

Merciful and loving God,

we ask you to bless those in Central and Eastern Europe who have suffered oppression because of their faith.

Help us to stand in solidarity with them

and to be beacons of hope as they renew their faith communities.

May the strength of their faith inspire us to persevere in ours.

For this, we ask the intercession of the Albanian martyrs. When faced with political persecution,

these men and women remained faithful and gave their lives for love of you.

May their sacrifice be a witness of the power of the Resurrection.

We ask you to grant us the same spirit of hope that rose up in them.

Bless us with the same spirit of fortitude that was unfailing in them.

Fill us with the same spirit of love that only you can give.

Amen.

Your people shall rebuild the ancient ruins; the foundations from ages past you shall raise up; "Repairer of the breach," they shall call you, "Restorer of ruined dwellings."

—Isaiah 58:12



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