

EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Washington DC Area Benefit Dinner
for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn a “Capital” Success!**

*Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington,
joined Bishop Gregory John Mansour and supporters of the Eparchy at event.*

Brooklyn, NY, May 26, 2011 – Over 150 people turned out on May 12 for a Benefit Dinner at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Parish and Seminary in Washington, DC to support the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn. Joining Maronite Bishop Gregory John Mansour was Archbishop of Washington Donald Cardinal Wuerl, who delivered the keynote address on Blessed Pope John Paul II. Over \$80,000 was raised at the event.

Chorbishop Michael G. Thomas, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Eparchy, was Master of Ceremonies and kept the evening moving at a lively pace. The opening prayer was offered by Chorbishop Seely Beggiani, Rector of Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary. Attendees viewed a brief, informative DVD prior to dinner. In addition to Cardinal Wuerl and Bishop Mansour, after-dinner remarks were offered by John F. Kurey, Esq., the Eparchy’s Stewardship Director, who encouraged the faithful to support their Church. The closing prayer was offered by Monsignor Walter Rossi, Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Local Lebanese restaurants provided the evening’s entire fare gratis, and were organized by Donna Tschiffely, Principal of Conference Inc., a professional event planner who donated her services in organizing the many aspects of the Benefit Dinner. Parishioners Gebran Fattouche and Jano Nicolas played pivotal roles in handling logistics for the evening, along with Benefit Committee members Mary Ackourey, Terry Abdoo King, and Kim Richey. Benefit Committee Members also included Jean Abi Nader, Toufic Baklini, Charles Feghali, Dolly Gebeily, Richard Hibey, Dr. Gerard Moawad, Ina Rihani, Peter Tanous, and Dr. James Zogby, who helped generate enthusiasm and support for the event. A number of generous friends who wished to remain anonymous also provided great assistance in making the evening a success.

Among the distinguished guests in attendance were His Excellency, Antoine Chedid, Ambassador of Lebanon to the United States, and renowned White House journalist Helen Thomas.

Bishop Mansour thanked everyone who attended the Benefit Dinner and those who could not but assisted in many ways.

Proceeds from the Benefit Dinner will be applied to the needs of the Eparchy, including the creation of a Maronite Chapel at the Basilica at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC; support for seminarians; help for retired priests; assistance for Maronite missions; and needed structural renovations to the Cathedral in Brooklyn.

Donations in connection with the Benefit Dinner are being accepted until June 10. Checks may be made payable to the “Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn” and sent to 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

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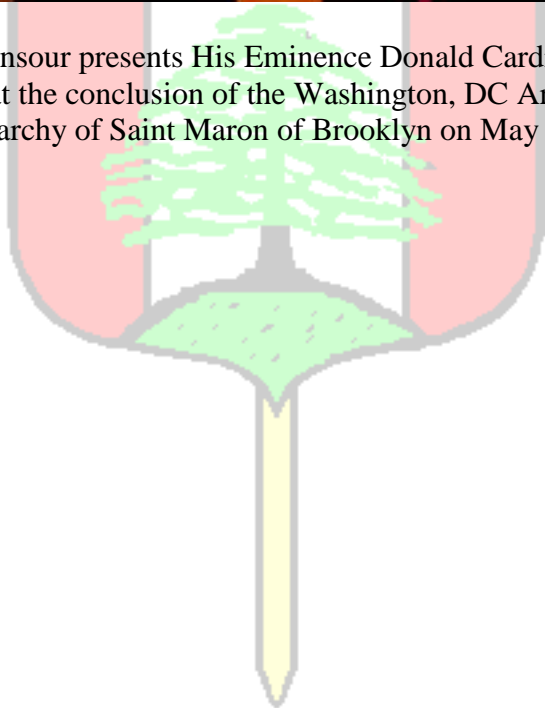
The Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn consists of 40 parishes and missions located in 16 states along the East Coast, as well as a seminary in Washington, DC, a monastery for contemplative monks and a convent for religious sisters.

PRESS RELEASE CONTACT:

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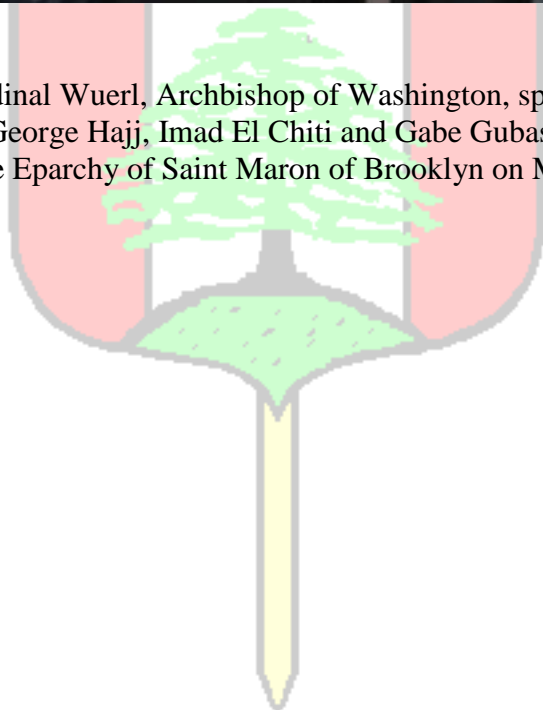


Bishop Gregory John Mansour presents His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, with a gift at the conclusion of the Washington, DC Area Benefit Dinner for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn on May 12.





His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, speaks with Maronite seminarians Alex Joseph, George Hajj, Imad El Chiti and Gabe Gubash at the Washington, DC Area Benefit Dinner for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn on May 12.





Chorbishop Michael G. Thomas, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, serves as Master of Ceremonies at the Washington, DC Area Benefit Dinner for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn on May 12.