



DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

238 Jewett Avenue • Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606 • 203-416-1352 • FAX: 203-371-8323

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 25, 2016

Dear friends in Christ,

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. Christians of the Holy Land rely heavily on the help that comes to them during this special moment of the year.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Especially in the current situation, care for the Christian community is critical to maintaining a Christian presence in a land where they are now a minority.

Holy Land Franciscans staff and maintain the Holy places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their faith and their spiritual and cultural connection to salvation history.

To assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody builds thousands of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical assistance is provided for the needy.

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for students to prepare them to get jobs and remain in the Holy Land as part of living Catholic communities. Funds are distributed to young men studying to become Franciscan priests or brothers. The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land, offering worship, Christian formation, youth and family programs.

The Holy Land Franciscans are counting on your financial help to assist in providing presence, care and service. Please be as generous as possible in this Good Friday collection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport