



## DIocese OF BRIDGEPORT

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 14, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Good Friday, a collection will be taken up in every parish in the United States to support Christians in the Holy Land. The proceeds of the Pontifical Good Friday Collection from last year are already providing emergency humanitarian aid to Christians and others who have been disrupted by the war in Syria.

“Presently, there are millions of refugees fleeing Syria and Iraq, where the roar of arms does not cease and the way of dialogue and concord seems to be completely lost. Senseless hatred seems to prevail instead,” said Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, in a letter to all bishops worldwide. “The faithful throughout the world are asked to take their plight to heart.”

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection offers a direct opportunity for parishioners to be witnesses of peace. It supports parishes, orphanages, Catholic schools and religious education in the Holy Land, preserves the sacred shrines for pilgrims and provides assistance, including housing and food, for the poor and needy. It provided 398 homes for Christian families and helped rehabilitate over 100 more. It also supported over 100 men preparing to be priests or brothers

Our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land depend on your generosity. This year, more than ever, we ask your assistance for the sacred sites and the Christian communities living in the land that Jesus made holy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport