



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

September 6, 2020
Month of the Sorrowful Mother

Dear friends in the Lord:

The COVID-19 pandemic concerned many countries and in several of them, preventive measures precluded the normal community celebration of Holy Week. The Christian communities in the Holy Land, also exposed to the risk of contagion and living in contexts already full of serious sufferings, benefit every year from the generosity of the faithful from all over the world. This solidarity enables them to continue their evangelical presence, in addition to maintaining schools and charitable structures that assist all citizens with healthcare, education, and peaceful coexistence, attending above all to the weakest and poorest.

For this reason, Pope Francis has approved the proposal that the *Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land*, for the year 2020, take place on Sunday, September 13, near the feast of the *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*.

The celebration that commemorates the discovery of the Relics of the Cross by St. Helena also marks a new beginning of public worship in Jerusalem, with the construction of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. May it be a sign of hope and salvation after the passion to which many peoples are now associated, as well as solidarity with those who continue to live the Gospel of Jesus on the Land where "it all began".

This offering allows God's people to inhabit the Holy Places and in so doing bear witness to the Resurrection of Christ. Your support helps the Franciscan friars to preserve the sacred shrines. I am asking you once again to be as generous as your means allow.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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†Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York