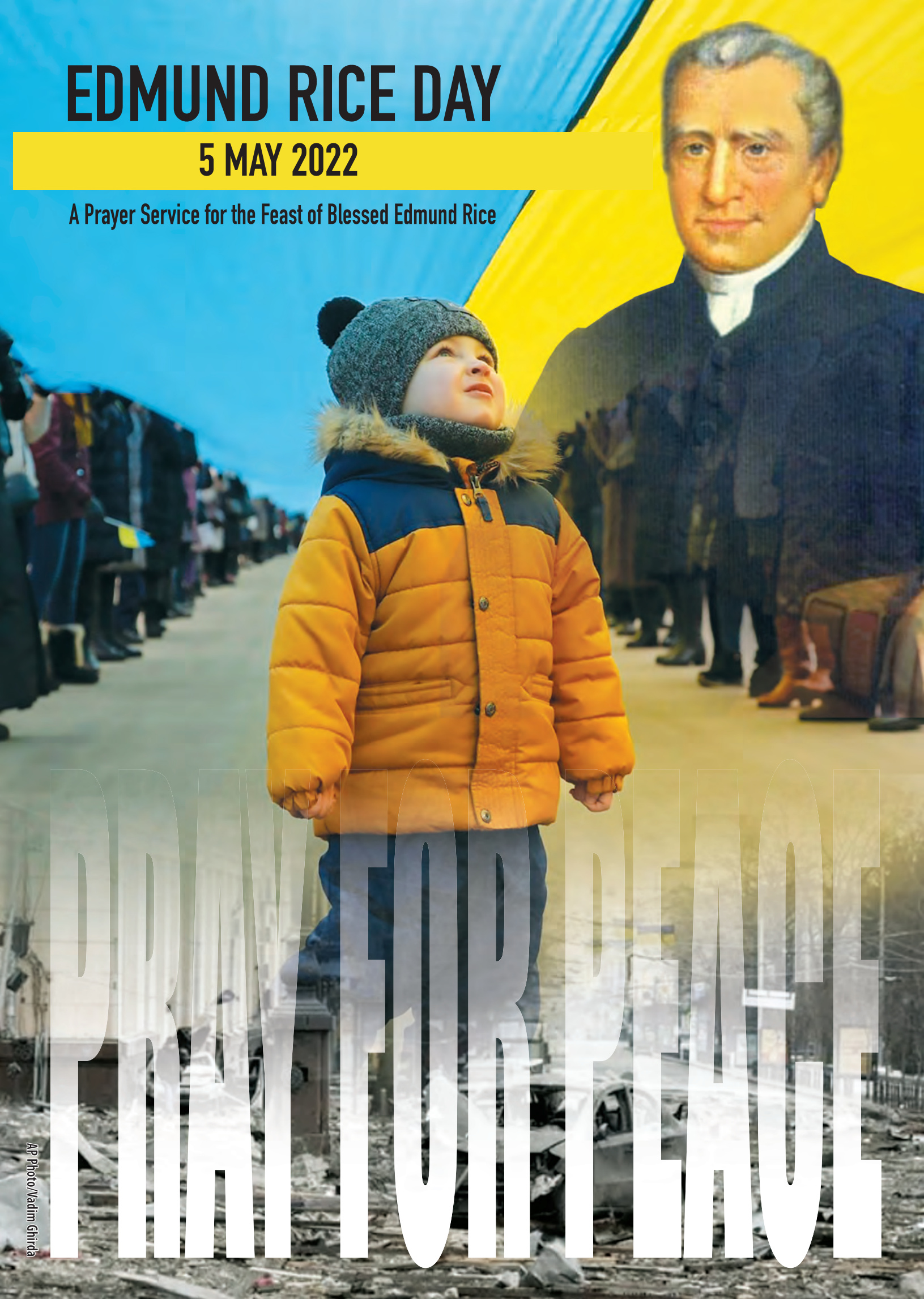


# EDMUND RICE DAY

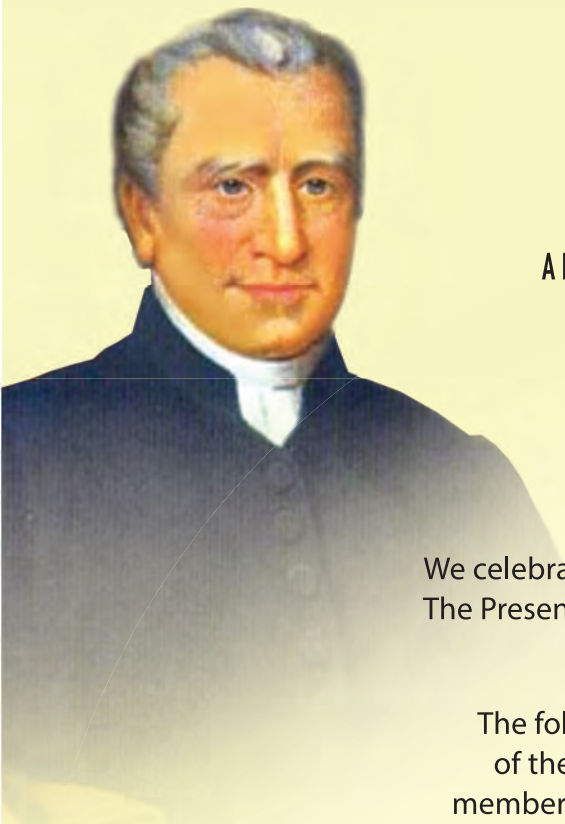
5 MAY 2022

A Prayer Service for the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice



AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda

PRAY FOR PEACE



# EDMUND RICE DAY

5 MAY 2022

A Prayer Service for the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends,

We celebrate the feast of Blessed Edmund Rice on 5th May. The Presentation Brothers traditionally pray special prayers in the days leading up to the feast.

The following Prayer Service is offered to members of the Presentation Family, School Communities, members of the L.E.A.F. Project Network, communities, and associate groups and all associated with Edmund Rice

You may find the readings and reflections helpful for individual or group prayer. Feel free to adapt this resource to your own local situation or group.

We are all conscious of the need for prayer as we face the challenge of living with Covid 19 and as many in our world are suffering war and violence, especially in Ukraine.

Karl Barth, the greatest Protestant theologian of the twentieth century, wrote:

*'To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world!'*

Never underestimate the power of prayer to change minds and hearts. Never underestimate a prayerful and listening presence. Never underestimate the power of a single act of human kindness to bring about change.

Wishing you all the blessings of the feast as we endeavour to live the spirit of Edmund today!

Br. Martin Kenneally



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# PRAYER SERVICE

Begin with a hymn or a piece of reflective music.



May 5th is the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice. It is a day when we reflect in a special way on the life and mission of Edmund Rice and his relevance to our lives today.

As members of the Presentation Family (As a Presentation School Community), we ask God to bless us as we live the spirit of Edmund in our time.

God of love, we ask you to give us a spirit of faith, of love and of generosity. Help us have a heart for the poor, as Edmund did, and give us the courage to reach out to those in need, in our local communities and in the wider world.

Grant us strength as we live through this time of Covid 19. Be close in a special way to all those suffering war and violence in our world, especially the people of Ukraine.

Grant us the gift of peace, Lord, and bless the efforts of all peacemakers. We make this prayer, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



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## Scripture Reading

Edmund Rice had a great love of the Bible. Daily, he read the Bible, as he prayed before the Blessed Sacrament.

### A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

**Response:** Glory to you Lord

**Matt 5: 1 -16**

*Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons and daughters of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by people.

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.

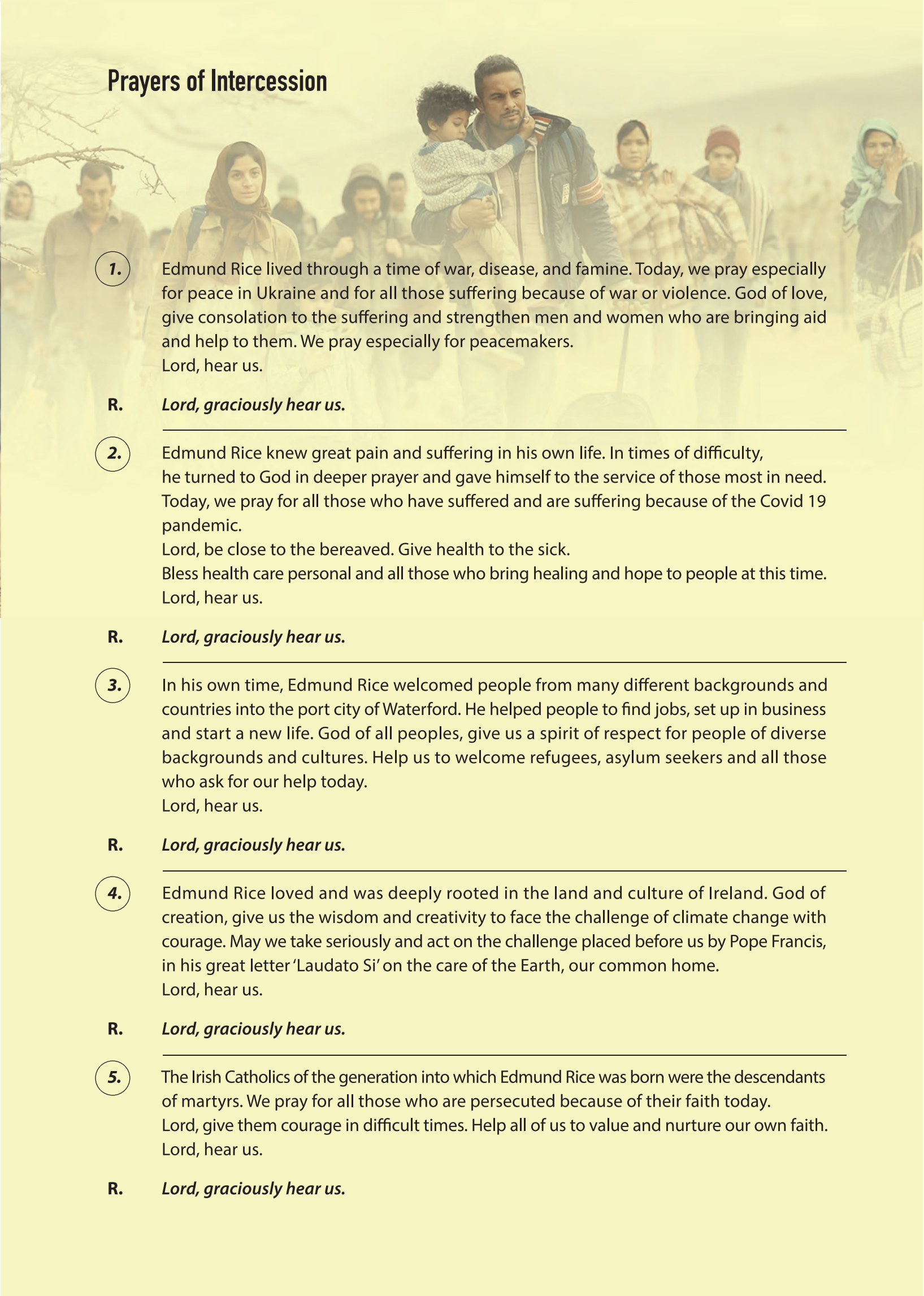
Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

***This is the gospel of the Lord.***

**Response:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

# Prayers of Intercession



**1.** Edmund Rice lived through a time of war, disease, and famine. Today, we pray especially for peace in Ukraine and for all those suffering because of war or violence. God of love, give consolation to the suffering and strengthen men and women who are bringing aid and help to them. We pray especially for peacemakers.

Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

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**2.** Edmund Rice knew great pain and suffering in his own life. In times of difficulty, he turned to God in deeper prayer and gave himself to the service of those most in need. Today, we pray for all those who have suffered and are suffering because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Lord, be close to the bereaved. Give health to the sick.

Bless health care personal and all those who bring healing and hope to people at this time.

Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

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**3.** In his own time, Edmund Rice welcomed people from many different backgrounds and countries into the port city of Waterford. He helped people to find jobs, set up in business and start a new life. God of all peoples, give us a spirit of respect for people of diverse backgrounds and cultures. Help us to welcome refugees, asylum seekers and all those who ask for our help today.

Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

---

**4.** Edmund Rice loved and was deeply rooted in the land and culture of Ireland. God of creation, give us the wisdom and creativity to face the challenge of climate change with courage. May we take seriously and act on the challenge placed before us by Pope Francis, in his great letter 'Laudato Si' on the care of the Earth, our common home.

Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

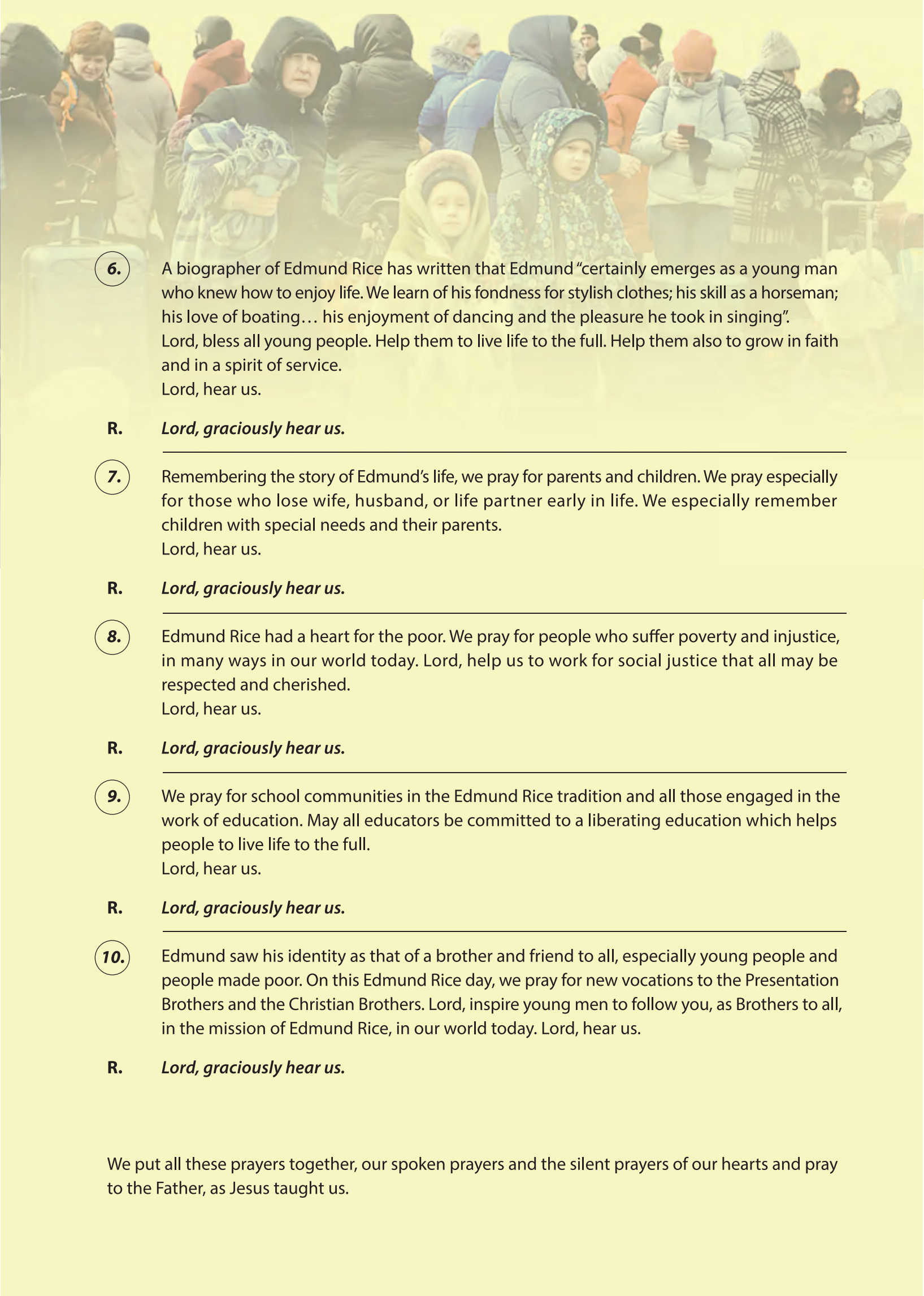
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**5.** The Irish Catholics of the generation into which Edmund Rice was born were the descendants of martyrs. We pray for all those who are persecuted because of their faith today.

Lord, give them courage in difficult times. Help all of us to value and nurture our own faith.

Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*



**6.** A biographer of Edmund Rice has written that Edmund “certainly emerges as a young man who knew how to enjoy life. We learn of his fondness for stylish clothes; his skill as a horseman; his love of boating... his enjoyment of dancing and the pleasure he took in singing”.  
Lord, bless all young people. Help them to live life to the full. Help them also to grow in faith and in a spirit of service.  
Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

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**7.** Remembering the story of Edmund’s life, we pray for parents and children. We pray especially for those who lose wife, husband, or life partner early in life. We especially remember children with special needs and their parents.  
Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

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**8.** Edmund Rice had a heart for the poor. We pray for people who suffer poverty and injustice, in many ways in our world today. Lord, help us to work for social justice that all may be respected and cherished.  
Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

---

**9.** We pray for school communities in the Edmund Rice tradition and all those engaged in the work of education. May all educators be committed to a liberating education which helps people to live life to the full.  
Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

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**10.** Edmund saw his identity as that of a brother and friend to all, especially young people and people made poor. On this Edmund Rice day, we pray for new vocations to the Presentation Brothers and the Christian Brothers. Lord, inspire young men to follow you, as Brothers to all, in the mission of Edmund Rice, in our world today. Lord, hear us.

**R.** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

We put all these prayers together, our spoken prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts and pray to the Father, as Jesus taught us.



**Our Father...**

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**Concluding Prayer**

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**Prayer to Mary**

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This prayer, seeking the help of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is traditionally known as the 'Memorare'.

It was a favourite prayer of Blessed Edmund Rice.

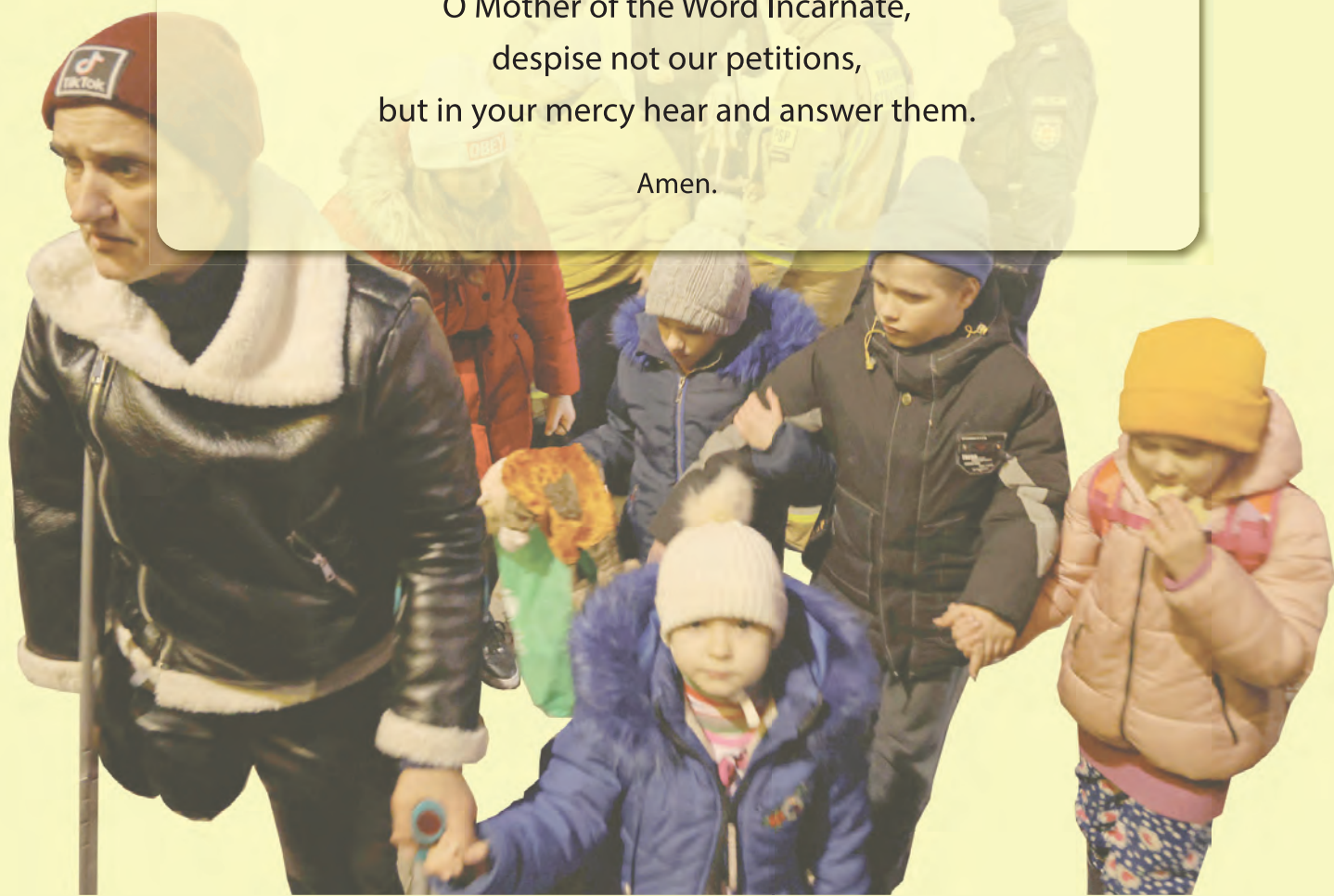
He prayed it every day and especially in times of difficulty.



Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to your protection,  
implored your help  
or sought your intercession,  
was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence,  
We fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins our Mother;  
to you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful;  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not our petitions,  
but in your mercy hear and answer them.

Amen.





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