

Reflections

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International

Catholic Family Newsletter

April 2025

Bringing Light Into a World of Darkness

Life Passes Very Quickly

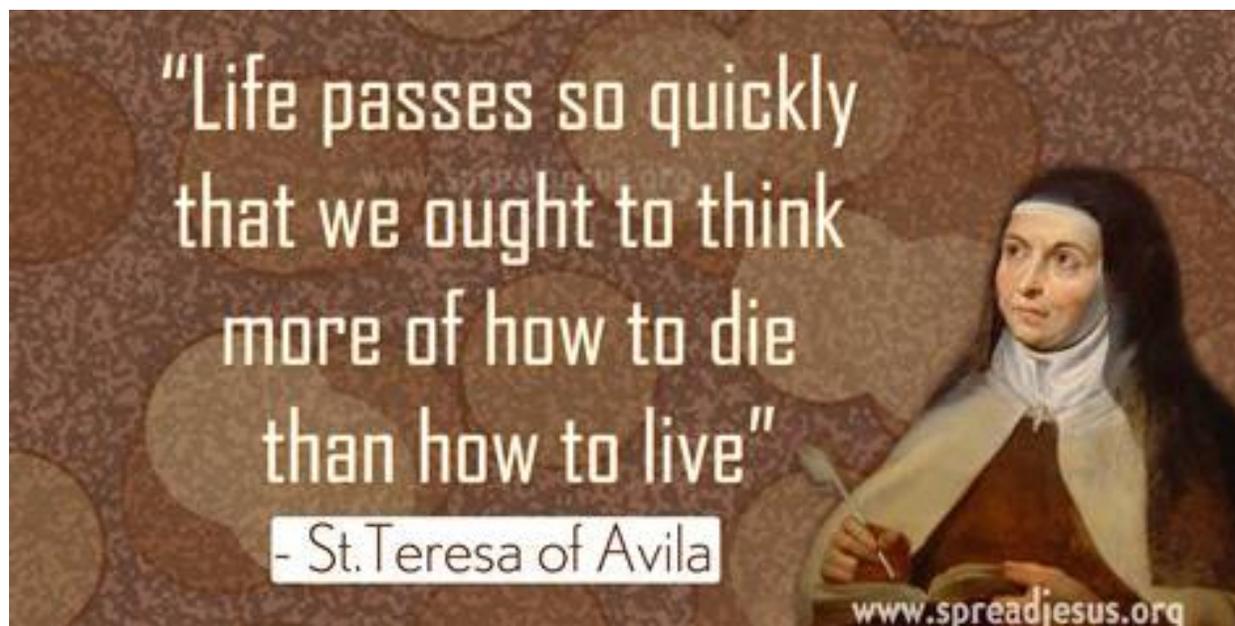
Miracles of Saint Padre Pio

The Killing and Persecution of Christians

Healing Novena through Intercession of St

John Paul II

*****THOUGHT FOR TODAY*****



By: Richard Pickard
Blessings to All:

Worldwide, 85,000 people die each minute. All of these people will spend eternity in one of two places. Heaven or Hell. How many do you think were ready?

The life we have is precious. But the life of the soul, which is immortal, does not die. The reason why Jesus became one of us, was to provide the grace needed to overcome the spiritual darkness that consumes the soul, leading to eternal damnation. He is the Light that overcomes the darkness of sin. Through Him we can become children of God. Being children of God means we have been born into God's family. We become God's children through faith in Jesus Christ, which results in spiritual rebirth: "But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God." (John 1:12-13).

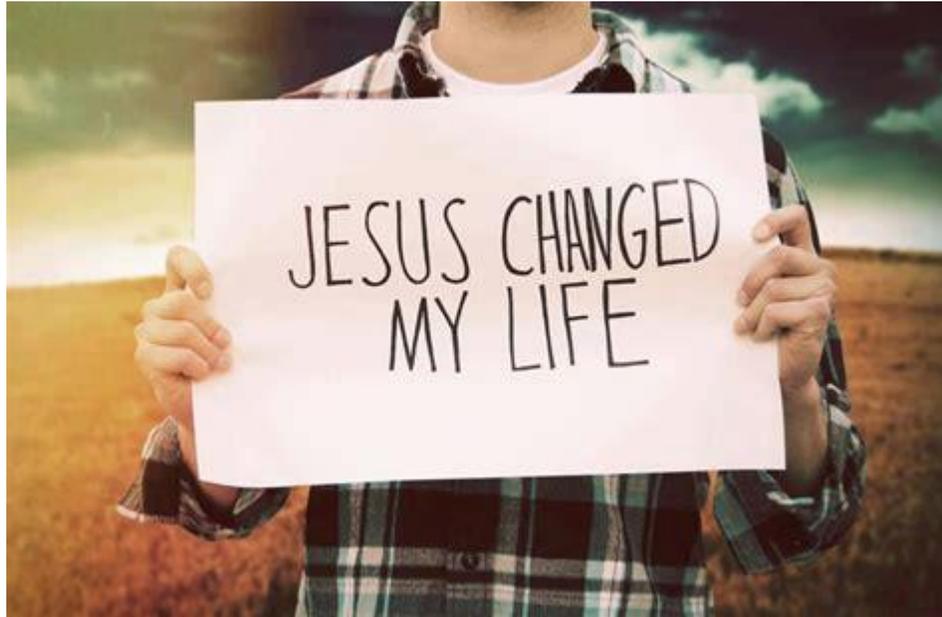
Each of us will have, upon our death, the knowledge of where we will spend eternity. Many people will not have time to prepare for death and judgement. Now is the time, to ask Jesus to come into your life and heal your soul of the wounds of sin. Jesus will help you. Your life may not change overnight, but the process of change for the better will begin. Do your part to change and Jesus will do His part to help you change. Peace will return to your soul and be reflected in your new life in Christ. Many have turned to Jesus and became new people full of love, forgiveness and hope. You can be also. Trust in Jesus.

**I have told you these things, so
that in me you may have peace.
In this world you will have
trouble. But take heart! I have
overcome the world.**

John 16:33

The time spent in sin, no matter if it is your whole life, can be absolved in Jesus and the forgiveness He offers you. Reach out to Jesus while you have

life. Ask Him to help you to change. This will be a dramatic event in your life and grace will flood your soul. Peace will return to you in the knowledge that you have Jesus in your corner fighting against the darkness of evil, that wants to take you to Hell for all eternity. This is a change in direction from darkness into the Light of love, that only Jesus can offer you. Take Jesus' hand and walk together, for He will not let go of you. Believe in Jesus and your life will be transformed.



Jesus can change your life too.



**Jesus suffered for You. Eternal Joy Awaits You.
Reach Out to Him. For He loves you. Believe It.**

Focus on Jesus, not the storm.

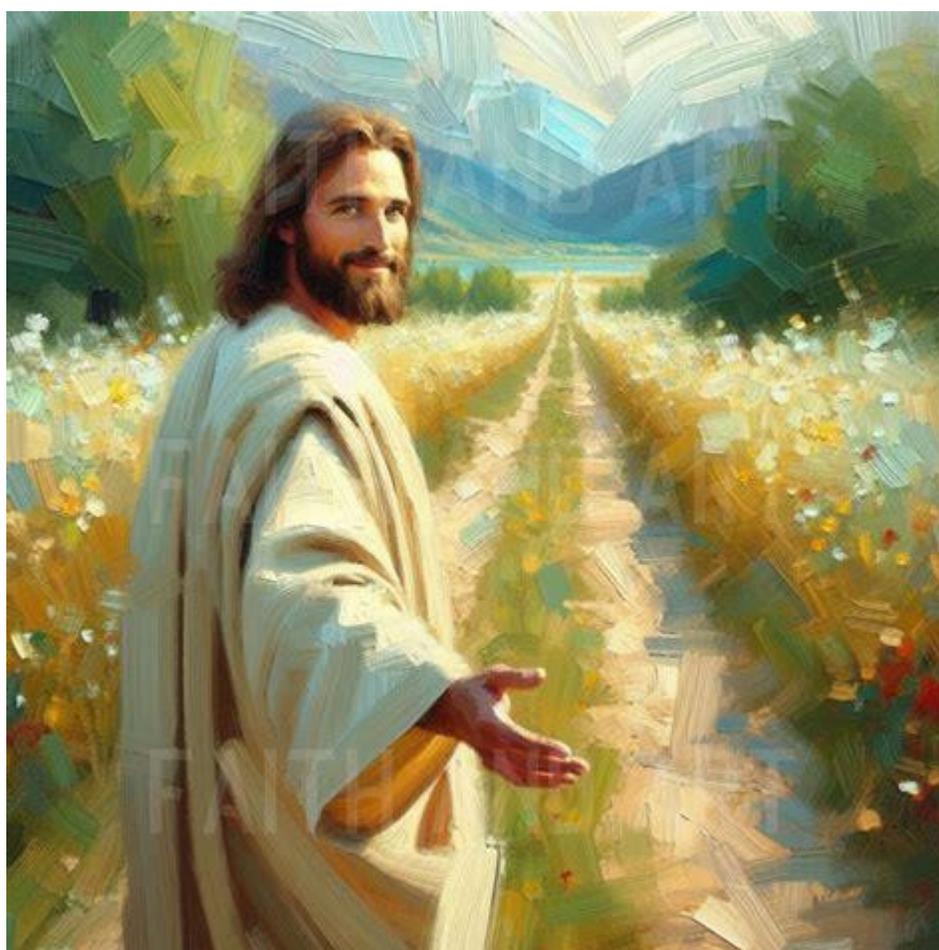
Focus on Jesus, not the anxiety.

Focus of Jesus, not the pain.

Focus of Jesus, not the struggle

When you walk with Jesus, the impossible becomes possible. With Jesus by your side, no storm is too strong, and no struggle too great.

Trust Him – He's got you.



Miracles of St. Padre Pio

There are many miracles attributed to Padre Pio: miracles of healing, of conversion, of bilocation, and the stigmata. [His miracles brought many people to Christ](#) and illuminated God's goodness and love for us. While Padre Pio is responsible for a countless number of miracles, it only takes looking at a few to realize his holiness.

For fifty years Padre Pio bore the stigmata. [The Franciscan priest bore the same wounds as Christ did in his hands, feet, and side.](#) From 1918 until just before his death in 1968, he experienced the stigmata. Despite being examined multiple times, there was no adequate explanation for the wounds. ["The stigmata were not like normal wounds or lesions: they would not heal.](#) This was not due to any medical condition, for he had undergone surgery twice (once for a hernia repair and once to remove a cyst from his neck) and the cuts healed with the usual scarring. In the 1950s, blood was drawn for other medical reasons, and his blood work was entirely normal. The only abnormal thing about his blood was the fragrant aroma, which accompanied that emanating from his stigmata."

Padre Pio's Healings

In 1919 in San Giovanni Rotondo, a fourteen-year-old boy experienced a miraculous healing. When he was only four years old, he had caught typhus. The typhus caused the boy's back to become deformed. Once he confessed himself to Padre Pio, the priest touched him with his hands. When the boy stood up, the deformity in his back had disappeared.



Also, in 1919 a gentleman from Foggia, Italy came to Padre Pio. The gentleman was sixty-two-years-old and was walking with not one, but two canes. He suffered a terrible fall from a carriage, a fall that broke both his legs. With doctors unable to help him he relied on those two canes for support. One day after confessing to Padre Pio, the friar told him: "Stand up and go away! You have to throw away these canes." The man carried out the order and began to walk by himself.

There was a gentleman whose left knee was swollen and in great pain for many days. The doctor told him the situation was very dire and prescribed to him a lengthy series of injections. Prior to beginning the treatment, the man went to confession to Padre Pio. [He asked Padre Pio to pray for him.](#) The man recounted, "When I was leaving San Giovanni Rotondo that afternoon, the pain disappeared. I observed my knee and noted it was

not swollen anymore! Both my legs were now normal. So, I immediately ran to Padre Pio in order to thank him. He said: 'You do not have to thank me, but you have to thank God!'"

In 1950, a man's mother-in-law was taken to a hospital for an operation. The mother-in-law had breast cancer. After the initial operation, it was necessary to operate on the right breast some months later. Unfortunately, due to the dissemination of the cancer cells in her body, the doctors informed her that she would not live more than four months. The man immediately went to Rotondo and waited for confession with Padre Pio. He asked Padre Pio to help his wife's mother and heal her. The man recounted, "Padre Pio sighed long twice and said: '[We have to pray, everybody has to pray.](#) She will recover!' It happened! In fact, my mother-in-law recovered after her operation and she went by herself to San Giovanni Rotondo to thank Padre Pio who smiling told her: 'Go in peace, my daughter! Go in peace!'" Instead of four months, his mother-in-law lived for nineteen more years.



A woman said, "In 1947 I was thirty-eight years old and I had been suffering cancer of the intestine. The cancer was found by x-ray, and it was decided to operate. Before going to the hospital, I wanted to visit San Giovanni Rotondo to meet Padre Pio. My husband, my daughter and one of her friends took me to him. I desired to confess my sins to Padre Pio and to speak with him concerning my disease, but it was not possible to meet him. My husband told my problem to one of the friars. That friar was moved and he promised to report all to Padre Pio. In a short time, I was asked to go into the corridor of the convent where Padre Pio would pass. Padre Pio walked through the crowd, but he was interested only in me. He asked me the reason for which I was so distraught and

told me I was correct about the surgeon. After that, he encouraged me and he said he'd pray to God for me. I was amazed. In fact, he did not know the surgeon who was going to perform the operation, and nobody told him that I was the right person to speak to in the crowd. Yet, he appeared to know both the surgeon and me. [I faced my operation with hope and with peace.](#) The surgeon was the first one who spoke of a miracle. He performed an appendectomy despite previous x-rays that showed cancer. The surgeon did not believe in God, but since then he has put a crucifix in each room of the hospital. There was no evidence of cancer anymore. After this miracle and a short time of rest I returned to San Giovanni Rotondo in order to meet with Padre Pio. The saintly friar was going to the sacristy when he suddenly stopped and smiled at me - he said: 'What do you know? You have come back here!'...and he gave me his hand to kiss, which I affectionately held in my hands."

One of Padre Pio's miracles occurred in 1953, to a lady with abdomen problems. She had a medical check-up and x-rays because of pains in the abdomen she was experiencing. After some investigation, she learned that an immediate operation was necessary. A friend of the lady, who knew of her problem, suggested to her: "write a letter to Padre Pio in order to ask for his prayers and help". The woman received an answer in which Padre Pio suggested that she go to the hospital—he would pray for her there. She went to the hospital and again had a medical check-up and x-rays just before the operation. The same doctors were astonished to find she no longer had the serious illness anymore. After forty years the woman is still grateful to Padre Pio for his help.



A year later, in 1954, a railway man fell ill with a strange disease, which immobilized his legs. At the time he was forty-seven years old. Without success many different doctors treated him. After two years of treatment, the man was going to have to retire from his work. As the situation got worse, his brother suggested to him to travel to San Giovanni Rotondo, to see the friar there to whom God had given gifts. The man went to San Giovanni Rotondo with his brother's assistance. In the Church, he met with Padre Pio who said, "Let that railway man pass!" Remarkably, Padre Pio had never met the man before and he knew he was a railway man. Padre Pio and the man spoke to each other for a few minutes. Later, Padre Pio put his hand on the man's shoulder. **He consoled and encouraged him with a smile.** As soon as the man left Padre Pio, he realized he had been healed. He no longer needed tools to help him walk; now he could walk on his own.

A priest brought his friend, a Jewish man named Lello Pegna, to visit Padre Pio in 1919. Pegna was completely blind in both eyes. The priest had brought him to Padre Pio in the hopes of his friend being cured. Padre Pio told Pegna, "The Lord will not grant you the grace of physical sight unless you first receive sight for your soul. After you are baptized, then the Lord will give you your

sight.” A few months later Pegna returned baptized despite the protests of his family. In the following months his sight was fully restored. For the next thirty years, his sight remained perfect.

Gemma di Giorgio was a little girl when she visited Padre Pio. She was born blind without pupils in either eye. Right after her visit with Padre Pio, she miraculously gained her sight back. One truly miraculous factor about her healing was that while now she could see, she still did not have any pupils.

St. Padre Pio’s faith and confidence in God’s healing power was unparalleled. He shows us all that [the power of prayer can yield beautiful, miraculous results](#). He was a conduit of God’s grace, love, and mercy.

THE 10 MOST DANGEROUS PLACES FOR CHRISTIANS



Ethiopian Christians Executed by Isis

Modern-day persecution of Christians is at its highest level yet. Open Doors’ 2024 World Watch List—an in-depth investigative report focusing on global Christian persecution—reveals that today, more than 365 million worldwide (up from 360 million last year) Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. That’s one in seven followers of Jesus worldwide who are targeted and attacked.

The newly released World Watch List (based on research conducted from October 2022 to September 2023) reveals the 50 most dangerous countries to live as a Christian—and the stark reality for God’s people who live under fire from their families, communities, extremist groups and their nation’s authorities.

Below, we look at the world’s 10 most dangerous places to be a Christian—the nations where saying “yes” to Jesus is also saying “yes” to a life of risk and a dependence on the hope of Christ.



1. North Korea ... where owning a Bible can get you killed

Once again, North Korea is the most dangerous country for Christians. For more than 20 years, the country has been at or near the top of the World Watch List. In the “hermit kingdom,” being discovered as a Christian can be effectively a death sentence. Often, either believers will be deported to labor camps as political criminals—where they face a life of hard labor which few survive—or they are killed on the spot. The same fate awaits family members. There are believed to be tens of thousands of Christians held in labor camps across the country.

Meeting for worship or owning a Bible is a serious crime in North Korea and will be severely punished. In May 2023, five members of a family were arrested as they gathered for prayer and Bible study. The deplorable treatment of believers is driven by the authoritarian regime’s view that Christians are a particular threat to the country’s leadership and society. However, even in such a hostile place, we know there is an underground church estimated at 350,000 to 400,000 believers whose hope in Christ is greater than the oppression they live under each day.

Pray that secret believers will be protected from the scrutiny of the authorities as they meet together.



2. Somalia ... where following Jesus makes you the enemy

In the Muslim-majority nation—one of the eight countries making up the Horn of Africa—all Somalis are expected to be Muslim and follow Sharia (Islamic) law. Imams in mosques and madrassas state publicly that there is no room for Christianity, Christians or churches. The violent insurgent group al-Shabab has repeatedly expressed its desire to eradicate Christians from the East African country. In Somalia, Christians from Muslim backgrounds are regarded as high-value targets and may be killed on the spot if discovered.

Christians also face serious persecution from their family and community. Leaving Islam is regarded as a betrayal of the family and clan, and family members and clan leaders will harass, intimidate and even kill Somali converts. Anyone even suspected of being a Christian convert is closely monitored by elders in the community, and their own family members. Yet the Somalis that have come to faith in Christ are unrelenting in their conviction and are a force for the gospel. One Somali woman shared with our local partners in East Africa that after becoming a Christian, she suffered repeated attacks on her life. “I [tried] 100 times to leave Jesus and not to follow Him—but I couldn’t do it,” she says. “I decided to follow Him.”

Pray that believers who risk everything to follow Jesus will have strength to persevere in their faith despite the dangers.



3. Libya ... where evangelism is a death sentence

In the North African nation, authorities assert that Libya is a wholly Islamic nation. Sharia law governs how the nation is run and how problems are resolved. This means, in society's eyes, there can be no Christians in Libya—and that's what the authorities in charge want the public to believe.

But the truth is more complicated. Because the majority of believers in Libya conceal their faith—sometimes for years—the exact number of believers there is not fully known. When someone's faith is discovered, they will likely be scorned by their own family and risk imprisonment. There are a few churches in Libya, all of which cater toward migrant communities. But even believers in these churches are at risk. Yet the most dangerous activity in Libya for Christians is evangelism—particularly sharing the gospel with Muslims. Sharing your faith is illegal in Libya, and discussing your faith with others is dangerous. In a nation where Islam is the law and Christianity is not an option, tolerating Christians is not something the Libyan government or society advocates. Bottom line: Every Christian in Libya is in constant danger of losing their life.

Pray that God would help His people find fellowship with one another. Ask God to give the Libyan church the ability to meet.



4. Eritrea ... where imprisonment for following Jesus is inevitable

Believers in Eritrea in the Horn of Africa continue to suffer extreme persecution, making it one of the hardest places in the world to follow Jesus. For 20 years, the East African nation has only recognized three official Christian denominations: Orthodox, Catholic and Lutheran, and even those churches are closely monitored. Those who have become Christians from Muslim backgrounds, or who leave the Eritrean Orthodox Church for a non-traditional church, face extreme pressure and persecution from their own families and communities. Authorities perpetuate a stigma against believers and encourage neighbors to spy on and report each other. Over the years, government security forces have conducted hundreds of house-to-house raids to catch other Christians.

Following Christ in the country known as the “North Korea of Africa” and sharing the gospel comes at a high cost, especially if you remain in Eritrea. It’s not a question of if, but when you will be imprisoned. There are thought to be 1,000 Christians indefinitely detained in Eritrean prisons not officially charged with anything. But we know that even in the face of imprisonment, the church in Eritrea—though much of it is underground—has not stopped growing and continues to share the gospel with others.

Pray for wisdom and discernment for the church in Eritrea. Pray that they will be courageous in sharing the gospel, but also mindful of their precarious situation.



5. Yemen ... where Christians are on extremists' "wanted" lists

Following Jesus in Yemen continues to be extremely dangerous. Most believers are Yemeni and come from Muslim backgrounds. As conversion from Islam is forbidden by Islamic and state law, Christians risk severe repercussions from their families, the authorities or radical Islamic groups. Yemeni Christians face targeted persecution from government, family and community, and as the influence of more extreme and violent Islamic groups grows, following Jesus becomes even more difficult.

In Yemen, Christians must keep their faith secret. "You cannot reveal that you're a Christian here," says one of our contacts inside the region. "You cannot have an identity as a Christian. You cannot have a church. You cannot get your birth certificate, which makes every Yemeni a Muslim. You cannot get married [if you're a Christian]. It's impossible to live as a Christian."

It's also very difficult for Christians to come together. They only gather with Christians they have already known for a long time to avoid being betrayed. And the humanitarian crisis caused by Yemen's 10-year civil war has also exacerbated the pressure on believers. While some relief aid is available, this is mostly distributed through local Muslim groups and mosques, which some claim discriminates against anyone not considered a devout Muslim.

Pray for strength and protection for believers living in areas where they are at risk from Islamic militant groups. Pray for courage to share their faith, and that the underground church will grow.



6. Nigeria ... where a Christian dies nearly every two hours, on average.

In Africa's most populous country, more believers are killed for their faith each year than everywhere else in the world combined. Violence remains the most dangerous and prevalent threat. Christians in Nigeria, particularly in the Muslim-majority north, continue to live under immense pressure from Islamic militants and armed "bandits." The brutal attacks can involve destruction of properties, abductions for ransom, sexual violence and death. Believers are stripped of their livelihoods and driven from their homes, leaving a trail of grief and trauma.

The government's failure to protect Christians has only strengthened the militants' influence. And these attacks have led to large numbers of Christians (and other Nigerians) being forced to live in camps for internally displaced people where women and children are particularly vulnerable to health issues and human trafficking. Despite these challenges, the church in Nigeria is a resilient church. They understand what it means to rely on their Savior for every breath. And they are asking the worldwide Church to pray with them.

Pray for an end to the violence inflicted by bandits and militant groups across Nigeria.



7. Pakistan ... where every Christian is a second-class citizen

Christians in Pakistan are considered second-class citizens and face discrimination in every aspect of life. Occupations that are deemed low, dirty and degrading—such as working as a sewer cleaner or in a brick kiln—are reserved for Christians. Many are referred to as *chura*, a derogatory term meaning "filthy."

"We are a lower class because we are Christians," says one of the 600,000 Pakistani women working in factories. "It is an insult to Muslims to eat with us off the same plate. If we touch their plate, it becomes defiled. We have no right to any privileges and have no right to dignity. When I had my son, I was put on a dirty bed that still had blood from the woman who had given birth before me. Other women were given a clean bed, but for me, the *Isai* (the Urdu word for "Christian"), there was only the option of a dirty one."

The August 2023 devastating mob violence against the Christian community in the city of Jaranwala was a sobering reminder of the hostile environment facing many believers in Pakistan. The attack on more than 20 churches and almost 100 homes came in response to allegations that two believers had desecrated the Quran—another distorted use of Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws. The laws are often used to target minority groups, but Christians are disproportionately affected. Roughly a quarter of all blasphemy accusations target Christians, who only make up 1.8% of the population.

Pray that Pakistan's blasphemy laws will be changed so that Christians will be safe from false accusations and pray for strength for Christians who must live as second-class citizens every day.



8. Sudan ... where Christians are caught in the crossfire.

Much has changed this year in Sudan—and it's not positive. “Christians in Sudan are especially vulnerable and on the receiving end in war times,” says an Open Doors research expert for East Africa. The crisis stems from a power struggle between the National Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Latest figures show that more than 9,000 people have been killed and nearly 6 million displaced. More than 165 churches have closed and others have been destroyed. Churches have also reported human rights violations such as rape, kidnapping and looting.

All of this comes alongside the oppression experienced by those who have chosen to leave Islam for Christianity. There are concerns that the conflict will give Islamic extremists a renewed foothold in the country, undoing the reforms made by the transitional civilian government which gave more freedom to Christians, including abolishing the apostasy law and removing Islam as the state religion.

More immediately, those who convert to Christianity from Muslim backgrounds continue to face huge dangers. Some will even refrain from telling their children about Jesus, for fear they may inadvertently disclose their parents' faith to the local community.

Pray for an end to the violence in Sudan and for provision for Christians who have been displaced.



9. Iran ... where being a Christian is a “crime against national security.”

For Iranian Christians who convert from Islam, not even the veneer of tolerance is present. Conversion from Islam to Christianity is illegal in Iran, and anyone caught as a convert can be arrested and imprisoned. The government views conversion as an attempt by the West to undermine Islam and the Islamic government of Iran. This means that anyone who is discovered to be a member of a house church can be charged with a crime against national security, potentially leading to long prison sentences.

Christian converts who leave Islam can also face pressure from their families and communities. Converts can lose their inheritance, unmarried Christians can be forced into marriage to a Muslim, and married believers may be forced to divorce or face losing their children.

The situation in Iran has remained largely the same. In July 2023, another wave of mass arrests took place. Life in the Islamic Republic continues to be difficult for believers; converts attend underground churches under incredible risk. But God is still working and moving among His people there and continues to grow the church in Iran. An Iranian ministry leader recently shared with us: “The harvest is ready. There are so many people that have not heard about Jesus yet, but their hearts are really open to receive His salvation. Please pray that God would bring more workers to the field”

Pray for secret converts from Islam in Iran. Pray they would find fellowship and that God would protect them from arrest and imprisonment.



10. Afghanistan ... where there "are no Christians."

When the Taliban came to power over Afghanistan in August 2021, they did so with pledges to recognize more freedoms than in the past. But that hasn't happened—if an Afghan's Christian faith is discovered, it can be a death sentence, or they can be detained and tortured into giving information about fellow believers. As far as the Taliban are concerned, there are "no Christians" in Afghanistan.

Many Christians fled the country during the Taliban takeover; those who remain either couldn't get out or feel called to remain. This means there are fewer chances of fellowship than before, and the church has been driven underground even more than before. Most house churches that existed before the Taliban (even if they had to be hidden) have been closed.

The surrounding society and family structure has no space for religious freedom, and the government upholds this rigid stance. This means Christians—almost all of whom are converts from Islam—must keep their faith secret, or they may simply disappear. As one Afghan Christian who remains in the country tells us, "We feel disoriented and alone."

Pray for the protection of secret believers and that they would know they're part of a worldwide Church that hears their story and prays for them each day.

Offer daily prayers for those Christians around the world who face death and persecution for their faith.



HEALING NOVENA FOR THE INTERCESSION OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

Opening Prayer each day:

Merciful God, I pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II's apostolic life and mission. Through his heavenly intercession, please grant the following petition(s) . . . *Here state your request(s).*

Grant also that I may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus Christ to all people. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 1

Dear Saint John Paul, you preached: "The future starts today, not tomorrow." As I start these nine days of prayer with you, I thank you for reminding me that with God's help, I can begin again, but I need to start now, not at some distant point in the future. Your words are encouraging and inspiring to me. Please be with me as I progress through these nine days of prayer with you.

Dear Lord, You are the greatest Healer. You gave Saint John Paul II to the entire world to show us how much You love us. With Your mighty power and through his intercession, we seek healing, not just of our physical body but our emotional, mental, social and spiritual health as well. In keeping with Your greatest commandment, we will love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength. We will also love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers.

Day 2

Dear Saint John Paul, you preached: "I plead with you, never, ever give up on hope. Never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid." With your help, I will not give up hope. I will be trusting, confident, persistent and unafraid in prayer.

God, our Father, grant us the peace we seek when confronted with different obstacles each day. Guide us so we won't falter in our steps. May peace always reign in our hearts even if there is fear that we might fall flat on our face.

We will not be anxious but will have faith that is unwavering like that of Saint John Paul II. We will do whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely and gracious in Your eyes, so that Your peace may abide in our hearts always. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers.

Day 3

Dear Saint John Paul, you preached: "Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you and therefore no harm can befall you. All is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence."

What more can I say but thank you for your confidence in me. Help me to have complete faith in God. Stand with me at all times as my intercessor and spiritual guide until I attain the great treasure of Heaven.

Dear Jesus, Son of the living God, we rejoice because we believe that through the intercession of Saint John Paul II, our healing is near at hand. We are joyful in our ways and our speech for we know that You will always comfort us as a mother comforts her children.

We thank you for the joy You've given us when You were born into our world, because You became one of us in all things but sin. You endured tremendous suffering for our sake, so that we will be saved from our sins. Turn our mourning into rejoicing because of Your resurrection from the dead. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers.

Day 4

Dear Saint John Paul, just like St. Paul the Apostle who described his journey as a race, you tell me that life with Jesus is a wonderful adventure. Life is not a sprint for me, but rather a winding marathon with its curves and its ups and downs. Help me by being with me at all times as I struggle in this race toward the fullness of life in Christ.

God the Holy Spirit, grant us wisdom and knowledge as we wait patiently for the healing You promised. May our families be blessed with patience in helping us cope with illness and other problems.

During his lifetime, Saint John Paul was a living testimony of how much God loves us through his patience in dealing with every religious or political leader around the world, as well as with the severe sicknesses that afflicted him. We believe that as long as love reigns in our hearts each day, we will be healed, for “Love is patient and kind.” Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers.

Day 5

Dear Saint John Paul, you preached: “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Hallelujah is our song.” Help me to be joyful in this wonderful adventure of life. Help me always to have true Christian joy in my heart, mind and spirit. Help me always to be faithful to the Will of God in my life.

Through God’s loving grace and kindness, we have been blessed with the great kindness shown by the people who take care of us, like our family, friends, relatives, caregivers, physicians, rehabilitation specialists, nutritionists and spiritual advisers. Saint John Paul II manifested incredible love, kindness and forgiveness to the man who tried to assassinate him. We believe that we will be healed if we forgive those who have wronged us, and if we extend a helping hand to our least sisters and brothers living in distress, poverty and need. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers.

Day 6

Dear Saint John Paul, you preached: “Love your families. Teach them the dignity of life. Teach them the ways of harmony and peace. Teach them the value of faith and prayer and goodness! Help transform the world around you by giving the best of yourselves in the service of others and your country.” Just as Christ taught us, you preached and live the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” How simple it is to hear this, but how incredibly difficult, at times, to do this. Be with me and help me see God in my neighbor and in all those I find difficult to love or accept.

Dear Lord, throughout my lifetime, I have been taught to be a good person and to be a blessing to others. To be good is not just to follow the rules, but more so, to follow You and obey Your commandments. May I bring harmony and peace to others, and spread Your good news to my family, my friends, my community and my country.

Saint John Paul II made Your goodness known throughout the world by welcoming and embracing everyone who sought Your presence, regardless of age, gender or creed. Through Your goodness and mercy, we will receive the healing we seek through the intercession of Saint John Paul II. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers.

Day 7

Dear Saint John Paul, you preached: “The goal and target of our life is He, the Christ who awaits us – each one singly and all together – to lead us across the boundaries of time to the eternal embrace of the God who loves us.”

Help me, dear Saint John Paul, to remember that life with God is the highest and greatest of all goals. In every moment of my life, help me to be focused on my relationship with Christ, so that when my earthly journey ends, my eternal life with Jesus will begin.

God the Father, in humility we offer our lives to You in the service of others. May we be like Saint John Paul II in proclaiming our faith and trust in You, so we will be blessed and can fulfill our Christian vocation. It is through our weakness and illness that You have touched our lives, and we now seek Your goodness and mercy to be healed. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers.

Day 8

Dear Saint John Paul, you preached: “People are made for happiness. Rightly, then, you thirst for happiness. Christ has the answer to this desire of yours. But He asks you to trust Him. True joy is a victory, something which cannot be obtained without a long and difficult struggle. Christ holds the secret of this victory. . . In order to sing God’s praises, we must re-learn the language of humility and trust, the language of moral integrity and of sincere commitment to all that is truly good in the sight of the Lord.”

Once again, in simple words, you teach us that nothing is more important than life with Christ.

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me the gift of a humble heart so that I can respond to Your call to take up the Cross and follow You each day as Your disciple. I will strive to preserve the unity in my household through my actions of peace and understanding. Through the intercession of Saint John Paul II, please grant me the gift of healing that I earnestly implore. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers.

Day 9

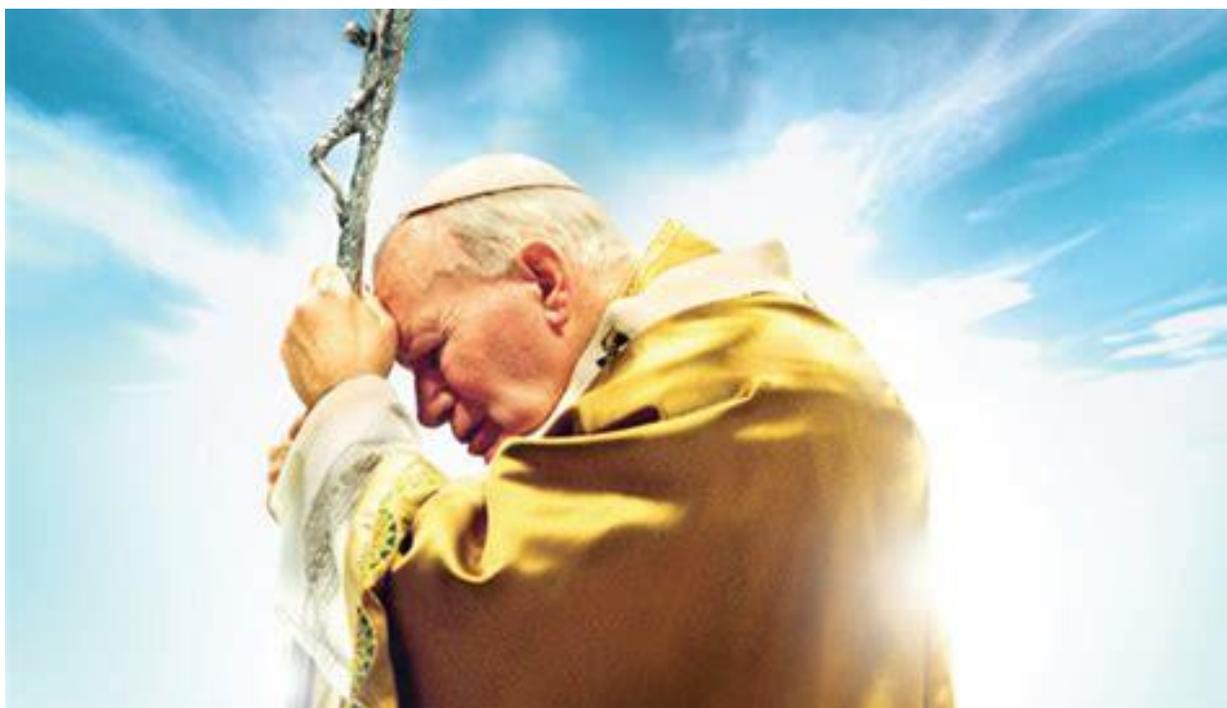
Dear Saint John Paul, the surest, straightest road to Christ is through His Holy Mother. When I am lost and confused in life, lead me to place myself before Our Blessed Mother, asking her to rescue me to faithfully live the spiritual path that leads to her Divine Son. Teach me to have in my heart the same great love you had for our Blessed Mother.

Dear Lord, You are the Greatest Healer. Everything I have comes from You: my life, my health, my family, my friends, my possessions and all that truly matters.

I surrender them all to You as I search for meaning and purpose in all that is happening to me. I claim complete healing of my mind, body, heart and soul. I claim healing for those who are suffering and are lost. I claim healing for my family. I claim financial blessings so I can be a blessing to others. Grant me the patience to confidently accept Your answer to my prayers, whether it be yes, no or wait. All I ask I place before You in Jesus' name. Amen.

God, the Holy Spirit, help us to be models of good deeds in every respect by being temperate, dignified, self-controlled and sound in faith, love and charity. May we control our temper and hold our tongue, especially when we grow impatient and are in pain. May we be like Saint John Paul II who was an outstanding model of self-control, dignity and unwavering faith. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be prayers



**The International Catholic Family Newsletter
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Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.



The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times. – St. Padre Pio

St. Paul Ministry

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