



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

MIRROR



Dear Friends,

October, the month of the Holy Rosary, reminds us once again to entrust ourselves to Mary, the Mother of God, together with the Church and the entire world, by praying the Rosary. In doing so, we are fulfilling the urgent requests she made to us through her various Church-recognized apparitions around the world.

In Fatima, on May 13, 1917, she urged the three little seers, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta: *“Pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world and an end to the war.”*

On November 28, 1981, in Kibeho, Rwanda, she said: *“I am the Mother of the Word. ... I care for the world and turn to help it. ... The world is rebelling against God. ... Many sins are being committed. ... If you do not convert and repent from your hearts, you will all plunge into an abyss. ... People must pray the Rosary daily.”*

In light of the global situation, how can we possibly reject this invitation from Mary, who, as a loving mother, cares for us, her children?

For over 20 years now, wishing to respond generously to Our Lady’s requests and give her joy, as Mother of Divine Grace, *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN) has organized the worldwide *One Million Children Praying the Rosary* campaign, in which well over one million children now take part, each October, all around the world.



***“Join us in the Rosary prayer
for peace, as a gift of love
for the Mother of God.”***

This year, Pope Leo XIV has given us special reason for rejoicing. On October 1, at 6 p.m., he will be launching the month of the Holy Rosary by praying and meditating on the Holy Rosary at the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens, together with a group of children who are participating in the campaign.

We cordially invite you to join us in this prayer for peace, as a gift of love for the Mother of God. Perhaps you can even gather together with other believers, in a church or chapel or indeed in your own home.

Permit me to conclude with a few personal words to you: these lines will be the last I will be writing to you in the *Mirror*. My superiors have asked me to return to our ecclesial province and assume new duties there, so I will be saying goodbye to ACN.

These years with ACN have been a time of great blessings for me, in which I have been privileged to learn a great deal about the life and sufferings of the universal Church and have met with many outstanding witnesses to the faith. All these things have lent lasting strength to my faith and my love for the Church.

I now offer my deep and heartfelt thanks to all of you who are supporting this work of love with your prayers and your offerings. May the Lord richly reward you for what you are doing for so many suffering Christians.

I remain forever united in prayer with you all.

Father Anton Lässer CP
Ecclesiastical Assistant



Father Luis in the collapsed
nave of the church of
San José de Ñaraulí
in Caracas.

You give them an unshakeable **FAITH**

Around the world, in times of crisis, priests remain with their people and continue their ministry. Above all, they continue to celebrate Holy Mass, for man does not live on bread alone. It is you who enable them to fully live out their vocation through your Mass intentions.

On June 24, the day began like any other in the Diocese of Petare, **Venezuela**. Fr. Ignacio Caleyá prepared to celebrate Holy Mass on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The church was filled with parishioners, and as the second reading was being proclaimed, the ground began to shake violently, as an immense earthquake gripped the region.

The congregation quickly evacuated the church. Once outside, Fr. Ignacio did not interrupt the Mass. Instead, he continued the Eucharistic celebration in the open air. Despite the fear and uncertainty, the faithful remained with him. Residents who had fled their apartments and staff and patients from a nearby hospital also gathered as the priest celebrated Holy Mass amidst the chaos.



For many priests around the world, including those in Venezuela, your Mass intentions are an essential lifeline. They allow priests to remain with their communities and continue celebrating the Eucharist. In 2025, you gave over \$750,000 in Mass intentions to priests in Venezuela, helping them minister to the people and celebrate Holy Mass for your intentions. This year your mass intentions will be needed more than ever!

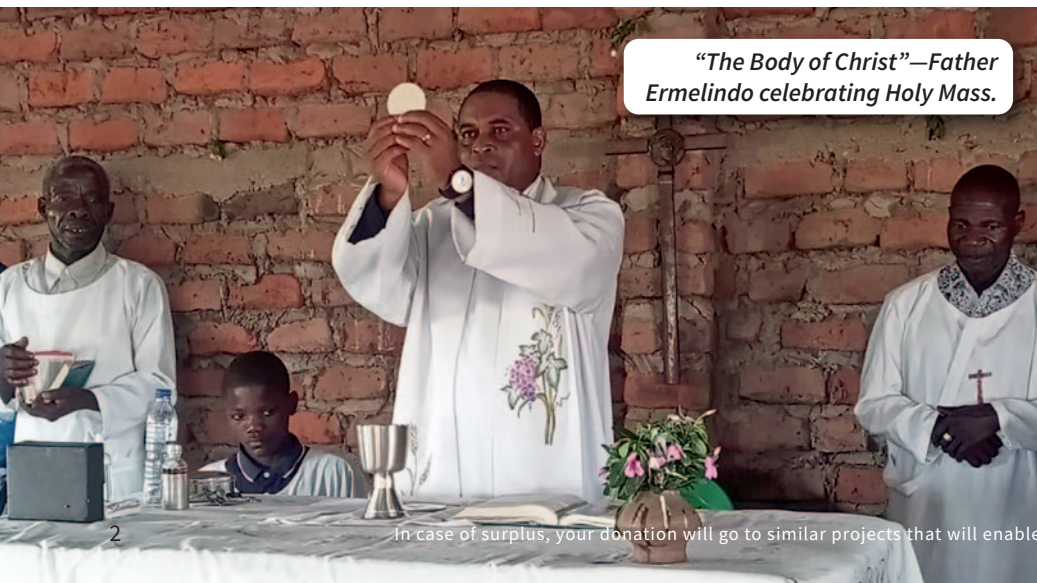


**Horrific damage in La Guaira
after the June 24 earthquake.**

...
The moment brought to mind
the words of the Gospel:
***“And I, when I am lifted up from
the earth, will draw all men to
myself”*** (John 12:32).
...

This powerful testimony of faith showed that even in the darkest crises, Christ in the Eucharist remains present through the Holy Mass offered by priests. Amidst the devastation of the earthquake, the ministry of the Church was needed more than ever.

Similarly, the residents of Nampula Province in northern **Mozambique** hold their priests in high regard. The priests have faced numerous hardships in recent years. Three major cyclones between 2024 and 2025 devastated their parishes, and the Islamist insurgency led to the displacement of 100,000 people.



***“The Body of Christ”—Father
Ermelindo celebrating Holy Mass.***

The priests have remained, regardless of the immense difficulties they have had to endure. Their own traumas and the scarcity of resources available to them have not prevented them from continuing to support their parishioners, both materially and spiritually. It is largely thanks to you that they are able to continue their work. Please continue to offer your Mass intentions for them.

In 2025, 330 priests in Mozambique received more than \$364,000 in Mass intentions. Your solidarity is a source of comfort for these priests. Thank you!



A **CHURCH** that shines from within, thanks to you!

Marco Bachmann, ACN's head of section for Vietnam, speaks about his trip there in May this year

What was your first impression of Vietnam?

As soon as I arrived, a police official came to the bishop's house and collected my passport. Involuntarily I felt confirmed in my prejudice that the north of Vietnam is still a region where everything and everyone is under state control. But over the course of my journey, I was able to thoroughly revise this perception.

I encountered the Church in what is probably the country's poorest diocese, on the Chinese border, via Hanoi and as far as Vinh, and was astonished at how full the churches were and how profound the people's devotion to Our Lady was. I witnessed Masses with elegant dances by the women and solemn processions and was able to see just how Vietnamese and incultured the Church is there. Yet at the same time—though this might sound just a little contradictory—I found it fully part of the universal Church.

What were the churches like that you saw?

There is a huge variety among the churches, ranging from simple unadorned house churches, where Catholics are able to celebrate Holy Mass, through to splendid pagoda-style churches and even neo-Gothic cathedrals dating from the time of the missionaries. Yet they all have one thing in common, which reflects the strength of the Christian communities and their love for their churches: whenever repairs are needed, or new chapels are to be built, they all roll up their sleeves. For our construction projects here, the costs are often lower; on the other hand, the material costs are constantly rising. This is where the people need the help of our benefactors.

Thanks to your love, in 2025, we were able to continue supporting this dynamic, rapidly growing Church with more than \$1.9 million. Your solidarity remains crucial for this community facing challenging circumstances. Thank you!



The pagoda-style cathedral of Lang Son.

Was there anything that left a lasting impression on you?

In the Diocese of Vinh, I visited the community of the Lovers of the Cross, a home-grown religious community of sisters which is also the largest in Vietnam. Dozens of sisters shared a single small dormitory, crammed together, bunk by bunk. But you only had to see the sheer love they showed to every single one of the disabled people whom they care for in their centres, who would otherwise have no hope of survival or possibilities in life. They are a living sign of what God can achieve in any one of us if we only have faith and love.

What can we do for these sisters?

Vietnam, too, is becoming ever more modernized, and the challenges and dangers are becoming ever more complex, just as in the Western world. Without a solid foundation and training, a sister cannot function effectively, whether in social work, administration, or in teaching religion.

Without your help, the costs of adequate vocational training are nearly impossible for religious communities to bear. With \$100, you can contribute towards this essential training. Thank you for your support!



In northern Vietnam, these young girls dance for the Virgin Mary.



The mission goes on thanks to you!

Lebanon is facing unprecedented challenges. The country has been devastated by conflict, economic collapse, and soaring inflation. Thanks to the Mass intentions gifted by you, priests in Lebanon can keep the mission alive.

"The support you have been offering is of great assistance to the priests in Lebanon. As our country is still facing tremendous hardships, your generosity has been of immense relief for our diocese. We unite our prayers and seek the Lord's blessings for all the working employees and on top of that all the generous benefactors who are still aiding our priests to fulfill our true mission: spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Father Roni Chamoun
Maronite Archeparchy of Antélias, Lebanon



Regina Lynch

Executive President,
ACN (International)

Dear Friends,

Once, I had the privilege of meeting Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan in Rome, who, a few months after being appointed coadjutor archbishop of Saigon, in Vietnam, was arrested on August 15, 1975 by the Communist authorities and imprisoned for 13 years, nine of them in solitary confinement.

He was forbidden to celebrate the Eucharist, but he found a way to outsmart his jailors, when he was allowed to ask his family for some essentials. He used this opportunity to ask for his "stomach medicine." This was the wine with which he celebrated the Eucharist daily at 3 p.m. by pouring a few drops of it together with a drop of water into the palm of his hand. In the evening at 9 p.m., he had his private adoration thanks to the crumbs from the hosts that had been smuggled into the prison inside a torch. Later in a re-education camp, he celebrated Holy Mass at night for his fellow Catholic prisoners and gave them a small particle of a consecrated host wrapped in tinfoil from cigarette packets so that they would have Jesus with them all the time.

In his book *The Road to Hope: a Gospel from Prison*, the cardinal wrote: "If you appreciate the value of the Eucharistic celebration, you will participate in it no matter how far away or difficult it is. The greater the sacrifice involved, the more evident is your love for God." His beatification process is ongoing.

Regina Lynch

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ACN CANADA

Who stands with persecuted Christians?

Join us on
November 18th

REDWEDNESDAY
#RedWednesday

acn-canada.org/red-wednesday/

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