



مطرانية طرابلس والكورة وتوابعها للروم الأرثوذكس
Métropole Grecque Orthodoxe de Tripoli, Koura et Dépendances
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Tripoli, Koura and Dependances

Beloved brothers in the Lord, esteemed members of the Saint Barbara Association,

In this holy season, we wish you a blessed Great Lent, filled with divine grace and crowned with the joy of beholding the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, after sharing in His Passion.

Dear ones, we do not wish to burden you, but we feel it important to place before you the reality of life in Lebanon, and in our archdiocese in particular, so that you may know how your quarterly support to the *House of Family and Youth Center* sustains many of our brothers and sisters.

Tripoli is among the poorest cities of the Mediterranean, and the worsening economic crisis in Lebanon has brought soaring prices and unbearable costs for healthcare and medicine. Recently, the tragedy of collapsing old buildings struck some of our families in popular neighborhoods. Under the guidance of our Metropolitan Ephraim, we strive to help them as much as possible. Matters have grown worse with the recent war, which indirectly increased the burden on families through rising costs of food, rent, and fuel. The responsibility upon the diocese is heavy, yet by God's grace and with the support of beloved friends like you, we can carry it with joy and hope.

On the Sunday of Judgment, we read the Gospel where the Lord says plainly: "*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me*" (Matthew 25). For this reason, we thank you deeply for your blessed work toward the Lord Jesus Himself, through the help you give to His beloved little ones. Your support enables us to continue assisting needy families. Since the founding of the Center in 2015, we have accompanied about 1,100 families, of which 600 received regular assistance. Through your contributions, we help around 100 families each time you send a donation. In truth, our Center relies primarily on this regular support, as Saint Barbara Association has become our sole permanent and committed partner. Other donations arrive sporadically and individually. We pray that God may increase such blessed initiatives, and that your own may continue.

Beloved, the living conditions in Lebanon are dire. To give you a clearer picture:

1. The average income is about \$400 for soldiers and state employees, dropping below \$300 for laborers, while retirees earn no more than \$270.
2. Expenses are doubled: electricity bills plus generator subscriptions (at least \$50 monthly), along with phone and water bills.
3. Healthcare—even in public hospitals—now requires payment in dollars. Chronic medications (for diabetes, heart, blood pressure) cost at least \$80 monthly, not counting seasonal medicines, infant formula and diapers, or elderly care.
4. School and university fees, transportation, food, and drink are exorbitant.

5. Serious illnesses such as cancer are widespread, with treatments extremely costly and often unavailable except at inflated prices.
6. Rent averages between \$200–300 monthly.
7. The only official aid program (*Aman*) provides up to \$150 monthly per family, but most of our people do not qualify due to technical conditions.

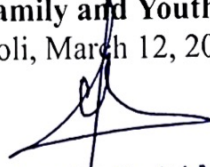
Faced with this harsh reality, many must work multiple jobs from morning until night just to survive. Some forego their medicine to save money; others accumulate debt to pay rent. Many suffer silently, trusting that the Lord will intervene, though at times they go to bed hungry. How could Bishop Ephraim—and we who assist him in his pastoral mission—ignore the cries of Christ's flock?

In truth, the very survival of Lebanon and its people is a miracle of God's providence, revealed through the solidarity of faithful brothers in Christ like you, who refuse to let their brethren live in humiliation, and who provide support so that they may live with at least minimal dignity.

Finally, we convey to you the blessing, prayers, and heartfelt gratitude of Bishop Ephraim, who deeply values your love that reaches us across seas and continents. You prove that love knows no obstacle or distance, and truly brings hearts closer together.

From all of us at the *House of Family and Youth Center*, you have our love, thanks, and respect. Remember us in your prayers... You are always in ours.

House of Family and Youth Center
Tripoli, March 12, 2026


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