



PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Friday, April 3, 2026

TALKING POINTS

1. 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.
2. Supporting the church in the Holy Land is an historic mission. Since the time of St. Paul, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked. (cf. 2 Cor. 8-9)
3. Even if the situation was slightly improving after the agreement of a fragile ceasefire, Christians still face incredible hardships, relying on the Church for more than we do in our country, including basic things like food, medicine and school tuition to make sure their children can receive a Christian education. The recent attacks on Iran further destabilize the region, bringing fear and uncertainty. We have an opportunity to show support and give much needed hope to our Christian brothers and sisters through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection.
4. Christians in the Holy Land face special challenges The war left deep wounds that will take time to heal. Many Christians (for example, 90% in Bethlehem) depend on the pilgrimage industry to live. Almost no pilgrims came during the two years of the pandemic and again during the two years of the war in Gaza. Some pilgrims had finally started to come back to the Holy Land when the attack on Iran happened, and most pilgrimages to come were canceled after the attack. Supporting the Collection helps Christians to stay in the Holy Land.
5. Although often through adversities, a Christian presence always remained in the Holy Land since the beginning of the Church. It is important that Christians continue to live, work and pray in the Holy Land, where the Church started. The Christians are now less than 2% of the population, from 23% a century ago, and with the war, many more are thinking about leaving. In Bethlehem, more than 150 Christian families have left since October 7. The Holy Shrines must not become like museums, with many visitors, but without a local community, where the Church was born.
6. What has been accomplished? Last year's Pontifical Good Friday Collection: - Supported 24 parishes and three academic institutions - Provided a home in Bethlehem for 28 children from homes facing domestic violence - Offered more than 500 scholarships for university education - Helped keep 18 schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students - Supported 53 friars preparing for the priesthood - Restored and maintained 640 houses/apartments for Christian families - Provided assistance to more than 9,000 families through weekly food baskets - Employed more than 1,000 workers in the Holy Land in a time where job opportunities are scarce - Preserved 65 shrines from the life of Jesus, the Apostles and the prophets - Continued the work of restoration of the floor at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher, the holiest place on Earth.
7. Thank you for supporting the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, as encouraged by Pope Leo. Through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land, directly making a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region. You become an instrument of peace in a troubled land.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Pope Leo has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war and now the Iranian conflict have made their situation even more dire. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land and to maintain a Christian presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org or www.custodia.org

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Pope Leo has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace, supporting Catholics there in parishes and schools, maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees in the Holy Land. Please be generous!