS' CONTINUING EDUCATION: \$5 MILLION

“ I will give you shepherds after my own heart...”  
– Jer 3:15

A vocation to the priesthood is a priceless gift to the Church. Providing educational and financial support to seminarians as they seek to become priests helps ensure the ministry of priests to generations that follow. Funds raised will be used to help cover education and formation costs for diocesan seminarians.

Today it costs a minimum of \$45,000 per year for each seminarian and the average schooling includes at least five years of study. **The current source of funding is not enough to meet the existing annual financial obligations, let alone prepare us for any future growth in vocations.**

It is imperative that our Eparchy ensure a strong supply of men for the priesthood to replace those that are retiring over the next decade as well as serve the new mission locations needed throughout the Eparchy.

## PRIEST RETIREMENT & CARE OF CLERGY: \$2.5 MILLION

“ The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

– St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests

The Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles is blessed to have such dedicated and loving priests. As leaders of our faith family, these men have kept our Eparchy vibrant and spiritual throughout their years of committed service. **Because they have answered a call to serve us it leaves us with a clear moral obligation. We must ensure the most basic needs of our past, present and future priests are met.**

Our priests selflessly dedicate their lives in service to the Lord, caring for the People of God in times of joy and celebration, as well as times of great need and personal sorrow. We are committed to meet our ongoing obligation to care for clergy, especially those who may not be active in parish ministry. Funds will be allocated for spiritual development and ongoing formation of priests, as well as to assist priests who are not active anymore in parish ministry.



# CHARITABLE OUTREACH AND MINISTRY TO OUR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES: \$1.5 MILLION

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

– 1 Peter 4:10

Pope Francis has called for the Church to “go forth,” moving with love toward those on the margins. In order that we may continue to become a community which “goes forth,” to serve the people of God, our overarching goal will be to promote stewardship as a way of life, with this in mind we will dedicate 10 percent of the overall Campaign goal to charitable support within and outside our parishes.

The plan is to fund an endowment designated for annual charitable outreach to those in need. **These gifts given on behalf of the entire Eparchy could support countless projects and needs such as disaster relief, refugee services, homelessness, elder care, food pantries, emergency support for local families, medical support and research, and advocacy and social justice causes.**





## MARONITE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

To provide for complete transparency, accountability and protection of donated funds, the Eparchy has formed the Maronite Catholic Foundation (MCF) as a separate legal entity from the Eparchy. The Foundation was established as a 501c3 charitable corporation ensuring all donations given will be fully tax deductible. The MCF will be responsible for the financial management and distribution of funds for the Capital Campaign as well as other Eparchial funds.

All Campaign funds will flow through the foundation into endowment accounts specifically created to support the designated priorities. Interest income from the endowments will be disbursed in accordance with the intention of the donors and the Campaign case statement.

The foundation, a standalone nonprofit corporation, will be administered by a nine-person Board of Directors made up of three clergy, including the bishop, and six lay member representatives. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the foundation, will determine how funds are allocated, monitor pledge collections, hold a separate bank account and set of books, and conduct annual audits to secure a separation of Campaign assets from general Eparchial resources. Annual financial reports for the foundation will be shared in the Maronite Voice and on the Eparchy's website.



**\$1,000,000 +**  
**Circle of Our Lady of Lebanon**

**\$500,000 – \$999,999**  
**Circle of Angels**

**\$100,000 – \$499,999**  
**Circle of Patrons**

**\$50,000 – \$99,999**  
**Circle of Benefactors**

**\$25,000 – \$49,999**  
**Circle of Sponsors**

**\$10,000 – \$24,999**  
**Circle of Supporters**

**\$5,000 – \$9,999**  
**Circle of Contributors**

**\$2,000 – \$4,999**  
**Circle of Helpers**

**Any Gift up to \$1,999**  
**Circle of Friends**

## DONOR RECOGNITION CEDAR OF LEBANON SOCIETY

All donors to the **Vision for the Future – Mission for Today** Capital Campaign will automatically become members of the Cedar of Lebanon Society and recognized for their generosity in Campaign publications, on the Eparchy website, and on commemorative Campaign donor monument at the Chancery Office. Each parish will also receive a **Vision for the Future – Mission for Today** plaque recognizing their local donors' gift level participation in the Campaign.

Donors contributing gifts of \$25,000 and above will also receive special recognition from Bishop Zaidan when he visits their local parish.

Please note, the Eparchy respects donor privacy and will not publicly recognize any donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The success of this Campaign will not come as a result of equal gifts but equal sacrifices by all our parishioners and friends, and all who participate are deeply appreciated and will be acknowledged accordingly.

*"Our Lady,*

*Cedar of Lebanon, pray for us."*

## METHODS OF GIVING

Selecting the best gift plan depends on your personal financial situation and goals. As tax laws are always changing and your family's situation is unique, you are encouraged to consult with family and financial advisors to determine the most beneficial method of giving for you.

### PLEDGES

Pledges are commitments made in good faith but are not legally binding. We ask that you consider making pledges over a three-year period to maximize the total amount of your support. This commitment can be fulfilled through monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual installments. You choose the start date of your first installment based on what will work best for you.

### CASH GIFTS

Gifts of cash are the most common and will allow the Campaign to address its immediate needs. Donating cash is as simple as writing a check, authorizing a charge on your credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover), or automatic withdrawals. **Please make checks payable to "Maronite Catholic Foundation"** and please note **Vision for the Future – Mission for Today** Capital Campaign in the memo section of checks or online forms.

### GIFTS OF SECURITIES

You will receive a tax deduction for the full market value of the gift while you avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciated amount. If you sell depreciated stock and contribute the proceeds, you will receive both a tax deduction for the charitable gift and a deduction for the capital loss.

### IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

On December 18, 2015, Congress passed, and the president signed into permanent law the IRA Charitable Rollover. This allows taxpayers age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to charity without first having to recognize the distribution as income.

### BEQUESTS

A charitable bequest is a gift to charity made at death through a will or trust. Your bequest can indicate a specific dollar amount, percentage or remainder of your estate you would like awarded to benefit the Capital Campaign. Your bequest can support the Mission and Vision of the Eparchy and leave a lasting legacy in your name.

### LIFE INSURANCE

You may contribute to the Campaign by making the Maronite Catholic Foundation the owner and beneficiary of your insurance policy. Such a gift may allow you to make a larger contribution than you thought possible. Benefits may include a current income tax deduction for the gift of the policy, continuing income tax deductions for periodic premium payments, removal of the insurance from your taxable estate, and the satisfaction that comes from making a gift to benefit the Campaign priorities.

### REAL ESTATE

Gifts of appreciated real estate are similar to gifts of appreciated stock. If you've held the property for more than one year, you obtain an income tax charitable deduction equal to the property's full fair market value. At the same time, you also avoid capital gains tax on the property's appreciation and the gift also reduces your taxable estate.

### CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

A matching gift program provided through your employer may allow you to increase the value of your gift. Many companies match charitable gifts made by their employees, retirees, or board members.

### MEMORIAL, TRIBUTE AND HONORARY GIFTS

A tribute gift is a meaningful way to memorialize a loved one, commemorate a special occasion or honor a person's life and accomplishments while supporting the goals of our Capital Campaign. Your gift to the Capital Campaign made in honor or memory of someone special in your life ensures a legacy that extends far into the future.



“After prayerful thought about the size of our gift; when we do not find ourselves making excuses for its size; when we know in our hearts it is sacrificial; when we are completely honest with God and ourselves; then we know our gift is the correct amount.”

– Bishop Eugene Gerber – 2012 International Catholic Stewardship Conference

### DETERMINING YOUR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION

Making a financial commitment should be primarily a spiritual decision – reached after prayer and reflection. Our decisions about giving financially reflect central parts of our spiritual life: • Surrendering a portion of our wealth to God’s work • Having faith that we can give generously and not suffer want • Showing joyful thanksgiving for God’s grace and gifts to us. The following gift plans are presented for your prayerful consideration:

TOTAL GIFT	INITIAL 10% INVESTMENT	BALANCE	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY	SEMIANNUAL	ANNUAL
\$1,000,000	\$100,000	\$900,000	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
\$500,000	\$50,000	\$450,000	\$12,500	\$37,500	\$75,000	\$150,000
\$100,000	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$30,000
\$50,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	\$1,250	\$3,750.00	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$30,000	\$3,000	\$27,000	\$750	\$2,250.00	\$4,500	\$9,000
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$13,500	\$375	\$1,125.00	\$2,250	\$4,500
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$9,000	\$250	\$750.00	\$1,500	\$3,000
\$6,000	\$600	\$5,400	\$150	\$450.00	\$900	\$1,800
\$3,600	\$360	\$3,240	\$90	\$270.00	\$540	\$1,080
\$1,800	\$180	\$1,620	\$45	\$135.00	\$270	\$540



Note: The incremental payment examples are based on an initial 10 percent investment followed by the suggested payment plan for three-years.



## CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

### BISHOP

Most Rev. A. Elias Zaidan

### CAMPAIGN GENERAL CHAIRS

Bourjois Abboud – Houston, TX

Paul Bolus – Birmingham, AL

### HONORARY CHAIRS

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Ambassador Yousif Ghafari – Detroit, MI

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John Simon – St. Louis, MO

### CAMPAIGN CABINET

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Jamileh Koury – Los Angeles, CA

Viviane Kuzni – Millbrae, CA

Michael Misleh – Cincinnati, OH

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Andre Nicholas – Lewisville, TX

George Salameh – Austin, TX

Edward Salem – Orange, CA

Alberto Tohme – Houston, TX

### CLERGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Deacon Louis Peters – St. Louis, MO

### CLERGY COMMITTEE

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Rev. George Hajj – Cincinnati, OH

Chorbishop Sharbel Maroun – Minneapolis, MN

Rev. Tony Massad – Livonia, MI

Rev. John Nahal – St. Louis, MO

Rev. Toufic Nasr – El Cajon, CA

Chorbishop Richard Saad – Birmingham, AL

Msgr. Donald Sawyer – Austin, TX

Rev. Elias Sleiman, MLM – Los Angeles, CA

Chorbishop Anthony Spinosa – N. Jackson, OH

Rev. Milad Yaghi, MLM – Houston, TX

### MARONITE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Rev. A. Elias Zaidan, *Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles*

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*Vicar General for the Eparchy*

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### DEVELOPMENT COUNSEL

The Steier Group