



*Please read and/or publish in conjunction with the
Second Collection for the Holy Land
on Good Friday, April 2, 2021*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Good Friday, April 2, 2021, our Diocese will take up the national collection for the Holy Land.

The Collection for the Holy Land, in the words of Paul VI, is "not only for the Holy Places but above all for those pastoral, charitable, educational, and social works which the Church supports in the Holy Land for the welfare of their Christian brethren and of the local communities."

This Collection brings an indispensable support to the Christian minority of the Holy Land. The State of Israel and Palestine have a population of some 10 million people. The 180,000 Christian inhabitants represent less than 2% of this population. To check the exodus from the Holy Land of Christians whose lives are rendered difficult, the Franciscan Custody implements numerous initiatives. In addition to ensuring the guard of the shrines, the Good Friday Annual Collection allows these living stones to inhabit the Holy Places and in so doing bear witness to the Resurrection of Christ.

Shrines in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and many other locations welcome Christian pilgrims regularly throughout the year with Christian generosity and hospitality. Likewise, the Church in the Holy Land provides housing and food for the poor.

Please be generous, and prayerfully consider how you can support this collection. Holy Land Christians, along with all the clergy and religious working there greatly appreciate your generosity.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your families, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Leo Thomas".

+George Leo Thomas
Bishop of Las Vegas

GLT/lms