



Please Give Generously to the
Good Friday Holy Land Collection

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Forgiveness and Mercy—How are You Doing?

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees and scribes who complained, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them” (Lk 15:2). In response, Jesus tells them the parable of the Prodigal Son. In this parable, the son takes his inheritance and then squanders his money on partying and the high life. When he hits bottom, he comes back to his father with contrition in his heart. The father whom the son rejected chooses in his love and mercy to reach out and embrace him. This is a clear picture of how Jesus in His love and mercy has also reached out and embraced us. Especially in this Year of Mercy, we are called to do the same for others.



A lone woman prays outside the Tomb of the Holy Sepulchre

Help For Holy Land Christians

Franciscan Good Friday Collection:

www.myfranciscan.org

Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem:

www.holysepulchre.net

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem:

www.lpj.org

The overwhelming majority of Christians in the Holy Land are ethnically Palestinian. But because that word has so many negative connotations in the West, their plight is often ignored. In fact, this is so common there is a phrase by which they are often referred to: "The Forgotten Faithful." We can show our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land that they are not forgotten by supporting them through the Good Friday Collection that raises money for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. The Franciscan Custody sponsors many apostolates that aid the Christian Palestinians and also maintain the Holy Sites where Jesus preached, healed, and performed His miracles.

Like both Jesus and the son's father, we are called to humility: to look past our preconceived notions. We are called to compassion: to better understand our Palestini-

an brothers and sisters and to reach out to them. We are also called to mercy: to pray, to become involved on their behalf, and to embrace their suffering as our own.

Doing this provides an opportunity to let those who are estranged and forgotten know that they are not alone. When we confront our preconceived notions and reach out in humility, mercy and compassion, we, like both Jesus and the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, will find our family enlarged, restored, and whole. Please consider making a generous contribution on Good Friday to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land to help preserve the Christian presence and to maintain the Holy Sites in the Holy Land.