



March 21, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Church in the Holy Land continues to endure, despite constant hardship and struggles to survive. In the very places where Abraham, Moses and the prophets lived, preached and followed the Lord, where Jesus was born, taught, healed, suffered and died, Christians continue to live their faith amidst war and persecution. Our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land give us a beautiful example of fidelity and perseverance in extreme and difficult circumstances. Pope Francis, when visiting the Holy Land, affirmed that “without exaggeration, we can say that the Holy Land is alive.”

This is in no small part because Catholics throughout the world generously support the Holy Land through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection. This year the Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be taken up in the Diocese of Erie on Good Friday, April 15th. This collection offers you an opportunity to express your solidarity and union in Christ with your Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Through your generosity, Christians in the Holy Land maintain a presence at the various holy places of Jesus’ life and death, such as Bethlehem, Bethany, the Mount of Olives and Calvary; parishes, schools and homes for orphans are supported; and men are formed for the priesthood.

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