



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

P.O. Box 23825 • Green Bay, WI 54305-3825 • 920-272-8194 • FAX 920-435-1330

January 27, 2021

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. 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. Pope Francis has asked our parishes to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection by standing in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace. We can support Catholics there, in parishes and schools, by maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees in the Holy Land. The Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem have developed promotional materials which can be found at the North Central Lieutenancy's website under the "Good Friday Collection" menu tab at <https://www.eohsjnorthcentral.org/GoodFriday>.

Your inspiration and pastoral encouragement will help increase the donations received during this Good Friday Collection. Thank you for your awesome ministries and the hard work you offer your parishes. In this Lenten season, may you be blessed with peace, hope-filled vigor and a heart that rests in the presence of the Holy Spirit, as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay