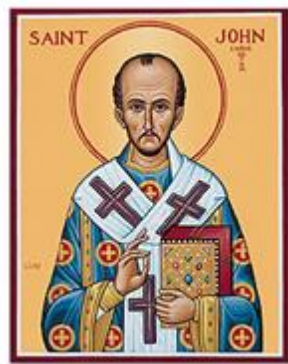


Light of the East



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUNGSTOWN-WARREN CHAPTER OF
THE SOCIETY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
FALL 2016

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Our Next Meeting



Tuesday, Dec. 13 – 6:30 – 8:30 PM

**St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church
7782 Glenwood Ave., Boardman, Ohio 44512
Ph# 330-726-8573**

Host pastor: Fr. George Gage

Meeting Facilitators:

Rich Mattiussi and Ray Nakley

Schedule:

**6:30-7:15pm (Brief prayer, fellowship and
Pot-luck Supper)**

**7:20-8:30pm - Brief meeting and ratification
of the new SSJC Y-W Constitution,
Nominations of Officers, scheduling of next
meeting for elections. Continued above→**

*****Please send Rich Mattiussi an email as to
what you would like to bring to the Pot-luck
Supper. We don't want everybody to bring
filet mignon steaks or swordfish!**

CHAPTER DUES 2017 PAID:

Michael Vasilchek, Fr. Dan Rohan,
Fr. Mel Rusnak, Rich Mattiussi,

If you haven't paid, please mail a check payable for
\$20 (\$25 family, \$15 student) to the Society of St.
John Chrysostom in care of Richard Mattiussi, 4656
Driftwood Lane, Austintown, Ohio 44515. THANK
YOU!



**Treasurers Report
Balance (11/26/16) \$1,426.72**



SSJC (Y-W) Chapter Manifesto

by

Vito Rosario Carchedi

"Who are Eastern Christians?" Why are we here? Why are we Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Eastern Catholics, and Western Catholics members of our chapter of the Society of Saint John Chrysostom?

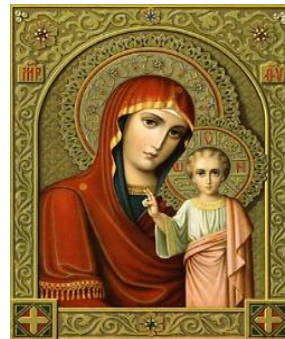
First, because many of us, from deep within our beings, believe that the unity of the churches will come when the Holy Spirit wills it, and when the ordinary clergy and faithful raise a cry to their leaders for it.

God bless our Popes, Patriarchs, Bishops, and theologians who work on the issues that divide us, many of which are complicated and subtle. But we are here to express our desire and need for unity, and to enable this desire and need to flow forth and encompass all Christians.

While it is true that most Christians don't have church unity as a priority in their daily lives, we believe that those who do is increasing-soul-by-soul, heart-by-heart, across the world.

And so, we gather regularly to pray together, to eat together, to learn of each other's beliefs, customs and traditions, and, most of all, to get to know and love each other. When we do this, we believe that we are doing what Jesus asked us to do.

Our Lady of Soufanieh, Pray for us to be reconciled and in full Eucharistic Communion!



PRAYER OF SOUFANIEH ---

UNITY OF HEARTS! UNITY OF CHRISTIANS!

UNITY OF THE FEAST OF EASTER!

Looking Ahead!

Please make your suggestions known on future topics and speakers. For example, some topics that various members have suggested are: The Holy and Great Synod of the Orthodox Church; One Easter and One Creed; the Afterlife; the Refugee Crisis; Marriage, Divorce and Annulments; Pope Francis and the Theological Commission on Deaconesses; the Churches of the Syriac Tradition; Orthodox and Catholic Pastoral Responses to Homosexuality and Transgenderism; the Situation in Ukraine; What Unites Us and What Divides Us?, Our Lady of Fatima, Weeping Icons, etc. Moreover, Vito was very adamant about our local SSJC Chapter sponsoring an Ecumenical Vespers Service. There has been some very preliminary discussions concerning this noble endeavor. May it come to fruition! THANK YOU!

RM

Our Future Goals:

- 1. Closer relationship with the Orthodox & Catholic Churches in Trumbull County and W. Pa.**
- 2. Ecumenical Vespers Service on the Feast of Pentecost**
- 3. 501(c)3 status for our chapter**
- 4. New Chapter website**
- 5. Ratification of the new Constitution and Election of officers**
- 6. Establishing a local SSJC chapter in W. Pa.**
- 7. Future speakers & topics.**

Pope Francis:



What Pope Francis Really Said About Female Deacons:

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/what-pope-francis-really-said-about-female-deacons>

Four Cardinals Formally Ask Pope for Clarity on 'Amoris Laetitia'

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/four-cardinals-formally-ask-pope-for-clarity-on-amoris-laetitia>

APOSTOLIC LETTER

***Misericordia et
misera***

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/a-post-letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20161120_misericordia-et-misera.html

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN THE INTEREST OF INQUIRY, OUR NEWSLETTER SOMETIMES PRESENTS ARTICLES WITH POINTS OF VIEW WITH WHICH WE DON'T NECESSARILY AGREE.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Fr. Bob Bonnot Retires



Editor's note: The editors regret that this note was inadvertently entangled with another article in the previous Newsletter. Hence, the repeat.

Fr. Bob Bonnot (Pastor of St. Nicholas and Holy Trinity Churches) has been a great friend, active member and a most generous supporter of our local SSJC chapter! He has given several excellent presentations over the years to our members. We will always be very grateful for Fr. Bob's hospitality as host pastor. Fr. Bob stated in the article (see link above) that he would be heading to California for one of his trips after he retires. Maybe he could visit the SSJC Western Region Chapter near San Diego as our goodwill ambassador? God's blessings on your well-deserved retirement

Article Link:

http://doyorg.ipage.com/files/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2029:as-he-retires-father-bonnot-looks-down-the-road--literally&catid=36:diocesan-news&Itemid=53

Editor's note: If there are any milestones, honors and special news, please forward all information to the editorial staff via an email and/or attachment. We would gladly announce it in our NL. Thank you!

**Congratulations to Chorbishop Spinosa!
New Photos!!!**



**Congratulations - Golden Jubilee!!!
Brother Dominc Colabro, SSP.**



See Mass of Thanksgiving - 50 Years!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVFKzG9e5eE>

ON A LIGHTER NOTE:

For whatever this is worth ---- LOL!!!
WARNING!!!!!! This Video will be offensive to all Arians, Semi-Arians and heretical Homoiousians. Please view at your own discretion.



“I Saw Santa Punching Arius”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fc_bkDnLHk0

PRAY FOR UNITY! BRING A FRIEND TO OUR NEXT MEETING. PAY YOUR 2017 DUES. THANK YOU!

“THE SYRIAC CORNER”

THE OFFER STILL STANDS!

Editor’s note: Many of our ecumenical conversations within the local chapter have a tendency to focus on Rome and the Papacy, Constantinople and at times Moscow (the Roman and Byzantine Traditions respectively). The Churches of the East and West Syriac

Tradition seem to need a bit more coverage. r Vito did at times cover some particular dimension of the Syriac Churches: The Maronite Church and the Assyrian Church of the East (see previous Newsletters on our website). Nevertheless, we hope to rectify this situation with the submission of future articles (brief), comments, letters to the editor or links directly pertaining to the Churches rooted in the East or West Syriac Tradition. Please send your submissions to the Editor for review. THANK YOU!

THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Excellent Links:

<https://www.holycouncil.org/>

<http://www.rferl.org/content/explainer-orthodox-churches-holy-great-council/27810011.html>

<http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/4823/vatican-ii-and-eastern-orthodoxys-approaching-council.aspx>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=The+Holy+and+Great+Council+Orthodox+commentary&view=detail&mid=E00E157DDB0AD81C0752E00E157DDB0AD81C0752&FORM=VIRE>

<https://www.orthodoxcouncil.org/commentaries>



KUDOS!

Thank you **Christina Brundage** for continuing to be update our website for the last 7 years! Christina lives in North Carolina and keeps the website going!

Thank you **Chorbishop Michael Kail** for hosting the SSJC meeting. Btw, the food at St. Maron's on November 10 was an absolute FEAST!!! THANK YOU!

Thank you **Ray Nakley** for all your time and dedication in drafting and refining the Constitution.

Prayer Request:

Donna Carchedi has requested that we pray for her son-in-law Tom Hensperger who is recovering from a very serious surgery. Thank you.



St. John Chrysostom

John Chrysostom, c. 349 – 407, Archbishop of Constantinople, was an important Early Church Father. He is known for his preaching and public speaking, his denunciation of abuse of authority by both ecclesiastical and political leaders, the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, and his ascetic sensibilities. The epithet Χρυσόστομος means "golden-mouthed" in Greek and denotes his celebrated eloquence. (Cont.)

DID YOU KNOW?

John Chrysostom Feast days

Eastern Calendar

13 November (Accession to the archbishopric of Constantinople)

27 January (Translation of Relics)

30 January (Three Holy Hierarchs)

Western Calendar

13 September (Repose—transferred from 14 September)

FYI --- Websites:

National SSJC:

<http://www.ssjc.org/index.htm>

SSJC Y-W Chapter:

<http://www.byzcath.org/stjohnchrysostom/>

SSJC Western Region:

<http://lightoftheeast.org/>

SSJC England:

<http://www.orientalelumen.org.uk/>

Ron Roberson's Eastern Christian Churches:

<http://www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=1&pagetypeID=9&sitecode=US&pageno=1>

Adam DeVille's Eastern Churches Book

Reviews:

<http://easternchristianbooks.blogspot.com/2010/10/ecumenism-binds-everybody.html>

Coffee with Sr. Vassa on You Tube - hosted by Dr. Sr. Vassa Larin (ROCOR) of the University of Vienna, Austria:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-FBwgf93rU-g8BH3xiuUQ>

Ancient Faith Radio:
<http://www.ancientfaith.com/>

Local Radio Channels:

ORTHODOX:
600 AM SOHM at 12 Noon
with host George Mansour

CATHOLIC:
89.5 FM Living Bread Radio

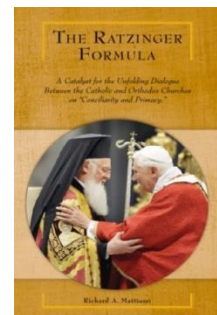
Ecumenical Cable Channel:
ETC- check your local cable TV Channel for Orthodox and Catholic programs



MEMORY ETERNAL!



Vito Rosario Carchedi
October 7, 1945 May 6, 2016



Dear Friends,

I would like to make copies of my book *The Ratzinger Formula* available once again for the standard price of \$30. All profits (total \$135.00) will be donated to our local chapter in memory of Vito Rosario Carchedi. There are 15 copies left for sale.

Thank You,

Rich Mattiussi

Wish List:

On more than one occasion, presenters have requested a projector and screen in order to show photos or do a power point presentation. Please keep our local SSJC Chapter's need in mind. **THANK YOU!**

Bequest

In this, our second newsletter of the “post Vito Carchedi era,” we have felt it so appropriate to review the improvements and innovations Vito made to strengthen and develop our Chapter--such as this very publication that Vito founded, edited and published for many years.

Vito was also responsible for overseeing other very important tasks such as: the two Anniversary Dinners, updating our website, the excellent management of our meager resources into a respectable treasury, our close relationship with National SSJC President Jack Figel, the consistently high quality of our speakers, and maintaining good relationships with both Orthodox and Catholic theologians and Bishops, and our local congregations from the various churches.

Let us continue to further the legacy that Vito worked so hard to advance, that is our cause--the quest for Christian Unity which was our Lord's fervent desire. Help us build on the great platform Vito laid down with a contribution to The Youngstown-Warren Chapter of the Society of St. John Chrysostom, 4656 Driftwood Ln, Youngstown, OH 44515, In care of Dr. Richard A. Mattiussi, Interim President, 330-573-8653.

Thank you,
Ray Nakley
SSJC Y-W (Chapter Secretary)

Donations to our local chapter in memory of **Vito Rosario Carchedi**

Donna Carchedi -\$200

Ray Nakley-\$100

MEMORY ETERNAL!

Thank you and God be with you.

Catholics, Orthodox sign agreement on synodality and primacy



Members of the commission for dialogue between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches outside the shrine of the Holy Face in Manoppello, Italy, Sept. 18, 2016. Credit: Daniel Ibanez/CNA.

Chieti, Italy, Sep 23, 2016 / 04:25 pm (CNA/EWTN News).- At an ecumenical gathering held this week, representatives of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches signed a joint document regarding synodality and primacy during the first millennium.

The agreement can point to ways of “resolving problems still existing between Catholics and Orthodox today,” said Msgr. Andrea Palmieri, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The 14th plenary session of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches was held in the Italian city of Chieti Sept. 15-22. Their agreement was subtitled “Towards a Common Understanding in Service to the Unity of the Church.”

The primacy of the Bishop of Rome is among the main points of disagreement between the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

In the west, Church unity was expressed through being in communion with the Bishop of Rome, as the successor of Saint Peter. Petrine primacy among the apostles was a cornerstone in the west, whereas the east regarded Saint Peter and his successors as Bishop of Rome as "first among equals."

The Eastern Orthodox, on the other hand, have a conciliar or synodal model of the Church. For them, unity is through the common faith and communion in the sacraments, rather than a centralized authority. They do not recognize the authority of the Bishop of Rome over all Christians, but rather consider him equal to other bishops, though with a primacy of honor.

The understanding reached this week was approved despite a disagreement regarding particular paragraphs by the Georgian Orthodox Church. When the document is published, the Georgians' objection will be included as a footnote.

Moreover, the commission was unable to agree to a focus for the next plenary session, due to be held in two years in an Orthodox nation.

According to [a statement of the Russian Orthodox Church](#), its Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk proposed synodality and primacy in the second millennium – with a stress on the

place of the "uniate" Churches, or those which maintain Byzantine rites while having come into communion with the Bishop of Rome.

The Russian Orthodox Church says the phenomenon of Eastern Catholic Churches which broke communion with the Orthodox "still constitutes a stumbling stone in the Orthodox-Catholic relations."

The statement noted that Metropolitan Hilarion "reminded the meeting that the Joint Commission was to discuss the issue of ecclesiological and canonical consequences of Uniatism at its plenary session in Baltimore, USA, as far back as the year 2000," but that "the work in Baltimore was not completed because of disagreements that arose both between the Catholic and Orthodox sides of the dialogue and within each of the sides."

The metropolitan said that the Russian Orthodox agreed to discuss synodality and primacy on the condition that within this context "the Commission will explore the canonical and ecclesiological consequences of Uniatism. However, for ten years from 2006 to 2015 the Commission has never revisited this theme."

He maintained that having talked about primacy and synodality in the first millennium, these themes in the second millennium is the natural next step, and that "here we will have to deal with the issue

of the 1054 schism and also the issue of Uniatism as one of the central ones in the second millennium. I can predict that there will be many divisive issues and that we will not agree on every point. However, the aim of our dialogue is not simply to agree on the points of which we agree anyhow, but we have to explore also the points of disagreement. And the issue of Uniatism is one such extremely burning issues."

Metropolitan Hilarion drew attention to statements made by Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, who is head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church – one of the 'uniates'. He said the major archbishop's statements "go against the line of our dialogue, create obstacles on its way and sow distrust between the Orthodox and the Catholics ... We have to understand that there are people in our Churches who create obstacles on our way, and we have to bear it in mind when we speak about the future of our dialogue."

The Russian Orthodox statement also said that one member of its delegation, Archimandrite Irenaeus, "stressed that it would be difficult for the Russian Orthodox Church to continue working in the Orthodox-Catholic dialogue if the problem of ecclesiological and canonical consequences of the unia remains unsolved."

Refugee Crisis: Help Our Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ!



<https://www.iocc.org/about>

<http://www.cnewa.org/donations.aspx?ID=2536&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1>

<http://www.antiochian.org/his-eminence-metropolitan-josephs-statement-regarding-archdiocesan-syrian-relief-program>

<https://www.kofc.org/uns/en/charities/christian-relief/index.html>

Syrian refugees arrive to Rome with the hope of a better life



Corridori Umanitari event at the Fiumicino airport in Rome, Italy, where refugees were welcomed on Oct. 24, 2016. Credit: Lucia Ballester/CNA.

By [Elise Harris](#)

Rome, Italy, Oct 26, 2016 / 03:03 am (CNA).- This week 130 Syrian refugees landed in Rome as part of a pilot program aimed at providing safe passage for migrants seeking to enter Europe, all of whom voiced

their gratitude and desire to leave war behind.

"I want to live normal, as a human, just that."

This is what a young woman, who preferred not to give her name, told CNA just hours after arriving to Rome from Lebanon.

A university student studying geology, she is originally from the southern city of As-Suwayda, but left her friends and relatives behind and came to Italy by herself in the hopes of continuing her studies and living a normal life, far away from war.

The situation in Syria "is destroying everything. Every person, every dream, you can't dream. There is killing everywhere. This is Syria now, not before," she said through tears.

Wiping her face dry, the young woman didn't want to talk about her family, but said she came to Italy "to continue my studies. This is the basic thing." Italy, she said, is "a nice place, I expect the best."



The young student was among the latest round of refugees to arrive to Rome through the Humanitarian Corridors project.

Humanitarian Corridors is a pilot program and joint-ecumenical initiative of the Sant'Egidio Community, the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy, the Italian government and the Waldensian and Methodist churches, the project provides aid and safe passage to those fleeing war and violence.

The refugees have come from situations of desperation in countries such as Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Among them are sick children, disabled persons, elderly and widows of war with children.

So far roughly 400 people have already arrived in Italy through project, without having to risk their lives in the Mediterranean. The first arrivals came in February, and 12 more followed soon after on board the papal plane with Pope Francis when he returned to Rome after his April 16 day trip to Lesbos.

On March 6 Pope Francis gave a shout-out to the program, saying he admires the project, "which combines solidarity and security, allows one to help people fleeing war and violence."

The most recent arrivals came on two separate flights from Lebanon Oct. 24 and 25, nearly all of whom are Syrians who fled their country

and had been living in refugee camps in Lebanon.

The group consisted of 72 Syrian refugees, both individuals and 18 families, and included 45 children and 14 mothers. They are both Christians and Muslims, nearly all originally from war-torn Syria.

A single mother who arrived with her two children told CNA she came "first of all for the children," adding that "this was a dream. I didn't think this dream could be realized."

The woman, whose children are about six and eight years old, has been living in refugee camps since her children were born. They first lived in a camp in Syria when the children were infants, and later transferred to a camp in Lebanon, where they have been living for the past four years.

With no husband, the woman left all of her relatives behind in Lebanon and came to Italy to meet her brother, who had already migrated and was at the airport to welcome her.

"I am very happy because life in the camp was very hard and very difficult. I wanted to get out and to see Italy, to see what was outside, which certainly isn't like life in the camp," she said.

She said the first step for her family now will be for the children to learn Italian so they can go to school. They "must learn the

language to continue their life journey, because now they are saved," she said, explaining that the rest of her family hopes to join them one day.

Rami, a Muslim refugee from Deir ez-Zor, Syria, was among those who arrived to Rome with Pope Francis in April.

After making the perilous journey from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos, Rami found himself stuck in a refugee camp on the island, but was selected by lottery to come back to Rome with the Pope since he had his paperwork in order.

He was present at Rome's Fiumicino airport for the Oct. 24 arrival of his sister and her children, whom he had not seen for six years.

When he and the other refugees arrived to Rome with Pope Francis, "our life took a 180 degree turn from hell to paradise," he told CNA. "I come from a country at war, and we arrived to a country where there is peace, security and tranquility."

In Syria "there was war, destruction, calumny," he said, explaining that his sister's husband is missing, and that after traveling from Syria to Lebanon and finally Lebanon to Rome, "we're all happy."

Speaking of his experience living in Italy, Rami, who worked in general

renovation in Syria, said that "it's fabulous, I am happy, there is a lot of stability. My children go to school now, they have already learned Italian better than me. We hope to continue going forward, that the situation gets better."

He voiced his gratitude to Pope Francis for his welcome and attention to migrants, explaining that "we are guests of the Pope."

"I am very proud and I will tell it to everyone with great pleasure... We are under his care. We are very happy in his care," he said.

For her part, Sara said she is happy to be in "a calm, secure country," and that she decided to come above all for her children.

"I am thinking of school. I am more interested in the future of my children," she said, explaining that she will "always give thanks to the Italian people, for their welcome."

Dirkan Qariqosh, a refugee from Aleppo who came to Italy with his wife and son, told CNA that he had been an artist in Syria, and hopes to better his skills in such an artistic culture.

"We have come here to a country of peace. I am an artist, I worked with copper, with gypsum," he said, explaining that in Syria, "I did paintings and taught children."

Since he and his family are now living in Italy, "perhaps I can study to further advance (my skills)," he said, adding that "we have suffered

a lot and we want to say 'enough!' We hope for peace in Syria and we want to say 'enough!' to war."

Andrea Riccardi, Founder of the Sant'Egidio Community, told CNA that the success of the Humanitarian Corridors project "means that Italy is opening itself to the Syrian crisis with the Humanitarian Corridors."

"It's the answer to the war, the inhumanity of war, but also to the merchants of death."



Faith communities unite on Red Wednesday for victims of religious persecution

Posted on: November 23, 2016 12:11 PM



Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK, outside St George's Cathedral, Stevenage, which is lit up in red to support people persecuted for their faith.

Photo Credit: Coptic Church Centre UK on Twitter

[ACNS, by Gavin Drake] London's Westminster Abbey will be lit up in red tonight in an act of solidarity with people around the world who are persecuted for their faith. It is one of a number of religious buildings that are joining the [#RedWednesday](#) campaign by the Roman Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). As part of the campaign, one of London's iconic red busses is taking part in a faith-buildings tour today, to spread the "Stand up for Faith and Freedom message".

After setting off from Westminster Cathedral – the seat of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales – the bus will call at the Imam Khoei Islamic Centre, St Paul's Cathedral, and the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood, and Westminster Abbey before returning to the Cathedral where a gathering and service will be held.

The Patriarch of the Syriac Orthodox Church, Ignatius Aphrem II, has travelled from Damascus for the event, which will also be attended by Dr Sarah Bernstein, director-general of the Jerusalem Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations in Israel, and Shaykh Dr Umar Al-Qadri Ameer, head-imam of the Al-Mustafa Islamic Educational & Cultural Centre in Ireland.

"We hope that the ACN red bus as it travels London on Red Wednesday will highlight the very real and pressing issue of those suffering because they are persecuted today for their peacefully held beliefs," ACN's national director Neville Kyrke-Smith said. "We will invite all those, whether Christian or other faiths to attend and show their support for the right of a person to practise their religion in peace".

In a Tweet this morning, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby signalled his support for the day, saying: "In Communion this morning, we prayed for all victims of religious

violence around the world - and for governments too."

St George's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Stevenage, to the north of London, is one of the buildings to be lit in red. "At a time in our contemporary history when we must be most aware of rights and liberties given by God and enshrined in various laws and international conventions, it is unfathomable that some still suffer, are marginalised and persecuted, for the faith they choose to hold, or even reject," the General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK, Bishop Angaelos, said.

The campaign was the subject of a short debate in the House of Commons – the primary chamber of Britain's Parliament – last week. Moving the debate, parliamentarian Chris Green said that "The Christian community in Iraq is one of the oldest in the world, dating back to the first century. There were thought to be 1.5 million Christians in Iraq before the invasion in 2003. However, that number is reported to have fallen now to about 230,000. Although many people have been persecuted and have fled the region, that figure shows the targeted nature of the persecution and, if it carries on in that direction, we will soon see the end of Christianity in much of the middle east."

Responding to the debate, minister Tobias Ellwood said that the British government "will continue to fight for the freedom of religion or belief internationally. We do so not only because it is right and is enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights and in article 18 of the international covenant on civil and political rights but because extending freedom of religion or belief to more countries and more societies helps to make the world safer and more prosperous, which is in all our interests."

Tomorrow, ACN will publish its 2016 Religious Freedom in the World report, which assesses the situation for different faith communities in all 196 countries.

Chaldean priest giving hope to Iraqi Christian refugees in Turkey amid despair

Lorraine Caballero 01 December, 2016

An itinerant Chaldean priest is giving hope to Iraqi Christian refugees staying in Turkey while waiting for their asylum applications to be processed.



(REUTERS / Murad Sezer) Syrian refugee women stand outside their tents at a refugee camp in Nizip in Gaziantep province, near the Turkish-Syrian border March 17, 2014.

Father Remzi Diril, fondly known as Father Adday, is the only Chaldean Catholic priest who is authorized to perform pastoral duties in Turkey. Each year, he travels thousands of miles to reach out to Iraqi Christian refugees in the country and offer them hope amid the physical and psychological problems they are facing, **Crux** details.

"People need spiritual help. They need a priest. They want the church with them," said Father Adday. "I can't give them

material things, but I can give them my time and give them hope."

Father Adday knows that many of the people he ministers to have already been staying in Turkey for several years as they wait for feedback regarding their asylum applications to Australia, Canada, the United States and other countries. The Chaldean priest is able to sympathize with them because he had also experienced having to move to another place as a child when his village was burned during a clash between the Kurds and Turks.

During his trips, Father Adday celebrates mass with the refugee families, distributes Communion, baptizes children, conducts matrimonial ceremonies and administers last rites. He depends on locals who connect him to Iraqi Christians in the community. Even though the church does not shoulder his expenses, he knows that visiting these refugees are important because they are in need of spiritual refreshment.

"I hope that my visits allow them to become more spiritual and in touch with the church, and to refresh their belief in Jesus. Every Christian needs to refresh his spiritual life," said Father Adday. "I also hope to give them hope and remind them...that God makes miracles, and for that they need to believe. I tell them let God do the working for you. He is our Father and he wants the best for you."

As of now, Turkey is home to around 300,000 Iraqi and 1.7 million Syrian refugees. **The Wall Street Journal** says the government helps the refugees regardless of their religious and ethnic background. The publication has also emphasized President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's strong ties with the Armenian community and the Armenian Orthodox Church.

Please click on LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDEpwNvoi8s>

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT IN THE INTEREST OF INQUIRY, OUR NEWSLETTER SOMETIMES PRESENTS ARTICLES WITH POINTS OF VIEW WITH WHICH WE DON'T NECESSARILY AGREE.*****

**Resurrection Sunday
April, 16, 2017
(on the same Sunday in 2017)**



THE END