AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED
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# Universal Prayers for Suffering and Persecuted Christians

*Celebrant:*

Let us bring to mind the suffering Church, asking the Lord to live ever more deeply in the lives of our brothers and sisters in faith who are oppressed and persecuted for their love of Christ.

*Reader:*

**For the Church.** That the Lord will keep the Pope, the clergy and the faithful in constant solicitude for all the peoples of the earth. Lord hear us.
R. *Lord hear our prayer.*

**For our brothers and sisters afflicted by discrimination and religious persecution.** That the Lord will give them the strength to respond to hatred with love. Lord hear us.
R. *Lord hear our prayer.*

**For those living countries ravaged by war and conflict.** That the Lord will bring an end to the violence and bring peace and protection to all communities. Lord hear us.
R. *Lord hear our prayer.*

**For those in exile.** That the Lord protect men, women and children who have been forced to leave their homeland due to religious persecution. Lord hear us.
R. *Lord hear our prayer.*

**For religious freedom.** That all people will be able to seek truth, and that this fundamental human right be protected and fostered in national laws. Lord hear us.
R. *Lord hear our prayer.*

**For ourselves.** That we who live with freedom of worship will open our hearts and our hands to help keep the faith alive where it is most in need. Lord hear us.
R. *Lord hear our prayer.*

**For those who have died.** May those who have lost their lives as a result of their faith be united with Christ in heavenly glory. Lord hear us.
R. Lord hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady, Mother of those who suffer, to intercede for us, as we pray. Hail Mary…

*Celebrant:*

Heavenly Father, look upon Your people who entrust themselves to Your mercy. May those of us who enjoy freedom of worship, never forget the cries of those who bear a heavy cross for their faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.