



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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January 13, 2016

Dear Priests and Pastoral Leaders,

Pope Francis has asked our parishes to support Christians in the Holy Land. We all know that this is a challenging time to be a Christian, especially in the war-torn lands where Christ proclaimed the coming of His kingdom and His Apostles spread the good news of His Resurrection. Because we are all members of the Body of Christ, I am asking you to do all that you can to keep your parishioners aware of the severe trials that Christians face in the Holy Land and the Middle East and encourage them to pray and offer penances for deliverance from trials and for the safety of families and homes in the Holy Land.

Another way of offering assistance to the Christians in the Holy Land is the monies that are collected in our diocese and around the world during the Good Friday services. The monies of the Good Friday Collection go to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, who oversee the preservation of the Holy Sites and assist the Christians who have lived in the Holy Land since the time of Christ.

In February, the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem have offered to help promote this collection during the upcoming Lenten season. Members of our local chapter have provided promotional materials for the bulletin and Mass announcements. With your permission, these members may ask to give a short announcement at the weekend Masses prior to the collection. They may also personally help with the collection.

I truly thank you in advance for any and all assistance that you can give them in helping promote awareness of the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land and to help increase the monies collected during the Good Friday Collection.

Grateful for your continued efforts on behalf of Christ and His Church, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL, KC\*HS  
Bishop of Green Bay