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August 15, 2024
Feast of the Assumption

Prot No. 259/1/24
Circ No. 24.74

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called for a **Jubilee Year** December 24, 2024, through December 28, 2025. He has asked us to be “pilgrims of hope” during this year and to deepen our personal encounter with Christ. Therefore, with a whole-hearted affirmation, I have decided to embrace the **Jubilee Year** with the following Eparchial requests of clergy, religious and laity:

1. We Pastors should increase our efforts to offer the Sacrament of Penance, and invite other priests with us to hear confessions in the parish. This revives our hope in the God who loves and forgives.
2. Deacons, Subdeacons, their spouses and I will redouble our efforts to assist the poor and needy in our own parishes, in our surrounding communities by connecting with the local Saint Vincent de Paul Societies and in the Middle East by connecting to *Caritas* Lebanon, Saint Vincent de Paul, or other charitable efforts.
3. We Pastors will make a special effort to reach out to any parishioner that has left the Parish and invite them to return home.
4. Anyone whom we (clergy, religious or laity of the Eparchy) have offended or hurt by any actions or decisions, we stand ready to make amends.
5. Every Maronite is asked to re-evaluate his or her way of life so as to make for better relationships with others. In particular, this means especially for those closest to us.
6. Six parishes, including the Cathedral, will be designated as places of pilgrimages:
 - Saint Anthony of the Desert Church in Fall River, MA
 - Our Lady of Victory in Pittsburgh, PA
 - Our Lady of Lebanon in Washington, DC
 - Saint Joseph Church in Atlanta, GA
 - Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Miami, FL
 - Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY
7. This **Jubilee Year** we will promote a special Pilgrimage to Washington, DC for the Annual March for Life in January, as well as on August 15th for the Feast of Assumption at the National Shrine in North Jackson, Ohio.

The purpose of the **Jubilee Year** is to bring more of the hope of God's love into our world. This hope begins with me, with each one of us. Therefore, with God's grace I ask together that we find ways to deeper our union with God and one another. Thus, in turn, after having set our hopes on God, we will live with more confidence in his loving mercy. Attached are some special graces associated with **Jubilee Year**

May the prayer and love of Our Lady of Hope be with us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Gregory*

+Gregory John Mansour

GJM/ac

Attachment