



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 6, 2019

Dear Pastors, Pastoral Leaders and Parish Administrators,

As we travel the path of missionary discipleship together, I think it is only fitting that we remember the grave challenges faced by Christians today in the Holy Land. Unfortunately, life for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East is of great trial, as war and terrorism claim the lives and livelihoods of innocent Christians.

I write to you today to ask you to inspire awareness and charitable generosity among your parishioners toward the severe hardships Christians face in the Holy Land and the Middle East. This time of year provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on the trials of these families by encouraging your congregation to offer their Lenten prayers and sacrifices for them.

Once again we will be conducting the Good Friday Holy Land Collection. This is another way to offer assistance to the Christians in the Holy Land. The monies raised from 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.

Just as last year, the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem have offered to help promote this collection in our diocese during the upcoming Lenten season. They have developed promotional materials, including posters, weekly reflections, bulletin and Mass announcements, which are included in these Parish Pages.

In parishes that have members of the Equestrian Order, they may ask for permission to give a short announcement at the weekend Masses prior to the collection and perhaps request assistance in facilitating it. I want to express my sincere gratitude to you in advance for any and all assistance that you offer them to help promote awareness of the devastating plight of Christians in the Holy Land. Your inspiration and pastoral encouragement will help increase the donations collected during this Good Friday Collection.

In this Lenten season, I am grateful for your continued efforts on behalf of Christ and His Church as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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