

DICASTERY FOR THE EASTERN CHURCHES

2022 A.D.

Introduction

The Collection “*Pro Terra Sancta*” was born out of the desire of the Popes to maintain a strong bond between the faithful across the world and the Holy Places. It is the main source of material support for Christian life in the Holy Land and a tool for the universal Church to express solidarity with the ecclesial communities of the Middle East. In recent times, Saint Paul VI gave a significant boost to supporting the Holy Land with the Apostolic Exhortation ‘*Nobis in Animo*’ (March 25, 1974).

Through the funds traditionally collected on Good Friday, the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land is able to carry out the important mission to which it is called: preserving the Sacred Places, the stones of memory, and promoting the Christian presence, the living stones, through its many pastoral, educational, welfare, health and social facilities.

The territories which benefit from the Collection are Jerusalem, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

As a rule, the Custody of the Holy Land receives 65% of the Collection, while the remaining 35% goes to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, which is used for the formation of candidates to priesthood, the support of clergy, educational activities, cultural formation and for subsidies to the several ecclesiastical Circumscriptions in the Middle East.

This report is a synthesis of what the Dicastery received in 2022 and how it was distributed.

Donations received in 2022 for the Holy Land Collection	US\$ 9.043.319
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Academic, Spiritual and Human Formation of the Seminarians and Priests of the Churches under the Jurisdiction of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches

Thanks to the Collection, contributions can be made to seminaries, religious houses of formation and cultural institutions in the relevant territories and even in Rome, supporting in various forms (scholarships, university fees and health care) young seminarians and priests, men and women religious and, depending on the funds available, some lay people. The college, which was opened five years ago to host nuns who come from various Eastern countries, this year welcomes 27 consecrated women, out of a total of 252 students, who benefit from the scholarship, and are hosted in all 7 colleges under the jurisdiction of the Dicastery.

In addition, the Dicastery contributes to the support of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, a higher academic institution with two faculties, Eastern Ecclesiastical Sciences and Eastern Canon Law, of which the Cardinal Prefect is the Grand Chancellor, as well as to supporting the Committee for Cultural Collaboration which develops its activity in the ecumenical field.

Formation of seminarians, priests and nuns in Rome, Maintenance of Colleges	US\$ 3.000.000,00
Pontifical Oriental Institute (PIO)	US\$ 1.066.600,00
Extraordinary subsidies for the Committee for Cultural Collaboration (PCUC)	US\$ 50.000,00
Totale	US\$ 4.116.600,00

Subsidies for Educational Activities

The Patriarchal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Franciscan Custody, the Eastern Churches of the Holy Land and Religious Institutes are committed to the education of young people in the Holy Land.

One of the prestigious foundations that ensures academic formation is Bethlehem University. Almost 3,300 young people, mostly Palestinian Muslims, are trained intellectually and humanly in the hope they will engage in building a country where mutual respect reigns and where human dignity is preserved. The commitment of the De La Salle Brothers in running the university is very appreciated.

Secretariat of Solidarity	US\$ 1.054.400,00
Schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem	US\$ 900.000,00
Bethlehem University	US\$ 1.000.000,00
Total	US\$ 2.954.400,00

Ordinary and Extraordinary Subsidies

The Dicastery contributes to supporting the Churches under its jurisdiction with subsidies drawn from the Holy Land Collection: they contribute to the daily life of all the Circumscriptions.

After 10 years of war, a devastating earthquake has recently hit northwestern Syria with buildings falling apart in Aleppo, Lattakia and Idlib, as well as southern and central Turkey, and killing thousands. The visit of the Prefect to Syria and Turkey made a week after the disaster was an opportunity to show the closeness, affection and concern of the Holy Father to the people affected in both countries, to give strength to the bishops, priests, charitable workers, and also to outline plans for future renovation and reconstruction work of the houses, schools, churches and other structures damaged or destroyed by the earthquake together with the ROACO Agencies.

The war and now the earthquake have left many people with no food, others with no medical treatment, children and youths without schools, and also orphans, wounded and widows with no one to look after them. On the one hand, there is the need to ensure the necessary means for a dignified life to those returning to Iraq and Syria, and to those who have taken refuge in neighboring countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan. On the other hand, attention must be also paid to cultural, spiritual and psychological activities which in some way bring people together despite religious and ethnic differences. To provide for all this, the collaboration of all people of good will is clearly necessary.

Ordinary Subsidies

Jerusalem	US\$ 318.000,00
Jordan	US\$ 25.000,00
Iraq	US\$ 122.000,00
Lebanon	US\$ 208.000,00
Turkey	US\$ 130.000,00
Syria	US\$ 283.000,00
Iran	US\$ 35.000,00
Egypt	US\$ 176.000,00
Ethiopia	US\$ 160.000,00
Eritrea	US\$ 168.000,00
Total	US\$ 1.625.000,00

Extraordinary Subsidies

Jerusalem	US\$ 51.000,00
Jordan	-----
Iraq	US\$ 707,00
Lebanon	US\$ 8.000,00
Turkey	US\$ 115.000,00
Syria	US\$ 40.000,00
Iran	-----
Egypt	US\$ 25.000,00
Ethiopia	US\$ 20.215,00
Eritrea	US\$ 20.000,00
Total	US\$ 279.922,00