



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
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7 March 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may know, each year the Holy Father asks every Catholic parish around the world to take up the collection to support and aid the Christian community present in the Holy Land. Parishes in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will take up the Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land on Good Friday, March 29, 2024.

This year your help is greatly needed because of the tragic events of October 7, 2023. Not only does this collection support the work of the Franciscans in maintaining the sacred shrines, but also supports every day needs of the people who live in the Holy Land. People need support for everything, including medicines, surgeries, food, and school tuition. Fear and despair are at a high degree, to the point that many Christians are thinking of leaving the country. Christians now represent less than 2% of the population; down from 23% just decades ago.

The strife in the Holy Land affects the livelihoods of its residents. Many rely on the pilgrimage industry to support their families. That industry was severely affected by the pandemic, and now the war has again stopped pilgrims from visiting the world's most holy region.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. I urge you to please be as generous as you can.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

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