



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

# Annual Report 2024

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Dear Friends,

As we write to you during this Jubilee year, when we are all called to be Pilgrims of Hope, we see this hope confirmed in a tangible way when we look at our Annual Report for 2024.

Thanks to your generosity, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has been able to bring hope to hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters in faith, who face daily challenges such as persecution, wars, or sheer poverty. Many of you experience your own hardships but still you answer God's call to bring hope to others.

In this report, you will see a summary of the different types of projects that ACN funded during 2024 in answer to the needs of the local Church in 137 countries worldwide. At the core of each project is the desire to help the Church be the instrument of God's message of love for all humankind. We also present to you figures showing the revenue and expenditures.

Be assured that the bishops, priests, religious, and laity, who benefit from your generosity and who are also Pilgrims of Hope, are praying for you continuously.



*Regina Lynch*

**Regina Lynch**  
International Executive President



*M.C.L.*

**Marie-Claude Lalonde**  
National Director

## How Your Gifts Were Used



### 1,836,591 Mass intentions

In 2024, you helped one in ten priests by passing on your Mass intentions to them. More than 1.8 million Mass intentions were sent to 42,252 priests—the highest number ACN has supported in its history. On average, every 17 seconds, Mass was celebrated for the intentions of one of our benefactors somewhere in the world.

### 867 projects supporting religious sisters

You helped around 6,030 religious sisters, providing basic support for their life and ministry. You also helped with the formation of novices; essential structural work for convents; vital equipment (such as sewing and bread machines, vehicles, etc.), and spiritual retreats and exercises. The greatest number of projects were for Africa (298) and Asia (282).

### Supporting the training of 9,961 seminarians

In 2024, one in every 11 seminarians around the world received assistance from ACN for their priestly formation. The majority were in Africa (5,305)—which has almost one third of all seminarians in the world—and you also helped 1,824 in Latin America, 1,752 in Asia, and 1,080 in Europe, including over 700 seminarians in Ukraine.

### 805 projects training catechists and other lay leaders.

Thanks to you, we were also able to positively respond to **106 requests for Bibles and other religious publications**. As a result, around 844,200 religious books were sent out, the majority in Latin America.

### 755 construction projects

Once again in 2024, you helped build and renovate churches, chapels, convents, seminaries, presbyteries, and pastoral centres. Given the high cost of such projects, this category accounted for 23.6%—the largest percentage of our total allocated aid.

### 1,141 means of transportation for pastoral work

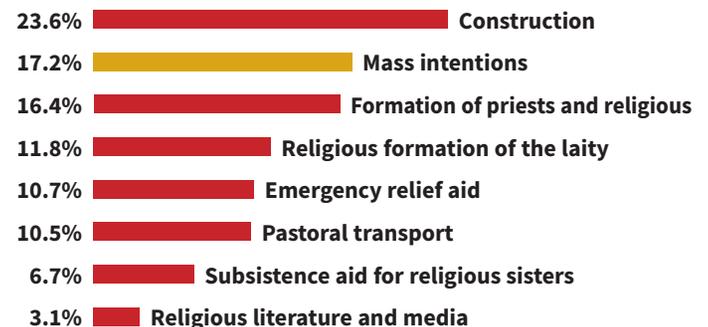
You helped provide a total of 474 cars, 264 motorcycles, 388 bicycles, 3 buses, 1 truck, and 11 boats for pastoral work in remote and inaccessible regions.

### In 2024, you helped fund a total of 5,335 projects

These included 976 requests for Mass intentions for priests serving in dioceses, religious communities, and seminaries. Without this help—which in some cases is their only source of income—many priests simply could not continue their ministry.

There has been a growing need for pastoral and psychological help for people traumatized by war or persecution—so we have increased our aid in this area.

We have also intensified our help in the Sahel region of northern Africa, where Islamic jihadist terrorism is spreading and Christians are increasingly suffering from extremist violence.





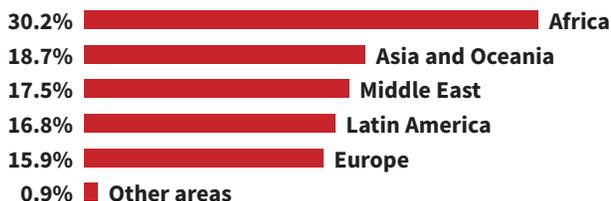
## Summary

- Offices in **23** countries
- **358,195** benefactors worldwide
- **\$206,400,015** received in donations and legacies
- Project partners in **137** countries
- **5,335** projects supported worldwide
- **79.8%** of donations used for mission-related expenditures

**In 2024, the combined revenue from donations and legacies totalled 206.4 million dollars. Together with 3.3 million dollars in reserves from previous years, we were able to fund activities to the value of 209.7 million dollars.**

Of these funds, 79.8% was allocated to mission-related expenditures. Of this, 84.7% was spent on aid projects, enabling us to support 5,335 projects out of the 7,296 requests we received. The remaining 15.3% was allocated to providing information about our suffering brothers and sisters, proclaiming the faith, and advocacy

## Aid allocated per region



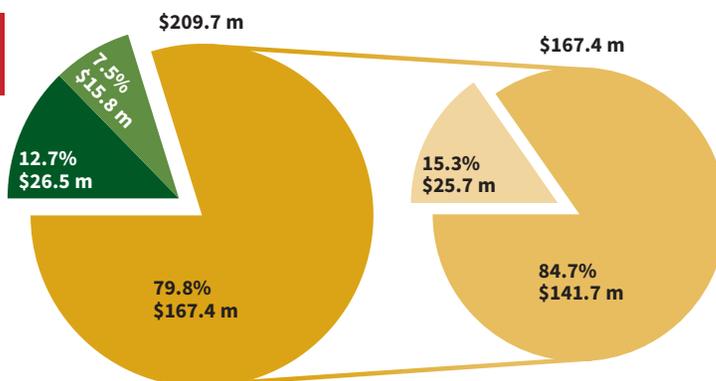
work on behalf of persecuted Christians. Essential administrative expenditures accounted for 7.5% of the total, and advertising, 12.7%.

Last year, legacies once again accounted for a substantial proportion of the support for the suffering Church (44.7 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](http://www.acn-canada.org)

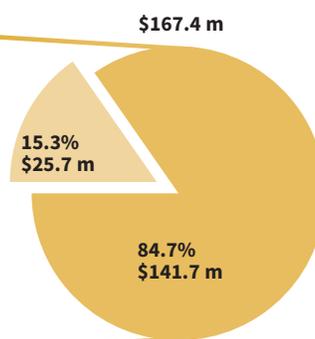
## Total expenditures

- 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 \$6.1 million.



## Thank you for your generous support!

**Once again in 2024, you—our faithful benefactors—opened your hearts to the needs of the Church throughout the world, giving 206.4 million dollars. This allowed us to help suffering Christians in 137 countries around the world.**

Our help for Africa accounted for the largest slice—30.2%—of our project aid last year. The Church in Africa is growing rapidly and is blessed with large numbers of priestly and religious vocations. Africa suffers not only from deep poverty but also from escalating jihadist terrorism in numerous countries. For example, in Burkina Faso alone, our aid has tripled over the past four years as a result.

Ukraine was again the single country receiving the greatest proportion of our assistance. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in February 2022, we have given 37 million dollars in aid, which has increasingly focused on counselling and supporting those suffering from trauma. We are also continuing to help priests and religious with basic support for their life and ministry, helping to train semina-

rians and providing transport, as well as assisting with essential heating for the winter. Altogether, our help for Europe accounted for 15.9% of our total aid project expenditure.

18.7% of our aid went to Asia (including 0.9% for Oceania), where Christians in many countries are a small and often persecuted minority. We increased our aid in countries such as Burma (Myanmar), Pakistan, and Vietnam.

In the Middle East, our aid (17.5%) was primarily for the Holy Land where, following the escalation of the hostilities in the Gaza Strip, we managed to provide extensive help for Christian families, both there and in Lebanon and Syria.

In Latin America, the major challenges for the Church included rural emigration, aggressive proselytism by sects and hostile anti-Christian regimes. Our aid here accounted for 16.8% of the total.

Thanks to your help, thousands of priests, religious, and lay Christians have been given new hope. They assure you of their grateful prayers.