



# Select To Give

Supporting Christians in the Holy Land

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40 RSV

## How Can My Parish Help?

Thank you for taking the initiative to help our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. As you can imagine, the current situation is a terrible thing to endure. And because many of the Christian families living in the the West Bank and Israel depend on income from tourism they are in dire need of assistance. Even more dire is the situation of the Christians living in Gaza.

You are a changemaker! You can help! Here's how:

- Post a call to help in the bulletin and on your parish website (see the suggested text below)
- Schedule a Fundraising Event (see the suggested event details below)
- Pray and consider organizing prayer vigils or events to pray together as a community

## Suggested Announcements

The hostilities in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza have greatly affected countless people. If you wish to directly help your Christian brothers and sister who are in danger and in dire need of your help and your prayers, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Select to Give. More information can be found by visiting [www.selecttogive.org](http://www.selecttogive.org).

## Schedule a Fundraising Event

Choose a day within the next two weeks. Choose a time when most people from your parish will be available; perhaps after the last Sunday Mass. Bring food, or have a potluck, so people aren't hungry, especially if they have abstained in preparation for Mass. We suggest that you adjust the following suggested schedule of events to best work for your parish.

**5 Minutes** Welcome everyone. Thank them for coming, give them instructions for food (if you have food at your event) and then bless the food and remember those in the Holy Land who are unable to enjoy the feast that you are about to enjoy.

**15 Minutes** Eat and socialize

**15 Minutes** Lead the group in prayers for peace and an end to violence. Please see the *Suggested Prayers for Peace* handout available at [www.selecttogive.org/help/](http://www.selecttogive.org/help/)

**15 Minutes** Read the *How Should We Respond* text below out loud or paraphrase it in your own words. Then discuss how your parish should help.

**10 Minutes** Close in prayer and hand out the *Select to Give Information* handout found at [www.selecttogive.org/help/](http://www.selecttogive.org/help/)

## How Should We Respond?

Our brothers and sisters in Israel, the West Bank, and even the 1100 Christians living in Gaza are suffering greatly. War affects us all. As we continue to pray for peace; as we continue to pray for all those directly affected by this war; we have an opportunity to do more than pray. We can respond.

We cannot travel to Israel to lend a hand right now, but we can offer assistance. We can support those who ARE there raising their children through a war. We can help those who ARE there caring for the sick and the downtrodden. We can help those who ARE there and running out of food and unable to pay bills.

Many of us are blessed with abundance. And we have a chance to use that abundance to bless those in need. How, as a parish, should we commit to helping and supporting our brothers and sisters in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza?

There are many worthy charities we could choose to support financially. Many of them are mobilizing to help and others are already on-the-ground working to care for those in need. Our travel partner, Select International Tours has asked that we consider giving to any vetted and dedicated charity that is working in the Holy Land to help. They also have an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) charitable foundation called *Select to Give* that we might consider supporting.

*Select to Give* is uniquely positioned to help Christian families living in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Ukraine, and now Gaza. They are 100% volunteer administered. That means that they have zero overhead, so every penny raised goes to where it is needed most. They are transparent and account for the arrival of every dollar into the hands of Christian families, Churches, and religious orders working in the Holy Land. They will show receipts upon request to prove that the funds raised arrived where they were intended to. And because they are recognized by the IRS, all donations are tax-deductible.

In addition, Select International has committed to matching the first \$50 of ANY and ALL contributions to *Select to Give*. How should we respond?