



Talking Points for the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection March 29th 2024

- 1. On March 29th we celebrate Good Friday.** This is a unique day when we recall the love of Jesus unto death for us, when he shows us the extent to which God is in solidarity with our suffering humanity. Can we use this occasion to recall our need to be in solidarity with those suffering around us, and in a particular way with the suffering Church of the Holy Land?
- 2. Supporting the church in the Holy Land is an historic mission.** Since the time of St. Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility to support the land where Jesus walked.
- 3. It has never been easy to be a Christian in the Holy Land.** In these challenging times in the Middle East, Christians are experiencing unique hardships, made all the worse due to the ongoing war. We have an opportunity to help them through the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection.
- 4. Christians in the Holy Land face special challenges,** many of which we hear about in the daily news. The political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. Supporting the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection offers hope to the Holy Land Christians. Over recent years, their difficulties have been greatly magnified by the Covid-19 pandemic and now the war, not only on the health of the people but through the severe economic consequences that have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable.
- 5. Who are these Christians?** Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. It is important that Christians continue to live, work and pray in the Holy Land.
- 6. The Holy Land Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity** to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. A donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region, and of course the recent pandemic.
- 7. What has been accomplished?** Normally, each year's Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection:
 - Supports 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, three academic institutions
 - Helps keep schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through to Grade 12 students
 - Supports 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers
 - Helps rehabilitate 80 homes for Christian families
 - Provides senior care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth
 - Creates 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land for Christians
 - Preserves 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets
- 8. Thank you for supporting the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection** as encouraged by Pope Francis. Through this Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Holy Land Collection, you become an instrument of peace in the land where Jesus walked.