



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

Annual Report 2023

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Dear Friends,

Our Annual Report provides us with the opportunity to not only give thanks for the kindness and generosity of our benefactors who support the persecuted and suffering Church, but also to remain accountable through very concrete figures.

At various times during the year, we have the privilege of being the voice of hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters who need support—both spiritual and financial—or who want to show what a difference the already-received assistance has made to them.

Aid to the Church in Need can now share the compiled data for 2023, including how much we received in donations, how much we spent on projects, and the overall monetary value we've invested to serve as the conduit of love between you and beneficiaries.

When we read these figures each year, we see a miracle every time. Human logic would say that it is not possible to make promises to

help when there are not yet funds available, but because we believe in Divine Providence, this is what we have been doing successfully since 1947. That is why our annual report is above all an opportunity for us to thank the Lord for having placed you on our path.



Regina Lynch

Regina Lynch

International Executive President

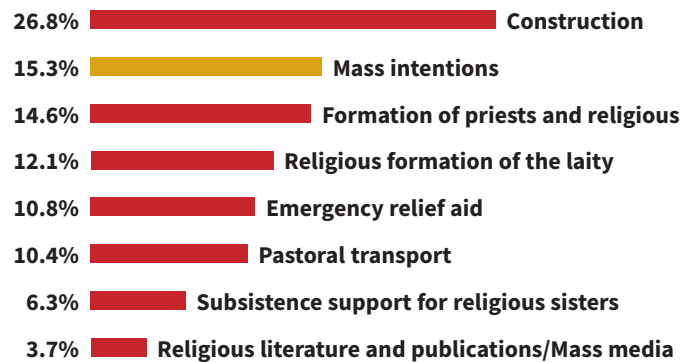


M. Lalonde

Marie-Claude Lalonde

National Director

How Your Gifts Were Used



1,744,410 Mass intentions

We were able to transmit over 1.7 million Mass intentions on your behalf to 40,767 priests around the world! This means that you supported one in ten priests worldwide, and that on average, a Mass was celebrated every 18 seconds somewhere in the world for the intentions of our benefactors.

930 projects supporting religious sisters

Around 10,000 religious sisters received subsistence aid for their apostolate, while the rest of your aid went towards the training of new vocations, retreats, and other essential aspects of their religious life. You supported 380 projects in Africa, 285 in Asia, 90 in Europe, and 173 in Latin America.

10,991 seminarians supported

One in every ten candidates training for the priesthood received your support for their formation in 2023. Most of these were in Africa (5,793), where priestly vocations are the most numerous, followed by 2,103 in Latin America, 1,996 in Asia, and 1,099 in Europe, including over 600 seminarians in Ukraine.

327 projects for the training of catechists and other committed lay pastoral workers

In addition, you also helped fund 130 requests for religious literature and Bibles, allowing 700,000 such books to be distributed.

969 construction projects

Almost a third of the building projects we supported were churches or chapels. You also helped with the construction and renovation of convents, seminaries, parish houses, and pastoral centres. Many of these projects were in Africa, where more than 36% of our building projects took place, but you also helped fund construction work in Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

1,041 means of transportation

You helped provide 515 cars, 340 motorcycles, 175 bicycles, 6 buses, and 5 boats for pastoral ministry. You also helped fund 21 projects supporting the repair of pastoral vehicles.

Together, in 2023, we supported a total of 5,573 projects

These included 942 requests for Mass intentions for priests in dioceses and religious communities and for seminary formators. Many priests have practically no other sources of income and simply could not fulfill their ministry without this help.

Our focus is increasingly shifting towards the need for pastoral accompaniment and support for people in war zones or facing persecution who have suffered deep trauma as a result. This is an area where we hope to further intensify our help.

We also want to step up our help in the Sahel region, where jihadist terrorism is spreading and where Christians are suffering more and more from violence.



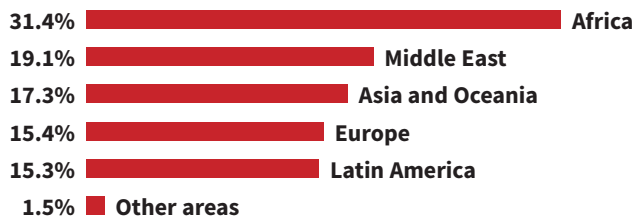
Summary

- Offices in **23** countries
- **359,920** benefactors worldwide
- **\$209,784,887** received in donations and legacies
- Project partners in **138** countries
- **5,573** projects supported worldwide
- **81.3%** of donations used for mission-related expenditures

In 2023, the combined revenue from donations and legacies totaled 209.8 million dollars. Together with 1.2 million dollars in reserves from previous years, we were able to fund activities to the value of 211 million dollars.

Of these funds, 81.3% were allocated to mission-related expenditures. Of this, 85.9% was spent on aid projects, enabling us to support 5,573 projects out of the 7,689 requests we received. The remaining 14.1% was allocated to providing information about our suffering brothers and sisters, proclaiming the faith, and advocacy work on behalf of persecuted Christians.

Aid allocated per region



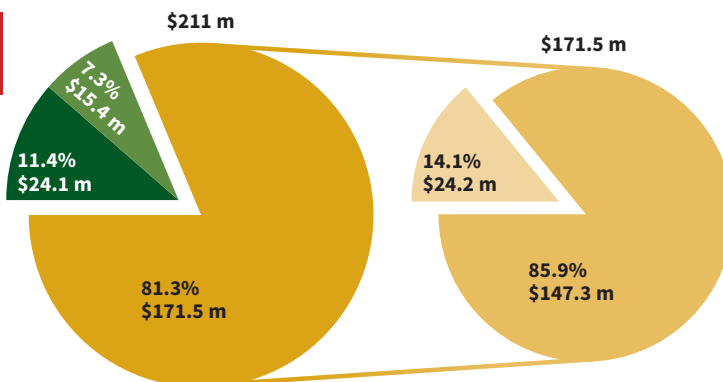
Essential administrative expenditures accounted for 7.3% of the total, and fundraising for 11.4%.

Once again last year, legacies accounted for a substantial proportion of the support for the suffering Church (49 million dollars). Together with our brothers and sisters in need, we gratefully remember our departed benefactors in our prayers.

You can find a detailed report of our activities at: www.acn-canada.org

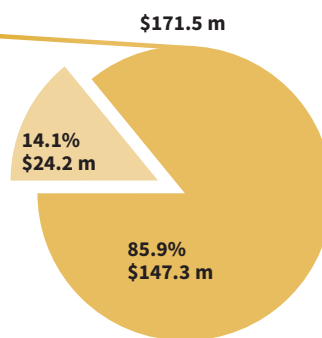
Total expenditures

- Mission-related expenditures
- Administration
- Benefactor relations and outreach



Mission-related expenditures

- Project work
- Information, evangelization and advocacy



Other activities, not funded by donations (e.g., sale of religious literature and other items), yielded an additional revenue of \$6.2 million.



Thank you for your faithful support!

Once again in 2023, you stood faithfully by *Aid to the Church in Need*, donating \$209.8 million. Your compassion and generosity enabled us to support suffering Christians in 138 different countries.

The Church in Africa again received the largest proportion of your aid, with approximately one-third of the total project expenditures going there. Almost one-fifth of all Catholics, over one in every eight priests, around one in seven religious sisters, and close to a third of all the seminarians in the world live on this continent. At the same time, the spread of Islamist violence is causing real concern.

Ukraine received 11 million dollars, more than any other country. The Catholic Church here continues to support those most affected by the war and strives to heal the spiritual and psychological wounds of trauma. Because of this, our support for Europe accounted for 15.4% of project expenditures.

Asia, where Christians are often a discriminated or even persecuted minority, received 17.3%, with increased aid going to, among others, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

In the Middle East (with 19.1%), we primarily helped in Syria and Lebanon, in an effort to assist the Christians there to stay in their homeland. We also responded immediately to the crisis in the Holy Land, with \$569,200.

In Latin America, rural exodus, emigration, the activity of the sects, and hostile anti-Christian regimes posed major challenges for the Church. Here our aid accounted for 15.3% of the total.

Around 26.7% of your support was allocated to the formation of priests, religious, and lay pastoral workers, while Mass intentions for priests and subsistence aid for religious sisters accounted for 21.6%. Given the high cost of building projects, more help was given in this category last year than any other, amounting to a little over one quarter (26.8%) of the total. The rest of your aid was used towards support for pastoral work, including vehicles, religious literature and radio stations, and emergency aid in crisis situations.

Thousands of priests, religious, and laity have been helped and strengthened in their ministry by your generous support. They promise to pray for all our benefactors. Our warmest thanks to you all!