# International Report of the year 2024 Aid to the Church in Need



## Dear friends

As we address you in this Holy Year - in which we are all called to be pilgrims of hope - we can see that this hope is already palpable as we review our Annual Report 2024.

Thanks to your generosity, ACN has been able to bring hope to hundreds of thousands of brothers and sisters in faith who face daily challenges such as persecution, war and extreme poverty. While many of you are also going through your own difficulties, you have responded to God's call to bring hope to others.

Below is a summary of the different types of projects ACN has funded in 2024 to meet the needs of the local Church in 137 countries around the world. Each project stems from the desire to help the Church be an instrument of God's



### How were your donations used?

#### 1,836,591 Mass intentions

In 2024, we were able to reach one in ten priests worldwide with their Mass intentions. A total of 42,252 priests received more than 1.8 million Mass intentions, marking a new milestone in the Foundation's history. On average, a Holy Mass was celebrated every 17 seconds in some corner of the world for the intentions of our benefactors.

#### 867 projects in favor of religious women

We were able to assist some 6,030 women religious with support for their livelihoods. In addition, we promoted the formation of young vocations, facilitated the construction of convents and the acquisition of the necessary equipment (such as sewing or host-making machines, vehicles, etc.) and encouraged participation in spiritual retreats. We support the majority of projects in Africa (298) and Asia (282).

#### Support for the formation of 9,961 seminarians

In 2024, one in eleven future priests received formation aid from Aid to the Church in Need, most of them in Africa (5,305) - where almost a third of all seminarians in the world live - as well as 1,824 in Latin America, 1,752 in Asia and 1,080 in Europe; among these, more than 700 seminarians in the Ukraine.

## 805 training projects for catechists and other committed laypersons

In addition, we responded positively to **106 requests for religious literature and Bibles.** With your help, we were able to distribute 844,200 books, most of them in Latin America. message of love for all people. We also include an overview of income and expenses.

Rest assured that the bishops, priests, religious and lay people who benefit from your generosity, and who are also pilgrims of hope, are constantly praying for you.



## Regina Lych Regina Lynch

Executive President



María Inés Espinosa Calle Executive Director ACN Global Office

#### 755 construction projects

Also in 2024, we supported the construction and rehabilitation of churches and chapels, as well as convents, seminaries, parish houses and pastoral centers. Due to the magnitude of each of these projects, this support accounted for the largest share of total expenditure, 23.6 percent.

#### 1,131 means of transportation

We helped acquire 474 vehicles, 264 motorcycles, 388 bicycles, three buses, one truck and 11 boats for pastoral care in remote and extensive regions.

#### By 2024, we will be able to support 5,335 projects

Among them, 976 requests for Mass intentions for diocesan priests, religious communities and major seminary formators. Many priests depend on this assistance to carry out their ministry, since they have little or no income of their own.

The need for pastoral assistance and psychological treatment for traumatized people in areas of war or persecution has grown. We have increased our assistance in this area.

We have also stepped up our assistance in the Sahel region, where jihadist terrorism is spreading and Christians are suffering increasing violence.



### **Facts and figures**

- Offices in 23 countries
- 358.195 benefactors in the world
- 139.261.868 € in donations and legacies
- Project partners in 137 countries
- 5.335 projects supported worldwide
- **79,8%** of the donations used have been allocated to mission related expenses

#### Income from donations and inheritances amounted to 139.3 million euros in 2024. With this and a further 2.2 million euros in reserves from previous years, we financed activities amounting to 141.5 million euros.

Of these funds, 79.8% were used for mission-related expenses. Of this amount, 84.7% went to specific projects, enabling us to respond positively to 5,335 of the 7,296 requests obtained from around the world. The remaining 15.3% was used for information, proclamation of the faith and defense of persecuted Christians.

## **Grants by region**



Administrative expenses amounted to 7.5% of total expenses; advertising expenses amounted to 12.7%.

In 2024, legacies again accounted for a significant portion of aid to the Church in Need (€30.2 million). Together with our brothers and sisters in need, we gratefully remember our deceased benefactors.

A detailed activity report is available at www.acn-global.org. All figures presented are audited by the independent auditing firm PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers).



Other activities not financed by donations, such as the sale of religious books and other items, generated income of € 4.2 million.



## Thank you for your loyalty!

Dear benefactors, once again in 2024 you have once again opened your hearts to the needs of the Church around the world: your donations amount to 139.3 million euros. This has enabled us to help suffering Christians in 137 countries.

At 30.2%, aid to Africa was once again the largest item among our project expenditures. This is because, on the one hand, the Church in Africa is growing strongly and has a large number of priests and religious vocations; on the other hand, however, it is suffering not only from poverty but also from jihadist terrorism, which is spreading to more and more countries. For example, our aid to Burkina Faso has tripled in the last four years.

Ukraine was once again the country that received the most aid. Since the outbreak of war in February 2022, we have been able to provide 25 million euros. We are now focusing on the accompaniment of traumatized people. In addition, we continue to ensure the livelihood of priests and religious, support the training of seminarians, and help with the provision of vehicles and heating. In total, our aid to Europe accounted for 15.9% of project spending.

Asia, where Christians represent a minority in many countries and are often discriminated against or even persecuted, received 18.7% (including 0.9% for Oceania). For example, we increased our aid in Myanmar, Pakistan and Vietnam.

In the Middle East (17.5%), our assistance focused on the Holy Land where, following the escalation of the armed conflict, especially in the Gaza Strip, we were able to provide emergency aid to Christian families, as well as in Lebanon and Syria.

In Latin America, rural exodus, migration, sects and governments hostile to the Church are major challenges. The percentage of our aid was 16.8%.

With your help they have given new hope to thousands of priests, religious and lay people. In gratitude, they promise to pray for you.