



Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada

1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9 CANADA

Tel. / Fax: 613-737-6972 • terresainte@bellnet.ca • www.commissariat.ca



Ottawa, August 5, 2020

Dear Father,

As you know, the date for the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land was changed by our Holy Father Francis to the 13th of September. He especially chose this Sunday because it was the day before the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. That feast while celebrating Christ's saving work also calls to mind faithful Christians, like St. Helen when she found the relics of the Holy Cross in the 4th century, who have committed themselves to preserving the holy sites as places of worship that have sustained and continue to sustain our Christian culture and salvation history.

Cardinal Sandri, in a February 26th statement, pointed out that the Church in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East has endured severe trials over the centuries and that these trials continue: the reduced numbers of local Christians; long and impoverishing wars which affect future generations and result in millions of refugees; and people deprived of basic rights, such as a happy childhood, education, jobs, a dignified adult life, the opportunity to raise families, and the possibility to enjoy a peaceful old age.

The readings from the 24th Sunday in Ordinary time speak of mercy... The Psalmist's refrain, "The Lord is merciful and gracious," was made apparent in Christ's bringing forth healing, reconciliation and, most of all, hope.

Our Church is called to continue Christ's mission—not only in the Holy Land, but certainly in the Holy Land. Pope Francis asks parishes throughout the world, even in the midst of difficulties presented by the coronavirus pandemic, to show their solidarity with the people and the mission of those who live in the land of Christ's birth.

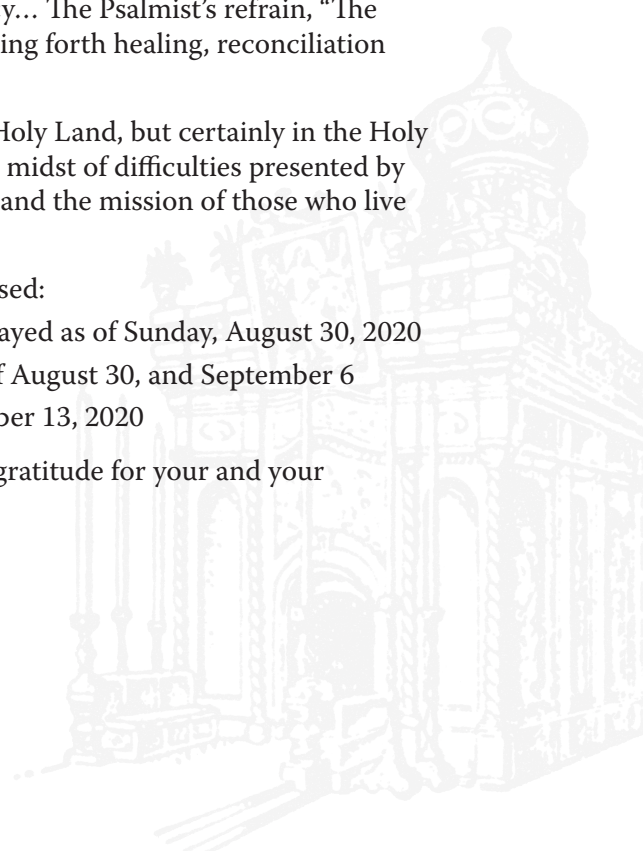
To announce the Pontifical Holy Land Collection, please find enclosed:

- Two posters announcing the Collection, which should be displayed as of Sunday, August 30, 2020
- A notice to be published in the parish leaflet for the Sundays of August 30, and September 6
- An announcement to be read during Sunday Mass, on September 13, 2020

On behalf of the Custody of Holy Land, I would like to express my gratitude for your and your parishes support of the Church in the Holy Land.

With gratitude,

Father Robert Mokry, OFM
Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada



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To be published in the Parish Bulletin (please find this text at www.commissariat.ca)

Pontifical Collection for the Custody of the Holy Land on Sunday 13 September, 2020 for the benefit of the Church and the Christians of the Holy Land

The Pontifical Collection in support of the Holy Land, usually collected on Good Friday, was cancelled when churches were closed due to the pandemic. Pope Francis has requested that it be taken up on **Sunday the 13th of September** – a date close to that of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. This feast celebrates Christ's saving work and also reminds us of faithful Christian pilgrims, like St. Helen when she found the relics of the Holy Cross in the 4th century, who have committed themselves to preserving the holy sites as places of worship that sustain our Christian culture and history of salvation.

The annual Holy Land Collection not only helps to maintain churches and shrines located at holy sites, but, above all, helps to support the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works that the Church undertakes in caring for the local population. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, invites you to be in solidarity with the Church and the Christians in the Holy Land.

On behalf of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, and entrusted with this care, I sincerely thank you in advance for your support.

Fr. Robert Mokry, OFM
Commissary of Holy Land in Canada

An announcement to be read at the time of the collection, September 13, 2020:

Pontifical Holy Land Collection

Today's Pontifical collection is taken for the support of the Holy Land—for the work of the Church, the support of Christian communities, the upkeep of the Holy Sites, and the formation of future priests.

Let us give generously to support this Church of the Holy Land and to show our solidarity with the people of this struggling Church.

Thank you



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