



Aid to the  
Church in Need  
ACN CANADA

## Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) Suggestions

### **Celebrant**

And now, beloved sisters and brothers, let us open our hearts to all the suffering and all the needs of our persecuted Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world.

***℟: 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. **℟.**



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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. **R.**

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. **R.**

***OR***

**Celebrant**

Look with kindness, Lord, upon the people who place their trust in your mercy; extend a helping hand to the Christians who rely on our prayers. Support them with your blessings, guiding them on paths of peace and hope.

***R: 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. **R.**

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. **R.**

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



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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. **R.**

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. **R.**