

## Christian Refugee Relief Fund

The persecution of Christians is a worldwide problem. In fact, according to the International Society for Human Rights, 80 percent of religious discrimination in our world today is directed against Christians. A terrible microcosm of this phenomenon is occurring in Iraq and Syria, where Christians have been murdered, enslaved and driven from their homes in staggering numbers.

Today, we are compelled as an organization to speak up for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. Pope Francis has called the conditions in which Christian refugees live intolerable. He has said the situation calls for our commitment to prayer and concrete efforts to help. He has said their suffering has reduced him to tears. He has called what they endure genocide.

It is time for a season of truth about what is happening to Christians and other minorities.

*It is a time for action.*



Ready to put *your*  
**FAITH IN ACTION?**

Join us today.

[kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join)

For information on how your council  
can help work toward this goal, visit:

[www.kofc.org/refugee](http://www.kofc.org/refugee)

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## Christian Refugee Relief Fund



In response to the crisis in the Middle East, the Knights of Columbus has distributed more than \$20 million through the Christian Refugee Relief Fund to aid persecuted Iraqis, Syrians and other refugees. Our dollars provide for housing and medical care.

Additionally, the Knights of Columbus have raised \$2 million dollars to rebuild Karamles, a town in Iraq that was desecrated by ISIS. With the continued support of our councils, we can do much more.

Local councils can bring great awareness to the plight of Middle Eastern Christians through various parish-based programs and fundraisers. Councils should consider hosting a fundraiser to aid persecuted Christians throughout the Middle East.

## Solidarity Cross Program

We encourage councils to also raise awareness of the refugees' situation through the distribution



of Solidarity Crosses. Councils can order 5-inch olive wood crosses crafted by Christians in the Holy Land. These crosses can be sold as a fundraiser or given out to participating parish families to encourage prayer and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

To order solidarity crosses, please visit [www.knightsgear.com/solidarity-cross](http://www.knightsgear.com/solidarity-cross). To donate directly to help Christians in the Middle East, please visit [www.christiansatrisk.org](http://www.christiansatrisk.org)



*“Genocide is taking place, and it must end.”*

— Pope Francis

Visit [www.kofc.org/refugee](http://www.kofc.org/refugee)

## Knights of Columbus Initiatives

We have unveiled a new portal with information and the opportunity to help: [ChristiansAtRisk.org](http://ChristiansAtRisk.org) and are using the hashtag [ChristiansAtRisk](https://twitter.com/ChristiansAtRisk) to raise awareness as well.

We will continue our national television advertising efforts.

We will ask our more than 10,000 local councils to raise awareness through education and fundraising at the local council level.

We will make Olive Wood crosses crafted in Bethlehem available to our councils to sell at parish fundraisers, and our members will find other ways to raise money as well.

We will continue to identify key partners with projects in the region.

We have already helped with general needs, with housing, and with health care. But we know there is so much more to do. Food and education are sorely needed. More housing, more medical care, more of everything is needed by those who have, literally, nothing.

And the Knights of Columbus will reimburse all administrative costs of this program. One hundred percent of the money raised will go directly to aiding those in need and to raising awareness of their plight.