

The Guardians of the Cedars
National Lebanese Movement



حراس الأرض
حركة القومية اللبنانية
الرئيس

The President

The Guardians of the Cedars Party - The Movement for Lebanese Nationalism issued the following message:

We join those who have welcomed the Synod for the Middle East and the concluding message it issued calling for bolstering justice and peace in the region, accepting religious plurality, respect for human rights, and the pursuit of dialogue between the three religions in order to eliminate any "misunderstanding or imbalance" that has happened or may happen between them. It also called on Christians to have faith in the future and remain in their homelands, and preserve their lands and possessions, and not hurry to sell them or abandon them, etc.

Yet, what minorities fear in this part of the world is that this message, replete with spiritual and human values, will not be heard by the regimes, rulers and officials in positions of power, rendering the message a cry on the wilderness as happened with the Synod for Lebanon and the Apostolic Exhortation it issued in May 1997. Statistics show that the emigration of Christian youth has increased at alarming rates since that date, accompanied by a wave of land selling to foreigners, particularly in the Mount Lebanon region, reaching today unprecedented levels that threaten to change Lebanon's demographic and geopolitical profile and thus destroy the unique cultural distinction that the country enjoys.

If officialdom, led by the Church, does not begin to quickly redress this dangerous course, and should the waves of emigration and land selling persist in the current escalating pattern, we shall soon be foreigners in our own country, and in the not so distant future, foreigners in a foreign land, as has happened to the Palestinians in 1948. By that time, we would have lost everything, and regrets would be of no use. Needless to say, Synod meetings and messages would become equally futile, useless, and not worth the ink they are written with.

We are sounding the alarm bells before it is too late. We ask the Church to match its words with tangible deeds on the ground, and not merely issue verbose narratives and theological sermons condemning massacres and holding prayers for the victims.... It has to come down from its ivory towers and castles and dwell among people as the Lord of the Church did, feeling their pains and suffering. The Church ought to leverage its numerous and diverse capabilities, and its huge moral capital, to creating development, economic, social, financial, and other projects, in cooperation with the private sector in order to revitalize the poor and limited-income classes, entrench them in their homeland and lands, without relying on the State, derelict and absent as it has always been and having become itself a burden on people rather than a pillar of support, as it is in countries that respect themselves and their peoples.

The Church can do much if it has the intent and the will. Otherwise, the fate of its flock is in peril, at which point, if that peril were to pass, the "weeping and gnashing of teeth" would be of no use.

Lebanon, at your service
Abu Arz
November 5, 2010