



# ORDO FRATRUM MINORUM MINISTER GENERALIS

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## LETTER OF THE MINISTER GENERAL FOR THE GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION 2025

**To the Provincial Ministers and Custos  
To all the Friars Minor of the Order  
To the Commissaries of the Holy Land**

Rome, from the General Curia of the Order  
March 19, 2025  
*Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church*

Dear brothers,

*May the Lord give you peace!*

I address you with urgency and concern to draw your attention to the vital importance of the Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land this Easter 2025. This traditional collection, established by the Supreme Pontiffs, takes on an even more dramatic and pressing significance today in light of the situation being experienced in the Holy Places.

### **A suffering land that asks for our presence**

As you may well know, the Holy Land is going through one of the most difficult periods in its recent history. The ongoing war has brought destruction, has displaced families, and has severely tested the fragile Christian presence in those places. Never before has the local Christian community risked disappearing from the land where our faith was born.

Our brothers of the Custody of the Holy Land continue to remain alongside the population, despite the bombs, despite the fear, despite the daily risk. The guardianship of the stones of memory, which remind us of the historical foundation of our faith in the real incarnation of the Son of God, is combined with support for concrete people and care for concrete people, faces and stories that today embody the living presence of Christ in that suffering land.

### **Supporting the Christian presence**

The Christian presence in the Holy Land is a precious asset for the entire universal Church. It is the Mother Church, from which we all come historically and spiritually. Its impoverishment would represent an irreparable loss not only for the cultural and religious diversity of that region but also for the living witness of the Gospel that those Christians represent.

Through the Good Friday Collection, we support:

1. The custody, care, and maintenance of the Holy Places, which are the foundation of the identity of Christians in the Holy Land and continue to speak to pilgrims from all over the world about the mystery of the Incarnation and our Redemption.
2. Daily assistance to local Christian families, who need concrete help to survive and not be forced to emigrate.

3. The Catholic schools of the Custody, which offer quality education to more than 10,000 students, Christians and Muslims, thus building bridges of dialogue and peace.

4. Healthcare and social assistance facilities, which in this time of war have become a lifeline for the wounded, for the displaced and refugees, from Syria to Lebanon, to the West Bank, and as far as Cyprus and Rhodes.

5. The pastoral and social activities of the parishes, which keep faith and hope alive in the face of divisions and hatred and know how to integrate the numerous migrant workers into the local church.

### **An urgent task**

I therefore ask you to personally commit yourselves and to strongly raise awareness in your fraternities and all the Christian communities entrusted to our pastoral care:

- Carefully prepare the Good Friday Collection, explaining to the faithful its meaning and its crucial importance at this historic moment.
- Organize prayer moments, vigils, and Stations of the Cross dedicated to the situation of the Holy Land in the weeks preceding Easter.
- Collaborate closely with the Commissaries of the Holy Land present in your areas, facilitating their work of animation and awareness-raising.
- Ensure that the funds collected are promptly transmitted to the Commissariats and then to the Custody, to respond to the most urgent needs.

May I remind you that this is not an optional initiative, but a duty of the entire Church, as repeatedly emphasized by the Holy See through the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches. The funds collected are used with transparency and responsibility for the pastoral and social works of the Custody.

As sons of St. Francis, who loved the Holy Land so much and wanted his friars to be its custodians, we have a special responsibility. Our Seraphic Father invites us today, through the urgent needs of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, to be peacemakers and witnesses of hope.

In this jubilee year, as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's Easter, let us make our own the cry of the Christians of the Holy Land. Let us not allow their hope to be impoverished, let us not allow this living witness to be extinguished in the places that bear witness to where Jesus walked .

I thank you for what you will do and I assure you of my remembrance in prayer, especially in the Holy Places. May the Lord bless and sustain your commitment.

Fraternally,



*Fr. Massimo Fusarelli OFM*

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Minister General

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