

## Today, I am going to tell you about a suffering country... that is meant to live eternally!

Lebanon!

It is a place where people from all over the world succumb to its charm, fall in love with its beauty, amazed by the generosity, liveliness of its people and their joy of living. Everything is beautiful, the mountain, the sea... Everything is splendid!

It is an exceptional country, but full of contradictions. A very small country that has struggled for years against so many wars, result of so many international interest on its territory. A country that has fought for more than 30 years against threats that affect its fragile internal balance, while trying to maintain it despite everything.

Today, this beautiful country that remains exceptional is again and since October 17<sup>th</sup>, deeply shaken.

The people protest, shout, face the political class, and ask for justice, equality...

The people are tired of the inability of politicians to provide solutions to the daily problems of life.

This country, naturally beautiful, lives today a terrible situation, a widespread corruption, where the minimum of a life worthy of any human being is not assured: the unemployment rate is galloping and the number of people living below the poverty line is reaching record highs. Infrastructures, electricity, water and public

services are failing: it is the result of a widespread corruption.

Like everything in Lebanon, the contradiction reigns everywhere. This is dangerous but is somewhere great: on the same place, with one voice, we see, we hear the richest and the poorest claiming their rights for a dignified life. All are there; the social and confessional cleavages have been exceeded!



An incredible country, an incredible people! Yes, because it has faith despite all the difficulties. It is beautiful, but it is also scary: many people, companies and associations like Anta Akhi are affected. The country is blocked, projects are slow, the economy is deteriorating...

### What is our situation at Anta Akhi?

The revolution has had a major impact on our finances. We have been forced to cancel self-financing activities and the collection of donations is almost impossible: the end of the month reveals to be very difficult!

But with all this, our faith, our trust in God and in Mary Set el Beit (Mother of our home), Queen of the impossible, have not been shaken.

Yes, the roads closures affected us: we had to ensure, every day, a constant presence with our young adults with disabilities, these being entirely dependent on the support of the life companions. It was also necessary to ensure that all their vital and medical needs were met. A challenge like no other, with a great faith... like no other!

In all this uncertainty and disorder that surround us, Anta Akhi remains a place of prayer, a place of praise and wonder, a bit like the Cenacle of Jerusalem.

The truth is that, we can't win a victory in our combat if we do not remain firmly attached to Jesus Alive and his Mother Mary. Everything we do in our daily life, we do it by directing our eyes to the savior and his mother, Set el Beit, to draw from them and with the strength of the Holy Spirit, the courage we need to continue. With them, we do not care about tomorrow, because only God knows what tomorrow may bring. Why worry about it then?

We do, of course, our part and we put all our trust in Jesus Alive, present, incarnated in people of good will, our faithful friends, who are always present to sustain Anta Akhi.

We would like to thank each and every one of you, dear friends : the Ladies of the Support Committee, the members of Anta Akhi France, our friends from the Franciscan Fraternity of Eastern France, our volunteer friends from the United States, Australia, and of course, from Lebanon... You are a gift from Mary for our young adults with disabilities.



Lord, we thank you for your goodness, your tenderness and your mercy. We put ourselves in front of you today, praying for all those people who love, believe and are present for our young people with disabilities at Anta Akhi.

Lord Jesus, we pray for our dear country, Lebanon, and above all, we ask you to always support the faith of the Lebanese people.

Thank you Mary, Queen of the Impossible, for being always there for each and every one of us. Thank you for your tender gaze and your great love. It is through this Great Love, the Child Jesus, your beloved son, that we will always be victorious. Amen.



On behalf of Anta Akhi's family  
**Merry Christmas**  
and  
**Happy New Year 2020**

Roula Najm  
President Director General

For your donations

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