



Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada

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Ottawa, February 14, 2018

Dear Father,

The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is held this year on **Good Friday, March 30, 2018**. Today, as we know, living the Christian faith in the Middle East is not at all easy. Christians are often subjected to forms of oppression and discrimination. Keeping hope alive in such circumstances is both difficult and very important.

Once again, from every part of the Church, expressions of solidarity come together effectively in the Good Friday Collection. This enables the Catholic communities of the Holy Land to help, in their turn, the poor and the suffering of every ethnicity and every faith, without distinction.

"Parishes will continue their pastoral service with preferential attention to the poor. Schools will enable Christians and Muslims to prepare together a future of respect and partnership. Hospitals and clinics, hospices and community centers will continue to host the suffering and the needy, refugees and asylum-seekers, people of all ages and religions hit by the horrors of war. The unforgettable faces of thousands of children and teens, fleeing violence and persecution in Syria and Iraq, continue to challenge us, even as these young people, thanks to our Collection, are being welcomed by Christian schools and neighbouring countries". (Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, 2017)

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. *"Let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." Galatians 6, 10*

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 March 25, 2018.
- 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, March 30, 2018

Good Friday Pontifical Collection

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

You can find three versions of
The Way of the Cross:



FAMILIES ON
THE WAY OF THE CROSS



THE WAY OF THE CROSS:
WAY OF FAITH



THE WAY OF THE CROSS:
A WAY OF PEACE

These resources
are available on the website:
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

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Good Friday Pontifical Collection on March 30, 2018 for the benefit of the Holy Land

The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year on **Good Friday March 30, 2018**. 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

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