## Prayer for Lebanon, August 2020



## Dear Participants in Sowing Hope for the Planet,

I hope all is well with you! These days we have been hearing about and praying for the people in Beirut. One of our constellations has Lebanon. I wrote to Sr. Nazha El Khoury, the delegate for the constellation with Lebanon to let her know our prayers and compassionate concern for the devastating effects of that tragic explosion. The attached letter in French with translations in EN, ES and It describes the destruction and the suffering of the people there.

United in solidarity and prayer,

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, FCJM Campaign Coordinator Sowing Hope for the Planet.

... ... ...

Dear Sr. Sheila,

I received your email of August 6 this year, and I thank you very much for thinking of us.

Lebanon is mourning! Our country is very sick, it is suffering and its people are suffering greatly. In addition to the economic crisis, we have had a great shock with this terrible explosion. All Lebanon is affected with 173 dead and almost 5,000 injured and 300,000 people affected, so far, except for the missing.

The damage, let's not talk about it... Very, very, unimaginable. All the religious congregations were affected. One Sister of the Daughters of Charity died, two of the Sisters of the Rosary and five of the Antonine Sisters were wounded. All were in their convents. Convents, homes, hospitals...too many were affected. In our Congregation alone, seven schools are without windows or frames...

The nuns are next to the people, the younger ones help to clean, sweep and console...We are where the Lord calls us.

Our institutions, even those that have been affected (without windows or frames), especially schools, have been made available to shelter the victims.

The more life becomes harder and darker, the more our hope increases. The Lord asks us for a witness, a light, a life. We remain, in spite of everything, close to our disaster-stricken people and in our sick and burnt-out country.

May God of all mercy hold our country and our people in his love and help us to overcome such a painful trial with faith and hope!

Sister Nazha El Khoury General Superior Congregation of the Antonine Sisters







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