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Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN CANADA



Healing the World!



On the Path to Healing!

“Just say the word, and I shall be healed.”

You know this phrase from the Gospel well. If you are like me, you recite it with humility before stepping forward to receive the Body of Christ. In fact, I am always moved by this unique declaration of faith, this hymn of trust. Jesus, the Christ, continues to heal — even today!

Thanks to your love, I see that He can also work through very concrete projects — projects that would be nothing without your generosity. This spring of 2026, we are focusing on the healing that your support can bring. So much trauma lives in the hearts of those affected by war, socio-economic crises, the senseless violence of drug traffickers, or religious persecution.

In this *Magazine*, you will find four examples where the Church has a single goal: to heal the world through your support. In Ethiopia, missionaries comfort women left behind by recent conflicts. In Lebanon, the aftereffects of the Beirut port explosion are still very real. In Ukraine, the war wounds hearts that are already exhausted. Finally, in Mexico, drug cartels corrupt and kill without regard.

In all these cases, it is your support that allows the Church to help and guide people along paths of healing.

With me, thank you for believing in this, now and always.

Wishing you a beautiful spring!

Marie-Claude Lalonde
National Director



A FEW PROJECTS WE SUPPORTED IN 2025

ASIA

- Religious education and marriage preparation for young couples 2025-2026, **India**
- Repair and renovation of the Dominican training center in Multan, **Pakistan**
- Annual retreat for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Java, **Indonesia**

AMERICA

- Maintenance and repair of vehicles used for pastoral activities and by religious sisters, **Cuba**
- Reconstruction of the chapel in the Barrio Nuevo neighbourhood of Toluca, **Mexico**
- Ongoing training of the clergy and spiritual exercises, **Venezuela**

AFRICA

- Scholarship for Sister Lydia, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Mombasa, for a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management at Mount Kenya University, **Kenya**
- Installation of a submersible solar pump with water tower at the Saint Irénée Major Seminary in Toécé, **Burkina Faso**
- 1,500 YOUCAT Bibles in French for the biblical training of youth leaders in five dioceses, **Guinea**

Cover page: Sister Mary, Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, and an elderly Turkana woman, Holy Family Church (Lodwar, Kenya).



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You Help Victims Rise Again

Did you know that the Catholic Church in Ethiopia is very active in social work? Out of a population of nearly 130 million, between 25 and 32 million people receive care or education from the Catholic Church every year.

You are fulfilling an extraordinary commitment! It is your help that enables the Church to respond directly and without hesitation to the words of Matthew's Gospel, in which the Lord — presented as a king — says: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (*Matthew 25:40*)

It is through you that this Word can continue to be fulfilled, even today. It is also thanks to you that the Church can draw the strength needed to be this transforming presence. Without you, without her, so many people would be left behind.

Healing the wounds of war

Msgr. Tesfaslassie Medhin is bishop of the Catholic Eparchy of Adigrat. In 2024, he visited the international headquarters of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). In an interview, he spoke about how the two years of war (2020–2022) in the Tigray region were especially destructive and traumatic for the people. He did not hesitate to speak of "genocide."

He also confided that "the damage to human life and the psychological effects of the atrocities committed are immeasurable. Everybody is traumatized!" According to the bishop, some rape victims felt unworthy and did not dare return home. The risk of suicide among them was very high: "These women have been physically and mentally destroyed."

This is where your love can continue to work wonders. Since the end of the war, the diocese has been able to implement trauma-healing projects. "Our trauma-healing programs are Bible-based, because in my opinion, trauma healing is not complete without faith," said the bishop.

Thanks to your support, the projects led by Bishop Medhin and his pastoral teams can go even further. Your love moves mountains and enables these teams to travel throughout the diocese to listen, to lift up, and to heal.



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You Are Hope in Lebanon

Did you follow Pope Leo XIV's visit to Lebanon? If so, you will have seen just how vibrant and alive the Christian community in the Land of the Cedars still is!

Despite the many trials the Lebanese people have endured since 2019 — especially since the Beirut Port explosion on August 4, 2020 — their resilience and perseverance are remarkable. In fact, it is thanks to your love that a large part of the population can continue to hope. Without your constant support for the Church in Lebanon, the word “hope” would be meaningless.

For several years now, you have been supporting projects that not only strengthen the Christian community, but also promote coexistence. So dear to

the hearts of the Lebanese, this spirit of coexistence is in effect being undermined by economic difficulties and the rise of polarizing forces within Lebanese society. Your help makes a difference in supporting Catholic schools, where dialogue is learned. Your support also makes a difference in assisting those fleeing the war that broke out on October 7, 2023, between Israel and Hamas, as the hostilities have spread to southern Lebanon. Fortunately, your material aid has enabled the Church to welcome displaced people who have often lost everything.

Being “the light of our world, the light of our nations”

In an interview given in August 2025, Msgr. Jules Boutros, bishop of the Syriac Catholic Church, dared to speak of hope in spite of everything. “On a personal level, it was the most difficult thing that I have experienced in the past five years,” he said at first, referring to the explosion at the Port of Beirut. “I think that our role is to be the light of our world, the light of our nations,” he affirmed. The second youngest Catholic bishop in the world also said: “We are passing through dark nights, and that’s where we are called to shine. The light that we are holding is the light of Jesus Christ. It’s not our light, our politics, our culture, our geography, our history, our knowledge, or our wisdom. It’s the wisdom of the cross and it’s the light of the resurrection through which Jesus has overcome evil.”

Can we count on you to continue nurturing hope in Lebanon? Help the Christian community remain a light and a source of hope in the midst of darkness!

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This text was prepared before the new war that began on February 28, 2026, involving Israel, the United States, and Iran, a conflict that subsequently reached Lebanon. Since then, the situation has continued to deteriorate.



You Repair Hearts Shattered by War

From the very beginning of the war in Ukraine, your generosity has never wavered. In this country, where Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has been supporting projects since the 1950s, seeing that you are always ready to respond to our partners' calls for help brings us great joy.

There as elsewhere, you are doing more than rebuilding convents or churches, important as these projects are. At present, you are also helping to rebuild hearts broken by murder and hatred — products of war.

During a trip they made in the spring of 2025, members of ACN International witnessed for themselves the great fragility in which the population lives. Some of the questions they often heard were: Why? Why the war? Why the bombs? Why choose violence over dialogue and the pursuit of the common good?

Even for believers, it is difficult to answer these questions without feeling a profound emptiness within. In the face of extreme suffering, no argument can ever fully satisfy the brokenhearted. Yet your love for the world, though it may seem small, in reality brings so much to these suffering believers.



Magda Kaczmarek from ACN with Sister Hieronyma during a visit to Ukraine.

Indeed, as can be seen on the ground, your support for projects aimed at addressing and healing trauma is part of the solution that allows peace to live on, despite the war. To date, your love and your faith in a more just and humane world have enabled more than 1,800 priests, religious sisters, and lay people to receive training. The courses they take equip them to help people traumatized by the unprecedented violence of this war.

You also contribute to the existence of other groups, such as therapy groups for orphans, widows, and mothers of fallen soldiers. In 2024 alone, your generosity made it possible to establish four therapeutic centres where those who are suffering receive both spiritual and psychological care.

Would you consider extending your support to heal broken hearts in Ukraine? You are a peacemaker, and your help is invaluable. Thank you!

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Your Love in the Midst of Violence

Villagers in certain regions of Mexico would be living in constant fear if not for your help. Indeed, the love you bring to these places enables the Church to confront the violence suffered by the people. Through your support, you bring Christ's words to life: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." (Matthew 14:27)

In the state of Michoacán, drug cartels are very active and display unprecedented violence. It is in part thanks to your generosity that the Church can remain standing and support the population so that it stays resilient and strong.

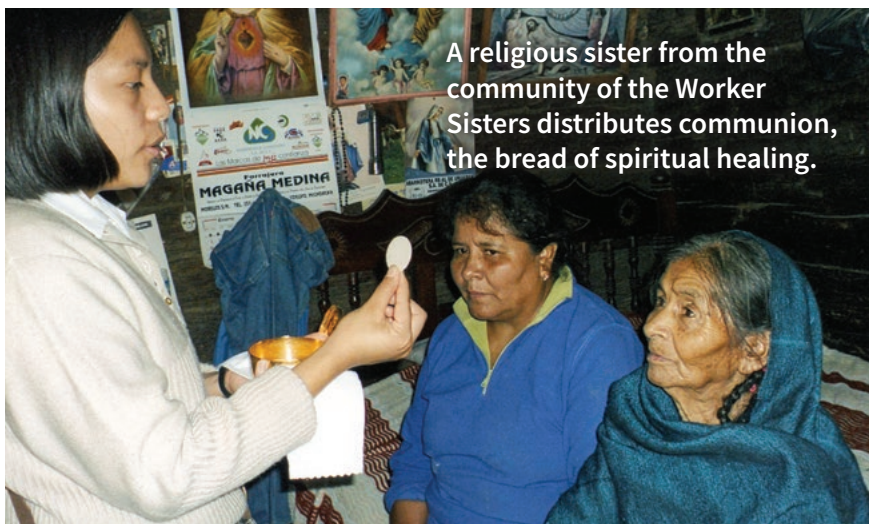
In 2024, Sister Rosalina, a member of the Worker Sisters of the Holy Family (Hermanas Obreras de la Sagrada Familia), told Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) that one of the children attending their school "saw his father be killed" in front of him. "We had another case of three children who witnessed the murder of their mother in front of their house. They saw the whole thing."

Amid these tragedies, it is largely thanks to your support that these religious sisters can — despite the horror — continue their work. They run a school of about 300 students and seek, through educational

activities, to equip the children to face adversity. "We try to help them be more resilient and not be afraid," explains Mother Josefina Peña, superior of the congregation, affectionately known to all as "Madre (Mother) Jose."

Another aspect of your generosity is enabling the community to welcome novices while taking their reality into account. Sister Miriam, Mistress of Novices, told ACN that many young women arrive at the novitiate after having suffered domestic violence. "When they arrive, the first thing we do is provide human and psychological help so that they can heal, and begin to forgive, to escape from all this violence and all the internal suffering they carry," she explains. "The help we offer is holistic, spiritual, and psychological. We help them to discern, and we accompany them. We are there to support them 100%."

In the past, your support has helped bring a measure of peace in the heart of a region marked by violence. You can choose to continue helping! Your generosity towards these religious sisters — workers for peace through prayer, training, education, and their presence — makes all the difference. And you make it possible!



A religious sister from the community of the Worker Sisters distributes communion, the bread of spiritual healing.

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