

# Saint Charbel Church Qatar



كنيسة القديس شربل  
قطر

Prot. No. 13/2020

15 April 2020

**To Rev. Dr. Antony Lopez, OFM Cap. JCD. Chancellor & Eccl. Judge - AVONA  
And all Priests, Religious, and Lay Faithful  
of the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of His Excellency Bishop Camillo Ballin this past Easter Sunday on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. On behalf of the St Charbel Church Committee and the wider Maronite Community in Qatar, we would like to express our deepest condolences on the Bishop's passing.

Mons. Camillo Ballin's fatherly leadership has touched the Maronite Church in Qatar since its formal inception over six years ago in singular and profound ways. His interest in and love for the Maronite Community in general in our region has been palpable on various occasions, starting with his years spent in Lebanon that he held dear to his heart. In Qatar specifically, his proactive support of our spiritual affairs and needs has been immeasurably impactful and the remnants of his efforts will surely continue bearing fruits for long after his departure from this world. The Maronite Community in Qatar has enjoyed a close relationship with the Bishop who always allotted time during his trips to the country to discuss our needs as a church, participate in our liturgy, visit parishioners and impart his wisdom and spiritual reflections.

Among other things, Bishop Ballin has championed the Maronite community's dream of building our church here in Qatar. He entrusted Father Charbel Mhanna with managing this project and steering it towards success. Mons. Camillo Ballin accompanied us closely on our journey to achieve this dream and followed consistently and with ardent interest the progress of the project through the review of building plans, project projections and updates. Bishop Ballin has supported our efforts in spirit through his prayers and by all possible means. He has taken part in milestone accomplishments of the project and has graced us with his presence at the 'initiation of building works' mass and ceremony alongside His Beatitude and Eminence Mar Bechara Botros Cardinal Rai, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and All the East. (see pg. 2)



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Mons. Camillo Ballin has embodied his motto: **IN VERBO TUO**, in his dealings with our church and community and, undoubtedly, in his ecclesiastic journey as the Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia. He has truly inspired us to live the word of Jesus in all our endeavours.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Yours in Christ,

**Father Charbel MHANNA, OMM**

Patriarchal Envoy for the Maronites in Qatar

Head of St Charbel Church Committee in Qatar

Maronite Community Priest at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Qatar



And the members of St Charbel Church Committee in Qatar:

**Semaan Semaan**

**Jihad Abi Saleh**

**Wissam Iskandar**

**cc:**

1. His Beatitude and Eminence Mar Bechara Botros Cardinal Rai, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and All the East;
2. His Eminence Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Propaganda Fide;
3. His Grace Archbishop Francisco M. Padilla, Apostolic Nuncio;
4. His Excellency Bishop Paul Hinder, OFM Cap., DD., AVOSA;
5. Rev. Fr. Paul Koenig, Capuchin Custos of the General Custody of Arabia, The Middle East;
6. Very Rev. Fr. Tesfaye Tadesse Geberesilasie mccj., Superior General of the Congregation of the Comboni Missionaries, Rome;
7. Parish Priests, Clergy & Religious of the AVONA.