

Pray For Peace



- **Refugees** – Turkey has rescued 1,400 migrants from overcrowded small boats off their coast on the Mediterranean in recent days. Such rescues are all too necessary. Unfortunately, an unknown number of migrants are lost at sea trying to reach safety. . . Church World Service reports that every 2 seconds, someone in the world has to leave their home & everything they know due to the threat of violence, persecution, or disaster.
- **Nicaragua** – where the dictator, Ortega & his wife have launched a violent crusade against the Catholic Church. Property has been seized, religious items desecrated, priests arrested, at least one person (an altar boy) has been killed, a bishop is imprisoned in a torture prison. Estimates are that there have been 529 unwarranted attacks on the church since 2018. Nicaragua is the first dictatorship in the Americas to break off relations with the Vatican this century over the fact that the church speaks out against government corruption & abuse.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 18,338 people have died in gun violence (up 799 from last week) including 774 children (up 30 from last week). 15,392 people have been injured (up 801 from last week) including 1,991 children (up 121 from last week). 10,362 of the deaths are suicides (up 462 from last week). There have already been 278 mass shootings (up 14 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics).
- **India** – 275 people killed and 1,200 injured in a 3-train accident last week.
- **Congo** – is dealing with major flooding. (Congo is the second poorest country in the world.) Rwanda, & Italy continuing to recover from flooding.
- **Serbia** – there have been peaceful protests against gun violence & calls for government reform after 2 mass shootings (rare in Serbia). Behind the situation is the larger ethnic conflict between Serbians & Albanians. Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008. Serbia does not recognize this & encourages Serbians in Kosovo (less than 10% of the population) to resist the government of Kosovo. This included boycotting recent elections with the result that Albanian candidates won elections in predominantly Serbian areas where most Serbians did not participate. Now, the Serbians are violently protesting as the elected Albanians try to take office. Efforts to normalize relations between the two governments have mostly not been successful. In recent days, NATO peacekeepers trying to keep the peace, including protecting the elected officials, were attacked by ethnic Serbian protestors. Such attacks on NATO peacekeepers are rare.
- **Haiti** – has experienced deadly flooding in the last week & an earthquake hit on Tuesday. The flooding has caused the most death & destruction. Efforts to get help to people are being hampered by the lawlessness there that continues to get worse. Gangs control about half of the country now with fear, intimidation & violence, including rape. The gangs stop aid deliveries and demand payment to let aid workers pass their 'check-points'.
- **Ukraine where the war continues.** Attacks on civilians & atrocities against them are ongoing. The Nova Kahoka Dam was destroyed causing catastrophic flooding. 80 villages are at risk. 300,000 people now have no clean water. 500,000 people are affected by power outages due to damage to the Zaporizhia power plant.
- **Canada** – the fire crisis is serious. There are 414 fires, 239 of which are out of control. The smoke is causing a health risk for people in many parts of Canada & the U.S. as well.
- **Continue to remember those dealing with COVID** – including long COVID.