



# **Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**

Dear parishioners and friends,

I hope you are doing well, and thanks be to God for a Successful NAM Convention!

The Maronite Convention in San Francisco Bay Area was a joy and blessing for all of us, and specially to having in our midst, The Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, Cardinal Mar Bechara Peter Rai, and all NAM conventioners.

It is the first time for our community to host the Maronite Convention in the states, we proudly have done so, and have welcomed all our guests.

Personally, I enjoyed every minute of our Maronite Convention. It was the harvest and culmination of two hard working years. I have heard lots of good comments; our generous hospitality; the good details of the administrative work; the educational speakers/workshops; the uplifting spiritual experience of our Liturgical services; the performances of our children, youths, young adults; the entertainment programs; the enjoyable excursions, and many other wonderful things.

I cannot thank you enough, particularly NAM Convention Chairpersons and Members of various Committees, for the countless hours that you have dedicated of your time working on this convention, add to that your talents and monetary support. Thank you for all your help, especially your commitment to our Maronite Church.

I was very proud, in this convention, and am in all our events. I have seen our children, our youths, our young adults, our adults, and our seniors praying, working, learning, and socializing/playing as disciples of Christ, and one family of God.

When I watched our children serving the Divine Liturgy last Saturday, our youth served it the day before, and Sunday our adults served the Mass, too; I see them passing the torch to one another the torch of faith and sacred tradition. When I watched our children, youths, and young adults dancing dabkeh on Friday, Middle Eastern night, I see that our adults are passing the torch from one generation to another. The torch of our culture and customs.

I appreciate all the work that every one of our parishioners and friends have done, and personally thank them. I cannot but pray and thank God for such individuals who dedicated themselves to the church.

God is working in our community every time I see our children singing spiritual songs and chanting in the choir.

God is working in our community every time I see our youth serving The Divine Liturgy, and putting on a beautiful Dabkeh dance.

God is working in our community every time I see our young adults discussing different religious topics and God is the center of their interest.

God is working in our community every time OLL Ladies Guild work non-stop on different events in our church, from the monthly luncheon to the picnic, convention, and not forgetting the Festival.

God is working in our community every time I see the men in our parish, knights of St Maron, and St Sharbel, working and supporting/protecting their families

On this occasion, I would like to thank His Beatitude Cardinal Bechara Peter Rai for his presence among us in this convention. He is the Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, the successor of St Peter, and all our Patriarchs who became Holy in a history of struggle through the years.

May God always bless us with your prayers the prayers of the saints.

God bless the National Apostolate of Maronites, our beautiful church community, and all of us who are serving God in prayer, silence, and love!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. John Nahal, pastor

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