

**Resolution Number 142**  
**Bishop Robert Shaheen**

**WHEREAS**, we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor Bishop Robert J. Shaheen on the occasion of his retirement from the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, from the pastoral governance of the eparchy after more than 12 years of outstanding service and leadership to his dear parish in St. Louis, and to all Maronites throughout the eparchy; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 2, 1964, Robert was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis M. Zayek, on the occasion of the first Maronite Convention in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1967 he was sent to St. Raymond Church in St. Louis, Missouri, a parish that had been without a resident Maronite priest for over twenty years. Robert Shaheen was named Pastor of the church that same year; and

**WHEREAS**, during his many years of service, he led the parish from a few faithful parishioners using a four-family flat as a church, to the beautiful, vibrant, Maronite parish St. Raymond's has become today; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2000, Robert was appointed second Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles by Pope John Paul II, and on February 15, 2001, he was Ordained and Enthroned at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis in front of family, friends, and parishioners of St. Raymond's, by His Eminence, Patriarch Nasrallah Peter Cardinal Sfeir; and

**WHEREAS**, under Bishop Shaheen's extraordinary commitment and love to his St. Louis community and long-time parish family, the Eparchial See officially moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and St. Raymond's Church was named a Cathedral; and

**WHEREAS**, under his vision and leadership Bishop Robert Shaheen oversaw the completion of a new Maronite Pastoral Center in St. Louis as well as the Maronite Heritage Institute where all the faithful can come and experience Maronite history, traditions, and beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**, it is with great joy that we recognize and thank Bishop Robert Shaheen for so many years of service to his flock in St. Louis and around the world, it is also with profound love that the parishioners of St. Raymond's Cathedral thank him for his compassion, love, and personal care he has shown to them since coming to St. Louis so many years ago; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations and join with the parishioners, friends, clergy, and guests of St. Raymond's Maronite Cathedral as we wish him peace and happiness in his retirement. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013 by:

**Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward**  
**Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen**

Adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013 as attested by

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen