



Shirley Wehbe
Maronite Eparchy of Australia

Shirley Wehbe is a tireless worker for the Maronite Church in Australia. She sees a need, and works with other people to address that need. Shirley is inaugural president of the Maronite Ladies of the Gospel. For more than 20 years, she has worked with other people from her home town of Blouza raising funds for good causes. One can say that she has finessed fundraising into a fine art!

These good causes include the research and treatment of cancer, leukemia, heart disease and asthma; assisting Caritas Australia and Caritas Lebanon, children's hospitals, nursing homes in Australia and Lebanon, missionaries in Lebanon and the Middle East, bushfire and flood appeals. She and her husband Ray opened their family home for fundraising in the aftermath of the tragic incineration of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Shirley and her family are among the hosts of the Annual Biggest Morning Tea in support of the Cancer Council. Further, 2010 will be the eighth year of operation of "Making a Difference for Christmas", her initiative to provide Christmas Day lunches at Parramatta Town Hall for the needy and homeless. Shirley's Lebanese heritage has also seen her support projects in her ancestral home, such as improving access to water, encouraging tourism, and sponsoring much needed local employment opportunities.

Throughout all of her work, Shirley's impulse has come from her Maronite Catholic faith. She's a Catechist and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and organizes prayer days and spiritual conferences. Her faith inspires her to these acts of philanthropy.