



**DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS**  
**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

March, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we look forward to this year's liturgical celebrations of Holy Week, through which the Lord draws us more fully into the mystery of His death and resurrection, I am writing to ask your financial support for two collections to be taken in all our parishes during these coming days - the Holy Land Collection and the Seminarian Collection. These collections will be taken up correspondingly during the Good Friday service, and then the Easter Vigil Liturgy and Easter Sunday Masses.

Each year, the Holy Father asks every Catholic parish around the world to take up a collection on Good Friday to keep a Christian presence in the Holy Land. This year, help is needed more than ever due to the disastrous consequences when war broke out in the region starting on October 7, 2023. The Holy Land Collection supports the work of the Franciscans as they maintain the sacred shrines, minister to the parishes, provide formation and education in communities and schools, and care for the basic needs of people in the Holy Land. People need support for everything, including medicine, surgeries, food, and school tuition. With your help the Franciscans can continue to be a light of hope to those living in darkness.

The Seminarian Collection will help our diocese to educate and form future priests. Our diocese has been blessed with an increasing number of young men who have generously said yes to God's call. We now have 15 seminarians. You can take a personal role in their formation with a generous gift in the special Easter collection.

With best wishes and prayers for a blessed Holy Week and Easter, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

PASTORS/PARISH LEADERS: Please announce this collection to your parishioners in your bulletins, website, or other social media platforms the weekend of March 23/24 , 2024. The Holy Land Collection is to be gathered on Good Friday, March 29, 2024, and the Seminarian Collection is to be gathered at the Easter vigil Liturgy and the Easter Sunday Masses, March 30/31, 2024. The proceeds gathered should be forwarded to our Office for Finances within thirty (30) days.

Thank you!