



# The Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn

## Office of Family and Sanctity of Life

### There is a mission with your name on it!

With few more weeks left during this great season of Lent, check out our Easter edition newsletter to be inspired to persevere in your journey of conversion.

Each one of us is fashioned in a unique way to carry God's plan of salvation in the world. Our calling, gifts, talents and abilities are all gift from God, gifts for us to use to build His kingdom and bring others closer to Him. As Our Lord says "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." Giving back by using our gifts & time is a great way to be grateful to God for His goodness. The Eparchy needs you! Your parish needs you to help build a culture of life and civilization of love!! Please contact us for more information on how you can help.



### Reflection by Marie Christine Daou - Now and today is your chance!

My recent encounter with life made me realize how fragile life is and it hits without warnings. We humans take life for granted. Better yet we think that God owes it to us. Our God is an awesome God, he gives us second chances in life.

Let us reflect on our family and friend that we could lose at any time, and we wish we could tell them we love them one more time or we want to tell them sorry for whatever we did or did not do. Why wait, be prepared and do it now.

We take for granted everything and every day we have, we never think that we could lose in a blink of an eye those we love or even lose our life. We think "oh it is not going to happen to me". Little do we know that no one is immune to anything in this life.

During this holy season of lent let us take a minute from our loud and obnoxious life to reflect on the life we would like to have. Let us stop being robots driven by the craziness of this world and reclaim our humanity toward ourselves and the people in our daily life, let us allow ourselves to open our eyes and see Jesus in the faces of the people we encounter everyday yet we don't see.

God's love and mercy to and for us are beyond our human understanding. He is waiting for us with open arms in the sacrament of reconciliation to give us a second chance for eternal life to be with him, don't let Him wait longer.

Let us take advantage of His unconditional Love and Mercy to resurrect with Him on Easter morning wrapped with white linens.

God gave us a beautiful life if we know how to depend on Him. It could be nasty when we turn our back away from Jesus and try to depend on our own strength.

Not all of us are fortunate to get a second chance in life... today and now is your chance, take it. You may never get a second!!!!

**Intention** - We ask God for the grace to walk the way of the cross daily with patience, trust perseverance and surrender to God's will so we can one day rejoice with the Risen Lord in Heaven .

### Upcoming Events in the Eparchy

Discover what every couple needs to know what every woman has the right to know. Come and attend "Innovations in Women's healthcare" seminar. Find out about real solutions to real problems. For more information on those seminars conducted in the Eparchy, you can click [here](#). For a list of events in your region, you can check [here](#).

Before I formed you

in the womb

I KNEW YOU,

... before you were born ...

I set you apart.

JEREMIAH 1:5

*'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.'*

- Psalm 139:13 (NIV)



**Suggested Prayer /Activity**

- 1- Plan an outgoing event for the parish; go as a group and watch the movie **Unplanned**. The movie brings a great message of hope and healing and it can change hearts and minds to many people. More information about the movie can be found on its website [www.unplannedfilm.com](http://www.unplannedfilm.com).
- 2- Pray as a family/community the Divine Mercy Novena which begins on Good Friday. For an electronic copy in English, you can click [here](#).
- 3- Attend or plan a **Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration** – Our Lord Himself said to Saint Faustina “It is My desire that The Feast of Divine Mercy be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy” (*Diary 699*). For suggestions , you can check the [Office webpage](#).

**TAKE ACTION**

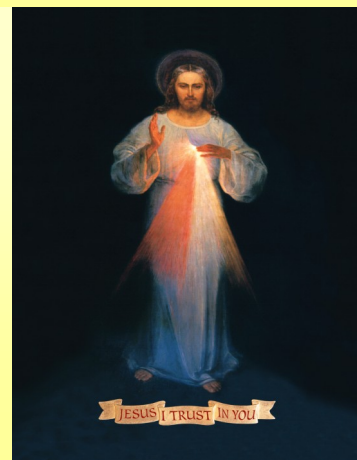
Do you realize that you can make a difference no matter how small it might look?

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**Divine Mercy Sunday—April 28, 2019**

**“I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. (*Diary 699*)”**



**Easter Greeting and Reflection by Marise Frangie**

**Christ is risen! He is truly risen and we are His witnesses!!**

This great Maronite Easter greeting is very meaningful. It teaches us that believing in a Risen Christ has to be reflected in our way of life. This challenges us to be people of joy, hope and peace despite all the difficulties we face. The journey during Holy Week is a reminder of the path we are invited to walk on toward our final destination, our eternal home. As Fr Stan Fortuna says in his rap song” everybody got to suffer”, the cross will come to everyone; we can run away from it or we can be Christ followers and His witnesses by carrying it with our eyes fixed on the Risen Lord who conquered death and rose. The story of the Passion of Our Lord (much like our story) ends with an empty tomb symbolizing so much hope and healing to all who suffer. In the last scene of the movie Risen , Clavius, the powerful Roman Military Tribune who was set on search for the “body of Christ” makes a bold statement when he was asked if he believes in the resurrection “ **I believe I can never be the same**” ; his answer requires us to stop and reflect about our own personal encounter with Christ. If we had really encountered the Risen Lord, we can never be the same and we would be witnessing to Him in our acts of charity, our daily joyful carrying of the cross, our trust in His merciful love and His loving plan for us, bearing each other’s defects patiently and lovingly. May we receive the grace to walk the way of the cross, die to ourselves to rise with the Lord and be changed forever to be His witnesses and reflect His love to the whole world. Let us never be the same after we encounter Him and let us be His instruments to build a culture of life and a civilization of love!

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