



November 20, 2015

**CALL TO ACTION: Christmas Concert and Dinner Emergency Fundraiser for St. Rafka and its Mission of Hope and Mercy, December 18, 2015**

*"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906–1945

*"Lebanon is more than a country. It is a message of freedom and an example of pluralism for East and West."*

- St. John Paul II

Dear Friends:

As horrific events and religious violence against Christians are no longer limited to the Middle East many of us ask ourselves, "What can I do from so far away?" "What does Christ want me to do?" "Is the time now?"

Through the support of many, the St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy has been able to aid persecuted Christian refugees from Iraq and Syria (now displaced and living in Lebanon) by providing food, medicine, clothing, and hygiene supplies to 600 families consistently since May 2015. In addition, at local private hospitals in Lebanon, we have given much needed medical care to over a dozen refugees with serious ailments, including cancer. We have also been able to provide psychological and medical assistance to women and children who have been severely affected by unspeakable trauma.

We want to do even more! We have identified and vetted another 400 Christian refugee families from Iraq and Syria who are now in Lebanon in refugee camps, on the streets or in small homes with Lebanese families. These people are educated and were professionals in their homeland. Through shared faith and values, these people are our brothers and sisters. Yet, they have lost everything. They are hungry, sick and in harm's way in every way and in need of our Mission's help. Their goal is to rebuild their lives as soon as possible. They do not want, nor do we plan to provide, long term assistance but instead meet the most basic of their needs.

Of course, all this comes with a cost. We cannot continue to care for our existing families, nor add new families without funds! We absolutely need your help. This requires \$192,000 for six months of support. If we are able to raise sufficient emergency funds, we will also provide the children with Christmas gifts of spiritual materials created to address the terror they have experienced, educational toys, and warm clothing as winter is now setting in.

Here at home in Denver we continue to work diligently to build awareness and educate about the plight of the persecuted Middle East Christians who are now in Lebanon. Please see a full Mission overview and detailed reports, as well as our Mission Statement, History and Essay at [www.savechristianmiddleeast.org](http://www.savechristianmiddleeast.org).

**YOU CAN HAVE A TANGIBLE IMPACT**

**Christmas Concert and Dinner for St. Rafka and the Mission of Hope and Mercy**

On Friday, December 18, 2015, 6:00 PM-10:00 PM, we will host a Christmas program at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 8035 South Quebec Street, Centennial, CO 80112, to benefit St. Rafka Church and its Mission of Hope and Mercy. Our program is truly unique and represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a delectable, authentic Lebanese dinner paired with an evening of multicultural musical entertainment that encompasses 2000+ years of Christian heritage of sacred languages, culture and faith.



St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy  
<http://www.savechristianmiddleeast.org>





The evening begins at 6:00 PM with cocktails and fellowship. The St. Rafka Children's Choir, The Dave Villano Ensemble, and Lebanese recording artist Gracia-Maria (traveling to join us for this event!) will stir our souls. The music will range from 1<sup>st</sup> century Aramaic Chants (the language of Christ), to ancient Celtic Christmas music, to your favorite carols sung in multiple languages including Arabic (the way Middle Eastern Christians will worship this 'holy-day'). Dinner will follow this glorious opening. There will also be a cash bar.

After dinner, Gracia-Maria and a special guest will perform a unique repertoire of global classics, including Ave Maria and the Our Father, and contemporary world favorites in English, Arabic, French, Italian, and Spanish!

This is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your Advent and Christmas season while demonstrating the 'Love of Christ' in a very real way with your support. Through your prayers and donation, you will provide a 'light' to many souls who live in the darkness of unspeakable pain and hopelessness.

The ticket cost for this marvelous evening is \$150 per person, \$300 per couple.

**Attire is Festive Holiday/Cocktail.**

### What More Can You Do?

- While your ticket price helps, it will not allow us to realize our Mission goals. During the evening, you will learn more about us and the people we are helping. Then we will ask you to consider an additional donation or pledge to help ease the plight of these suffering brothers and sisters. (Of course, we will be honored to accept an additional donation when you purchase your tickets.)
- We are seeking generous *sponsors* to underwrite the cost of the Mission for the next 6 months at levels of \$500, \$1000, \$3,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$15,000 and more. Please call us at 720-883-0354 if you would like to explore a sponsorship. We can discuss the appropriate level and recognition.  
I would be honored to meet with you, your family, board, or officers and speak with you more intimately about St. Rafka and the Mission and to personally accept your sponsorship. I will be able to put our Mission into perspective as I share with you the stories of the families we assist, and offer insight into the plight of Christians in the Middle East and its impact on our Nation and world peace.
- If you are unable to attend, a financial donation of any amount is still needed and greatly, greatly appreciated.
- Please share this with your friends.

Deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> but seats are limited, so please don't wait. To purchase tickets or to donate, go to: [www.savechristianmiddleeast.org/events](http://www.savechristianmiddleeast.org/events). The Mission of Hope and Mercy is a non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible. Our FEIN is 47-485538.

We look forward to you joining our Mission Support Family!

God bless you for your generosity and kindness,



Father Andre Y Mahanna

