



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

Good Friday:

HOPE TO ALL – HE HAS RISEN!

The Easter Triduum that culminates in the glorious celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the highlight of the liturgical year. It should also be the highlight of our lives as Easter Sunday represents the promise of our salvation won by Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. How blessed are we that even while we were still sinners, Christ freely chose to suffer and die for our sins! This is Good News!

As a pilgrim to the Holy Land, you can walk the Way of the Cross, known as the Via Dolorosa. You wind through the crowded and bustling streets of the Old City of Jerusalem for the first nine stations and then enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the last five stations. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was first built by the Emperor Constantine after the Council of Nicaea in 325 A. D., after the location of the tomb of Jesus was discovered by his mother, St. Helena. The church was destroyed twice – once by the Persians in 614 A.D. and again by the Muslims in 1009 A.D. The Crusaders erected the present church in 1149 A.D. The Holy Sepulchre, the empty tomb, is the holiest place in all of Christendom. It presents the gift of salvation and the promise of eternal life in heaven – brought about by the greatest act of love ever known to mankind.

In the Gospel from John on Easter Sunday, we hear that Mary Magdalene was the first to arrive at the tomb. When she found the tomb empty, she ran to find Peter & John. As they raced to the tomb, can you imagine what thoughts were swirling in their heads? Jesus had often spoken of his upcoming death and resurrection, but the disciples had been slow to comprehend. But, when they saw the empty tomb – they believed!

The Christians in the Holy Land deal with multiple struggles in their daily lives – both materially and spiritually. They need hope – they need to believe that their fellow Christians all around the world know about their difficulties and challenges and are willing to come to their aid. Each of us can help them believe that they are cherished and that they can get past these struggles – representative of Christ's passion on Good Friday – and that they can experience the joy and hope of the Resurrection by all of us being generous this Holy Week in our contributions to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection that aid the apostolates of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.



A mosaic of the crucifixion in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

HELP FOR HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS

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Friday Collection:
myfranciscan.org

Order of the Holy
Sepulchre of Jerusalem:
eohsjnorthcentral.org

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