



## SUGGESTED INTERCESSIONS FOR THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED

*Attacks on religious freedom around the world and the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities, particularly in Syria and Iraq, are ongoing. They need our prayers and assistance more than ever.*

*This Advent the USCCB is urging the Church to increase our communion with our brothers and sisters and to lift up their plight in prayer. To that end, the USCCB has provided the following suggested intercessions for use in your parishes and schools this season and beyond. Feel free to use these as they are or as a starting point in your own compositions.*

- For Christians in Iraq and Syria, that they may be granted courage, hope, and perseverance as they bear heroic witness to their faith in this time of persecution, we pray to the Lord.
- For all our brothers and sisters fleeing persecution and war in the Middle East, that they may find safe haven and protection, and that they may rebuild their lives in dignity, we pray to the Lord.
- For those suffering because of their Christian faith, that the Holy Spirit may fortify them with the courage to remain strong in faith, as well as with the charity to forgive their persecutors, we pray to the Lord.
- For those who persecute Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East, that the light of God's truth and mercy may penetrate their hearts, and that they may come to recognize the common humanity of all peoples and cease committing acts of hatred, we pray to the Lord.
- For those who provide assistance to refugees fleeing persecution and violence in the Middle East, that they may continue to see the face of Christ in the most vulnerable, we pray to the Lord.
- For government leaders worldwide, that they may recognize the grave responsibility that comes with power, and may protect the persecuted and work for an end to violence and war, we pray to the Lord.