



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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www.stsharbel.org

June 3, 2018

The Spirit Teaches



Next Sunday

Jesus Rejoices in the Holy Spirit

1 Cor 2:11-16 (The True Wisdom)

Lk 10:21-24 (Praise of the Father)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, June 3rd, 10:30 am

+Tony Abboud

Monday, June 4th

Radka & Linda

Tuesday, June 5th

Available

Wednesday, June 6th

Jan & Eva

Thursday, June 7th

Available

Friday, June 8th

Available

Saturday, June 9th

Available

Sunday, June 10th

+Antoinette Semaan

Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:30 am before the morning Liturgy.

Confession every Sunday at 9:45 am before the morning Liturgy.

Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:00 am before the Liturgy begins.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for May 20th - 27th

Online.....\$1,355.00

Collection.....\$782.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,137.00

YTD Total.....\$37,978.68

YTD Goal.....\$38,766.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$787.32**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, June 3rd

Available

Sunday, June 10th

Torker Family



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles
Office of the Bishop

May 25, 2018

Dear Monsignor/Father, Deacon,

I am pleased to announce to you that after consultation and with the unanimous approval of the Presbyteral Council and Capital Campaign Committee, I have selected the Steier Group, based in Omaha, Nebraska to conduct our Capital Campaign. The Steier Group has worked with a number of other Eparchies/Dioceses and Church-related groups with very good success. As a result of consultation the Steier Group feels that this is right time for the Campaign and that it would be successful. I agree with their recommendation and have already taken steps to prepare for such an effort. It is clear to me that now is the right time to do something extraordinary to support our priests and our parishes.

As you know we recently conducted a study to gather feedback on the Eparchy's strategic priorities and gauge support for a fundraising campaign. I am especially grateful to those of you who participated as your feedback was beneficial in planning the future of our Maronite faith community. This process will set a course for our Eparchy well into the future and with God's help and your collaboration insure the financial stability of the Eparchy as well.

The Steier Group reported their findings and recommendations to me and the members of the Presbyteral Council and Campaign Steering Committee on April 24, 2018. I want to share those results with you before I share them with our broader faith community.

As you will see from the enclosed summary, the study showed strong support for a capital campaign. I am especially heartened to learn that 86 percent of our clergy, parish leaders and parishioners are in favor of moving forward with a capital campaign. To give you some perspective, that is well above the typical response rate of 72 percent of survey participants who are in favor of a diocesan campaign.

With the campaign preparation phase officially underway, we all need to be supportive in word and deed, and in prayer, so that our Eparchy may be able to continue the work of the Lord now and into the future.

With the Lord guiding us, I have no doubt our efforts will be abundantly blessed. With gratitude for your continual support and prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

EPARCHY of
OUR LADY OF LEBANON
of LOS ANGELES

PLANNING STUDY RESULTS

Thank you for participating in this critical campaign preparation process.

PARTICIPATION



49 personal interviews
with clergy



103 personal interviews
with laity

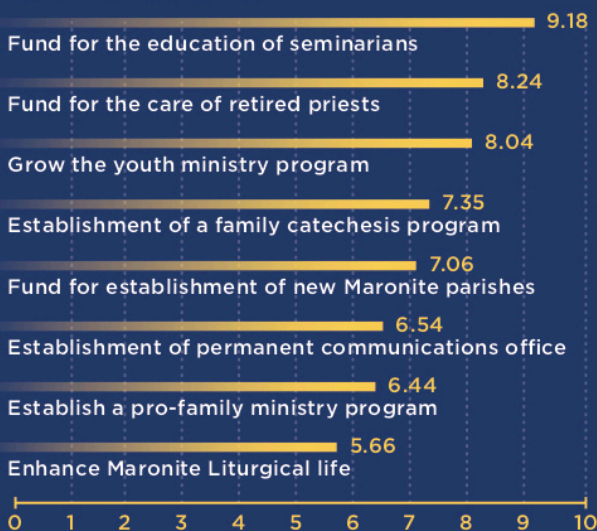


75 mail/online
survey responses



227 total participation

PRIORITIZATION OF GOALS



STATISTICAL FINDINGS



86% of participants are in favor
of a capital campaign.

MORE THAN 100 participants will accept a
campaign leadership or volunteer position.



80% of respondents are financially
supportive of a campaign.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Bishop Zaidan is beloved and his vision for the Eparchy is strongly supported by both clergy and laity.
- There is confusion regarding the Order of St. Sharbel funds and how they factor into a new campaign.
- Respondents feel the time is right for a campaign and they appreciate the Bishop taking a proactive approach to Eparchy finances. However, the proposed goal of \$30 million was viewed as overly ambitious and too much to tackle all at once. Responders want to know what the most urgent needs are and suggest addressing those first.
- Respondents desire more communication and clarification on the need, transparency of general Eparchy finances and how much is needed for immediate needs versus endowment.
- The parish sharing component question resulted in a broad range of responses. Results suggest there should be a sliding scale percentage for parishes based on need and not one flat rate for all.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Based on the positive results of the planning study, the Steier Group recommends that the Eparchy immediately moves forward with a capital campaign.
- The Steier Group presented over 100 general and specific recommendations ranging from case development to campaign structure. The primary recommendations focused on the need to secure and maintain clergy support, recruit a strong leadership team, initiate a robust communication and donor relation plan, and execute comprehensive solicitation initiatives.



Reflection

The Spirit Teaches

Jesus continues his farewell message to his disciples at the Last Supper.

Those who really love him are those who carry out the teachings he has given them.

Words alone will not be enough. Where there is real love from the disciple, Jesus will return that love and reveal himself to his disciple. He will do this by coming with his Father to dwell in that person.

Now it is Jude's turn to ask a question. Jude is called "son of James" and listed among the Twelve in Luke 6:16. He appears again in a list in Acts 1:13 (also by Luke). He is believed to be the 'Thaddaeus' of Matthew 10:3 and Mark 3:18.

He wants to know why Jesus only reveals himself to his disciples and not to the world. Jesus is rather elliptical in his reply but basically he is saying that anyone who responds to Jesus with love will certainly experience the love of Jesus (which is always there). The 'world' by definition in John's gospel consists of those who turn their back on Jesus, his message and his love. "He who does not love me does not keep my words."

Again, Jesus reminds his disciples that everything he passes on to them comes ultimately from the Father and not from him alone. He is the mediator, he is the Way, he is the Word of God. And later, after he has gone, this role will be taken over by the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

The word 'paraclete' (parakletes, paraklhts) has many meanings. It can mean a defense lawyer in a court of law, who stands beside the defendant and supports him in making his case. It means any person who stands by you and gives you support and comfort. (See 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 where, in one brief paragraph, the word parakletes in various forms is used 7 or 8 times in the sense of 'comfort' and 'support'). The Spirit will play that role in the Church after Jesus has returned to his Father. And he continues in that role still.

His role is to help the disciples keep in mind all that Jesus has told them. He is the inner voice of God who will lead those who listen to the fullness of truth (something which no one possesses at any given time). He will help them to understand the full meaning of Christ for them and for the world. The Spirit will show them that Christ is the fulfillment of the Scriptures, will help them understand ever more deeply the meaning of Jesus' life, his actions, his 'signs'. All this the disciples barely understand at this stage and it is a process that continues on into our own day.



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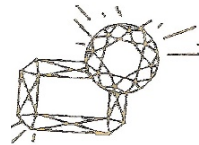
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