

PRAYERS NEEDED - DIOCESE OF MINNA IN NIGERIA

HOME DIOCESE OF FR. MICHAEL GADACHE

This week, please include 2 Catholic priests and Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Minna, Nigeria in your prayers.

Early Sunday morning, January 15, Nigerian priest Fr. Isaac Achi was killed by terrorists. Fellow priest Fr. Collins Omeh was shot several times, and the rectory at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church was burned. During the attack, the two priests prayed together and offered one another the sacrament of confession.

The Diocese of Minna has strong ties to the Archdiocese of Omaha, including St. Bernard. Fr. Michael Gadache, currently Associate Pastor at St. Pius X, and Our Lady of Africa chaplaincy in Omaha, will be our future Pastor here at St. Bernard. Previously, Fr. Gadache served as Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Minna, and is the nephew of slain Fr. Achi.

Minna is also the home diocese of two other Omaha area priests. Fr. Kizito Okhuoya served at St. Wenceslaus in Verdigre, NE and Archdiocese for the Military Services and the US Air Force. Fr. Emmanuel Agbo served at St. Leo the Great, and hopes to return after resolving immigration issues.

Hundreds of Christians have been killed in Nigeria or kidnapped by Boko Haram and other Islamist sects. Revolutionists have called for the establishment of an exclusive Islamic Caliphate in Nigeria, with strict imposition of sharia law.

We are asked to pray for our fellow Catholics in Nigeria, which has one of the largest Catholic populations in the world. In the wake of continued violence, the Chancellor of Minna Diocese has made "a call to pray for" the entire Nigerian Diocese. The Catholic bishops' conference of Nigeria proclaimed "our Church personnel have been frequent victims in terms of kidnapping and outright murder," in its message to Nigeria's President.

The late Fr. Isaac Achi invites us to pray for the terrorists, and urges forgiveness. He once said, *"Those who perpetrate evil against the state and innocent citizens require prayers from Christian faithful."*

