



March 9, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each Good Friday, as we recall the passion and death of our Lord in the liturgy, we pray in the Solemn Intercessions: "Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world..." Perhaps nowhere in the world does this petition find a greater echo in the holy days of the Easter Triduum than in the Holy Land. In the very places where Jesus was born, taught, healed, suffered and died, the Church is enduring constant hardship, and struggles to survive.

On Good Friday, April 7, Catholics throughout the world are asked to give generously to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection in support of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in standing in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Your support means that the Church there can conduct parish ministry, provide Catholic education, feed the hungry, build housing for Christians, maintain shrines and operate refugee centers.

As our diocesan family prepares to celebrate the Paschal Mystery, I encourage you to participate in the events of Holy Week. Know that you are in my prayer. Please know also of my gratitude for your generous response on behalf of the Christians of the Holy Land. May the Lord bless you abundantly this Holy Week, this Easter, and beyond.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie