



OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENT: DECEMBER 15, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAMPLE INTENTIONS FOR THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED **MUESTRA DE INTENCIONES PARA QUIENES SON PERSEGUIDOS**

Dear Pastors, Pastoral Leaders, Parish Administrators, and Liturgists:

United in faith, we continue to pray for the protection of religious freedom across the world, and for Christians and those of other traditions others who face persecution, particularly in Syria and Iraq.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on International Justice and Peace has asked that parishes consider periodically adding prayers for those persecuted to the Universal Prayer (Prayers of the Faithful), especially during this time of the year. Attached you will find several sample intentions for those persecuted in both English and Spanish that you should feel free to adapt for use in your parishes.

Thank you for your commitment to our brothers and sisters in Christ and all who suffer from oppression and persecution. Please contact the Office of Divine Worship with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Poradek
Divine Worship Director

**SAMPLE INTENTIONS FOR THE
UNIVERSAL PRAYER (PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL)
FOR THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED**

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.

**MUESTRA DE INTENCIONES PARA LA
ORACIÓN UNIVERSAL (ORACIÓN DE LOS FIELES)
PARA QUIENES SON PERSEGUIDOS**

Para los cristianos en Irak y Siria, que ellos podrán concederse valor, esperanza y perseverancia dando testimonio heroico de su fe en este tiempo de persecución, roguemos al Señor...

Para todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas que huyen de persecución y guerra en el Oriente Medio, que puedan encontrar protección y refugio, y que puedan reconstruir sus vidas con dignidad, roguemos al Señor...

Para quienes que sufren a causa de su fe cristiana, que el Espíritu Santo les pueda fortalecer con el esfuerzo de permanecer fuertes en la fe y la caridad a perdonar a sus perseguidores, roguemos al Señor...

Para quienes que persiguen a los cristianos y otras minorías religiosas en el Oriente Medio, que la luz de la verdad y la misericordia de Dios puedan penetrar sus corazones, y que puedan llegar a reconocer la humanidad común de todos los pueblos y dejen de cometer actos de odio, roguemos al Señor...

Para quienes prestan asistencia a los refugiados que huyen de la persecución y la violencia en el Oriente Medio, que puedan continuar ver el rostro de Cristo en los más vulnerables, roguemos al Señor...

Para los líderes de gobierno en todo el mundo, que reconozcan la grave responsabilidad que viene con poder y puedan proteger a los perseguidos y trabajen para poner fin a la violencia y la guerra, roguemos al Señor...