



Please Give Generously to the
Good Friday Holy Land Collection

Easter Sunday: Know the Joy—Live the Resurrection!

The Gospel on Easter Sunday relates that Peter was the first to go into the empty tomb, but he was not the first to arrive there. Before Peter, “the other disciple” arrives but whether out of fear or uncertainty does not go in. You can almost hear him saying upon arriving and finding a dark open tomb, “I’m not going in there, Peter. You go first.” It is a very human moment. The Scriptures seem almost to go out of their way not to identify him. But, perhaps, in this almost purposeful anonymity, it allows room for us to place ourselves? In times of fear or uncertainty we can also be hesitant. If we remain hesitant, though, we may never see the truth that is right in front of us.

Easter calls us to step through that door of fear and hesitancy. Christ beckons us to

overcome these human weaknesses so that we may become active and involved despite our uncertainties. This is certainly true when we are confronted with the harsh and sometimes confusing realities of today's Middle East, especially the Holy Land. Agenda, politics, and spin are abundant.

These conflicts may seem far away to us, but to the Christians in the Holy Land, they are a harsh reality of living in the challenges and sorrows of Good Friday yet always looking toward the joy of Easter Sunday. They desperately need our help. One way to ease their daily struggles is through making a generous contribution to the Good Friday Collection this week. All the monies collected around the world on Good Friday go to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which maintains many of the Holy Sites and assists the “Living Stones” of the Holy Land – our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Church does not want us to be confused about realities and events in the land of Christ's birth, and Church leaders have reached out to show us what these are. We can discover what they are actually saying by visiting the official site of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land (the Latin Patriarchate) at www.lpj.org. Gaining a greater understanding of this complex issue can help us this Easter to step through our uncertainties regarding the Holy Land



A light shines down over the Tomb of the Holy Sepulchre

so that we, like “the other disciple,” might step through that door and come to “see and believe.” By making a generous contribution on Good Friday to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, our fellow Christians in the Holy Land will “see and believe” that they are not alone.

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