



**EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN
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His Eminence & Beatitude Nasrallah Peter Cardinal Sfeir
Patriarch of Antioch and East
Patriarchal Residence
Bkerke
Lebanon

Your Eminence and Beatitude:

The year 2006 has had its own special difficulties for Lebanon. In the midst of this turmoil, like Christ Jesus Himself, you, Sayedna, have been the Good Shepherd. Only God knows what the future holds, but it is with great pride and with firm support that we, your Maronite Bishops of the United States, extend our confidence and prayerful support to you and the Maronite Synod of Bishops in the New Year.

Sayedna, you and the Synod have been a true example of how a Church can be devoted to peace, justice and non partisan political dialogue yet at the same time devoted to Christ and to the truth that sets men free. We wholeheartedly support the *Declaration of the Maronite Church Fundamentals for Lebanon*, and we pledge to redouble our efforts to support you in this work.

As always, we are at your service in all the ways we can. May Christ Himself strengthen you, His flock and Lebanon in this time of need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Gregory J. Mansour
Bishop of Saint Maron

+Robert J. Shaheen
Bishop of Our Lady of Lebanon