

Pentacost Prayers!

- **Uvalda, TX – continue prayers:** for those mourning the 19 children & 2 teachers killed; for the 17 injured; for all who survived & now live with the horror of the Ross Elementary school shooting. Pray for the investigation to determined why it took so long before the shooter was stopped. A Children's Disaster Services (CDS) team is in Uvalda & has had 157 contacts with children. These teams are trained to work with children who have been traumatized. Pray for the CDS volunteers & their work.
- **Victims of Gun Violence –** Pray for everyone affected by gun violence. This year is 159 days old, but there have already been 247 mass shootings (up 16 from last week's 231) in 2022. The 2022 gun death total is now 18,823. 716 of the deaths are children (17 or younger). There have also been 1,787 children injured by guns. Many states, are weakening gun laws, even though the number of homicides & other gun crimes increases where gun laws are weakened. Ohio will allow people to carry concealed firearms without training or permits starting June 13. Ohio police, like police in other states with such laws, say they will now assume everyone is armed. The ramifications of that are frightening. There are 393 million civilian owned guns in the U.S. – 120 guns for every 100 people. In 2020, firearms became the leading cause of death for children & adolescents in this country, surpassing motor vehicle crashes (*The New England Journal of Medicine*). Pray for the victims. . . – but if we value life, we must also find a way to change our gun culture & stop this.
- **Nigeria** Between 38 & 50 people were killed during Sunday mass at a Catholic church in Ondo, south western Nigeria. The south western part of the country has not been affected by the violence in the northeast (where Boko Haram attacks on people including our Nigerian Brethren brothers & sisters continue.) & north west (where gang & tribal conflict fed kidnaping for ransom has become too common). There have been no arrests & no claims of responsibility for the Catholic church attack. Pray for all those effected by this act of violence.
- **Ukraine:** Pray for Ukrainians living with the daily bombardment, hunger, thirst, fear, danger, & the destruction of their world all around them. Pray for the 12 million Ukrainians who have been displaced – 5 million plus of them have fled their country & are living as refugees in foreign lands. Pray for those, desperate for home & willing to go home despite the risk, as the war continues. Mass graves & unburied bodies continue to be found in areas where the Russians have left. 20% of Ukraine is currently under Russian control. Pray for Ukrainians in Russian held areas. Some of them are being taken to Russia, often by force. What happens to these people is not known. Remember, in Russia, not everyone supports Putin's war despite intense pro-war propaganda & government control of the media. Many Russians are willing to run the risks & openly protest the war. More than 15,000 protestors have been arrested so far. Pray for them as well. There is also the growing risk in Ukraine of epidemic disease because of poor sanitary conditions & the lack of adequate health care services due to the destruction caused by the war.
- **The COVID Pandemic.** The COVID pandemic continues. Two new variants are fast becoming dominant. While the number of cases is steady in some areas, the numbers are not dropping as was hoped, & in some areas, the numbers are climbing. 1 in 4 seniors & 1 in 5 of the rest of the population will have long COVID, most having had only a light case of COVID initially. Be in prayer for the sick & their caregivers. Pray that we will be able to find & accept a new normal that will let us keep each other as safe as possible & move forward.
- **Countries Dealing with Major Political and/or Economic Upheaval** making life difficult for everyone. Among them are Sri Lanka, Venezuela, the Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Columbia, Syria, Afghanistan. . .



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