



COMMISSARIAT OF THE HOLY LAND  
Washington, DC

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January 28, 2024

Dear Pastor,

May the Lord give you his Peace.

I write to you with deep gratitude for the encouragement and support of last year's Pontifical Good Friday Collection. Your generous faithful allowed the Franciscan Friars in the Holy Land to continue their work of maintaining the sacred shrines and providing hope to Christians.

As you can imagine, hope is much needed at the moment for the Christians of the Holy Land. The tragic events that started on October 7, 2023, have brought many disastrous consequences, including a greatly increased need for support for the Christian community. Most of our faithful rely on the pilgrimage industry to make a living. After two years of pandemic, during which no pilgrims could reach the Holy Places, Christians in the Holy Land were just starting to repay their debts when the war broke out. Now, once again, they find themselves without a source of income. People need support for everything, including medicine, surgeries, food, and school tuition. Fear and despair are very strong, to the point that many Christians are thinking of leaving the country. Christians now represents less than 2% of the population, down from 23% a century ago. Can we let the Holy Land, where the Church was founded, our Mother Church, become a place without a local Church?

As you know, each year the Holy Father asks every Catholic parish around the world to take up a Collection on Good Friday to keep a Christian presence in the Holy Land. This year, help is needed more than ever. The Collection supports the work of the Franciscans in the sacred shrines, ministers to the parishes, provides formation and education in communities and schools, and cares for the basic needs of people in the Holy Land. It also assists the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in sustaining the Eastern Rite Catholic Churches present in the region. During such a difficult season, your advancement of this important collection is essential to our ministry.

Enclosed is information that further explains the good work of the Collection and how your parish can participate. If you would like additional materials or more information, please email [GoodFriday@myfranciscan.com](mailto:GoodFriday@myfranciscan.com). We also have digital resources on our website at [www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday](http://www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday).

With your help, the Franciscans, together with the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, can continue to be a light of hope to those living in darkness in the Holy Land. Thank you for encouraging your parishes to be generous.

May Christ continue to bless you abundantly in all the holy work that you do.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Fr. David Grenier, OFM, Commissary  
Commissariat of the Holy Land, Washington, DC