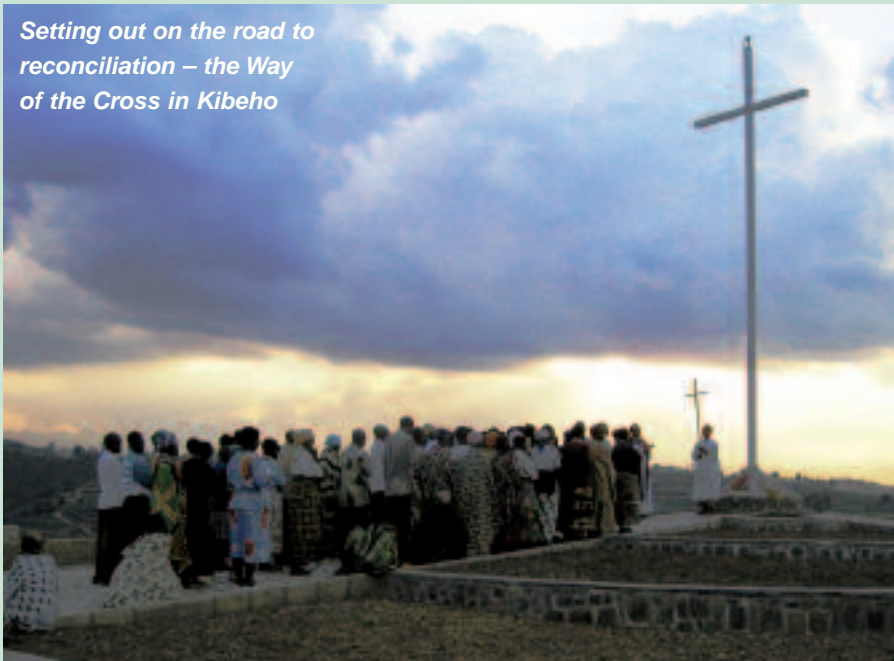




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*Setting out on the road to
reconciliation – the Way
of the Cross in Kibeho*



***“The Church bestrides
all the frontiers of the
earth and draws her
imperishable vitality
from the Risen Christ,
Who has said, ‘When
these things begin to
take place, look up and
raise your heads,
because your redemp-
tion is drawing near.’”***

**Father Werenfried (1913-2003),
founder of Aid to the Church in Need**

Dear Friends,

As she fled the massacres in Central Africa, the young secretary had to cross seven different countries. She never forgot the apparitions in Kibeho, Rwanda, in the early 1980s, when she spoke face to face with Our Lady, the *Mother of the Word*, *Nyina wa Jambo*. The name of this young visionary is Alphonsina Mumureke, and today she is a Poor Clare sister in Abidjan in Ivory Coast. For her religious name

she has chosen “Alphonsina of the glorious Cross”. It is a name that sums up what she has learned from Our Lady in Kibeho.

In what she said to the three young visionaries, Mary’s words recall her message to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. In Rwanda too, she said: “Repent, be converted, while there is still time.” She called us to penance and reparation. She reminded us of the enormous power of prayer, especially the Rosary. In 1982 on the Feast of her Assumption, the day of her triumph, Mary wept. She

pointed to all the sins of the world and warned prophetically of great trials to come. In Kibeho, suffering is always linked to Christ and hence it is surrounded by symbols of life. Our Lady showed the girls a symbolic “flower meadow” and “trees” that they must water. She radiated human



***“The Mother of the Word is with us,
calling us to conversion and show-
ing us that every suffering we en-
dure with Christ brings salvation.”***

warmth. One of the visionaries, Nathalie, called her *Umubyeyi*, or “Mummy”. Mary strengthened the Faith of the Church in Rwanda and Africa, and prepared the people of God to face the genocide in 1994. She granted consolation in advance. It is reminiscent of how the vision of the transfigured Lord on Mount Tabor strengthened the Apostles Peter, James and John, preparing them for the horrors of Gethsemane.

Our lives as Christians are like Kibeho. The Mother of the Word is with us, calling us to conversion and showing us that any

suffering we endure with Christ brings salvation, like water irrigating a “meadow full of flowers”. Each of us could follow Alphonsina’s example by adding to our baptismal name the words: “...of the glorious Cross”.

The weeping of Mary, *Nyina wa Jambo*, reminds us of how Father Werenfried always sought to dry the tears of God today. Dear friends, your generous support is helping Mary to spread consolation from her sacred shrines – not only from Kibeho in the

heart of Africa but also, for example, from Coromoto in Venezuela. How important it is that in the people’s heavy trials Mary can prove herself as the “Protectress of the faith of the Venezuelan people” (Pope John Paul II). And then there is Zarvanytsia in Ukraine, where your support helps Mary to water the “meadow of flowers” that blossoms there, sprung from blood of so many martyrs.

P. Joaquin Allienoré

International Ecclesiastical Assistant



Nothing but the salvation of the world

They come in their thousands, each day. Their hymns are in praise of *Nyina wa Jambo, the Mother of the Word*.

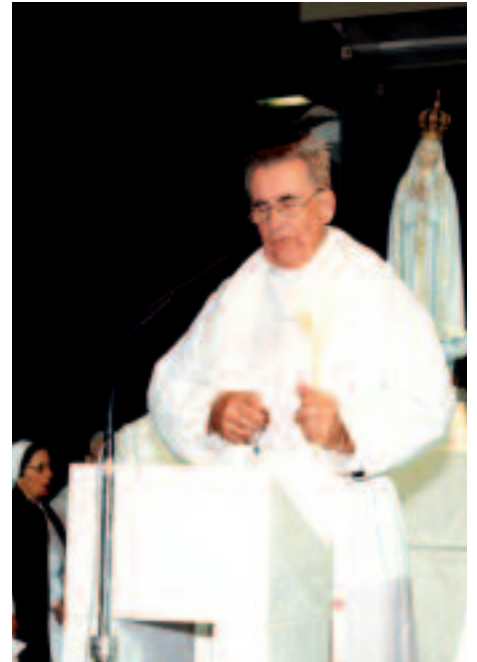
Almost exactly 25 years ago the Mother of God came here to Kibeho in **Rwanda** and called the world to conversion – just as she had in Fatima. She urged people to pray, for the world was on the edge of the abyss. *Nyina wa Jambo* was sad, the visionaries reported. One of the three girls died, a martyr in the terrible massacres of 1994, another entered a convent, the third, Nathalie, devotes herself to the pilgrims in Kibeho. The apparitions of Kibeho are the only ones in sub-Saharan Africa to have been recognised by the Church and the throng of pilgrims is growing. But there are few facilities, and the church that was built here at Our Lady's request needs to be repaired. The little house where Nathalie lives will



Rejoicing in Kibeho. The World Youth Day cross and icon arrive.



Kibeho's Jubilee year. Gathering for the procession in front of the shrine.



Golden Jubilee of ACN 1997. Father Werenfried prays the Rosary in Fatima.



Every suffering becomes a "flower-filled meadow". Our Lady of Kibeho

become a reception office for the pilgrims. She now needs somewhere else to stay so that she can obey our Lady's instruction to remain in Kibeho. Conscious that ACN has been consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima since 1967, we have promised **€50,000** to renovate the church and **€17,500** for Nathalie's house. Africa's Fatima should be a place of honour.



Pray for the Church without ceasing. This was also the message of Our Lady 90 years ago in Fatima. Fatima is intimately connected with **Russia**. In the Soviet Union anyone who spoke of Fatima risked years in

the gulag camps. But people did pray, even in Russia. And still in Soviet times, Father Werenfried managed to achieve a TV link-up – a bridge of prayer – between Fatima and Moscow. Now the four Catholic bishops in Russia wish to make a pilgrimage to Fatima, together with 90 of their flock. But they cannot raise the **€25,000** they need for this pilgrimage. Help us to build this bridge once more, not across the airwaves this time, but in hearts of flesh and blood. The Mother of the Word will rejoice. For prayer is the source of conversion – and of reconciliation with God. ●



Imposing towers mark the way to the shrine of Coromoto in Venezuela.



Venezuela seeks Mary's protection. Processing into the Basilica of Coromoto.



Ukraine. Zaryvnytsia – a place of reconciliation for Catholics and Orthodox.



Mobility for the Word



Kenya. Holy Mass outside a primary school, thanks to the Jeep.



India. Rejoicing at the arrival of their priest in his new car.



Iraq. Travelling in Sister's minibus is where they feel safe.



Chad. A car for the sisters always means a car for others too.



Papua New Guinea. The Black Madonna could do with a total overhaul...



Vietnam. Legions for the Church? Legions of bicycles, anyway.

He's certainly found his bearings in life, or he wouldn't have found his way to the priesthood.

But how is Father Dariusz going to find his bearings in his boat, the *Black Madonna*, at night between the islands of the Bismarck Sea and mainland **Papua New Guinea**? There are 170 miles (260 km) of coastline to navigate, and 18,000 souls waiting for the Word that he brings them. The *Black Madonna* is old and not only needs a new compass but also a new motor, anchor chains, navigation lights, lifesaving equipment and more besides. We have promised him **€8,000** so that he can stay on course. Will you help us?

Aid for pastoral transport, 1995 to March 2007

	Cars	Motorcycles	Motorboats	Bicycles	Horses/mules
Eastern Europe	3,553	0	6	0	0
Latin America	456	35	33	136	20
Africa	506	210	8	2,795	0
Asia	547	519	15	533	0

In **Ukraine**, the *Sisters of the Holy Family*, in Mizhhirya, need a car or they will be unable to minister to their six villages in the Carpathian Mountains. Then there are the schools they teach in... But their work is bearing fruit, for many are coming back to God. A car is likewise a vehicle for the Word in the **Bosnian**

parish of Gornja Tramosnica, where exiled Catholics are now slowly returning. They come back to ruins; hence they find comfort in the practical help that Father Stipic brings on visits to their scattered dwellings – the medicines, the timber, even the occasional side of bacon. ●

10 million Child's Bibles

The Holy Father in **Brazil**. It was a journey both of evangelisation and of support. Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed the Good News and strengthened his brethren.

It was thus of great symbolic value when, during his visit, the 10 millionth copy of the *Child's Bible* in Brazil was formally handed over. For that is also the very purpose of this little book, published by ACN some 28 years ago now – to proclaim the

Gospel and strengthen Catholics in their faith on this continent plagued by sects and by poverty. In many places, catechesis is now all but unthinkable without the *Child's Bible* and, as Sister Elfrida writes, "it is a blessing even in the prisons, because many of the sects are trying to win over the prisoners". 10 million out of 44 million copies worldwide – no other country has so many Catholics, and in scarcely another country is the *Child's Bible* so greatly needed as in



Brazil – a young country, where Bibles are needed

Brazil. If you can help us, we can offer a million *Child's Bibles* to youngsters in Brazil every year... ●



The Indian diocese of Palgaht is a place where rice fields and palm trees flourish. It is also a place whose Christians trace their origins back to St Thomas, one of the twelve Apostles. One priest working in this diocese is Father Abraham George Palathinkal, who is responsible for social work. A few weeks ago he came to visit us in Königstein. It was in fact a reunion, for Father Abraham knows ACN from his early years. As a young theology student he was able to complete his studies in Louvain, Belgium, thanks to a scholarship from ACN. At the time he wrote, "The way in which you look after us, 'your students', is so personal and impressive that I am truly happy to thank you for this priceless help and service." During his recent visit here he was still full of gratitude, for now you are helping him in other ways.



Hans-Peter Rötlin,
President

The Last Word

Trust

It hurts when someone, for whatever reason, has lost trust – whether in another person, in a community or an organisation... For trust is the lifeblood of social interaction. When the traffic lights turn green, I set off, trusting that those on red will stop and wait. When I board an aircraft, I trust the crew to bring me safely to my destination. When I undergo an operation, I trust the doctor. All this is perfectly normal. A life marked by mistrust becomes hell. And this is also true when our trust is exploited, when people let us down... indeed, then most of all! The relationship of trust with other people is fundamental to life. But how can I convince other people to trust me? Certainly not by force, or with money. You can't force people to trust you. Nor can you purchase trust. It is something we can only obtain when we have already given it to others – something that always involves risk. For then we become vulnerable and open to exploitation.... But God asks us to trust Him – it is always worth the effort to build trust among the people He loves as His own. It is part of our faith.

PS. With God we can be certain that our trust is well-placed. Indeed, Pentecost is the proof!

Need, love and thanks – Your letters

But for you, my bank account would have been fuller...

Thank you, Father Werenfried, for 60 years of ACN! Without you my bank account would have been fuller, but my life would have been emptier! Since there is still plenty of room in your hat, I am marking your Jubilee year by sending €60 for every year, in other words €3,600.

A loyal benefactress in Germany

A small part in God's rescue plan

Thank you for your latest newsletter. It grieves us to read of how difficult life can be for those fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, who suffer so much for their faith, yet we are helpless to rescue them from their trouble. Our Mighty God however, has them close to His heart and moves you good people to do the work you do. Thank you for giving us a chance to play a small part in God's rescue plan that is, at one and the same time, an answer to your prayer and our

own, by having Masses said for our intentions. If at all possible, please send the donations to priests in areas of persecution for seven Masses for our intentions for the needs of family and friends. Yours, in the love of Jesus and Mary.

A couple from Wanniasa, Australia

A retirement gift

Since my introduction to ACN a number of years ago I am so impressed by your outstanding work for the Church in need throughout the entire world. Your achievements are miracles in the world of today. Recently I retired from my employment. I am making a €5,000 contribution from my gratuity to ACN. As I am now on pension, my future contributions will be well down on past performance. May God continue to bless you in your work throughout the world!

A benefactor from Old Portmarnock, co. Dublin, Ireland

Where to send your contribution for the Church in Need:

Please use the **Freepost** envelope – it saves you money and helps us.

In Ireland: Aid to the Church in Need, 151 St Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, tel. (01) 8377516. (Registered Charity No. 9492).

In Great Britain: Aid to the Church in Need, 1 Times Square, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1LF, tel. 020-8642 8668. (Registered Charity No. 1097984).



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