

Church leaders call for organ donation drive

BEIRUT: The Higher Institute for Religious Sciences at Saint Joseph University and the National Committee for Organ Donation and Transplantation held a joint conference Monday to discuss the ethics and practice of organ donation, as well as religious restrictions. The conference tackled the issue of organ donation from the point of view of the Maronite Church and international human rights. Edgar al-Haiby, the head of the institute, said the conference was the first of several forthcoming events that will deal with organ donation in light of the teachings of the Catholic Church, other churches and Islam. The representative from the Maronite patriarch, Bishop Maroun Amar, said that, despite the hazards of organ donation, the church calls on all medical staff to encourage people to donate their organs provided that they abide by principles. – *The Daily Star*