

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING



The Cathedral office in Bahrain with a note now familiar all over the world: "Please note that this office is closed due to social distancing."
(Photo credit: The Ven. Bill Schwartz)

Words like "unprecedented" seem too small to describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has sorely afflicted the lives of millions of people around the world. It is hard to get one's mind around the impact of this crisis. And yet, for many Christians in the Middle East, the pandemic is just one more crisis to add to the list.

Reflecting upon the situation at the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic in Yemen, the Ven. Bill Schwartz, Archdeacon for the Gulf in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, writes: "The COVID crisis is actually only one more difficulty for them in the face of three other ongoing epidemics (cholera, dengue fever, malaria) and all are greatly affected by all of the problems of the ongoing civil war."

In the Middle East the political instability of neighboring countries faced in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen and elsewhere can overshadow all other concerns. Governments in turmoil continue to create conditions which promote poverty, food insecurity and economic instability which put

a desperate strain on refugees and displaced persons, health care, education and family life in the best of times.

The Good Friday Offering is an opportunity throughout the Episcopal Church to support our Anglican sisters and brothers in their ministry to their neighbors to help meet the needs of innocent people caught in the middle of these realities.

In this time of exceptional circumstances, please make a gift to the Good Friday Offering in one of the following ways:

- 1) use your smartphone to text 'GFO' to 91999 (messaging and data rates apply),**
- 2) give securely online at bit.ly/goodfridayoffering, or**
- 3) send your check contribution by mail to:**

**DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church US
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983**

Make your check payable to: The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society with "Good Friday Offering" in the note field. Thank you.