



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

Fourth Sunday of Lent:

FORGIVENESS AND MERCY – HOW ARE YOU DOING?

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees and scribes who complained, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Lk 15:2). In response, Jesus tells them the parable of the Prodigal Son. In this parable, the son takes his inheritance, goes to "a distant country" and then squanders his money on partying and the high life. When he hits bottom, he comes back to his father with true contrition in his heart. The father, whom the son rejected, chooses in his love and mercy to reach out and embrace him. This is a clear picture of how Jesus in His love and mercy also reaches out and embraces us. Especially in this Jubilee Year, we are called to do the same for others.

The overwhelming majority of Christians in the Holy Land are ethnically Palestinian. But because that word has so many negative connotations in the West, their plight is often ignored. In fact, this is so common there is a phrase by which they are often referred to: "The Forgotten Faithful." We can show our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land that they are not forgotten by supporting them through the Good Friday Collection, which raises money for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. The Franciscan Custody sponsors many apostolates that aid the Christian Palestinians and also maintain the Holy Sites where Jesus preached, healed, and performed His miracles.

Like both Jesus and the father of the Prodigal Son, we are called to humility: to look past our preconceived notions. We are called to compassion: to better understand our Palestinian brothers and sisters and to reach out to them. We are also called to mercy: to pray, to become



The tomb of the Holy Sepulchre, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem.

involved on their behalf, and to embrace their suffering as our own. Doing this provides an opportunity to let those who are estranged and forgotten know that they are not alone.

When we confront our preconceived notions and reach out in humility, mercy and compassion, we, like both Jesus and the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, will find our family enlarged, restored, and whole. Please consider making a generous contribution on Good Friday to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land to help preserve the Christian presence and preserve the Holy Sites in the Holy Land.

Help for Holy Land Christians

North Central
Lieutenancy
www.eohsjnorthcentral.org

Franciscan
Good Friday Collection
www.myfranciscan.org

Order of the Holy
Sepulchre of Jerusalem
www.holysepulchre.net

Latin Patriarchate
of Jerusalem
www.lpj.org