

January 2016

Dear Sir or Madame,

Christians in the Middle East face persecution and extinction simply for their belief in the one who taught us to love one another. Despite the genocidal persecution against them, they continue to provide an inspiring example of faith in God and in love of their neighbor. They need our solidarity and support.

To date, the Knights of Columbus has donated approximately \$5 million to relief efforts in Iraq and Syria through the Christian Refugee Relief Fund. We have also launched a website (christiansatrisk.org) and released commercials to raise awareness of the crisis. However, more assistance is needed.

To meet this ongoing need, I ask that the students in your school participate in our Christians at Risk Lenten Program by donating a small amount on each day of Lent (Feb. 10 - March 26, 2016). This can be done through simple methods, such as setting aside the price of a can of soda each day. Your school should then collect and donate the net proceeds to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund.

Donations can be sent by check made payable to "Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc." Mail checks to One Columbus Plaza, PO Box 1966, New Haven, CT 06509-1966. In the United States, donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and must be made out to Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Those who wish make individual donations can visit www.christiansatrisk.org.

This high school-based fundraising initiative draws on the efforts of Marin High School in Greenbrae, Calif., which raised \$23,000 through a fundraising dinner and student contributions. You can see a brief video of their efforts - which particularly helped an Iraqi Assyrian Christians family currently living in their local community - at christiansatrisk.org/lenten. That site also includes additional downloadable materials for your school.

To help your school participate in this program, copies of a Prayer for Persecuted Christians are available here; as a flier that may be displayed at your school, and as a poster, and available as printable downloads at www.christiansatrisk.org. Additional copies of the prayer card can be obtained by contacting the Knights of Columbus Supply Department at 203-752-4214 or supply@kofc.org.

If you are interested in holding a Lenten drive, or would like more information, please contact us via email at knightline@kofc.org or phone 203-752-4264.

Please join us in offering spiritual and material assistance to these victims of crimes against humanity. Pray daily for our Christian brothers and sisters - for their perseverance in faith and hope, the improvement of their living conditions, and the restoration of peace in their land.

Sincerely,