



CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ DE VIE CHRÉTIENNE
COMUNIDAD DE VIDA CRISTIANA

To the Community

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are sure you are aware, our companions in Lebanon are living in a very difficult situation in their country in these days. We, as a World Leadership Community, have been and intend to remain in constant contact with our brothers and sisters in Lebanon. We have shown them that we are here and we walk together.

They are also in contact with us on a regular basis and they wanted to write to you themselves. The attached letter (page 2) is their message directly to all of you. We encourage you to keep them, their families and friends in your prayer and to continue to pray for peace. They are a true witness of the hope we spoke about in Amiens and continue to discern. Hope is something that needs to be witnessed and the community in Lebanon has a lot to teach us. You will read this in their letter.

We have also received requests from a number of concerned CLCers who want to show their support through donations as well, both personal and as a community in a country. This message was passed on to CLC in Lebanon. However, the passage of money right now into Lebanon is not easy or clear. They have many needs and they have a lot of service on the ground, and they would prefer to postpone any fund raising until a further date when it will be clearer and safer to transfer funds. In this respect, our advice is to either wait for the community to guide us and inform us when and how to transfer donations, or if a community is already organising some national fund raising, to please hold the funds in your bank account until we can advise on a clear and safe method of transferring money.

As you will read in their letter, this is not going to be the only message to you coming from Lebanon. Please remain alert to our future communications. In the meantime, we encourage you to join their prayer circles and keep them all in your prayers, may God continue to protect and guide them along the journey as they continue to be witnesses of His love and peace.

Chris MICALLEF • Daphne HO • Inji FAYEZ • Catherine KELLY

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Rome, 14th October 2024.

(*Original*: English)



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Beirut, October 2, 2024

Dear CLC members and communities,

When distress becomes your daily bread, only true friends can alleviate the hardship. Sympathy, caring messages, prayers, support, concern ... have been poured on us from national communities and CLC members from all over the world to show us, through your invaluable friendship, one way of God's presence among us. Your friendship is a blessing and had been deeply felt to become a daily bread of hope; a bread that we eat and feed; fully faithful that this bread will nurture hearts of peace makers to confront war advocates in this world.

We are on the verge of completing a year since the war began on October 8, 2023, in Gaza and had its repercussions on Lebanon. Until a couple of weeks ago, the war has been constrained within certain areas and limits and had very little effects on people. However, the situation has now gone in a very worrying direction with thousands of deaths so far and over a million displaced persons (about 20% of Lebanon's population); a number that is beyond the capacity of the country to accommodate.

Concerning members of CLC in Lebanon, we are all safe as most of us are fortunately living in relatively safer areas and in the accommodating regions of the country rather than the displaced ones. We are sad, anxious and worried about the situation; yet we are holding on to our faith and hope. Being on the accommodating side, we found ourselves called for a mission with few displaced families that are accommodated by the Jesuits, and we are doing our best to support them with our limited resources and provide whatever material needs they may have; and especially ensure a comforting and fraternal presence around them. The numbers are increasing, and we know there are much more displaced families and tons of needs here and there that we are not able to respond to; nonetheless, we are presenting what we have.

On another front, a praying network on a WhatsApp group has been initiated by one of our members and the Exco is now working on another prayer initiative with a hybrid mode (presential and online) that could be gathering CLC in Lebanon and in the Middle East region to praise the Lord and ask for His intervention to save us and restore peace.

Finally, let us keep united in praying share the faith and hope of [Fr. Youhanna Khawand](#), one of Lebanon's seven hermits, through these lovely, simple yet challenging words:

*Whatever happens, Fear not
No, fear nothing
Jesus is with us on the boat, even if He got asleep
Leave Him not and leave not the oar
For with His No, He will stop the storm*

Cordially,

National Executive Committee of CLC in Lebanon
