



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN CANADA

Prayer Vigil for Persecuted Christians



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament where possible

Reading of the general text on religious persecution

♪ Hymn of choice

First reading: Rom. 8:35-39

Psalm 102

Gospel according to John (John 15:18-20)

♪ Hymn of choice

PONTIFICAL
CHARITY





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Testimonies or Readings from the Examples of Persecution Document

(available here: <https://acn-canada.org/red-wednesday/>)

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

℟: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord of Mercy, support our Christian sisters and brothers who suffer discrimination and religious persecution. Grant them the strength to respond to hatred with love. Let us pray. **℟.**

God of Mercy, grant strength to all persecuted Christians, especially to those called to build a civilization of love through the sufferings of society. Let us pray. **℟.**

Lord of Mercy, keep our hands and hearts open to alleviating, as much as possible, the suffering endured by Christian communities, especially those who have no place to celebrate the Eucharist. Let us pray. **℟.**

Lord of Mercy, for all those who are martyred or killed each day because of their faith in Jesus Christ, that they may be forever united with Him in the glory of the saints. Let us pray. **℟.**

Lord of Mercy, protect all families throughout the world who are living in exile. May your Spirit be present and alive in their encounters and in the challenges they face along the perilous and unpredictable roads before them. Let us pray. **℟.**

Lord of Mercy, keep your Church, its pastors, and our Pope Leo in constant care for all your children on earth (and bless the work carried out by *Aid to the Church in Need*). Let us pray. **℟.**

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OR

℟: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who suffer persecution because of Your Name, that they may persevere with patience and that their trial may be shortened. ***℟.***

For Christians who are imprisoned or kidnapped, that they may remain steadfast in the faith during these difficult times and that they may be freed. ***℟.***

For the martyrs of yesterday and today, that their witness may remain alive and nourish the faith of thousands. ***℟.***

For the hearts of persecutors and jailers, that they may be touched by Your love, as was the case for Saint Paul on the road to Damascus. ***℟.***

For the persecuted, that they may freely forgive their tormentors for what they have endured, and that, following their example, the persecutors may seek and welcome God's forgiveness and change their lives. ***℟.***

Silent prayer (10 min.)

The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

Blessing with or without the Blessed Sacrament, as appropriate

♪ Hymn of choice