

PRAYING

INFORMING

GIVING



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

**Faith**  
and **hope,**  
at the heart of action



Dear Readers,

Your hope goes a long way. Indeed, it takes faith in a better future to continue, as you do, supporting your sisters and brothers in Christ around the world.

You could easily throw in the towel, as the saying goes. So much violence, war, resentment, hatred, and greed are destroying our world. What can be done? Because of Christ, I dare respond with this important value: hope!

It is thanks to hope that I continue to write to you regularly, conscious of your generous attention and care for the world and your passion for the Church, which strives to love in so many ways.

Indeed, it takes a heart full of love to visit and feed communities living through the insecurity of conflict, like in Mozambique. It takes great generosity on the part of young seminarians to continue their training to become priests in the midst of a society in crisis, like in Lebanon. It takes wisdom on the part of those who wish to continue serving to decide to confront their own wounds and traumas, like in Nigeria. It takes great determination and a sense of witness—at times to the point of martyrdom—to defend girls and women facing extreme threats of violence to their dignity, like in Pakistan.

It's your love that enables all these Christian communities around the world to bear witness in turn to God's love, day after day.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Have a wonderful spring!

**Marie-Claude Lalonde**  
National Director



## A FEW PROJECTS WE SUPPORTED IN 2024

### ASIA

- Construction of a chapel in the village of Bhuiapara, in the parish of St. Theresa, **Bangladesh**
- Subsistence aid for religious sisters and catechists in the Diocese of Kandy, **Sri Lanka**

### CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

- Training of 13 seminarians in the propaedeutic and discipleship stages at St. Charles and St. Ambrose Seminary (Seminario San Carlos y San Ambrosio), 2024-2025, **Cuba**
- Renovation of the roof at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral (Catedral Nuestra Señora del Carmen), Putumayo, **Colombia**
- 3,000 copies of the American Bible in Spanish for the evangelization mission "Lord, you have the word of eternal life" in the dioceses of Sonsonate, Santa Ana, Zacatecoluca, San Miguel, and Santiago de María, **El Salvador**

### AFRICA

- Training of 90 major seminarians from the Diocese of Mbulu, 2024-2025, **Tanzania**
- Emergency aid for parents of priests and religious affected by the security crisis in the Diocese of Dédougou, **Burkina Faso**
- Vehicle for the bishop of Hwange, **Zimbabwe**

**Cover page:** Nigerian women thank you, Diocese of Makurdi, Nigeria © Philipp Ozores / ACN



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# When it comes to healing, you are an exceptional support!

**For many years, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has been able to count on you to support members of the Church who have suffered trauma as a result of conflict and war. Thanks to you, people are finally regaining their will to live as well as their mental and physical health, allowing them to serve their Christian and local communities once again.**

"We live in a society that is ravaged by war, banditry, kidnapping, and bad governance with low earnings and high cost of living," writes Fr. Gabriel from the Diocese of Katsina in Nigeria. "These and more have made many people enter into psychological and spiritual depression. Working as an assistant parish priest at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Funtua, Katsina State, Nigeria, where the church was burnt down two consecutive times as a result of a religious crisis, I encountered people who experienced the ugly events and saw how traumatized they were. Many kept counting their losses... As a parish priest for about two years, I discovered that a lot of people, the educated and uneducated, cannot differentiate between the situations in their lives which are spiritual and those that are psychological and medical, and require medical or psychological attention."



Without you, it wouldn't be possible to respond favourably to the requests for healing coming in from all over—requests that affect the people described in Fr. Gabriel's letter. But with you, training programs like the one at the Lux Terra Psycho-Spiritual Institute (PSI) in Kenya are restoring souls.

"Drawing from the best of the Christian spiritual tradition, and using up-to-date psychotherapeutic tools, approaches, and methodologies for healing troubled minds, and taking into cognizance the peculiar African historical, religious, and sociological context, PSI offers high-quality professional training in an environment of faith and Christian devotion," describes the institute.

**You are among those who can support the healing of our sisters' and brothers' wounded souls. In this Jubilee Year, continue to give hope!**



**Watch a video about this magnificent project →**





# You are nourishing bodies and souls!

**This isn't the first time you have read about Mozambique. Time and again, you have responded with compassion to calls for help from the Church in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. Your generosity is always received with immense gratitude.**

"It's only thanks to that help that I can speak today," shared a 54-year-old father who lost two of his eight children to the ongoing violence in this region since 2017. "Me, my family, and the other families, we are very grateful... Without this help, we wouldn't be able to live."

Sister Aparecida Queiroz coordinates an emergency unit in this region. She wrote to us:

"The image contemplated by the missionary teams in these areas hit by attacks is that of 'stunned, sad' faces, of people in 'despair.' The help received from ACN was the most beautiful realization of what it is to be in the presence of God, who welcomes and feeds the hungry. Once again, thank you so much for your solidarity, which transforms people's faces of pain into faces of hope." A donation of \$55 helps feed a family of six for one month. Thank you for giving hope!





## A spiritual life to nurture

Faithful to its primary mission, ACN continues to support pastoral life, even in the midst of violence. Thanks to your big heart, priests and religious sisters manage to visit the 15 parishes at least three times a year. Access is by plane, as the road to get there has become too dangerous.

"I am so grateful to all those who support us and allow us to be close to the people. Aid to the Church in Need has helped our priests in this way, so that they can provide spiritual support to those who suffer, and I would like to express my thanks to all those who have contributed, making this possible. Thank you very much!" - Bishop António Juliasse, Diocese of Pemba.

Furthermore, another way of ensuring a spiritual presence is by producing radio programs, which you help to support. Except that the antenna destroyed by Cyclone Chido will have to be rebuilt.

These many ways of being God's presence are manifested through your generosity. Without you, thousands of Mozambicans would already be dead, victims of an enduring conflict.

**Be among those who support the bodies and souls of our sisters and brothers wounded by violence. In this Jubilee Year, continue to give hope!**

**Watch a video  
about Mozambique →**





**Lebanon**

# Help train future pillars of the Church

**Every year, many of you support religious formation. In recent months, the training of young Syriac Catholic seminarians has come under great pressure.**



You are certainly aware of the violence that regularly shakes the Middle East. In Lebanon, our Eastern-rite Christian sisters and brothers are not spared. In the village of Sharfé, home to the only Syriac Catholic seminary in the world, 15 seminarians continue their training, despite insecurity, fear, and the extreme violence of falling bombs.

You support the pillars of the Church in Lebanon: priests and religious. Thus, they accompany the faithful, celebrate the sacraments, and organize summer camps for youth, often travelling long distances to reach remote villages, including in predominantly Muslim regions. Their presence is a living testimony of faith and resilience.

In a letter to ACN, the rector of the seminary, Msgr. Jules Boutros, warmly thanks you:

"I would like to thank you for all the good that you have done for our Eastern Churches in the Middle East. Thank you for your care and commitment and for considering us here in Lebanon as part of the one Body of Christ, for your aid that will be sustaining the long heritage and the good work of our seminary. Thanks to the benefactors who trust our shared mission. We assure our prayer to every one of you. I ask and pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to bless all your works and efforts."

The Church is involved in emergency aid linked to the economic crisis and war, but cannot ask its faithful to support Lebanon's future priests alone. She also needs you, trusting that you will respond with love. Thanks to your generosity, the future of the Syriac Catholic Church in Lebanon is one of hope. A donation of \$150 will help ensure the training of a seminarian for one month.



**You can be among those who support the priestly formation of these future pillars of the Syriac Catholic Church. In this Jubilee Year, continue to give hope!**

**Watch a video showing the challenges facing the Church in Lebanon →**



# Your solidarity with our Pakistani sisters in Christ contributes to their dignity

**You are no doubt familiar with the three words that inspire the work of Aid to the Church in Need: *Praying, Informing, Giving*. In recent years, more and more of you have been informing yourselves about the issues facing Christians in minority situations in other countries. This sign of your empathy for your sisters and brothers is moving and gives hope.**

In Pakistan, religious minorities—Christians and Hindus in particular—live in extremely difficult conditions. The blasphemy law and Islamist extremist groups are undermining the government's efforts over the past few years to promote peaceful coexistence.

Furthermore, if you are a girl or a woman, the risk of mistreatment increases significantly. Unscrupulous men can kidnap you, force you to convert and marry, and enslave you for life. Not to mention the sexual violence of all kinds that thousands of girls and women suffer every day.

The Catholic Church, through the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), works tirelessly and courageously to denounce this situation, in addition to raising awareness and educating on the subject. Thanks to you, the commission is also able to support young girls and women in their legal proceedings should they decide

to take the criminals to court. Thanks to the work of the CCJP, these girls and women can hope to regain not only their freedom, but also their dignity.

**You can support the CCJP in its fight for our Pakistani sisters in Christ. In this Jubilee Year, continue to give hope!**

Watch a video related to the situation  
of Pakistani Christians →





**In Mozambique, the cut-up Christ on the cross represents the suffering of persecuted Christians. Fortunately, more than ever, these Christians maintain their faith in the risen Christ!**



*Thank you*  
**for supporting these  
witnesses of hope!**



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