

The Persecution of Christians in the Middle East

“I asked them to kill me and let my grandson live, but they shot him dead and they shot me in the back.” ... Mona Abdullah

by John Vennari

Muslim suicide terrorists stormed the Church of Our Lady of Salvation in Baghdad, taking 100 hostages and leaving 52 dead. Men, women, children and two priests were slaughtered in the massacre.

The Baghdad attack is one of the latest atrocities in the escalating persecution of Christians in the Middle East.

The siege began on October 31, 2010, at a Sunday evening Mass. A survivor, who did not want to be identified “for safety reasons”, told *Asia News*, “It was Sunday and evening Mass had just begun. Shortly after the Gospel reading... we heard the sound of gunfire outside the church. Don Tha’er [the priest] tried to calm everyone down, telling us to pray together.

“The noise became louder,



Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad where the massacre took place.

then we heard a loud explosion and the terrorists entered the church – five or six in all – and started shooting everywhere.”

The terrorists were armed with guns, grenades and explosive belts.

“I was sitting in the front pew”, the survivor told *Asia News*, “and as the gunfire broke out I threw myself on

the ground. Don Tha'er called me and told me: 'Try to get everyone into the sacristy.' Those were difficult moments because the attackers were firing everywhere."

The survivor said he tried to help a girl who was wounded in the neck, but one of the terrorists saw him and threw a grenade at them. The girl was killed.

"I was on the ground wounded", said the survivor, "I pretended to be dead. While I was on the ground I saw Don Tha'er trying to defend the altar servers: he embraced them and covered them with his cassock, to protect them... One of the men attacked him...but he resisted and remained standing. In the end the terrorist killed him."

One person from the congregation cried out "We die, we die, but the Cross lives." This person was immediately killed.

Suicide Terrorists

"The terrorists kept moving around and shooting everywhere," said the survivor. "When one of them passed me by, I saw he was wearing an explosive belt. They obviously had a clear plan. Two snipers were placed at

the sides of the church, two others mid-aisle and one on the upper floor. They talked among themselves by radio, insisting that everything was going as planned."

The survivor then relates the gruesome reality of Muslim suicide terrorism. While he was lying on the ground pretending to be dead, "I could hear what was said. One terrorist was wounded, and kept saying to his leader: 'I'm hurt, I'll detonate the explosive belt so I can become a martyr, and go straight to heaven.'

"At first the man who must have been the commander told him to wait, that it was not yet time. Then the wounded man said, 'No, I'm in too much pain, I was hit.' So the commander gave him permission, they bade each other farewell saying, 'Okay, see you in heaven.'

"Then he blew himself up. His companions then began to shout [to the Catholics]: 'You are unbelievers, you will go to hell while we are going to heaven. God is great.'"¹

Sprayed the Church with Bullets

Other survivors tell the same horrors. They speak of the religious taunts, random



The church walls were riddled with bullet holes.

killings, and then gunmen slaughtering the hostages en masse when the Iraqi army finally stormed the church to end the five-hour siege.

The *London Guardian* reports, "Ghassan, 17, had just arrived for Sunday night service with his mother, Nadine, and brother, Ghaswan, when gunmen burst through the cathedral's huge wooden doors.

"Then the killing began. Ghassan and seven others described to the *Guardian* a series of events that have broken new ground in a country that has become partly conditioned to violence throughout the eight years of war." After the first priest was killed, "Gunmen then sprayed the church with bullets as an-

other priest ushered up to 60 people to a small room in the back."

The *Guardian* continues, "Mona Abdullah, 62, was in church with her family when the gunmen started shooting. They said, 'We will go to paradise if we kill you and you will go to hell.'"

Abdullah recounts, "We stood beside the wall and they started shooting at the young people. I asked them to kill me and let my grandson live, but they shot him dead and they shot me in the back."²

Transformed Our Church into a Mosque

The survivor who spoke to *Asia News* gave even more chilling details.

"During the five-hour siege, the terrorists transformed our church into a mosque. They shouted their Islamic prayers, and twice performed their sunset prayer, in the evening and afternoon. After the man blew himself to pieces, his comrades went crazy; shooting everywhere.

"What we experienced in that church was hell. I try to forget what happened, I try joking and laughing with people. But when I'm alone

I start to think, the images of what I went through come to mind. It hurts. I'm still in shock."

The survivor continues, "Many boys and girls were killed in the church. A friend of mine with his wife, daughter and father were killed. He asked to be killed but to let the child live. He was not heard. There was a baby boy or a girl I do not know, who cried, the terrorist told the mother to stop him crying. But she couldn't, and the man said, 'OK, I'll do it', and killed the baby."

The survivor is not impressed with how the Iraqi government and armed forces handled the disaster, complaining that the military "intervened only after five hours, when the terrorists had already emptied their weapons on us."³

Jihad: Christians are "Legitimate Targets"

Father Wassim, age 27, and Father Tha'er, 32, were the two priests killed during the siege. Father Tha'er died trying to protect the children, and was killed before the eyes of his mother, who survived.

"We will keep our churches open 'til our last drop of blood

is shed," were the last words of Father Wassim, shortly before he was beheaded on the altar of his church by Muslim terrorists.⁴

In the end, all of the terrorists detonated themselves. Despite the explosions, the six ornate crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling remained undamaged.

The rest of the church was a "rank mess of blood stains, flesh and shell casing. Pews were scattered throughout the cavernous church, which was pocked with hundreds of bullet holes and damage that testified to the horrendous events that had taken place there."⁵

The final toll was 52 dead with 78 wounded, many in critical condition after losing limbs.

The Baghdad attack has been called the worst attack since the American-led invasion in 2003.

Within 48 hours of the massacre, al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia issued a bulletin, "All Christian centers, organizations and institutions, leaders and followers, are legitimate targets for the Mujahideen (holy warriors)."⁶

More bloody attacks would follow.

The Following Week: Mourning and More Attacks

The following Sunday, worshippers returned to Our Lady of Salvation Church for a memorial Mass commemorating the slain.

The congregation had to pass through a blockade of police trucks, armed sentries on the roof tops, and through a security checkpoint where they were frisked for weapons and explosives.

Once inside the worshippers saw the church riddled with bullet holes, and blood stains on the 30 foot high ceiling from the blast of the suicide vests.

The pews were replaced by a giant cross on the floor outlined by hundreds of candles, and filled with over 50 sheets of paper, each one bearing the name of one of the dead. Photographs of the two martyred priests were placed around the church.

At least 150 showed up for the Mass.

As was the case for most of the parish, it was the first time 20-year-old Husan Sabah returned to the church since

the massacre. "I'm terrified now, seeing the blood on the walls," and spoke of his recurring nightmares throughout the previous week. Sabah says he now wants to leave Iraq.

Others in the congregation manifested heroic forgiveness. Twenty-six-year-old Nagan Riyath, who had a bandage around her knee after being wounded in the attack, sat by an arrangement of flowers set on the spot where she watched one of the priests die. "We forgive them," said Nagan, "We are not afraid. They gave us blood and we give them forgiveness".⁷

A number of Muslim leaders condemned the attack, including Sunni and Shiite imams in northern Iraq.⁸

"Even your colleagues are spies"

In Spring Valley, California, an Assyrian community likewise commemorated their fellow Catholics slaughtered in the assault.

On November 7, hundreds of mourners flocked to a Mass at Saint Sophia's Catholic Church, which was also attended by Bishop George Al More from Jordan. Some in the congregation had lost rel-



Adam Udai, 3 years old, victim of Baghdad church massacre.

atives and friends in the Iraq massacre.

"I had five family members who were in the church," said Wammeedh Tozy, 31, of El Cajon, California. Tozy's uncle and a cousin's husband were killed.

"My cousin, she is pregnant at four months and she had a bullet in her back." Though there were difficulties, the cousin is recovering and the baby is in stable condition. His aunt was hit with shrapnel and another cousin suffered head injuries that in the end were not serious.

Tozy's relatives told him the terrorists first used guns, and when the bullets ran out, "they were throwing bombshells and grenades... They

said, 'We are going to make you in hell right now, and again when we kill you'."⁹

East County Magazine, who reported on the Spring Valley Mass, also spoke with a young Assyrian woman who was able to escape Iraq.

Like many, she would not give her name, as she is fearful of retaliation.

"I was working as a dentist in Mosul," she said. "I was every day praying to come back safe to my kids after going through car bombs and bombs planted on the street. We were paying what they asked us to pay, which is about three-quarters of our wealth, to leave us safe, but it gets worse."

She continued, "When they started demanding us to wear the hijab, I refused to do so and I couldn't keep my mouth shut. After these incidences I was talking badly about terrorists inside the hospital; it turned out that even your colleagues are spies and have terrorists among them. I felt that my head may be next on the menu, so we left everything behind and came here."

She is living poor, and has returned to school to get her professional license, a process that will take years and cost

\$300,000 in student loans.

"It is worth it," she said, "for the sake of my children."¹⁰

Carnage Continues: Survivor Murdered

While Christians were still mourning the October 31 attack, more assaults against Christians were launched.

On November 7, a week after the strike on Our Lady of Salvation Church, two worshippers were killed: 49-year-old Louay Daniel Yacoub who was shot dead in front of his apartment, and another who at the time of the November 8 *Asia News* report, was still unidentified.¹¹

According to a November 10 *USA Today* report, "11 roadside bombs exploded within an hour in three predominantly Christian areas of central Baghdad. Four blasts hit houses belonging to Christians, and two mortar rounds struck Christian enclaves in the predominantly Sunni Muslim neighborhood of Dora. Two bombs planted in deserted Christian homes destroyed two houses." On November 9, "a series of bombs hit three empty houses belonging to Christians in western Baghdad."¹²

Chaldean Catholic Arch-



Catholic man mourns his wife murdered in the assault.

bishop Louis Sarko in Kirkuk said on December 21 that he and 10 other Christian personages received death threats from the so-called Islamic State of Iraq.¹³

On December 22, the same Islamic State of Iraq, an affiliation of al-Qaeda who claimed responsibility for the attack on Our Lady of Salvation Church, posted on its website that it would launch more attacks.¹⁴

A week later the terrorists fulfilled their threat in a new series of bloody assaults.

Militants left a bomb on the doorsteps of the home of an elderly Christian couple and rang the doorbell. "When Fawzi, 76, and his 78-year-old wife Janet Mekha answered the doorbell, Thursday night [December 30], the bomb exploded, killing them."

Mehka's brother Falah al-Tabback described the scene:

“When I went there, I found both of them cut to pieces near the gate of the house.”¹⁵

A cluster of 10 bombs rattled Baghdad on the same night and wounded 20 other people. “The bombs were placed near the homes of at least 14 Christian families around the city, and four bombs were diffused before they could explode,” said the *New York Times*.¹⁶

In one of the cruelest attacks of all, a Catholic woman who survived the slaughter at Our Lady of Salvation Church was murdered in her bed. On the morning of January 3, Rafah Butros Toma, who witnessed the church massacre on October 31 was shot to death at dawn while she was asleep. The assailants went on to rob her of all her possessions.¹⁷

Persecution and Purge

The massacre at Our Lady of Salvation Church is not the first such attack. Since 2004, over a dozen churches have been bombed. A number of priests, as well as Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho, have been abducted and murdered.

Wijdan Michael, the Iraqi Human Rights Minister, him-

self a Christian, described the October attack as “more than a catastrophic and tragic event. In my opinion, it is an attempt to force Iraqi Christians to leave Iraq and to empty Iraq of Christians.”¹⁸

This purge seems to be successful. There had been about 1.4 million Christians in Iraq, but according to a recent State Department report, there are an estimated 400,000 to 600,000 Christians who remain. More than half have fled since the 2003 US invasion of Iraq.¹⁹



Funeral for one of the victims

Human Event's John Hayward wrote on December 20, “Thousands of Christians have fled to Kurdish enclaves in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon. The Kurdish government has been working to assist the refugees ... Better than fifteen thousand Iraqi Christians

have relocated to the United States.”²⁰

And fleeing is no easy task. Iraqis need a passport to emigrate and they must apply for it in their city of residence – which in many cases are the cities the Christians have fled. The monks at St. Matthew’s, a monastery founded in A.D. 374 by persecuted Christians at the time, houses 10 refugee Christian families. One of the monks explained that Christians trying to get out often cannot afford hundreds of dollars in bribes to obtain a passport.²¹

Tragically, the persecution is not limited to Iraq alone.

John Hayward correctly notes, “What is going on in Iraq is happening almost everywhere in the Third World and Middle East, at varying rates of speed.

- On December 19, a group of “demonstrators” from three hard-line Islamic groups drove a hundred worshipers out of their church in Indonesia.²²
- In the flashpoint city of Jos in central Nigeria, seven explosions went off and killed 32 people and injured 74, many of them as they were doing their Christmas

shopping. In Maiduguri, a city in Northern Nigeria, Muslim Jihadists attacked three churches, leaving six people dead and one of the churches burned.²³

- In Jolo Island in the Philippines, a bomb exploded in church during Christmas Mass, wounding six. The island is a stronghold of Abu Sayyaf, an al-Qaida-linked group.²⁴
- A Baptist writer in Palestine recently noted that some years ago, *National Geographic* dedicated a large portion of an issue to address the severe dropping of the numbers of Christians in the Middle East. The article was titled “The Forgotten Faithful”. Speaking of the ever-increasing persecution, the writer says that in the last two years, “the struggle has morphed from a ‘feeling of being a minority’ to a ‘feeling of being a target’.”²⁵
- In Egypt, 21 worshipers were killed and 80 others wounded when a suicide bomber detonated himself outside a Coptic church in Alexandria as worshipers were leaving New Year’s Mass. The Egyptian Inte-

rior Ministry said the bomb was packed with pieces of metal to inflict maximum damage.²⁶ The pastor of the church told the *Malta Times*, "I was inside the church and heard a huge explosion, people's bodies were in flames"²⁷

- In Pakistan, a prominent governor was assassinated by his bodyguard on January 6 this year. The governor's offense? He was working to repeal a Muslim blasphemy law that is used to persecute minorities. He also stood up for a Christian woman sentenced to death under those laws. The *Chicago Times* reported, "An influential group of more than 500 Muslim clerics and scholars paid tribute to the killer. This organization represents Pakistan's majority Bareilvi sect," which the politically correct *Associated Press* claims, "follows a brand of Islam considered moderate."²⁸

Warning from the Synod

In what appears to be an eerie prophecy, a Syrian Catholic Patriarch publicly warned on October 22 – a week prior to the attack on Iraq's Our Lady of Salvation Church – that

"the Koran gives Muslims the 'right' to judge Christians and kill them in Jihad."

Archbishop Antoine Beylouni from Lebanon stated this in an intervention at the Synod of Middle East Bishops in Rome. In an astonishingly truthful statement in an age of interreligious dialogue, the Archbishop said "The Koran allows Muslims to hide the truth from Christians, and to speak and act contrary to how he thinks and believes. In the Koran, there are contradictory verses that annul others, which gives the Muslim the possibility of using one or the other to his advantage, and therefore, he can tell the Christian that he is humble and pious and believes in God, just as he can treat him as impious, apostate and idolatrous."

After noting the Koran gives the "right" to kill Christians in Jihad (holy war), the Archbishop went on to explain the Koran "commands the imposition of religion by force, with the sword. The history of invasions bear witness to this."²⁹

"Religious Cleansing"

The assaults on Christianity are so severe that Italy's

Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, President of the Italian Episcopal Conference, opened the permanent council meeting of the Italian bishops on January 25. Here he warned of anti-Christian persecution taking place in various parts of the world, which is taking on the form of a true “ethnic or religious cleansing”.

After noting the January 1 car bombing of the Coptic church in Egypt, the Cardinal decried a “constant repetition of situations of persecutions, which recently have been seen in several areas of the world, and have Christians as designated victims.

“For a long time, [Christians] have been the religious group that must face the greatest number of persecutions because of their faith,” said the Cardinal. “A crescendo of blood incidents that in the course of the months has involved India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sudan and Nigeria, Eritrea and Somalia. However, the most serious events took place in Iraq and finally Egypt.”³⁰

What is the Answer?

Faced with this mounting persecution of Christians, to what can we look for the an-



Poster features two priests martyred in the attack.

swer?

Can we look towards the military might of the United States to end the persecution? Many Iraqi Catholics say no, claiming they are much worse off now than prior to the 2003 invasion.

Just before the United States launched its 2003 Iraq operation, *Chronicles* writer Wayne Allensworth warned, “Iraqi Christians say they will be the first victims of a war that might dismember their country, unleashing ethnic and religious conflicts that Baghdad had previously sup-

pressed. Tariq, a Christian merchant in Baghdad, told the French weekly *Marianne* that 'if the United States goes to war against our country... (t)he Wahhabis and other fundamentalists will take advantage of the confusion to throw us out of our homes, destroy us as a community and declare Iraq an Islamic nation'."

Allensworth continued, "If recent history is any indication, Tariq has cause for concern. The Shiite uprising in southern Iraq during the first Gulf War – encouraged and then abandoned by Washington – targeted Christians. Many Christians had supported Saddam's regime, in spite of creeping Islamification, as their best hope for survival in the Islamic Middle East."³¹

Eight years later, these sentiments are reiterated after the bloodbath at Our Lady of Salvation Church. The *New York Times* reported, "For many Christians here, the attack underscores the bitter irony of the American-led invasion. It opened the door for warfare in one of the world's oldest Christian communities."

Rightly or wrongly, many Iraqis blame the present chaos

on the U.S. military invasion. "I don't think the American people care about this", said Father Meyasser al-Quaspostos, cousin of one of the priests killed at Our Lady of Salvation. "The Americans are the cause of all this."³²

The power of the US Military thus can not be regarded as the solution for peace.

Obama?

But the 2003 invasion was President Bush's work. Can Christians look to Barack Obama and his administration to end the bloodshed?

The *Washington Times* answers this question with its January 6 piece: "When Muslims kill Christians, Obama sweeps Jihadist motives under the rug". Due to his perverse political correctness and his apparently deep sympathy with Islam,³³ Obama carefully sidesteps any mention of the Muslim fanaticism that fuels these outrages.

"The Obama Administration", writes the *Times*, "is committed to the intellectually insupportable argument that the best way to combat jihadism is to ignore its Islamic content. It is the equivalent of

telling police to solve crime by looking into means and opportunity but ignoring motives.”

This was the thinking that caused the same Obama Administration to ignore the Islamic reasons behind terrorist acts such as the Fort Hood Massacre and the Times Square bomber. Obama and his administration, says the *Times*, will not face the growing signs of religious war. “Every day Mr. Obama ignores reality, the terrorists grow stronger.”³⁴

Barack Obama is a follower of the corrupt principles of Saul Alinsky,³⁵ who taught there is no such thing as dogma, no such thing as an objective rule of ethics, that the ends justifies the means, and that corruption in a leader can be a kind of virtue.³⁶

It is an inescapable truth that one cannot give what one does not have, and Obama’s corrupt orientation that encourages abortion, partial-birth abortion, “same sex” marriage and socialist policies render him virtually incapable of true moral leadership.

A creature of the New Paganism,³⁷ Obama’s twisted world view precludes his ex-

ercising the two main virtues St. Thomas Aquinas teaches are most necessary for the civic leader: Prudence and Justice.³⁸ Obama cannot be regarded as any sort of moral leader who will deliver Christians from ever-widening Muslim persecution.

How about the EU?

Will the European Union stand up for Christians in the face of these Islamic assaults?

In January, in response to appeals to defend persecuted Christians, which was overwhelmingly approved by the Council of Europe, foreign ministers are preparing a document that endorses religious freedom, but refuses to include the word “Christians”.

The resolution was approved as a reaction against the massacres of Christians in the Middle East and elsewhere, but the title of the document from Brussels reads, “Conclusions on intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religious beliefs.” One can only wonder how well Christians will be protected when the EU resolution cannot bear to use the word “Christian” in the document meant to protect these very Christians who are the

main targets of persecution.

Interreligious Dialogue and Summits

Our churchmen see interfaith summits and interreligious dialogue as an answer for world peace. Those in high places speak of the need for more religious liberty. Yet as Archbishop Raboula Antoine Beylouni noted at the October Synod, many Muslims do not recognize the notion of religious liberty anyway,³⁹ a concept fraught with danger even from a Catholic perspective.⁴⁰

Today's post-conciliar Church leaders encourage religious summits in the name of peace, such as the pan-religious meetings at Assisi in 1986, 2002 and the one now planned for October 2011.

These too are dangerous and unorthodox, as these summits, in which the Catholic Church established by Christ is effectively put on the same level as false religions, gives the appearance of the religious indifferentism unanimously condemned by the pre-Vatican II Popes.

Interreligious summits are a scandal, as they send the false message that any religion is a legitimate path to

God, a precept of religious indifferentism condemned by Pope Gregory XVI as "a wicked opinion which has grown up on all sides through the deceit of evil men."⁴¹

These interfaith meetings are also of little use, because only the progressivist elements within the various religious bodies attend anyway. You will never find the anti-Catholic Ian Paisley, or a Muslim suicide bomber showing up at one of these gatherings to plant a tree for peace. No member of any religion who believes his creed to be the one road to Heaven ever participates in these pan-religious events.

Thus, interreligious summits, especially those organized by Catholics, are ultimately scandalous and useless.

Our Lady's Peace Plan

Can it be coincidence that of all places on earth, Our Lady chose the previously unknown hamlet of Fatima to proclaim Her program of peace?

Fatima was the name of Mohammed's daughter, and the village was named after the Mohammedan princess Fatima who had converted

to Catholicism, and was baptized before marrying the Count of Ourém in 1158.

As we approach the 100 year anniversary of Our Lady's visitations at Fatima, one of the foremost threats to world peace is the factions of Islam who wage bloodthirsty war on innocent Christian civilians.

Our Lady promised that if the Consecration of Russia is performed by the Pope in union with the world's bishops, Russia would be converted to the Catholic Faith, and a period of peace granted to the entire world.

At Fatima, Our Lady also asked us to pray the Rosary every day. This too is of great significance in relation to today's Muslim assaults. It was the Rosary – prayed by all of Christendom at the request of Pope St. Pius V – that was the chief supernatural means for the 1571 victory of the Catholic ships of Don Juan of Austria against the powerful Muslim fleet at Lepanto.


While we should not abandon any legitimate efforts in the natural order to end the current persecution of Christians, we should first and foremost employ the supernatural weapons given

by Our Lady at Fatima: the daily Rosary, the Five First Saturdays of Reparation, and the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We must also remember the dire warning from Our Lady that "wars are a punishment for sin", and that if Her requests are not heeded, "the good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated."

Let us redouble our efforts to heed the Fatima Message in our own lives. And let us pray and beseech that today's Church leaders will cast aside man-made efforts for peace that are both useless and scandalous. May the Pope himself call for a worldwide Rosary Crusade – as did St. Pius V – and may he consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in union with the world's bishops according to the means requested by the Queen of Heaven.

Our Lady of Fatima promised that as a result of this Consecration, a period of peace will be granted not to a mere segment of the world, *but to the entire world*, including the Middle East where our fellow Catholics are bleeding,

dismembered and butchered at the hands of their Muslim persecutors. 

Notes:

1. "I try to forget, but I will always see the blood stained church of Baghdad", *Asia News*, Nov. 30, 2010.
2. "Baghdad Church Siege Survivors Speak of Taunts, Killings, Explosions", *The Guardian*, Nov. 1, 2010.
3. *Asia News*, Nov. 30, 2010.
4. "Local Christians Mourn Loss of Those Killed in Massacre at Baghdad Church", Miriam Rafferty, *East County Magazine* (La Mesa, California), Nov. 7, 2010.
5. *The Guardian*, Nov. 1, 2010.
6. "The Murderers of Christianity", Pat Buchanan, Nov. 9, 2010.
7. "In Grief and Defiance, Baghdad's Christians Return to the Scene of the Attack", *New York Times*, Nov. 7, 2010.
8. "More attacks on Christians in Baghdad a Week after Massacre", *Asia News*, Nov. 8, 2010.
9. *East County Magazine* (La Mesa, California), Nov. 7, 2010.
10. *Ibid.*
11. "More Attacks on Christians in Baghdad a Week after Massacre", *Asia News*, Nov. 8, 2010.
12. "Fear of Jihad Driving Christians from Iraq: In Wake of Siege, Many Join Exodus", *USA Today*, Nov. 12, 2010.
13. "14 Bombs Target Christian Homes in Baghdad", *Agence France Presse*, Dec. 31, 2010.
14. "Christians Are Casualties of 10 Baghdad Bomb Attacks", *New York Times*, Dec. 31, 2010.
15. "A Doorbell Attack on Iraqi Christians", *The Bismarck Tribune*, Jan. 1,

2011.

16. "Christians Are Casualties of 10 Baghdad Bomb Attacks", *New York Times*, Dec. 31, 2010.
17. "Christian Woman Who Survived Iraq Church Massacre Killed In Militant Attack," *RTT News* (Division of *Investor's Business Daily*), Jan. 3, 2011.
18. "Manufactured Exodus: Iraqi Christians are the Latest Displaced Population", John Hayward, *Human Events*, Dec. 20, 2010.
19. "A Grim Christmas for Iraqi Christian", *Virginia-Pilot*, December 19, 2010; "Anti-Christian Crimes Downplayed", *Chicago Sun Times*, Jan. 7, 2011.
20. *Human Events*, Dec. 20, 2010.
21. *Virginia-Pilot*, December 19, 2010.
22. *Human Events*, Dec. 20, 2010.
23. "Attacks on Christians kill 38, injures 80", *The Sunday Times* (Australia), Dec. 25, 2010; "When Muslims kill Christians, Obama sweeps Jihadist motives under the rug", *Washington Times*, Jan. 5, 2011.
24. "Fresh attacks on Christians mar Christmas Celebrations", *Agence France Presse*, Dec. 25, 2010.
25. "When Christians Become Targets", *Palestine News Network*, Jan. 17, 2011.
26. "21 Die in New Years Day Attack on Egypt Church", *The Statesman* (India), Jan. 2, 2011.
27. "The Targeting of Christians", *Investor's Business Daily*, Jan. 4, 2011.
28. "Anti-Christian Crimes Downplayed", Steve Hunely, *Chicago Sun Times*, Jan. 7, 2011.
29. "Intervention of Mons. Raboula Antoine Beylouni, Titular Archbishop of Mardin of the Syrians, Curia Bishop of Antioch of the Syrians (Lebanon), 'in Scriptis'," *Vatican Radio*, Oct. 23, 2010.



The sins of mankind in our time cause the present-day persecution of the faithful and the sorrow Our Lord felt through His Passion and Crucifixion.

30. "Italian Cardinal Warns of 'Religious Cleansing'," *Zenit*, Jan. 25, 2011.

31. "The Murderers of Christianity", Pat Buchanan, Nov. 9, 2010.

32. "In Grief and Defiance, Baghdad's Christians Return to Scene of Attack", *New York Times*, Nov. 7, 2010.

33. For a compelling thesis that describes in detail Barack Obama as having the mindset of an "Anti-colonial socialist", see D'nesh D'Souza, *The Roots of Obama's Rage*, [Regnary, 2010].

34. "When Muslims kill Christians, Obama Sweeps Jihadist motives under the rug", *Washington Times*, Jan. 5, 2011.

35. Mike Kruglik, one of the Chicago teachers of Saul Alinsky – and one of the direct descendants of Alinsky – said that in his 10 years of training, Obama was the best student he ever had. ("For Clinton and Obama, A Common Ideological Touchstone", Peter Slevin, *Washington Post*, March 25, 2007.) Obama himself says that even though he was schooled in Indonesia, and at Columbia and Yale, his years as an Alinsky-styled community organizer was the best education of his life. ("The Agitator: Barack Obama's Unlikely Political Education", Ryan Lizza, *The New Republic*, March 19, 2007.)

36. Alinsky's main principles were: 1) *There is no such thing as dogma, all truth is relative*: "For the organizer, everything is relative and changing," says Alinsky. The organizer "does not have any fixed truth." This places the organizer in a superior position, Alinsky claims, because he is "free from the shackles of dogma." *Rules for Radicals*:

A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals, Saul Alinsky [New York: Vintage, 1971], p. 11. 2) *There is no such thing as a fixed rule of ethics*.

For Alinsky, the end justifies the means, and all ethics are elastic according to the situation you are in or the strategy you need to employ.

Alinsky taught, "Ethical standards must be elastic to stretch with the times". *Rules for Radicals*, p. 32. 3) *Corruption in the leader is a kind of virtue*: "To say that a corrupt means corrupts the ends is to believe" in an unrealistic purity of ends and principles, insists Alinsky. "The real arena is corrupt and bloody. Life is a corrupting process. He who fears corruption, fears life."

Alinsky castigates the leader who places his personal conscience and personal salvation above the needs of the people, claiming such a leader "does not care enough for the people to be corrupted for them". *Rules for Radicals*, p. 25. Alinsky also dedicated *Rules for Radicals* to the devil: Alinsky's dedication page reads: "Lest we forget at least an over-the-shoulder acknowledgement to the very first radical; from all our legends, mythology, and history... the first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he at least won his own kingdom – Lucifer."

37. Hilaire Belloc warned in 1931 of the New Paganism, saying that the hallmark of this new paganism is contempt for tradition and contempt for ancestry. "It respects perhaps nothing. But least of all does it respect the spirit of 'our Fathers have told us'." *Essays of a Catholic*, "The New Paganism" [Rockford: Tan,

1992 – originally published in 1931].
38. *Summa Theologica*, Question 50, “The Subject of Prudence”.

39. The Archbishop went on to hope that good relations between Catholics and certain Muslims could come about, since “the Koran spoke well of the Virgin Mary, insisting on Her perpetual virginity and miraculous unique conception in giving us Christ”, that “Muslims take Her greatly into consideration and ask for Her intercession”, and ends his speech with the hope, “If it has pleased God that the Feast of the Annunciation was declared a national feast day in Lebanon for Christians and Muslims, may it also become a national feast day in other Arab countries.” *Vatican Radio*, Oct. 23, 2010.

40. The traditional Catholic teaching is that a Catholic state may tolerate members of false religions publicly practicing their faith if suppressing the false religions would cause greater evils. But it is Catholic doctrine that members of false religions do not have a positive right to practice their religion. Pius XII taught “no human authority can give a positive mandate to teach or do things contrary to religious truth.” Vatican II’s new teaching on religious liberty, as admitted by the progressive theologian Yves Congar, runs contrary to ancient Catholic principle. “What is new in this teaching [Vatican II on religious liberty] in relation to the doctrine of Leo XIII and even of Pius XII ... is the determination of the basis peculiar to this liberty, which is sought not in the objective truth or moral or religious good, but in the ontological quality of the human person.” (See *I Accuse the Council*,

Archbishop Lefebvre, p. 21.) For a full treatment of true Catholic teaching on tolerance, and Vatican II’s new approach to religious liberty, see *The Second Vatican Council and Religious Liberty*, Michael Davies.

41. The full quote from Pope Gregory XVI reads: “Now we come to another very fertile cause of the evils by which, we are sorry to see, the contemporary Church being afflicted. This is indifferentism, or that wicked opinion which has grown up on all sides through the deceit of evil men. According to this opinion, the eternal salvation of the soul can be attained by any kind of profession of faith, as long as a man’s morals are in line with the standard of justice and honesty. You must drive out from the people entrusted to your care this most deplorable error on a matter so obviously important and so completely clear. For, since the Apostle has warned that there is one God, one faith, one baptism, those who pretend that the way to [eternal] beatitude starts from any religion at all should be afraid and should seriously think over the fact that, according to the testimony of the Savior Himself, they are against Christ because they are not for Christ; and that they are miserably scattering because they are not gathering with Him; and that consequently, they are most certainly going to perish forever, unless they hold the Catholic Faith and keep it whole and inviolate.” Pope Gregory XVI, *Morari vos arbitramur*, August 15, 1832.

**Pray the Rosary
Every Day**