The Good Friday Offering

News and Background Information

Translations of this information in Spanish, French and Mandarin are available at www.episcopalchurch.org/global-partnerships/good-friday-offering

The Good Friday Offering (GFO) is an initiative of the Office of the Presiding Bishop which dates to 1922 when, in the aftermath of World War I, the Episcopal Church sought to create 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. The first church-wide offering was received in 1923.

The tradition has been that the Presiding Bishop writes a letter to the bishops and parishes of the Church seeking support for raising funds in support of the ministry of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

How much has the Good Friday Offering raised in recent years?
Recent GFO allocations to the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, 2013-2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>266,179.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>377,663.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>350,446.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>365,229.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>414,310.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>437,455.79</td>
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Is any money held over from year to year?
No, all funds are dispersed each year.

How many parishes participate in the Good Friday Offering?
Parish tally for the years 2015-2018:

Total parishes for 2015 = 1,232
Total parishes for 2016 = 1,437
Total parishes for 2017 = 1,592
Total parishes for 2018 = 1,675
Do you have any idea of parish involvement from year to year?
For the years 2015-2018 the following was revealed:
Parishes involved for one year: 1181 40.83%
Parishes involved for two years: 677 23.40%
Parishes involved for three years: 481 16.63%
Parishes involved for four years or more: 553 19.12%

So, from 2015-2018, 59% of the participating parishes made an offering to the GFO in two or more years.

How many parishes in the Episcopal Church participate in the GFO?
A calculated estimate is 2,892 parishes for the four-year period 2015-2018. If there are 7,000 parishes in the Episcopal Church, then something like 41.31% of parishes participated in the GFO from 2015-2018.

What does it cost to produce the GFO?
Expenses are limited to the costs for translation, printing and first class mailing of the GFO materials to all parishes in the Episcopal Church and thank you notes to all contributors of record. Staff time from the departments of Communication, Finance; Global Partnerships (the staff position of Middle East Partnership Officer who oversees the GFO) are not charged against the GFO. For the period of 2015-2018, the average annual cost came to $18,585 to translate, print and mail the GFO information to approximately 7,000 parishes plus thank you notes to all contributors of record.

What is included in the mailing?
A letter from the Presiding Bishop, two posters, information to parish clergy and treasurers on how to make a contribution and a return envelope.

How else is the Episcopal Church involved in the Middle East?
• The Episcopal Church is involved in placing mission staff, both short and long term, younger and older in the following locations at the present time:
  o Jerusalem
  o Oman
  o The United Arab Emirates
  o Qatar
  o Bahrain
• Several organizations beyond the Good Friday Offering involve many Episcopalians supporting ministry throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, including:
  o Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)
  o The United Thank Offering (UTO)
  o The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations (OGR)
  o American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)
  o Stand with Iraqi Christians (SWIC)
  o Jerusalem Peacebuilders
  o Kids4Peace

Submitted by, The Rev. Canon Robert D. Edmunds, Middle East Partnership Officer

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