



Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land

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Lent 2026

Dear <<Salutation>>,



Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

HEBREWS 13:16

On January 10th Pope Leo XIV announced that 2026 will be a Special Year of St. Francis, commemorating the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. St Francis is well-known for many things ... austere living, joyful spirit, love of creation and intense prayer. But few know that he celebrated not one Lent, what he called the Great Lent, but five Lents through the year. It seemed that the only Lent-free period for Francis was the Easter Season.

The Lents of St. Francis were marked by time in solitude away from the distractions that come with the busyness of life, in intense prayer being embraced by God's love, fasting, a personal emptying to make room for God in his life, a fasting shaped by charity, responding to what the other needs and seeing clearly what God is asking of him.

So, let me ask you, how is your Lent going? Have you been able to escape the distractions of life? Are you feeling more intensely God's love for you? Has the void created by fasting led to a greater embrace of the others' needs? Are you beginning to see more clearly God's plan for you? There is still time.

In the Holy Land, Christian families too hope to see God's plan more clearly but continue their daily lives within uncertainty. Parents worry about the future of their children. Young adults wonder whether they will be able to remain in their home or be uprooted. The Franciscan Friars remain present among them, walking patiently with families whose lives are shaped by circumstances they did not choose.

Your generous response to the needs of these Christian families can certainly help them see more clearly God's care for them, can help families remain rooted in the land where Christ walked, can help educate children who long to learn close to home, can help the friars in their mission of being there with the people, and your generous response will bring you to a greater sensitivity that we are all part of a larger community that cares.



Through your generosity, FFHL has been able to provide excellent opportunities for children, helping to assist Christian families in the Holy Land with the cost of tuition, books and uniforms.



On Good Friday, Christian pilgrims and residents carry wooden crosses along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, retracing Jesus' path to his crucifixion.

Complete, cut and mail today!

(Over, please!)

Your Gifts Make A Difference

Please accept this gift to support the Christians in the Holy Land:

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 Other: _____

Payment Method:

Card Check Or you may pay online at FFHL.org/Lenten

Please make checks payable to: **Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land**

Card Number: _____ Exp.: _____ CVV: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Account # | Lent2026



JOIN THE Good Shepherd Society

Legacy gifts through the Good Shepherd Society (GSS) create lasting impacts for Holy Land Christians in need. If you are interested in joining GSS and leaving FFHL in your will, estate or trust, visit FFHLLegacy.org or check the box below to receive more information.

I am interested in a planned gift for FFHL.

Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Donations will go to areas of greatest needs. See our website for all program information.



“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:16

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give this Lent, I invite you to pause, to reflect and to open your heart. Consider where God may be inviting you to respond. Your generosity, an offering without fanfare, becomes part of the quiet good that continues day after day in the lives of our Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land.

Please join me in helping these families in need and honoring the Special Year of St. Francis. Even a small gift, offered with intention, becomes part of something greater than itself ... long after Lent has passed.

During this holy season of Lent, my prayer is for you and your family, that God’s plan for you may come into clearer focus and that you may come to recognize the fruits of your generosity.

Yours in the Spirit of St. Francis,

Fr. John Puodziunas, O.F.M.
President of FFHL



On Palm Sunday, Christians in the Holy Land walk together, recreating Jesus’ arrival into Jerusalem, preparing themselves for His death and resurrection.



FFHL’s social services programs help to care for those individuals and families in the Bethlehem area in need of financial, medical, or social environment support.



The Funeral Procession of Christ, held on Good Friday evening at the Holy Sepulchre, is a Franciscan rite reenacting the descent of Jesus from the cross.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE HOLY LAND

Submit your email on the giving form (opposite side) to receive news, updates and stories on the Holy Land and about how FFHL is making a difference.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

/FFHLVIDEO /FFHL1994 /FFHL_HQ /FRANCISCANFOUNDATION_HL

Please find the enclosed card below for sending your prayers and intentions. They will be carried to the Holy Land and offered up to the Lord.



Fr. John Puodziunas and the members of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land will be praying for you and your loved ones. **Please list your special prayers and intentions here.**
