



Finance

Diocese of Rockford

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Pastors and Parochial Administrators
FROM: Jodi M. Rippon, C.P.A.
DATE: April 8, 2020
RE: Change in 2020 Holy Land Collection Date

Dear Fathers,

ROME - With Holy Week celebrations closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis announced at the Vatican on April 2 that he has postponed the traditional Good Friday collection for the Holy Land to September.

The Vatican announced the pope approved a proposal to hold the collection in churches worldwide Sept. 13.

“The Christian communities in the Holy Land, while exposed to the risk of contagion and often living in very trying circumstances, benefit every year from the generous solidarity of the faithful throughout the world, to be able to continue their evangelical presence, as well as to maintain schools and welfare structures open to all citizens for education, peaceful coexistence and care, especially for the smallest and poorest ones,” the Vatican said.

The Vatican said that the date of the collection, which takes place on the eve of the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, “will be a sign of rediscovered hope and of salvation after the Passion that many people now participate in, as well as solidarity with those who continue to live the Gospel of Jesus in the land where ‘it all began.’”

In light of this directive from the Holy See, the Diocese of Rockford advises that parishes advise the faithful of this change and to hold their Good Friday offertory envelopes for Sept. 13, 2020. Any parishes receiving envelopes or contributions for the Good Friday offering for the Holy Land should forward them to the Diocese of Rockford where they will be retained and then forwarded to the Vatican at the appropriate time.

The recording and forwarding of the annual Holy Land (Good Friday) collections are to be forwarded to the Diocesan Finance Office NO LATER than October 4, 2020. Operation Rice Bowl (Lenten) collections, if any families are participating, may be forwarded by May 31, 2020.

All individual checks and loose offertory should be deposited at the parish, then one check each (one for Holy Land and one for Rice Bowl) for the total amount collected should be sent to the Finance Office. Checks are to be made payable to: Chancery Office and Holy Land or Rice Bowl should be noted in the memo field.

Mail to: Diocese of Rockford
 Finance Office
 PO Box 7044
 Rockford, IL 61125

Parishes should record the donation in the parish records if the donor's identity can be determined by use of an envelope or payment by check for inclusion on their annual giving summary.

Please use the following general ledger account numbers for receipts and disbursements:

Holy Land-Cash Receipts	050-48400	Cash Disbursements	050-48450
Rice Bowl-Cash Receipts	050-48960	Cash Disbursements	050-48970

Thank you for your kind assistance.