



Prot. No. 1887/2025

Ms Ramona Zeini
Saint Barbara Lebanon Relief Fund
California – U.S.A.

Mount Lebanon, December 19, 2025

Dear in Christ Ms Ramona Zeini,

On the forthcoming feasts of the Holy Nativity and Theophany, it is my heartfelt desire to reflect with you on the following verse: "The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

This verse encapsulates the mystery of the Incarnation, the mystery of the Theophany, and the mystery of our salvation, in the light of the saving work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit once breathed forth and overshadowed the Virgin Mary; the One born of her was incarnate when the power of the Most High came to dwell within her. The same Spirit blew at the Jordan and descended in the form of a dove upon the One who was baptized by John. This very Spirit continues to blow and to overshadow those who are born of God through water and the Spirit.

Indeed, this verse sets us upon the path inaugurated by the Lord Jesus for our salvation. He has entrusted to us the gift of His Holy Spirit, who seals our very being, guides us into all truth, leads us to the faithful observance of His commandments, makes us a dwelling place for God, and establishes us as light for the world, so that those who behold our good works may glorify the Father who is in heaven and be led to the way of salvation.

In this spirit, I humbly unite my prayer with yours, imploring the Holy Spirit to enlighten your ministry, whose yoke is gentle and light; to illumine the path of service of the disciples and stewards of the Lord; and to strengthen the witness and prayer of the Church in our world today. We remain steadfast in hope that the peoples of the earth may come to know salvation through Him who lay in a manger and who was manifested to us in the waters of the Jordan.

As my predecessor, His Eminence Metropolitan Georges (Khodr), joins us in this supplication, we entrust ourselves to your holy prayers.

+ Silouan
Metropolitan of Byblos, Botrys and Dependencies
(Mount Lebanon)

