

**SOLEMN EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND FRANÇOIS BEYROUTI
AS SIXTH EPARCHIAL BISHOP OF NEWTON
ST. ANNE MELKITE CATHOLIC CO-CATHEDRAL
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 12, 2022**

Your Beatitude Patriarch Joseph Absi, Your Eminences Cardinal McElroy and Cardinal Mahony, Archbishop Gudziak, Archbishop Gallaro, Archbishop Cordileone, Bishop Samra, Bishop-Elect Bayrouiti, as well as all my brother bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and faithful of the People of God, it is a great pleasure for me to be among you today in this beautiful Co-Cathedral of St. Anne as the representative of the Holy Father and to celebrate the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Bayrouiti as the Sixth Bishop of the Eparchy of Newton.

We are very grateful to Patriarch Absi for being with us, for sharing with us the traditional Melkite Catholic spirit of communion, unity, steadfastness, loyalty and fidelity. How much richer we are for his imparting to us his wisdom and good spirit.

To Bishop Samra, who has headed for the past twelve years the eparchy of Newton which you have so faithfully served, a heartfelt word of thanks. Born in Paterson, New Jersey, you were the fifth bishop of the Eparchy and its first U.S.-born bishop. You have chosen well as your episcopal motto, in reflecting your firm commitment to evangelical stewardship, the words of the Apostle Paul: *Steward of the Mysteries* (1Corinthians 4:1).

Now we turn our attention to our Bishop-Elect, Francois Beyrouiti, born in Lebanon and raised in British Columbia, and later receiving a master of arts degree and a licentiate in theology with a concentration in biblical studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada, and a few years later earning both a civil and ecclesiastical doctorate. Ordained in 1998 in Ottawa, you then served as a vocation director and member of the College of Consultors and became an assistant pastor in Ottawa for two brief years, but in that short time your focus was on building up pastoral programs, developing youth and young adult ministries, leading marriage preparation programs, doing media work with newspapers, radio and TV stations and engaging political leaders on religious topics... Just reading the endless list of activities in exhausting in itself!!!

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, you were awarded the Golden Jubilee Medal in a ceremony at the Parliament of Canada in 2002.

You were incardinated into the Melkite Catholic Eparchy in 2011, having completed a doctorate on Origen's commentary on the fourth chapter of John's Gospel. You also taught courses on the Synoptic Gospels, early Church history and icons, as well as a University class on the early interpretation of the Bible. You have recently been pastor of Holy Cross Melchite Catholic Church in Placentia, California... You certainly are well prepared for your mission!

Finally, we know that the Catholic Eparchy of Newton has about 50 parishes and missions, spread between New England, the South and Southern California. May our prayers and good wishes accompany

you on your extensive ministry as you live out the words of your episcopal motto: *Becoming disciples. Making disciples.* May the Gospel message you proclaim bring forth much fruit for you and all those you serve.

And now, I will read the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.