



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

# MIRROR



## Dear Friends,

Each May is treasured in the Catholic Church as a month of special devotion to Our Blessed Lady. I am sure you, too, pay special honour to Mary during this time, by decorating her image with flowers and offering an even more fervent tribute to her through the prayer of the Rosary.

There are countless testimonies, from all over the world, of Christians who have benefited from concrete help and experienced miracles through Mary's intercession. In this issue of the *Mirror*, we present individuals who embody this trust in Our Lady and her help.

In a tradition rooted in centuries-old experience, the Church honours Mary under many different titles, such as: *Mother most amiable, Virgin most merciful, Virgin most faithful, Virgin most powerful, Mother of good counsel, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Consoler of the afflicted, Help of Christians, Cause of our joy...*

It was in this spirit that, at the beginning of May, our president, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, consecrated ACN to Mary. He did so in Rome, in the presence of ACN pilgrims. He also prayed for you, dear benefactors, and for all ACN collaborators and partners. To Jesus, through Mary, he prayed as follows:

*O Mary, Mother of God, we come to you at this solemn moment. All the thoughts of our hearts lie open to you. O Mother of Mercy, how often we have experienced your tender loving care, your peaceful presence, in which you lead us always to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.*

*O Queen of the Holy Rosary, awaken in us once more the desire to pray and to love.*

*O Queen of the human family, teach all the nations the way of brotherly love.*

*O Queen of Peace, beseech your Son to grant peace to this world.*

*O Holy Mother, in so many ways this troubled and wearied human family stands with you beneath the Cross. We feel the need to turn to you, to seek your help and, through you, to consecrate ourselves to Jesus Christ.*

*We entrust ourselves to you and, through your Immaculate Heart, we consecrate to your divine Son Jesus Christ, Our Lord and God, our charity Aid to the Church in Need, all our staff, our benefactors, and all whom we are privileged to serve, together with our projects, plans, and travels, our families and our vocations, and all for whom we are responsible before God.*

*Graciously accept this act of consecration which we now make with confidence and love. Grant us the grace to faithfully serve God and all mankind and protect us from all dangers in this time. Accompany us and lead us safely to the true goal of our lives, to perfect communion in God, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

My greetings to you all, united with you in this prayer.

*F. Anton Lässer CP*

Father Anton Lässer CP  
Ecclesiastical Assistant





*Pakistan: Fervently praying to the Mother of God.*

# Refuge in Mary and Our Eucharistic Lord

**Your solidarity in countries where violence reigns is a balm. Thanks to you, people find refuge in places where the Church can protect them, physically and spiritually.**

“We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin,” reads one of the Church’s oldest Marian prayers. In **Pakistan**, Christians in need do take refuge under the protection of the Mother of God, and now they want to build a shrine to honour her as Our Lady of Peace and Hope. Archbishop Joseph Arshad of Islamabad-Rawalpindi Diocese explains: “As Catholics, we believe that the Holy Rosary is a mighty protection in all the grave trials, temptations, and hardships of life. It is one of the powerful weapons the faithful have been given in the fight against evil.”

The shrine will be built in the north of his diocese, in an easily accessible area, where many Pakistanis go in the summer because it is cooler. The shrine will also be easy for Muslims to reach, many of whom also venerate Mary. In fact, many Muslim women without children often seek help from the Blessed Virgin Mary. And so this shrine can become a place of peace and reconciliation.

**Support the creation of this shrine! An amount of \$156,200 is needed. Thanks to you, the people of Pakistan will find refuge in the Blessed Virgin.**

In the town of Amuzi, in southeast **Nigeria**, the parish church is likewise dedicated to Our Lady. Now they want to build a separate chapel where Eucharistic Adoration can be held at all hours. There is already a group in the parish committed to this Perpetual Adoration. “At any time of the day and night, you can find someone in our church, adoring before the Lord,” says the parish priest Father Michael Okafor. But at the moment, parishioners’ prayers before the Blessed Sacrament are inevitably interrupted by weddings, funerals, and other liturgies and events that also take place inside the church.

So a separate Adoration Chapel would mean that Christ can be adored around the clock. “In our catechetical instruction, we constantly talk about the power of the Eucharistic Lord, who in the wealth of His Glory can help us in all our



*Nigeria: This little girl has a deep love for Jesus.*

needs,” Father Michael adds. The local Catholic faithful have made great sacrifices to pay for the new chapel, but they are very poor and, ultimately, can only supply a small part of the funding needed.

**Help us raise the \$23,400 needed. Thanks to your big heart, our Eucharistic Lord—so often forgotten in our western countries—will be honoured in Nigeria and present to assist those who seek his help.**





*São Tomé and Príncipe: Staying close to the poor.*



*Peru: The women know they can rely on Sister Jessica.*

## Following Mary's example

**Advocate and Helper in Every Need, Mediatrix of Graces, Comforter of the Afflicted – these are just some of the titles given to St Mary. Just as at Cana, when the Blessed Virgin brought the plight of the wedding party to the heart of her Divine Son, so today she brings our needs to His loving attention. Around the world, almost 600,000 religious women now follow her example, identifying the need around them with maternal hearts and striving to remedy the situation. You can help!**

“Good morning, Sister!” The happy voices of children ring out in innumerable orphanages around the world. Many of these children would not be alive if the sisters had not taken them in. Some were left abandoned as babies, others are disabled or have suffered abuse. In many cases, the mother died during labour. Other times, their parents have AIDS or leprosy, or are addicts. Many of the children were left to fend for themselves, sleeping in landfills, in cemeteries, or in sewers. Not a few were rescued from the clutches of criminal

gangs. The sisters also offer shelter to young girls who were thrown out of their homes for becoming pregnant – often as a result of rape. And sometimes the sisters are able to reconcile and reunite them with their families.

The sisters also visit the vulnerable elderly, who live in dilapidated huts, to wash and feed them, pray with them, and bring a rare smile to their lips. They care for the sick, stay close to the dying, visit prisoners, rescue prostitutes from the

streets, and pull drug addicts out of their despair. They know who needs help, in which house they are crying, and who has hidden potential that needs to be nurtured and allowed to flourish. Many faces marked by suffering light up at the sight of the sisters.

Most of these religious sisters offer their faithful service for the love of God alone, often going unnoticed. Bishop Raymond Mupandasekwa of Masvingo Diocese, in Zimbabwe, comments: “Often people only tend to talk about the priests; they say he’s doing good work. But frequently it is the religious sisters who bear the greatest burden, often without recognition.” On one occasion, a sister wrote to the bishop, thanking him for supporting a young girl who was wheelchair-bound and had finished her schooling with top grades. But it was the sister herself who had encouraged him to take an interest in the girl. “It wasn’t me as bishop, or the priest, who had singled out this girl, but the sister herself.”

**Thanks to your help, ACN supports more than 20,000 religious sisters in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe each year, providing them with subsistence aid. You can choose to be one of those who recognize their extraordinary work, in the image of Mary. With a donation between \$50 and \$100, you can support a religious sister so that she may continue to care for the most vulnerable.**



*India: This child with a disability knows he is loved and supported.*





## Miraculously protected

Back in September 2024, the city of Lviv in Western **Ukraine** was hit by a nocturnal rocket attack. Seven people died and 51 were injured.

Also damaged was the building shared by members of the congregation of the Little Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Franciscan Family of Mary.

The sisters themselves were unhurt, as they were praying the Rosary in the sitting room at the time. Had they been asleep in their beds, it is likely that some would have been killed. The force of the explosion also blew out the doors and windows of the chapel. The reason the sisters had not gathered in the chapel was that – woken by the air raid alert at around 4 a.m. – they were not dressed in their religious habits and didn't want to appear before the Blessed Sacrament without them. So they were also saved by their respect for Christ in the Eucharist.



**Benefactors like you helped with \$7,800 and as a result, the sanctuary is resplendent in beauty once more. A big thank you!**



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

*Dear Friends,*

*I think that most of us have at some point visited our national Marian shrine, but how many of us are aware of the hundreds of other Marian shrines scattered around the world? One that I would like to mention today is Kibeho in Rwanda, where Our Lady, appearing between 1981 and 1989 to three young schoolgirls, conveyed messages considered to be prophetic, considering the recent tragic history of Rwanda.*

*In the early years of the apparitions that are officially recognized by the Church, Our Blessed Mother repeatedly called for repentance and conversion, while there is still time. She lamented how the world conducted itself very badly and risked falling into the abyss. During one of the apparitions, the visionaries saw a river of blood and many people being killed. Sadly, just over ten years later, in 1994, a genocide resulted in the estimated death of 800,000 people. Today, this shrine is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows and has become a centre for reconciliation not only for the Rwandan population but for people in other parts of the world marked by conflict.*

*Bishop Misago, one of the local Rwandan bishops at the time of the first apparitions, said that the messages of the Mother of God should lead us to rediscover the Gospel of brotherly love. It is a message for each one of us.*

*Regina Lynch*

## Mark your calendars!



**You are  
the voice of  
persecuted  
Christians!**

Join us on  
November 19<sup>th</sup>

**REDWEDNESDAY**  
#RedWednesday

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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)  
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