



# HOLY LAND COLLECTION

September 1, 2020



Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During Holy Week, the Gospel readings come to life in a special way as we gather to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The readings remind us of our special connection to the land where this great story unfolded. Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. It is important that Christians continue to live, work and pray in the Holy Land.

Since the time of St. Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked. Christians in the Holy Land face special challenges – many of which we hear about in the daily news. The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. Like Simon of Cyrene, you can help carry the cross under very difficult circumstances in the Holy Land.

There are hopeful signs as well. The 29 parishes in the Holy Land lead worship, offer Christian formation and education, provide housing and food for the poor. Last year's Good Friday Collection:

- Supported 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, three academic institutions
- Helped keep schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students
- Supported 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers
- Helped rehabilitate 80 homes for Christian families
- Provided Senior Care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth
- Created 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land for Christians
- Preserved 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. A donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region.

Thank you for supporting the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, as encouraged by Pope Francis. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land.

Sincerely in Christ-God,

(Most Reverend) John Michael Botean, DD  
Bishop  
Eparchy of St. George

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