



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles



CAMPAIGN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DO WE NEED TO SUPPORT THE EPARCHY?

In the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, there are 42 parishes and missions across 18 of the 34 states in our diocese. The Eparchy represents our family of Maronite faithful, and a local church is but one part of that larger community. Picture the Eparchy like a Rosary that is interconnected and we need each other's support and unity to flourish.

The Eparchy coordinates programs and ministries on behalf of all parishioners and complements the work that is done at the local church level. These efforts cannot be accomplished by either the Eparchy or the local churches alone, it is a partnership. Just as we support the Pope, our Father and Head of the whole Catholic Church, so we are to extend our support spiritually and financially to the Eparchy and our Bishop.

The Eparchy does not have sufficient resources to fund all the vital programs and ministries that are necessary for a vibrant faith community. Without your generosity, ministries would suffer. We could not afford to educate future priests or care for our retired ones. Thousands of underserved Maronites in areas without a local church will remain without a priest and place to gather and worship. Your gifts to the Eparchy, and in particular to the **Vision for the Future – Mission for Today** Capital Campaign, ensure all the people and local churches within our Eparchy receive equal access to the sacraments and ministries today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE – MISSION FOR TODAY CAMPAIGN?

The capital campaign is an effort to raise money in the short term (three to five years) to support an Endowment Fund for future use. For a Maronite Catholic diocese or parish, this refers to gifts and pledges over and above parishioners' regular giving to the Sunday collection or annual appeals. Parishioners who make pledges to the Eparchy's campaign will have three years to fulfill their commitment based on a schedule of their choosing, such as monthly, quarterly or annually.

The **Vision for the Future – Mission for Today** campaign is an extraordinary opportunity for all to play a role in strengthening the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles. This campaign is the first of its kind for any Eastern Rite Eparchy in the United States and the first for the Maronite Church worldwide. Our goal is to raise \$15 million for the Endowment Fund to strengthen **Missions, Ministries, and Ministers** to fulfill our Eparchial vision and mission today, tomorrow and for generations to come. Your donations to this historic campaign will ensure all of our parishes and missions are strong both spiritually and financially. The campaign funds will help create new missions, provide coordination, support and training for parish-based ministries, educate our future priests, and care for our retired priests who faithfully served our parishes and families.

WHO WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE?

Over the course of the campaign, every member in every parish within the Eparchy will be asked to make a gift to this important fundraising effort. *It is not about equal gifts but equal sacrifice to share in the equal responsibility of building up the Kingdom of God in our local communities.* There will be memorial opportunities for donors to designate gifts and honor loved ones as well as possibilities for individuals and families to make planned gifts to strengthen our clergy, programs, and ministries for years to come. Every gift will be recognized accordingly.



HOW IS THIS CAMPAIGN DIFFERENT FROM THE LENTEN OR CHRISTMAS APPEALS?

The ***Vision for the Future – Mission for Today*** campaign is an extraordinary effort over three years intended to create long-term financial stability and funding for projects above and beyond the scope of our typical operating budget. The campaign will seek gifts beyond those already donated to appeals and regular parish giving. The Lenten and Christmas Appeals are critical for supporting the ongoing needs of the Eparchy on an annual basis for essential programs like seminary education and priest retirement, but they do not cover the full annual costs. The Campaign will help the Eparchy to stabilize financially and expand in leaps and bounds.

WHAT IS THE MARONITE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION CORPORATION?

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 is administered by a nine-person board of directors made up of three clergy, including the bishop, and six lay member representatives. 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. **All campaign funds will flow through the foundation into the Endowment Fund specifically created to support the designated priorities.** Income from the endowments will be disbursed in accordance with the intentions of the donors and the campaign case statement.

