



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 persecution**

♪ Singing

PONTIFICAL  
CHARITY





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### **First reading: Rm 8:35-39**

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: “For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

### **Psalm 102**

**01** The prayer of one afflicted and wasting away whose anguish is poured out before the LORD.

**02** LORD, hear my prayer;  
let my cry come to you.

**03** Do not hide your face from me  
in the day of my distress.

Turn your ear to me;  
when I call, answer me quickly.

**04** For my days vanish like smoke;  
my bones burn away as in a furnace.

**05** My heart is withered, dried up like grass,  
too wasted to eat my food.



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- 06 From my loud groaning  
I become just skin and bones.
- 07 I am like a desert owl,  
like an owl among the ruins.
- 08 I lie awake and moan,  
like a lone sparrow on the roof.
- 09 All day long my enemies taunt me;  
in their rage, they make my name a curse.
- 10 I eat ashes like bread,  
mingle my drink with tears.
- 11 Because of your furious wrath,  
you lifted me up just to cast me down.
- 12 My days are like a lengthening shadow;  
I wither like the grass.
- 13 But you, LORD, are enthroned forever;  
your renown is for all generations.
- 14 You will again show mercy to Zion;  
now is the time for pity;  
the appointed time has come.
- 15 Its stones are dear to your servants;  
its dust moves them to pity.
- 16 The nations shall fear your name, LORD,  
all the kings of the earth, your glory,





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17 Once the LORD has rebuilt Zion  
and appeared in glory,

18 Heeding the plea of the lowly,  
not scorning their prayer.

19 Let this be written for the next generation,  
for a people not yet born,  
that they may praise the LORD:

20 The LORD looked down from the holy heights,  
viewed the earth from heaven,

21 To attend to the groaning of the prisoners,  
to release those doomed to die.”

22 Then the LORD’s name will be declared on Zion,  
his praise in Jerusalem,

23 When peoples and kingdoms gather  
to serve the LORD.

24 He has shattered my strength in mid-course,  
has cut short my days.

25 I plead, O my God,  
do not take me in the midst of my days.  
Your years last through all generations.

26 Of old you laid the earth’s foundations;  
the heavens are the work of your hands.

27 They perish, but you remain;

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they all wear out like a garment;

Like clothing you change them and they are changed,

**28** but you are the same, your years have no end.

**29** May the children of your servants live on;

may their descendants live in your presence.

### **Gospel according to Saint John (Jn 15:18-20)**

“If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, ‘No slave is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

The Word of the Lord

♪ Singing

**Testimony of a witness or reading the text of examples of religious persecution**



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## **Prayers of the faithful:**

(From the Mass)

### ***R/* Lord hear our prayer**

Merciful Lord, support our Christian brothers and sisters who are afflicted by discrimination and religious persecution. Give them the strength to respond to hatred with love. We pray to the Lord. ***R/***

Merciful Lord, give strength to all persecuted Christians, especially those called to build a civilization of love amidst the sufferings in society. We pray to the Lord. ***R/***

Merciful Lord, keep our hands and our hearts open as much as possible to help assuage the torment of Christian communities, in particular those who have nowhere to celebrate the Eucharist. We pray to the Lord. ***R/***

Merciful Lord, for the people who are martyred and killed every day because of their faith in Jesus Christ. May they be united with You in your Glory. We pray to the Lord. ***R/***

Merciful Lord, protect all families that are in exile in our world. May your Holy Spirit be present and alive through all the people they meet and the challenges they encounter on the perilous and unpredictable roads ahead of them. We pray to the Lord. ***R/***

Merciful Lord, keep your Church, its pastors and our Pope Francis in constant solicitude for all the children of the earth (and bless the work of Aid to the Church in Need). We pray to the Lord. ***R/***

**Or:**



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(From the Rosary)

For all those who suffer persecution because of Your Name so they remain patient and may their struggles be shortened. We pray to the lord. *R/*

For imprisoned or kidnapped Christians that they may remain strong in their faith in these difficult times and gain their freedom. We pray to the Lord. *R/*

For past and present martyrs, may their witness be kept alive and nourish the faith of thousands. We pray to the Lord. *R/*

For the hearts of persecutors and jailers, may they be touched by your love as was the case for Saint Paul on the road to Damascus. We pray to the Lord. *R/*

So that the persecuted may be able to forgive their tormentors for what they have endured and that, seeing their example, tormentors may welcome the forgiveness of God and change their lives. We pray to the Lord. *R/*

**Prayer in silence (10 minutes)**

**Our Father**

**Blessing with or without the Blessed Sacrament depending on the situation**

♪ Singing