



Walking the road in hope: Prayer in the company of the people of Iraq
A photo-meditation for the Day of Fasting
November 22, 2010



The husband and brother-in-law of my cousin were killed in the attack on the people of Our Lady of Deliverance Parish in Baghdad during the Feast of All Saints Day liturgy on October 31, 2010. Her husband's much-loved brother was one of the two young priests who died that night. My cousin has a daughter who is 13 months old. The whole family was attending Mass at the church that day. When the terrorists entered the church the priest called all the people sitting nearby to go to the sacristy. My cousin and her daughter were among them. She found a cabinet in the room, placed her daughter in it, gave her food, and closed the door. She was worried about whether her daughter would get enough air in there, but it was only the way that she knew to protect her.

This is a picture of my cousin and her daughter, at the casket of their husband and father. The baby is holding a picture of her father. The only uncle she has now is embracing his brother's casket.

I talked to my cousin recently. She said that the day after the massacre her baby woke up crying, looking for her daddy. When she is a little older, will she look at this picture and ask "Why?" and "What did my father do to deserve this?" and "Why did those terrorists steal my father and leave me just a picture?" What questions does it raise for you?

-- Iraqi Dominican Sister studying in the US