



Holy Land Commissariat in Canada

1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9 CANADA

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



Ottawa, February 18, 2015

Dear Father,

The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year for Good Friday, April 3, 2015. In the wake of this appeal, the visit of Pope Francis in the Holy Land from May 24 to 26, 2014 vividly comes to mind. This unique moment of prayer at the Holy Sepulchre on May 25, 2014 continues to resonate for us, evoking the Scripture verses proclaimed on this occasion: "I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as He said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28: 5-6)

In that place where Jesus was buried and rose again, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew determined to meet for a decisive ecumenical experience. They offered thanks for fifty years of progress towards Christian unity and decided to continue the journey with the hope of one day achieving a fullness of communion.

Pope Francis stressed the importance for all Christian communities to stand next to the empty tomb and to receive there the hope of Resurrection. Neither did he shy away from thrusting into the limelight the plight of Christians of the Middle East and the world who suffer for their faith: « Nor do we forget in our prayers the many other men and women who in various parts of the world are suffering from war, poverty and hunger, as well as the many Christians who are persecuted for their faith in the risen Lord... » (Words of Pope Francis, Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, Sunday, May 25, 2014).

On this Good Friday 2015, the appeal of Pope Francis resonates with clarity and force, as an invitation to turn towards Jerusalem, "to see the place where Jesus lay", to never forget the Christians of the greater Middle East and never neglect the Holy Places. With your priceless assistance the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is a unique pledge of loyalty to the resurrection of the Christ Jesus and of solidarity with all the Christians who are the « living stones » of these consecrated places. It is in this spirit of commemoration and solidarity that the Catholic faithful of Canada are invited to come together.

You will find enclosed:

- An introduction to explain the Collection during the Good Friday Service.
- A thematic notice to be published in the parish leaflet of Palm Sunday, i.e. on March 29, 2015.
- 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- FR. GILLES BOURDEAU, OFM, COMMISSARY OF THE HOLY LAND, PRESIDENT • SR. MILIA KHOUEIRY, F.M.M., VICE-PRESIDENT
- FR. JIMMY ZAMMIT, OFM, TREASURER • MS. ISABELLE AYERS, SECRETARY • MGR GÉRARD DESCHAMPS, S.M.M., BISHOP EMERITUS OF BEREINA, DIRECTOR
- FR. MARC LE GOANVEC, OFM, PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF THE FRANCISCANS, DIRECTOR
- FR. NÉHÉMIE PRYBINSKI, OFM, DIRECTOR • MS. ROXANNE DILLON, OFFICE COORDINATOR

To be read at the time of the collection on April 3, 2015

Good Friday Collection

*Today, Good Friday, there will be
a Pontifical collection for the Holy Land
In support of 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

You can find resources on the Commissariat and Holy Land on two web sites. This year, we can read and meditate the Addresses of Pope Francis and of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew during the Holy Sepulchre Ecumenical Celebration, May, 25, 2014.

- **www.commissariat.ca** is the site of the Commissariat of Holy Land in Canada. Tools of pastoral animation for Good Friday and the Collection are available.
- **www.custodia.org** is the web site of the Custody of Holy Land. It presents numerous and precious resources to understand the Franciscan mission and organisation in the Middle East.

To be published in the Parish Bulletin:

N.B.: To copy and paste the following text in your bulletin, go to this link: www.commissariat.ca

Holy Land Commissariat of Canada

Pontifical Collection of Good Friday on April 3, 2015 for the Benefit of the Holy Land

The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year on Good Friday April 3, 2015. As we respond to this appeal, the visit of Pope Francis in the Holy Land from May 24 to 26, 2014 vividly comes to mind and we revisit the words of Scripture that marked his prayer at the Holy Sepulchre: "I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as He said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28: 5-6)

The Pontifical Collection of Good Friday is a unique moment of loyalty to the Resurrection of the Christ Jesus and of solidarity with the Christians who are the "living stones" of those consecrated places. We are invited to this gesture of commemoration and unity for the benefit of the Holy Places and Christians so as to give a tangible form to the remembrance of the Christ Jesus and the constant support of our present day brothers and sisters!

With gratitude,
Gilles Bourdeau, OFM
Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada