



PRAYER PETITIONS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Daily prayer intentions for the persecuted Christians

Monday- For those who are in exile and have had to flee from their cities and towns; that they will soon be able to return to their homes.

“Imagine... elderly, that can hardly walk, children, new born babies, pregnant women, young girls and youth, leaving in complete exile. Perhaps this exile reminds us of the the Exodus in the Bible. This mass of people, very afraid and under a lot of pressure, without food or water, carrying all the elderly and the children, pregnant women and the sick all reach the border between our villages and Kurdistan. 12 hours later they arrived at Ankawa, the Christian camp in Erbil. (Erbil is the capital of Kurdistan.) But they arrived nearly dead. Women, at the point of giving birth, walking. Some elderly died that night due to exhaustion..”

Tuesday – For the faith of the persecuted Christians; that they never lose hope or trust in God’s fatherly care for them in the difficult situations they face.

“They have lost their homes, their land, their belongings; they have lost everything. The families no longer have anything. They have neither jobs, nor house. They cannot look forward to a future. They have lost all trust in their country, in others, in the future. However, they trust greatly in God; they have placed their trust in God, knowing that he never leaves them, that he will be with them no matter where they are.”

Wednesday – For the all the Bishops, priests and religious who are called to take care of the persecuted Christians; may the Lord grant them the strength they need to tend to their flock with perseverance and courage.

“On many occasions at one, two, or three o’clock in the morning, families called us needing something and didn’t know where to go. Their only reference point was priests or religious sisters.”

“Pray for the priests and sisters who work day and night for the exiled, for seminarians in Iraq, who, despite seeing their families in difficulty, haven’t left their vocation, and have maintained it and want to continue forward.”

Thursday- For the International communities, and government leaders; that they have clarity and truly search to find an end to the persecution in order to look for the well being of all citizens.

“Unfortunately, I have been in Washington trying to see what to do...I’ve met with congressmen, politicians, university professors of international human rights, and experts of the Middle East, such as Petraeus... Not one of them, honestly, not one of them, spoke encouragingly about the good future for Christians. I’ve come to the conclusion that the plan is that Iraq be divided between the Muslims... I’ve asked, “And the Christians? It’s our country, we built it up.” They said to me, “Unfortunately, the conflict will last for years,” and someone told me, “You should find another place to live.”

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Live the faith with courage, not fear.

Friday – For the persecuted Christians; that they never become paralyzed by fear and that they continue to be testimonies to Jesus Christ and the faith.

“I asked people how they were able to get to church and they said that they walked an hour and a half to get there. When the army saw that there were children, young people, families without any protection, they took them in cars to the church. You cannot imagine how dangerous it is for a Christian family to walk through the streets of Mosul. We celebrated Good Friday with the church full of people. This is our faith, a faith that knows no fear. We are all going to die, if not today then tomorrow. If not tomorrow, the day after tomorrow. Death is not the problem, the problem is how we live today.”

Saturday – For all Christians, that they begin to re-build a Christian society through evangelization.

“You all can help us if you build a Christian society, if Europe becomes courageous. You should courageously re-evangelize your society; unafraid of saying you are Christians. This is the aid that you can lend us. “

Sunday – For all the Christians in the West; that they may grow in their faith, and learn to live it with courage, and not fear. And that they begin to re-build a Christian society through evangelization.

“The most important and best aid you can offer us is to remain strong in your faith. We are very worried about you all. We are not so worried about our situation as about this society that is losing its faith. I see more fear here in the Western society. I only want to say that there is no reason to fear. If you all are courageous and strong in your faith, we too will be strong.

The prayer intentions are a compilation of 2 interviews conducted by HM Television with Monsignor Emil Nona, bishop of the Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle in Sydney, former Chaldean Archbishop of Mosul, Iraq from 2010 to 2015 and Fr. Behnam Benoka.