August 25, 2020

Dear Reverend Fathers,

I am writing to inform you that a call has been issued for a special appeal to provide emergency support to those suffering from the effects of the massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4th. Archbishop Bernard Hezda is asking all parishes in the Archdiocese to take up this emergency collection on or near the weekend of September 5-6, 2020.

The catastrophic explosion that rocked the capital of Lebanon has left hundreds dead and thousands injured. More than 350,000 people have become displaced because of the destruction and are now in need of basic supplies including food, shelter and healthcare. Those evacuated are only now beginning to learn the extent of their losses. This crisis offers us an opportunity to stand in solidarity of prayer and give what we can to bring relief to those who are suffering from this crisis.

The funds collected in this special appeal for Lebanon will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agency of the US Catholic Church serving in Lebanon. They will provide for immediate emergency needs such as water, food, shelter, and medical care and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts. They will also be used to provide for the pastoral and social needs of the Church as they reach out to those displaced by the disaster.

When you have completed the special collection for Lebanon, please send one check made payable to: Center for Mission. On the memo line indicate: Lebanon Emergency Appeal. Please send to:

Center for Mission
777 Forest Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at: friesenm@archspm.org or 651-291-4445.

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Mickey Friesen
Director