

Orange Ribbon Campaign at St. Catharine of Siena, Reading

Did you know that Christians are the most persecuted religious group worldwide? An average of at least 180 Christians around the world are killed each month for their faith (Source: Open Doors USA).

A campaign encouraging Christians to don the color orange and pray in support of the Christians executed by terrorists is gaining momentum. The cause draws on the color orange to represent the jumpsuits worn by captives of the terrorist group.

The Orange Ribbon Campaign has begun at St. Catharine of Siena, Reading in hopes of raising awareness of our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. St. Catharine's youth ministry sponsored the campaign after being inspired by Pope Francis' call to give attention to the modern-day persecution of Christians around the world.

The youth made 2,000 orange ribbons and prayer cards that were distributed after Masses the weekend of Aug. 1-2.

The prayer reads: "Lord Jesus, we honor all our Christian brothers and sisters, children, women and men who have suffered and died at the hands of terror-



Left, youth of St. Catharine of Siena, Reading display their orange ribbons.

Below, one of the ribbons up close.



ists. We pray for all who are now being tortured and held in captivity by them. We see orange as the color of martyrdom of our present day, and we ask your mercy for all who are persecuted for their faith. Amen."

For more information visit:

Ribbons for Rescue www.ribbonsfor-rescue.com, an ecumenical group that

was started to show solidarity with the ISIS victims and persecuted everywhere.

Assyrian Aid Society of Iraq <http://assyrainaid.org/about-us/> and Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena-Iraq, Catholic groups that have been able to take care of more than 200,000 displaced Christians.

Iraqi Christian Relief Council www.iraqichristianrelief.org

iraqichristianrelief.org, which has been able to help more than 130,000 of them through donations. Monetary donations assist in their efforts of humanitarian relief, advocacy, education and prayer.