

PRAYING

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Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

UNDO PARA CUID



**Listen,  
Serve,  
Love!**



## Attentive to the World—That’s You!

**Listen. Serve. Love.** This fall issue highlights inspiring people with generous hearts—just like you.

As you read their stories, you will surely feel proud, for you are among those who faithfully sustain them. Without you, the Church could not carry out its mission fully each day.

Thanks to your generosity, the project partners of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) can listen to the world without being of the world (Jn. 17:15). Your involvement creates miracles, sparking acts of love that inspire and protect.

In Mauritania, your love makes Christ visible through the Welcome-Listening (*Accueil-Écoute*) Centre, which supports migrants and the poor. In Peru, you help missionaries and religious sisters cross mountains and rivers to reach isolated faithful—a presence described as “deep and holistic.” Then, through your support of Catholic media, you answer Pope Leo XIV’s call to foster communication that listens, builds, and disarms. Finally, in the Philippines, you helped build a church where farmers find rest, peace, and beauty. By your great faith, you are like the angels placed in the framework during the construction of their parish church.

Dear friends, what you accomplish every day can be summed up in three simple words: **listening, service, love**. Thank you for being faithful witnesses with us through your gifts and prayers.

With gratitude,

**Marie-Claude Lalonde**  
National Director



## A FEW PROJECTS WE SUPPORTED IN 2024

### ASIA

- Pastoral training for catechists and tribal leaders, as well as training for young boys and girls belonging to the Reang communities, 2025-2028, **India**
- Construction of a residence for priests in the parish of Ghorarpar, **Bangladesh**

### SOUTH AMERICA

- Training of 39 seminarians at the Saint Peter Major Seminary in Portoviejo, academic year 2025, **Ecuador**
- Restoration of the parish hall of the Parish of St. Anthony of Padua, **Peru**
- Training and evangelization in private education – fifth stage of the project: Proclaim the Good News to All Creation (Sophia Foundation), **Uruguay**

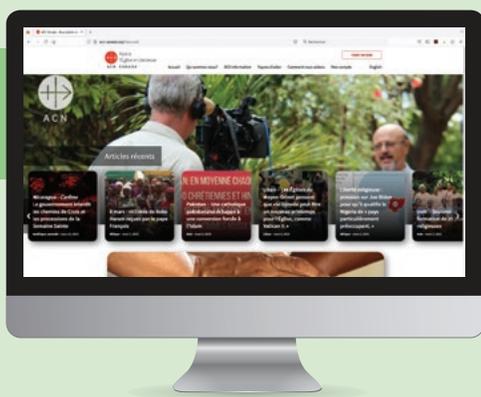
### AFRICA

- Completion of the construction of a training centre at the motherhouse for the Visitation Daughters of Mary’s Congregation, **Kenya**
- Repair of the parish church of St. Joseph in Lichinga, **Mozambique**
- Vehicle for the bishop of Hwange, **Zimbabwe**

### MIDDLE EAST

- Pastoral activities for 300 students of the Antonine University Chaplaincy (Hadath, Zahlé, Zgharta, November 2024 – September 2025), **Lebanon**

**Cover page:** A mother with her child, after her catechism class on baptism, in the Andean community of Caluyo, prelatore of Ayaviri (Puno, Peru).



**Visit our website:**  
<https://acn-canada.org>



**Writing and adaptation of texts:** ACN International Communications Department and Mario Bard, ACN Canada.

**Revision:** Marie-Claude Lalonde, ACN Canada.

Reviewed by Paul Charland and Liane Bayard, ACN Canada.

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**Mauritania**

# Make Christ Visible to the Most Vulnerable

**At the edge of the Sahara and along migration routes, a hand of hope reaches out to you.**



Your generosity is already rooted in a country where Christians form a tiny minority: Mauritania. With barely four people per square kilometre, it is one of the least densely populated places on earth, and fewer than a thousand residents openly profess the Christian faith. Your love can truly make a difference.

For several years now, you have supported this community, faithful to the Church's social teaching. One key initiative of the diocese is the Welcome-Listening (*Accueil-Écoute*) Centre.

Franck Paulin, Aid to the Church in Need's project manager for part of Northwest Africa, highlights its mission: "It's a harbour where everyone is welcomed in the name of Christ through caring and loving gestures in a context of systemic misery."

Managed by Sister Marie-Ange Ndayishimiye, *Welcome-Listening* runs with a small but dedicated team: two religious sisters and a laywoman who welcome, guide, and help migrants without distinction of faith or origin. You can share in the work of this centre, which tailors its assistance to each person's needs—food parcels, medical care, one-time rent payments, job counselling, and help with administrative procedures.

Without your contribution, this vibrant Church—located in the heart of an Islamic republic—would not be able to carry out such work, which makes "the presence of Christ visible in this environment," wrote Bishop Victor Ndione, the current bishop of Nouakchott.

Sister Marie-Ange is deeply grateful for your constant help. "On behalf of the team at *Accueil-Écoute*, I want to say a big thank you. Your gifts are helping many migrants who have difficulty finding something to eat or obtaining medical care and somewhere to stay. May God reward you abundantly."

**Today, in Mauritania and around the world, you can continue to stand with those who welcome and listen. Wherever the Church makes a difference in the lives of the poorest, it is all because of your love. Thank you!**

**To make your donation, use the QR code. Thank you! →**



# In Peru, Your Help Is “Holistic”

**The love our project partners hold for you knows no distance!**

In Peru—a mythical land thanks to its rich history and ever-exuberant, diverse wilderness—your generosity is recognized with brilliant intensity. In 2023, Bishop Marco Antonio Cortez from the Diocese of Tacna and Moquegua wrote to us: “Aid to the Church in Need’s support is essential, profoundly holistic. We feel that benefactors are close. Their help goes beyond finances. It is another way of being near us. People notice this gesture, and it is very beautiful.”

His letter is one of thousands received each year, praising you and encouraging you to keep going. As in many other dioceses, the pastoral support you provide in this poor, mountainous, and hard-to-reach region of Peru transforms the life of the Church and the wider community.

Missionaries, catechists, priests, and religious sisters can all be the salt of the earth and a reflection of the light of the world—thanks to your gifts.

Bishop Cortez shared the example of sisters who travel long distances along the steep trails of the Altiplano to reach the faithful. “The greatest challenge is simply to be there and to accompany,” he explained. “Those living in such places rarely have the chance to receive a priest, who can often only visit once a year. Some areas are accessible only by boat, and the sisters make the journey so that people can at least take part in Eucharistic adoration.”

Through your generosity, you are also close to migrants, without even realizing it. In Peru, like in Mozambique, Sudan, and Lebanon, the Church constantly welcomes those seeking a better life. They flee the horrors of conflict, economic violence, or religious hatred.

**Thanks to you, migrants are welcomed and the Church can fulfill the words of the Gospel: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35).**



**To make your donation, use the QR code. Thank you! →**





**Hear and See the Good News**

# Disarm Communication

**All over the world, your generosity allows millions of people to hear and see the Good News proclaimed by the Church through Catholic media.**

Your support makes it possible to develop countless media projects in the most remote corners of the earth. Your generosity is a true sign of love in announcing the Word of God.

## Supporting Media Outlets “Capable of Listening”

You know how deeply television, radio, cinema, and now the digital world shape society. Your help sustains the positive presence the Church wishes to bring to the world. During his address to representatives of the media on May 12, 2025, Pope Leo XIV reiterated an invitation made by Pope Francis in his message for this year’s World Day of Social Communications:

*“Let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred; let us free it from aggression. We do not need loud, forceful communication, but rather communication that is capable of listening and of gathering the voices of the weak who have no voice. Let us disarm words and we will help to disarm the world.”*

Through your support of Catholic media, you answer this call. In parts of Latin America and Africa, such a presence is vital. Too often, the power of sectarian media spreads division and confusion.

By helping Catholic media, you stand with the pope’s vision: a disarmed communication that aims to serve those whom this noisy world too often forgets—the poor, the marginalized living on the peripheries, and those wounded by life.

Thanks to you, SIPCATV, for example, produces high-quality Catholic television programs and documentaries that reach religious broadcasters across Latin America and Spanish-language stations in the United States. We already support this important work with over \$100,000 each year, benefitting millions of viewers in more than 20 countries.

**Because of you, the means of communication placed in the Church’s hands become pathways leading to conversion and to a deepening of faith. Your love in support of meaningful Catholic media is essential.**

**You too can help transform the world through media—starting today!**



**To make your donation, use the QR code. Thank you! →**



# You Are the Angel Who Watches Over Them!

**In the Philippines, some villages in the lush, tropical Zamboanga Peninsula live in great poverty. Your support has transformed one of them: the small village of Sinuyak. There stands the Santo Niño parish, whose church desperately needed to be rebuilt. Thanks to your generosity, beauty now graces this community through the gift of a worthy place to celebrate Christ.**



Wherever you support projects, those related to construction always present the biggest challenges. Yet, time and time again, you have shown up with love and generosity, helping Aid to the Church in Need answer these calls with hope.

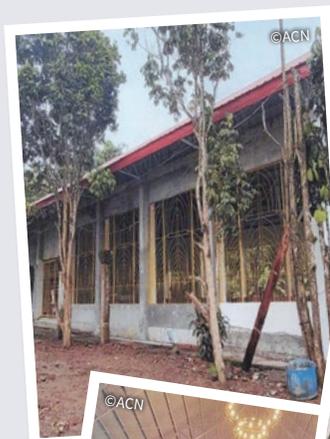
When a small ACN delegation visited Sinuyak in May 2023, they met the parish priest at the time, Father Rafael. A young priest in his forties, he shared—somewhat discouraged—that his parishioners could seldom attend Mass because of their farm work. The vast rice fields, many of which are owned by large landholders, sometimes require tending even on Sundays and feast days.

More than twenty years ago, Father Rafael survived an attempted abduction by jihadists. From that harrowing ordeal sprang an even deeper desire to serve God through his ministry. And, thanks to you, this sacred mission could take shape through the project to build a new parish church—an essential place of evangelization for the faithful of Sinuyak. Here, when they are able, farmers can come to rest, reflect, and pray in an atmosphere of beauty and tranquility.

To ensure the construction would be completed as soon as possible, Father Rafael placed not one, but two angel statues in the framework of the rising church! And you know what? Today, the church stands finished, and it is you who helped provide the firm foundation for this sacred place.

Finally, in a church worthy of the name, the prayers of these men and women—who labour courageously and tirelessly throughout the year to feed the world—are received. A haven where they can pause and regain their strength in the presence of the One who can do all things.

**Thanks to your love for the universal Church, you have helped bring beauty through the reconstruction of this church. You were like one of Father Rafael's angels: Thank you!**



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**Dedicating one's  
life to the service  
of the Gospel,  
*Thanks to you!***



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Church in Need

**ACN CANADA**

To learn more, please call:  
**1-800-585-6333**

Aid to the Church in Need  
P.O. Box. 670, Station H  
Montreal, QC H3G 2M6

**acn-canada.org**

