

Prayer Matters



- **Dominican Republic** where a major explosion (Aug 14) left 27 dead & 59 injured. 30 people are still hospitalized & fires are still burning.
- **Remember the people of Hawaii** who have experienced a devastating fire. Also remember the Children's Disaster Services volunteers preparing to go to care for children in the aftermath of the fire.
- **Afghanistan** where women & girls have been stripped of their rights, the ability to get an education, & the ability to work in all but a few jobs. Healthcare for women is becoming hard to come by. Incidents of forced marriage, sexual abuse, & domestic violence are climbing. The incidents of suicide – especially among girls & young women is climbing. Poverty & hunger are a growing problem – especially in the many families in which women have been the primary bread winners since most of the women are no longer allowed to work.
- **Haiti** – Gangs control about half of the country with fear, intimidation & violence, including rape. Especially in the capital, people are fleeing their homes & neighborhoods because of the violence. 190,000 people have fled their homes since last year.
- **Brazil** where violence is part of life for many. Brazil has the highest murder rate in the world & one of the world's deadliest police forces. The police are known as a deadly threat to the public not a means of protecting the public, especially the poor.
- **People Facing Flooding or storms** – heavy rain is causing flooding in many places. Among them, remember the people in Japan, India, the Philippines, & China as well as those in the U.S. Many people are still recovering from earlier flooding including in Pakistan. A typhoon has caused major flooding in the Philippines & China.
- **People experiencing excessive heat** – Much of the world is facing warmer than usual temperatures including Mexico, India, China, northern Africa, & the U.S. June & July have set world records with many triple digit temperatures. Unusually warm ocean water contributes to the problem, is killing coral reefs, & harming other marine life.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 26,977 people have died in gun violence (up 1,540 from Aug. 2) including 1,114 1,059 children (up 55 from Aug.2). 23,706 people have been injured (up 1,329 from Aug 2) including 3,064 children (up 180 from Aug. 2). 15,048 of the deaths are suicides (up 858 from Aug. 2). There have already been 443 mass shootings (up 20 from Aug. 2) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics).
- **Those dealing with the fire season in Canada, the U.S. Europe, North Africa & elsewhere** – the heat & dry conditions in many places are contributing to the serious fire danger for many. Unhealthy smoke is a continuing issue.
- **Ukraine where the war continues.** Attacks & atrocities against civilians are ongoing.
- **Refugees & Migrants across the world** – Remember migrant families at the U.S. border. Texas is separating families & preferring criminal charges against the fathers – even those trying to go to the authorities to seek asylum in harmony with international law. Continue to remember migrants so desperate to escape dangerous situations that they fall prey to human traffickers who put profit before the lives & safety of migrants.
- **Continue to remember those dealing with COVID** – including long COVID. There is a summer surge in cases going on right now.