



APOSTOLATE OF OUR LADY OF HOPE
SAINT RAFKA
MISSION OF HOPE & MERCY

*I invite you to deepen your
commitment to helping
people of faith in Lebanon.*



Let me begin by thanking you in our Lord's name for your loyalty to our mission. It is a mission needed now more than ever:

This past year was marked by extraordinary trials. As you know, Lebanon and the Middle East are embroiled in unprecedented crises that have shaken the very foundations of peace, security, and hope. Yet, amidst the darkness, Mission of Hope and Mercy has worked tirelessly to be a beacon of light, standing firm to provide aid, foster hope, and bring healing to those most in need.

At the end of 2024 and as we head into 2025, we invite you to join us in sustaining our shared life-saving mission during this time of immense urgency and need. You are the lifeblood of our mission and we cannot do any of our important work without you.

The events following October 7, 2023, have fundamentally altered the landscape of Lebanon and the Middle East. Widespread conflict has plunged communities into chaos, spurring economic collapse and regional hostility. Families who once lived in stability now face hunger, displacement, and despair. I just cannot describe some of the images and struggles that we have encountered daily on the ground. The cries of Lebanon's most vulnerable—children, elderly, and displaced families—call out for help.

We are at a critical moment in history. Lebanon's Christian population, along with other communities, faces existential threats. I don't exaggerate when I say this. Open Doors has noted this extinction threat for some time. Churches that have stood for centuries risk being silenced. Basic rights, freedoms, and opportunities are slipping away. Without urgent action, the future of faith and coexistence in this region could vanish.

Since I founded the Mission of Hope and Mercy in August of 2015, we have been committed to serving the people of Lebanon and beyond. Guided by our core mission—to provide charity, spread awareness of Christ's hope, and defend religious liberty—we have intensified our efforts to address the escalating challenges of 2024 that will now bleed into 2025.

Let me share with you some of what we were able to accomplish with your help this past year. In 2024, we have:

- Provided over **5,000 food and supply boxes to Christian families** in South Lebanon, ensuring survival amid war and instability.
- Offered **life-saving medical support** to more than 30 patients, including children requiring critical care and medication.
- Continued to realize and utilize **The Center for Blessings** in Halat, Lebanon for its impact and outreach capability to help bridge divides and be a center for recovery and relief.
- Delivered **educational aid through our \$30,000 contribution to 250 children** at Holy Family School, giving refugee and impoverished students a chance at a brighter future.
- Established **St. Sharbel Refugees and Guests House** in Medugorje, Bosnia, offering safety and peace to families fleeing violence.

These achievements were made possible through your generosity. But the need continues to grow—and so must our response.

I simply cannot say enough about the effect of the war. The bombs that have devastated Lebanon and surrounding regions, including Syria, not only have the effect of destroying entire neighborhoods and killing potentially thousands of innocent lives, but also inflict trauma that shakes people to their core. I will tell you that many people are suffering from horrible trauma, anxiety and paralyzing fear. Amidst all of this, we decided to establish in Medugorje, Bosnia a place of refuge for Lebanese refugees. We named this the St. Sharbel House (noted above). This house is such a sanctuary for those that our Lord led to us to serve. We thank you again for your help in supporting them.

As you may know, for far too long, Christians in the Middle East have been marginalized and discriminated against simply for their desire to serve and worship our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our mission is to come alongside and provide all the help that we can for our brothers and sisters in Christ and for those also experiencing such persecution.

For some in America, the word “persecution” has an effect that is attached to certain cultural or political policies. But for many in the Middle East and other areas around the world, persecution can, and many times does, mean life or death. This is what many face daily. We, at Mission of Hope and Mercy, simply refuse to sit idly by while our brothers and sisters face these hardships.

This Christmas is unique in Lebanon. There are over one million two hundred thousand people who have been displaced, without room for them in the Inn, just like Mary, Jesus and Joseph on that Most Holy Night of Christmas Eve. They, too, were a displaced family.

I have been to many homes, churches and other ethno-diverse meetings in Lebanon but also in other conflict regions of our world. Displacement of large populations has plagued many regions. But what continues to amaze me is the resilience of people who remain true to their faith. Mainly, their love for others and their desire to live in the peace that only our Lord can provide.

We are honored to be that instrument of our Heavenly Father to lend our assistance to those in such desperate need. And once again, we have you to thank for the provision you support our mission.

As noted above, we have also provided care for over 30 patients with a range of health and chronic deficiencies. Many have approached us for financial help for their medical needs and even for hospitalization. We do our best to not turn anyone away, but our resources are limited. **This is why we continue to need your financial partnership in our mission.**

As we move into 2025, the challenges facing Lebanon demand immediate and sustained action. Our priorities include:

1. **Establishing “Houses of Blessings”**—safe havens where families and individuals can recover from trauma and rebuild their lives.
2. **Expanding emergency relief efforts**, including food distribution, healthcare, and winter supplies for displaced families.
3. **Fostering reconciliation and peace-building**, ensuring that Lebanon remains a place of coexistence for all faiths.
4. **Increasing our volunteer base** across all of our mission sites.

Your partnership is essential to achieving these goals.

HOW YOU CAN HELP TODAY

Your generosity during this critical season will directly fund these life-saving initiatives.

- A gift of **\$34** provides food for one family for one month.
- A gift of **\$100** provides food and clean water for three families for one month.
- A gift of **\$500** supports urgent medical care for up to five families.
- A gift of **\$1,000** supplies winter clothing and shelter to 10 displaced families facing freezing conditions through these winter months.

This is a unique opportunity to maximize your generosity and bring hope to many families.

Your gift will ensure that the Mission of Hope and Mercy can expand its efforts and save more lives during this critical time.

Since 2011, the Mission of Hope and Mercy has established the P.L.A.C.E Initiative to make the Middle East the Place for Peace, Love and Coexistence for all the children of Abraham.

In the face of hardship, we are called to be bearers of hope. As Pope Francis said, "I cannot imagine the Middle East without Christians." Together, we can ensure that faith, love, and peace continue to thrive in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Will you please take a moment to offer your best gift for the families that are in desperate need this season? I hope you will consider a special contribution of \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or more to support and sustain our shared mission.

This Christmas season, we pray that you will answer the call to be a light in the darkness. By supporting the Mission of Hope and Mercy, you are not just making a donation—you are transforming lives, restoring dignity, and affirming the values of faith, hope, and love.

I have enclosed a special URGENT REPLY for you to make your vital contribution to our ministry that our Lord has ordained for such a time as this.

This Christmas Season, it is my hope that we will continue to do works of peace and to serve the Lord of Peace, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the Emmanuel!

God bless us all at this Advent Season. Amen.

With heartfelt gratitude and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Andre Mahanna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Fr. Andre Mahanna

Founder & President

Mission of Hope and Mercy

P.S. Remember to send your donation before December 31 for your 2024 tax break. Please give today to make this life-saving impact. Thank you for your compassion and generosity!

Thank you for standing with us in these trying times. We are grateful for your support.