

# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



## GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

#### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

The history of the Good Friday Offering (GFO) reaches back to 1922 when, in the aftermath of World War I, The Episcopal Church's Department of Missions sent the Rev. William C. Emhardt to travel the region seeking to establish new relationships with and among the Christians of the Middle East. From these initial efforts, which focused on a combination of relief work and the improvement of ecumenical and Anglican relations, the Good Friday Offering was created.

#### HOW MUCH MONEY IS RAISED?

Over the past 10 years (2006-2015), a total of \$3,207,591 has been allocated to the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. The three most recent years have seen a total of \$994,228 allocated: \$266,179 in 2013, \$377,663 in 2014, and \$350,446 in 2015 (2016 is awaiting final audit to be completed by mid-2017, though "early returns" are in line with the previous two years). All funds are disbursed; there is no carry-over from year to year.

#### WHAT DOES THE GFO COST AND WHO PAYS FOR IT?

Thus far, the Good Friday Offering enjoys the support of The Episcopal Church budget, which covers the cost of staff from the Communications Office, the Finance Department, and the Global Partnerships Team, of which the Middle East Partnership Officer is a member.

The costs of the program comprise the design, production, and mailing of program materials, including a letter from the presiding bishop inviting all parishes and bishops of The Episcopal Church to participate. The only other cost is the production and mailing of thank you letters. The most recent cost, after audit, for 2015 showed expenses of \$12,408 with a total of \$350,446 distributed to the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

#### WHO DECIDES HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED?

The Synod of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East provides a recommendation to The Episcopal Church on how to distribute the funds, which The Episcopal Church has consistently supported.

#### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

These funds are used for a variety of humanitarian purposes, including an eye clinic, hospitals, scholarship aid for young people, empowerment programs for women, rehabilitation programs, and similar efforts.

#### WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE GFO?

As an initiative of the Presiding Bishop's Office, the presiding bishop encourages the bishops and clergy of the Church to have their parishes participate each year. As of September 2016, the past four years have seen a total of 2,095 parishes generously support the Good Friday Offering. For 2016, a total of 1,205 parishes are on record (as of September), and of that total, 75% have participated in two or more years since 2013.

#### IS THERE A WEBSITE?

Yes! [episcopalchurch.org/goodfridayoffering](http://episcopalchurch.org/goodfridayoffering)



*Presiding Bishop Michael Curry with  
Archbishop Suheil Dawani, the Anglican  
Bishop in Jerusalem.*