



SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA, MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOUNDED IN 1910, IN THE CITY OF CINCINNATI

"A MARONITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH, CELEBRATING AN EASTERN TRADITION
AND SERVING THE GARDEN IN WHICH WE HAVE BEEN PLACED."

Sunday, June 13, 2021,

Feast of St. Anthony of Padua & St. Aquilina of Byblos

Dear Fellow St. Anthony of Padua parishioners and friends,

Thank you for all the beautiful helping hands today, in emptying the church to start the remodeling project! Thanks be to God, the contract was signed on June 10, on the 20th anniversary of St. Rafqa's canonization. Despite the pandemic, 75 of our parish families and friends of the parish have made a pledge. We certainly strive to have at *least all* our families contribute and take part in this historical and crucial endeavor, to renew the face of St. Anthony of Padua, our beautiful home. Your gift will help carry on our Maronite Church.

As you are aware, we are making nice progress with regards to the Church and facility upgrades. We are excited to commence the transformation of our beloved Church. We are certain our founding parishioners, our parents, grandparents, would be so proud with our collective efforts, but most importantly is that we are carrying the flame of our Maronite Church for the next generations after us. My father, Adeeb Misleh, always reminded his children, that "we should always strive to leave any endeavor in a better place than when we commenced." I recall the efforts Monsignor Abood led in 1980-1981 for our renovated Church and new Center. He was so pleased we exceeded the fundraising goal, and were able to build a strong base for our Maronite Church for the next generation in the tristate.

Today, with God's Grace, the leadership of Bishop Elias and the pastoral team vision, we have the duty and we should have the means to upgrade our campus in order to function as the centralized polestar for our distinguished Middle Eastern culture and Eastern Church of the Tristate. Our Maronite Church is such an important connection to our motherland, whether Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, etc. and a treasure of the culture that gave the world so much! Our parish also brings back beautiful memories of our parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends. It builds new friendships but most importantly it offers a safe haven for our families, today.

We are confident that we, the parish family, friends and greater network of St. Anthony of Padua Maronite Catholic Church in Cincinnati, can stand to the challenge of maintaining a stronghold for our culture today and for many generations to come.

A beautiful Lebanese motto says: "زرعوا فأكلنا ونزرع فيأكلون" [Our ancestors] planted so we can eat, today we plant [for our successors] to eat.

Respectfully, Michael T. Misleh
Parish Capital Campaign, -Chairman

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Rev. George C. Hajj, -Pastor

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