



E P A R C H Y  
OF ST. MARON  
CANADA

***Twenty sixth letter of His Excellency  
Bishop Paul-Marwan Tabet  
To the Maronite Community of Canada  
Easter 2026***

*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,*

**“Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? He is not here; He has risen” (Luke 24:5–6)**

On this morning of the Resurrection, the summit of the liturgical year, I address you with a heart filled with living hope. Christ is risen, Alleluia! This proclamation, which lies at the very core of our faith, resounds across the centuries and reaches our world today, wounded, anxious, and often seemingly lost. It is the wellspring of our living hope, a hope that does not disappoint (Rom 5:5), for it is rooted in the faithfulness of God.

The Resurrection of the Lord is not merely an event of the past; it is a living reality that transforms our lives. It assures us that neither evil, nor suffering, nor even death has the final word. As Saint Paul declares: *“If Christ has not been raised, our faith is in vain”* (1 Cor 15:14). Yet He has truly been raised, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, and in Him every life is called to be reborn.

Yet at times, the light of Easter seems obscured by the darkness of our age. Our thoughts turn with particular concern to our brothers and sisters in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East. These lands, rich in a unique spiritual heritage, are today enduring profound trials: wars, instability, poverty, violence, displacement, and forced migration. In places where numerous Christian communities have taken root since the earliest centuries, fragility and fear threaten now human dignity, coexistence, and the dialogue of life.

In the face of such painful realities, the Gospel of Easter leaves no room for despair or indifference. Rather, it calls us to be courageous witnesses of hope: *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it”* (John 1:5). This light is Christ Himself, present at the heart of human suffering, bearing the crosses of His people and opening paths of resurrection where everything seems closed.

Beloved, Christian hope is demanding, it does not deny the reality of suffering but passes through it with steadfast trust that “*God works all things for the good of those who love Him*” (Rom 8:28). It calls us to be peacemakers, according to the Lord’s word: “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God*” (Matt 5:9). In a divided world, we are called to build bridges, to reject the logic of hatred, and to foster a culture of encounter.

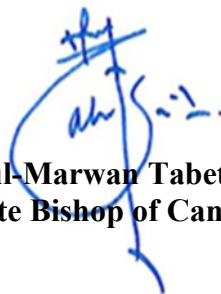
On this feast, the feast of life that triumphs over death, I invite you to intensify your prayers for peace, especially for Lebanon and for all the countries of the Middle East. Let us pray, on the one hand, for families who are suffering and for political leaders, that they may work with sincerity for the common good; and on the other hand, let us be ready to offer assistance, standing in moral and material solidarity with our relatives, families, and friends, as a sign of unity and in imitation of the early community, where churches and groups supported one another and shared their resources.

May this Easter celebration renew in each of us the grace of baptism, through which we have passed from death to life: “*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above*” (Col 3:1). Let us live as a risen people, bearing a humble yet unconquerable joy, and as witnesses to a hope that illumines even the darkest nights.

I entrust each one of you, together with your families and communities, to the tender care of the Risen Christ. May He make of our Church a house of peace, a living sign of communion, and a beacon of hope for our world.

I bless you and wish you a holy and radiant Easter.

**Christ is Risen...! He is truly Risen!**



**+Paul-Marwan Tabet**  
**Maronite Bishop of Canada**