



6 August 2020

His Beatitude Mar Bechara Boutros Cardinal Rai
Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites
Maronite Patriarchate
Bkerke, Lebanon

Your Beatitude,

It is with profound sorrow that we send fraternal greetings and sincere sympathies to you in view of the horrific explosion that has destroyed the lives and livelihoods of so many people in the City of Beirut. We have seen the images of its aftermath and we are heartbroken by the devastation that it has wrought on the Lebanese people.

The explosion comes at a time when countries around the world, including Lebanon, are navigating the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Lebanon, the tragedy of this explosion only compounds the pain, weariness, and sadness that your people are experiencing.

We, the Catholic Bishops of Canada, your brothers in faith, stand in prayerful solidarity with you and your people as the rescue and recovery efforts continue. On this Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, we pray that your suffering be transformed by the Light of Christ so that you, and the resilient and courageous people of Lebanon, are comforted by His sure and abiding love.

Saints Maron and Charbel, pray for us.

Sincerely and fraternally in Christ,

+Richard Gagnon
Archbishop of Winnipeg
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops