



**POPE FRANCIS APPEALS TO THE WHOLE CHURCH
TO RAISE UP ONE VOICE OF CEASELESS PRAYER,
IMPLORING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SEND THE GIFT OF PEACE TO IRAQ**

**ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT INVITES THE CLERGY AND FAITHFUL
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE TO HEED THIS APPEAL OF THE HOLY FATHER
AND JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER FOR IRAQ**

The Holy Father has repeated with great urgency the pressing need for all members of the Church throughout the world to unite in prayer for an immediate end to the violence and destruction, especially directed at defenseless Christians, in Iraq. Pope Francis with the same urgency calls the international community to protect those who have suffered from such horrific violence and to guarantee assistance for survival.

Archbishop Chaput asks that the following intention be part of the *Universal Prayer*, especially next Sunday, August 17, 2014:

For an immediate end to the violence and destruction of life in Iraq,
especially as it is directed to the native Christians,
that these evils will be defeated by efforts for peace and justice.
Let us pray to the Lord/Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayerful remembrance of the devastating plight of Christians in Iraq should be encouraged at this time whenever Catholics gather for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy and for devotional prayer, especially in adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and while praying the Holy Rosary.

Next Sunday, August 17, 2014, a Holy Hour will take place at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, 18th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, beginning at 5:30 PM, to pray especially for the intention of peace in Iraq.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!