



EPARCHY
OF ST. MARON
CANADA

***Twenty fifth letter of His Excellency
Bishop Paul-Marwan Tabet
To the Maronite Community of Canada
Christmas 2025***

*To all Monsignors, Priests and Brothers, Nuns and Sisters, Deacons,
To all people consecrated and committed to the life of the Church and the Society,
To all Parents, Children, Young Men and Young Women,
To all Parish Communities,
Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

Grace, peace, and blessing in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we enter the holy night of Christmas and the joy of the Nativity spreads throughout the world, I bring you a word filled with peace and hope. This year, reflecting on the apostolic exhortation of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, entitled “***I Have Loved You***”, and illumined by the words of the Book of Revelation (3,9), “...*I have loved you*,” I wish to share with you the depth of this divine declaration. It resonates in the liturgy of Christmas like a song of eternity, a golden thread linking heaven and earth. These words carry particular strength in times of transformation and anxiety: they remind us that the initiative of the encounter between God and humanity find their origin in Him, and Christmas is the most glorious manifestation of this mystery: “*I have loved you before you were born; I have loved you to the point of sharing your condition; I have loved you to the point of remaining with you.*” This phrase resonates with biblical texts such as those of Jeremiah (31, 3). As our Holy Father affirms, “*God’s love is primary, gratuitous, and prevenient; it is a mercy that bends down, not a power that crushes*”.

“*I have loved you*” is not a vague promise directed toward an uncertain future, but the affirmation of an act already accomplished by God, a love that precedes us, surrounds us, and sustains us. At Christmas, this love becomes visible in the humility of the manger: the eternal Son embraces the fragility of a child to show us that true love does not impose, but offers itself and becomes vulnerable. To contemplate Bethlehem, therefore, is not merely to remember, but to welcome today this love that allows itself to be approached. The Holy Father also emphasizes the healing power of divine love: “*God’s love does not merely forgive; it repairs, it raises up, it recreates*”. Thus, in the light of Christmas, we come to see that the divine Child begins a work of inner renewal; and in His coming, the Prince of Peace offers a gentle yet real balm for our wounds, sorrows, fears, weariness, and divisions. Christmas does not erase trials but transfigures them by giving them a horizon: that of a God who walks with us, not as a harsh judge, but as a companion on the journey.

Every love received becomes a mission. One who knows he is loved, cannot remain passive; he becomes a sign and an instrument of that love. Like the shepherds who returned glorifying God, like the Magi who went back to their country after having adored, the Church sends us forth at the end of every liturgy: “*Go in the peace of Christ*”. Our world has such a great need for witnesses of mercy, artisans of reconciliation, and servants of peace. To be loved by God makes us responsible for the world God loves and calls our communities to become places where everyone can hear, through our words and actions: “*God loves you... and so do I, for His sake*”. On this feast, when the whole Church gathers as one family around the same mystery, nothing, neither origin, nor culture, nor wounds, nor weakness of faith, can exclude anyone from the manger. The Holy Father reminds us that the Heart of Christ stands open, waiting until all His children have found their dwelling there. God always begins with the peripheries; and at Bethlehem, it is the little ones, the shepherds, the forgotten, who first receive the announcement. Who are our shepherds today? Who are those we might overlook? Let us dare to reach out to them, for it is often among them that God awaits us.

Dear faithful, this Christmas I pray that the peace of the newborn Christ may enter our homes and our hearts. May the words “*I have loved you*” become for each of us a source of consolation, healing, and mission. May our families be illuminated by the simple and profound joy of the Nativity and may our Eparchy and our parish communities always remain places of hope for all who seek the **LIGHT**.

The Savior is born... Halleluiah! MERRY CHRISTMAS!



+Paul-Marwan Tabet
Maronite Bishop of Canada