

Holy Land COMMISSARIAT de Terre Sainte

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GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION 2012

"My home is within you" (Psalm 87, 7). This verse expresses the solidarity that unites all the Christians of the world with the Church of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. It also underscores a will to lend a helping hand with regard to the many needs of this particular community that cannot be ignored. At the request of the Holy Father, the Catholic faithful of the world and our country are invited, during the Offices of Good Friday, to support spiritually and financially the Christian communities and the keepers of the Holy Sites, the Franciscans.

The Good Friday Collection is scheduled this year on **April 6, 2012**. In Canada this tradition of mutual aid goes back to the first stay in our country of the Blessed Frédéric Janssoone, Franciscan, in 1881-1882. This Collection received the pontifical confirmation of Leo XIII on December 26, 1887. Over the years the Canadian Catholic Church has strengthened and renewed this tradition of solidarity. The constant efforts of the Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada make the most of these privileged ties between the Holy Land and the dioceses of our country through prayer, pilgrimage, as well as service and financial support.

We wish to recall a few words from Mgr. Morissette following his stay in the Holy Land: *"Good Friday provides a special opportunity to remember the Holy Land and to pray that it may yet come to enjoy peace and justice... There is no doubt that God hears their prayers and our own and that he will grant peace to this troubled region. The question is only as to how and when."* (Prions en Église, June 2011, page 190)