

Courage in Red

November 24-November 30, 2018

Support *Persecuted* *Christians*

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.” Matthew 5:10*



In remembrance of today's Christian martyrs and in tribute to those currently suffering persecution, the Parish Family of St. Elizabeth and St. Brigid will participate in the **Courage in Red** initiative organized by the charity, Aid to the Church in Need. Both of our churches, St. Elizabeth and St. Brigid, will be floodlit in **red** on November 24 - 30. We will join in solidarity with our fellow Christians that will hi-light in **red** their landmarks, churches, and cathedrals around the world, including London, Rome, Mexico, Brazil, Syria, the Philippines, and Washington, DC.

Today, the persecution of Christians is as brutal and vicious as that experienced in the early church. More Christians (45,000,000) were martyred in the twentieth century than those killed in the previous nineteen centuries since the time of Jesus. Persecution comes in many forms. Men, women and children are subjected to harassment and discrimination. In Saudi Arabia, Christians are unable to practice their faith freely without fear or repercussion. In Egypt, the Catholic Church is often denied permits and prevented from building churches. And, in China, faithful are afraid to wear crosses or carry bibles in public.

But persecution in its most tragic form comes in the number of modern-day martyrs, those unwilling to renounce their belief in Christ even when faced with death, and those kidnapped, with whereabouts still unknown.

Efforts are underway to aid persecuted Christians in refuge camps and in their homeland, as well as to help resettle others by aiding them in rebuilding their homes that were destroyed.

What can you do to help?

- * ***Pray each day*** and keep Faith with those who suffer for Christ. Heal the wounds of persecution.
- * ***Be a Voice*** and take a stand in defense of persecuted Christians. Share this information with your friends and family. You can ask your elected officials to protect religious freedom.
- * ***Wear Red*** (the color of the martyrs) in fellowship with Christians who risk their lives for their faith.
- * ***Attend Mass*** for a Christian in the world who cannot worship out of fear for their safety.
- * ***Attend a special prayer vigil*** for persecuted faithful with your prayer group, friends or family on Tuesday, November 27th at 7 PM in St. Brigid Church.
- * ***Light a red*** candle and place it in your window for the week of November 24-30, (Candles are available in the back of St. Elizabeth Church and St. Brigid Church). All donations from the candles will be given to the Aid to the Church in Need to assist with the efforts to provide assistance to Christians.