



# Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada

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Ottawa, March 01, 2017

*Dear Father,*

The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is held this year on Good Friday, April 14, 2017. Once the celebrations of the Paschal triduum are underway across Canada, in Jerusalem, the just recently renovated Holy Sepulchre will be more radiant and readily accessible to all Christian worshippers of the world.

In that spot, near the empty tomb of Jesus Christ, the church contemplates the gift of the Resurrection: “I saw the tomb of the living Christ and the glory of his Resurrection” (Victimae Paschali laudes). It is this vision that the Church celebrates with all the children of God born anew of water and Spirit. The Church in Jerusalem watches over and restores the tomb of Jesus to ensure that this site of faith be in full view, visited from afar and a source of inspiration.

The restoration of the tomb of the Christ Jesus has just recently been completed. It is emblematic of the efforts of renewal and support engaged at all times for the life of the faithful and the communities in the Holy Land: share with Christians the life in abundance promised by Christ and implemented by the Church.

In a most unassuming manner, the Pontifical Collection invites us as Catholics to “bear one another’s burdens and to fulfill the law of Christ”. This is true for the faithful and also applies to our Church who is committed to this gesture of solidarity year after year. It is our way of reminding ourselves that “love never fails” (1 Cor 13, 8).

The opportunity is provided to us to express on holy days our solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land. A donation in response to the annual appeal of Pope Francis is a direct way of changing the lives of those caught in the grips of war, violence and the instability in this region. Thank you for your participation in this gesture of solidarity.

**Please find enclosed:**

- An introduction to present the Collection during the Good Friday Service.
- A thematic notice to be published in the parish leaflet of Palm Sunday, i.e. on April 9, 2017.
- Two posters about the Collection to be posted in your church, as of Palm Sunday.

We thank you for sending the papal collection proceeds to your bishop who, subsequently, will be forwarding to us the entire offering of your diocese. The offering of the catholic faithful of Canada is sent in full each year to the Holy Land.

With gratitude,

Father Gilles Bourdeau, OFM  
*Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada*

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*To be read at the time of the collection, April 14, 2017*

## **Good Friday Pontifical Collection**

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*Today, Good Friday, there will be a Pontifical collection for the Holy Land in support of the Christian communities, the work of the Holy land, the upkeep of the Holy Sites and the formation of future priests.*

*Let us give generously and show solidarity to respond to the needs of the Church in the land of Jesus,*

*Thank you.*

## **Resources**

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- The Custos of the Holy Land, Friar Francesco Patton, OFM, presents a meditation on the occasion of the Holy Week and the Good Friday Pontifical Collection 2017.
- You can find a new resource of prayer: **FAMILIES ON THE WAY OF THE CROSS**. Prayed and written by fourteen (14) families of the Holy Land and Canada, this pastoral tool helps to live the intimate relationship between the Passion of Christ and many challenges lived by families today.

**These resources are available on the website: [www.commissariat.ca](http://www.commissariat.ca)**

To be published in the Parish Leaflet:

*N.B.: To copy and paste the following text in your bulletin, go to this link: [www.commissariat.ca](http://www.commissariat.ca)*

### **Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada**

## **Good Friday Pontifical Collection on April 14, 2017 for the benefit of the Holy Land**

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The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year on **Good Friday April 14, 2017**. Our parish, once a year on Good Friday, is called to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives.

As a Pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection helps to maintain not only the Holy Places above all, but also the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works that the Church carries out to the benefit of the Christian brothers and sisters and the local population.

*With gratitude,*

Father Gilles Bourdeau, OFM

*Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada*