



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles Office of the Bishop

BISHOP'S LETTER ON STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

November 12, 2019

***To be read in church and distributed
over parish social media***

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have often referred to our use of TIME, TALENT and TREASURE – the three components of Stewardship. In this letter to you I wish to address the use of time.

Time is a very precious gift from God. In a very real sense we are all given the same amount of time. We are all equal: we have 24 hours in each day, 365 days in each year. We cannot “make” more time in the same way that perhaps we can make more money or other tangible things, nor can we make time stand still, nor can we bring it back. How often do we hear “If I only had more time, I could have...”

The real issue with time is not how much of it we have, but what we do with the time given to us. In Psalm 90 we pray: “So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.” (Psalm 90:12) The meaning of “to count our days” in this Psalm is that we must in some way “weigh” or “measure” our time; we must recognize that our time is not unlimited and therefore, of great value. Each day, each hour, even each minute that is given to us must be used so as to glorify God and shower blessings on the lives of others. The Lord has placed us here for a reason; we have been created for a purpose and every minute of our life is an opportunity for us to respond to God and to live out that purpose.

Your parish needs your time. Certainly the time it takes to participate in the liturgical life of the Church, your time in being present to your parish family and in the use of time to help the Church fulfill the mission given by the Lord – the time to help do the work of the Lord. That will be time well-spent.

I can truly say that I have never heard someone near death say “I spent too much time with my children when they were young.” We should not have to regret that we misused or wasted the time given to us. The Lord Jesus warns us, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:15). In other words, “now” is the time.

St. Paul writes, “Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity” (Ephesians 5:15-16). I urge you to make the most of your time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles