

# MIRROR



**Argentina: Fathers Martin, Gabriel, and Juan celebrating Holy Mass for the intentions of ACN's benefactors.**

## Dear Friends,

The final encyclical of Pope St. John Paul II begins with these words: “The Church draws her life from the Eucharist.” This is a truth which “recapitulates the heart of the mystery of the Church,” as the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” and “contains the Church’s entire spiritual wealth.”

Given that divine truth, I invite you to always entrust your intentions to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in which Christ’s sublime act of redemption is powerfully present.

When you make a Mass offering, the priest celebrates the Holy Eucharist for your intentions. These may be very personal, such as for your marriage, your children, your departed loved ones, for help with a particular need or some other special intention. You may also have Mass offered for more general intentions, for example, for peace, for the pastors of the Church or civil rulers, or in honor of the saints and angels.

Mass intentions are rooted in a very ancient tradition of the Church. The first Christians made offerings and brought gifts of food for the support of their priests and also the poor when they gathered together for worship.



***“It is a very special act of love and mercy to intercede for departed souls through the Sacrifice of the Mass.”***

Similarly, *Aid to the Church in Need* is currently supporting more than 40,000 priests and their work in the world’s poorest countries with your Mass intentions. Without your offerings, many of them could not fulfill their pastoral duties, because both priests and the laity lack the most basic necessities, and their dioceses are unable to give them regular support.

Dear friends, we are only too happy to pass on your Mass intentions, as they do a great deal of good, whether you request single Masses, a Triduum (three Masses celebrated on successive days), a Novena (nine Masses), or what is known as a

Gregorian Mass (30 Masses). A Gregorian Mass, which is celebrated for a departed soul, dates back to the time of Pope St. Gregory the Great, who had daily Masses celebrated for a monk who had died. At the end of 30 days, the monk appeared to him in a vision and assured him that he had been freed from the pains of Purgatory.

Our faith tells us that departed souls in Purgatory can no longer do anything for themselves and are entirely dependent on the intercession of the living and the mercy of God. There is nothing greater we can do for them than the celebration of Holy Mass, making it a very special act of love and mercy to intercede for them through the Sacrifice of the Mass.

As a result, I cordially invite you to consider having Masses offered, and promise you my prayers and blessings.

Father Anton Lässer CP  
Ecclesiastical Assistant



# You are in the hearts of priests all around the world!

Every year, your Mass intentions are received with the greatest joy by thousands of priests all across the globe. In many parts of the world, the faithful are too poor to support their shepherds. With these intentions, not only are they celebrating Mass for you, but you are providing a way for them to accompany their parishioners in defending their rights, in the spirit of Catholic social justice. Here are two examples from South Asia.

Father Herat Mondol ministers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, in southeastern **Bangladesh**. He tells ACN: “We are working here among the Indigenous tribes who live in the hill country. This is a very remote region, where we travel mostly on foot. We cross rivers and climb mountains in order to reach the faithful. There are only a few small towns and villages where there are chapels, and so we usually gather the villagers in some place where we can celebrate Mass and teach the catechism, usually in their homes.”

His brother priest, Father Paulus Murmu, adds: “These people have basically been robbed of their human rights. They don’t formally own any land of their own, so they suffer attacks by the loggers, who come in and cut down the rainforest. In this situation, I minister to our people pastorally. Despite the many dangers and tensions they face, their faith remains strong. I am

very grateful to you for the Mass stipends and only too happy to celebrate Masses for the intentions of our dear benefactors.”

The priests teaching in seminaries are also most grateful for your Mass intentions. The spiritual formation of the young seminarians requires the greatest care and attention, which leaves the priests involved with very little time for parish work. You are helping by providing regular support for the priests at the seminary in Barrackpore, in the **Indian** state of West Bengal, among others. The seminary has the beautiful name of the ‘Morning Star Seminary,’ as it is dedicated to the Virgin Mary (see Pope St. John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*, 3). Here, young men from 30 different dioceses and several religious communities are training for the many challenges they will face as priests in India. Many of them will be sent to work in the extremely poor and remote regions



*On their way to see the faithful—two Oblate Fathers in Bangladesh.*

of North and Northeast India, where the Catholic faithful belonging to ethnic minorities still long for pastors of their own.

Father Sebastian Rodrigues is one of the priests responsible for the seminarians’ formation. He writes, “Celebrating the Holy Mass and experiencing the Lord in the Eucharist is a great joy. It makes me happy to experience just how good God is to me. Thank you for the care and concern you show us by sending these Mass intentions. I am praying for you, and I ask you likewise to pray for my ministry.”

**Last year, over 1.7 million Mass intentions were celebrated for ACN benefactors such as yourself! This represents a Mass every 18 seconds. Again this year, join this great movement of solidarity and send your Mass intentions to our partner priests. Thank you for your support!**



*Every year in India, priests celebrate over 300,000 Masses for your intentions.*



# Our Child's Bible celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> birthday!

***Aid to the Church in Need* has been publishing and distributing its little *Child's Bible God Speaks to His Children* since 1979. It has been translated into 194 different languages and over 51.7 million copies have been printed—all thanks to your help!**

On occasion, this little book has transformed lives. As a child, Rolando Montes (pictured below), from Oca in the Camagüey region of **Cuba**, was given a copy by his parish priest. In the socialist-dominated Cuban state, Bibles were a rare treasure. Today, he himself is a priest. He even took his *Child's Bible* with him to the seminary. "It was through it that I fell in love with God, and this God awakened in me the vocation to the priesthood," he explains. Now, as an adult, he reads the Sacred Scriptures in their entirety, but he nonetheless confesses, "This little book remains my favorite Bible, because through it I came to know Jesus Christ."

Many children have been known to press this little red book to their hearts and kiss

it when they receive it. Some of them have never seen a book before, and many couldn't have dared to dream they would ever own one. The brightly colored illustrations immediately appeal to them, and there is also an accompanying poster series that can be used for teaching purposes. Together, they are a simple but effective way of conveying the Gospel message to children.

In Northwest **Kenya**, for example, *God Speaks to His Children* is used by Sister Lillian Omari among the Turkana people. Like the better-known Maasai, the Turkana also live a traditionally nomadic lifestyle. Many have adopted a more settled way of life now, but most still roam with their herds of cattle, going wherever there is

pasture and water to be found. Most only speak their native language, and so the official languages of Kenya—English and Swahili—are foreign languages to them. But they can understand the *Child's Bible* since it was printed in their own Turkana language, and it is loved even by those who cannot read or write. "Given the colorful illustrations in the book, they can look at it, leaf through it, handle it, and of course, even listen to the Word," explains Sister Lillian. It is one of the means that has helped us to teach the faith in this region. We are grateful to all ACN's benefactors who have supported this project and made it possible for the *Child's Bible* to be translated into so many different languages."

It is important that the children do not encounter the Word of God as something foreign, but as something familiar, in their own language, as a voice that speaks directly to their hearts.



**In celebration of the 45th anniversary of the *Child's Bible God Speaks to His Children*, be among those who help spread the Word of God around the world. Your donation of \$180 will allow us to distribute a dozen Bibles. Thank you!**



# Pray?

## More than ever!

One Million Children Praying the Rosary

**Year after year, this activity organized by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has become a key event. On Friday, October 18, children and families around the world are called to pray for world peace by praying the Rosary.**



For Catholics, this age-old prayer is a way of entering into hope. Many citizens, even believers, experience a certain gloom in the face of conflicts, terrorism, and economic difficulties that are increasingly present in our world. To counter this feeling—and above all, because praying is a gesture of solidarity with, and a request for, the victims of war and terrorism—more than ever, we must pray.

Aid to the Church in Need Canada invites you to be part of this meaningful global movement of prayer for peace on October 18.

## You can participate by:

- **Organizing an activity in your pastoral setting or school.**  
To obtain campaign material, submit your request in writing to Ms. Valérie Vulcain at: [vv@acn-canada.org](mailto:vv@acn-canada.org) or call 1-800-585-6333, ext. 227.
- **Joining in the virtual prayer group that will take place on Friday, October 18 at 7 p.m.**  
To register for the virtual event with your children or grandchildren, please visit: <https://acn-canada.org/one-million-children/>

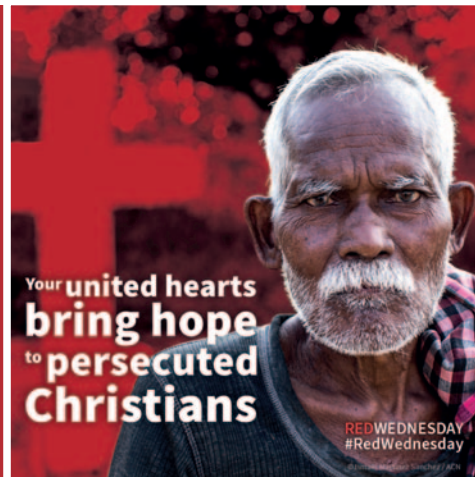
**We await you in large numbers! Together, more than ever, let us show solidarity and unite in prayer for peace!**

# Save the date!

On Wednesday, November 20, everywhere in Canada, it is **RED WEDNESDAY.**

To stay informed, visit us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram:

<https://www.facebook.com/AidChurch>,  
[https://twitter.com/acn\\_canada1](https://twitter.com/acn_canada1),  
<https://www.instagram.com/acn.canada/>.



**Regina Lynch**  
Executive President,  
ACN (International)

*Dear Friends,*

*I grew up in Ireland with a wonderful tradition of having a Mass celebrated not only for the repose of the soul of the dead but also for the soul of the living. We would offer what we called “Mass bouquets” for wedding anniversaries, birthdays, or for someone’s success in exams. In other words, it was a way to celebrate something wonderful. The message of congratulations would be conveyed in a greeting card and would relay that a Mass was going to be celebrated for the receiver. As the recipient of such a “bouquet,” I was moved to know that a Mass somewhere—in my home parish or in a missionary country—was being celebrated for my intention. What a great gift that infinitely surpassed any beautiful flower bouquet.*

*Thankfully, this tradition continues in many countries today and brings not only joy to the recipient, but it also ensures that the celebrant has a small income. This is particularly important for the priests, who receive Mass intentions through ACN and who are totally reliant on the offerings of their faithful, who themselves often struggle to survive.*

*So the next time you wish to gift something precious to someone you love, remember the Mass bouquet!*

*Regina Lynch*

Send your donation to: *Aid to the Church in Need (Canada) Inc.*  
P.O. Box 670, Stn. H, Montreal, QC H3G 2M6  
(514) 932-0552 – 1-800-585-6333

Website: [www.acn-canada.org](http://www.acn-canada.org) – email: [info@acn-canada.org](mailto:info@acn-canada.org)  
Registration number 13036 2593 RR0001

Please indicate your benefactor number in your correspondence.

**Editor:** ACN International,  
Postfach 1209, D-61452 Königstein, Germany  
**Responsible publisher:**  
Marie-Claude Lalonde, Aid to the Church in Need (Canada) Inc. (See address – opposite).  
De licentia competentis auctoritatis ecclesiasticae – Printed in Canada –  
[www.acn-canada.org](http://www.acn-canada.org)

