



Please Give Generously to the
**Pontifical Good Friday
Holy Land Collection**



Palm Sunday: Do You Shout “Hosanna” or “Crucify Him?”

The Gospel story of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem warms the heart of every Christian. Can you imagine being there - standing along the Hosanna Way from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, waving palm branches and shouting praises to Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messiah? Would the cheers of “Hosanna” still be ringing in our ears five days later as Jesus stumbled along the Via Dolorosa from Pilate’s Praetorium to Mount Calvary to the shouts of, “Crucify Him, crucify Him?”

It may be hard to admit, but we all share in a similar pattern in our own lives, although most of us do not experience the extremes that Jesus did. There are highs and lows, good days and bad days, and we draw our strength from knowing that Jesus is always with us. The Christians that live in the Holy Land are no different. Many are descendants of the early Christians from the time of Christ, and they have the joy and blessing of living close to the Holy Sites. However, they have also suffered times of condemnation and persecution throughout the centuries. Today they suffer through war. Their suffering has become so acute in the past several decades that Christians are being forced to leave their homeland not only to make a decent living, but to simply survive. If this trend is not reversed soon, the only Christians in the Holy Land will be those from other lands on pilgrimage.

You may ask: “Why should I care?” So often, in our own parishes, we lose sight that the Catholic Church is bigger than our parish boundaries or even our diocese. We have Catholic brothers and sisters all around the world, celebrating Mass in every language on the planet. The Holy Land is truly special: this is where the Messiah was born and grew up. This is where He preached, healed the sick, performed miracles and announced the coming of the Kingdom. This is where He suffered, died and rose



Pilgrims walk along the Hosanna Way with the Old City of Jerusalem in the distance.

from the dead to achieve victory over sin and death. Anyone who has made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land will tell you that walking in the footsteps of Jesus is a life-changing experience. It is the responsibility of all Christians around the world to ensure that the Holy Land maintains a Christian presence and to pray for peace in this area of long-standing animosity and violence. We are the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church! In addition to your prayers for peace, another way you can help is to make a generous contribution to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection whose monies go the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, who maintain many of the Holy Sites and sponsor numerous apostolates that support the Christian population. Each of us can play a significant part in ensuring that the Christians in the Holy Land will continue to live and thrive.

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