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**Epiphany 2020**

Dear Friend in Christ,

In January, as chair of the board of American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) and as one whose faith and vocation have been strengthened by many pilgrimages to the Holy Land, I invited bishops across the Episcopal Church to join me in encouraging our churches to take part in a unique Easter Appeal. Now I share this opportunity to engage in ministry with the Living Stones of Christ's church - the indigenous Christians of the Middle East - with you and your congregation.

In my years as a priest and over my 12 years as a diocesan bishop, I've learned that seeing the immediate impact of ministry and the sharing of gifts can seem a bit like a mirage in the desert, but I assure you that your gift to Ahli Arab Hospital or the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre - in whatever way you choose to participate - will have a profound and transformative effect on the lives of those served by these two institutions. Your gift will immediately go to work on their behalf.

At this time of year when our gaze turns to the East, is there any more tangible way for our Christian witness to manifest itself in our wild and troubled world?

I invite you to join me and many others in making our support known to our brother and sister Christians in the Holy Land. Please take a look at the enclosed brochure to learn how AFEDJ, a 31 year-old nonprofit organization which offers a safe, secure channel for donations to Jerusalem, can support and enhance your efforts to share this 2020 Easter Appeal with members of your church.

Thanks for considering this invitation.

Faithfully,

+Greg

The Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel, AFEDJ Chair  
Bishop of Olympia

*P.S. If you have any questions, please be in touch with AFEDJ Executive Director John Lent at [jlent@afedj.org](mailto:jlent@afedj.org)/203.655.3575 or AFEDJ Communications Director Heidi Shott at [hshott@afedj.org](mailto:hshott@afedj.org)/207.592.7353.*