



LEBANON LIBAN LIBANO لبنان



As we come to the last month of our time together as a Province of 6 countries here is news from each of them. Our Sisters in Lebanon had prepared this news before the recent explosions in Beirut.

For years, we were happy to say there are no “really poor” people in Lebanon. The majority was middle class with a few very rich and a very few poor. Orphanages were rare and old people’s homes as well. The family bond and the solidarity were so strong no one was alone or destitute.

Now we can say the majority are poor, living below the poverty line and the few very rich have no access to their money which is blocked in the banks or lost in the banks. Many factories have dismissed their employees; the few small shops and businesses have not survived; the taxi drivers are desperate, and the restaurants and hotels have closed or are closing. The only survivors are the hospitals, pharmacies and food shops but even they are raising the alarm: no electricity, no medicine, no US \$ to order the needed items. You can see many people looking in the rubbish bins, trying to find some bits they could use for their family. Something unseen before.

All this began with the revolution demonstrations in November 2019 followed by the new government followed by the Corona crisis has led to the closing of all institutes of education, worship etc; the necessary distancing and the fear. You go to the shop to buy food and the shelves are almost empty and you are allowed to buy only 2 of each item. Prices have risen to such a level because of the US \$ shortage. All this is thanks to the sanctions imposed against all who are friendly with Iran.

The US \$ was = to 1,500 L.L. now it is legally = to 3,900 L.L. and in the black market can go up to = 10,000L.L. The salary of an ordinary person / and foreign workers was 200 \$ = 300,000 L.L. The people cannot find that amount of money.

But the crisis has some positive aspects. Family life has benefited from no work to being more together, sharing more, concern for everyone and solidarity with the less fortunate, sharing what we have with those who do not have. People have gone back to planting their own vegetable garden near the house or in boxes on the balcony or roof; mothers to cooking their own meals and becoming creative with more time on hands; children enjoying the parent’s presence and guidance with E-Learning; missing and appreciating the times of prayer and liturgy in the parish and following on line worship.

From all evil deliver us Oh, Lord.

And now the explosions which have devastated Beirut, killed hundreds and injured thousands

PRAY FOR BEIRUT

PRAY FOR LEBANON

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE

