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16 september 2007: During the Angelus-prayer, Benedict XVI addressed a few words directly to ACN:



Photo: Kirche in Not

“Dear friends, be assured of the gratitude and the prayers of the Successor of Peter for your work, which is an eloquent testimony to the love of God. Please continue in future to let men know that God is there for us as a loving Father. Where God dwells in the hearts of men, there peace and social justice can grow. Let us be instruments of God’s love in our world. May the Lord bless you all.”

To mark the Diamond Jubilee of ACN, gathered in conference in Castel Gandolfo near Rome from 11 - 16 September, the Holy Father has sent a message of greeting to “the leadership” and to all associated with the charity. The full text is available from ACN’s national offices. We reprint some excerpts below:

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, in whose name I am addressing these lines to you, looks back with you all in profound gratitude on the 60-year history of *Aid to the Church in Need* and assures you and the entire charity, together with all its benefactors and project partners throughout the world, of his spiritual closeness at this time and his special remembrance in prayer.

Needs of our time: Alienation from God and lack of freedom

Ever since the beginning of his pontificate, the Holy Father has again and again emphasised that one of the deepest and most fundamental needs of our time is the fact that God has been forgotten by entire societies. On the one hand the pressure of secularism and relativism has forced many

people – and not a few baptised Christians likewise – into a situation of practical alienation from God. On the other hand there continues to be countries in which people cannot freely live their faith in Jesus Christ.

God himself became Man in Christ and lived among us (cf Jn 1:14). The mission of the Church is to continue this presence of God. In this connection I would like to affirm and encourage the work of ACN in continuing to invest a major proportion of its resources in the promotion of spiritual vocations and committed believers, so that these can be equipped with a comprehensive spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral formation, and also with the necessary material means to be able to work as effective instruments of God’s grace.

There are two areas which demand particular attention in this context. First of all, it is evident that the media exercise enormous influence today on human culture and life. The Church urgently needs people through whom God can be made increasingly present in this wide field, people who will give voice and form to his Word and make appropriate use of all the available technical means, so that His message

of salvation can reach to the ends of the earth.

Light and strength for ACN

At the same time we look with great concern at some of the local churches in the Middle East which are today threatened in their very existence, and likewise on the numerous Catholics forced to live to a large extent without pastoral support, who are either forbidden altogether, or permitted only under severe limitations to communally and publicly profess their Faith.

May Almighty God grant to the charity *Aid to the Church in Need* light and strength so that it may continue still in the future to help wherever the need of the Church is greatest. To this end His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI extends to you all - and likewise to all the co-workers and benefactors of ACN, through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin of Fatima, under whose protection you have specially placed yourselves – with all his heart the Apostolic Blessing.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone,
Secretary of State to His Holiness



Mass Stipends – a blessing from Heaven



Papua New Guinea: To choose the priesthood is to choose a life of poverty.



Sudan: Without your help, Father Guido (left) and Father Todo could not survive.



Brazil: The Lord is here. In many dioceses, Christ is their only hope.

Never should we forget that Christ himself came to the **Lebanese** lands of Tyre and Sidon. On a hill in Sidon there is a statue of the ‘Maria Mantara’ – the Waiting Virgin. She is waiting for the return of her son.

In the valley below, a Palestinian refugee camp with a number of mosques stretches into the distance, and close behind it lies a Christian quarter – an island with a few church towers. It could almost be a picture of peaceful co-existence. But the Maronite Archbishop of Tyre tells us: “The Israelis and the Arabs have been fighting each other here since 1948.” He adds: “We Christians would like to be witnesses of reconciliation and peace.” The war has sapped the resources of his diocese. But the Christians still pray, and whenever they celebrate Holy Mass they know the Lord is here. “The Mass Stipends you send are like a blessing from



Rwanda: Reconciliation is an essential part of the Eucharist.



Cameroon: The presence of the Lord makes them all brothers.

Heaven,” he writes. More than that, you are helping the Christians to be witnesses of redemption and peace. Likewise in today’s **Iraq**, Mass Stipends are often the main source of survival. This year, despite the ongoing conflict, the Archbishop of Mosul has even managed to ordain four seminarians to the diaconate. In Africa, the situation is little different. “You are like a mother to us,” says the rector of the seminary in Boma in the **DR Congo**, while in Kabale, **Uganda**, the rector is convinced: “This is the Mystery of the Faith. The Holy Eucharist brings us salvation and the strength of forgiveness.” So said Pope Paul VI in 1965. The Lord is here – and wherever you help with Mass Stipends, his redeeming power bears rich fruit. For at the Mass they are praying for you. ●

Mass Stipends you have given through ACN

Continent	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Eastern Europe	389,464	302,588	308,460	447,117	457,704
Africa	311,510	197,051	259,227	269,907	387,466
Asia	398,145	273,888	270,932	289,379	376,583
Latin America	362,215	297,336	320,521	292,047	363,272
Total	1,461,334	1,070,863	1,159,140	1,298,450	1,585,025



Guatemala: In the Sacrifice lies salvation – for the priest as well.



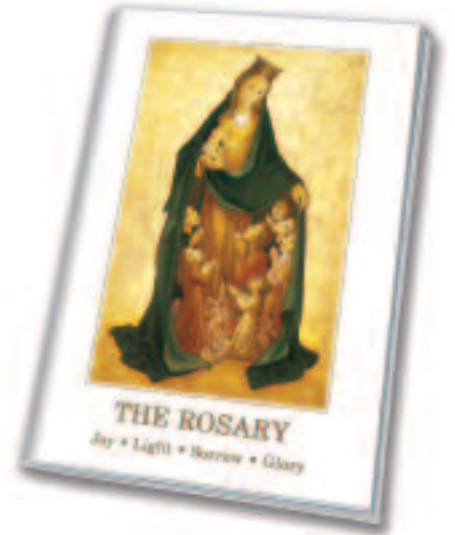
“A compendium of the Gospel”



Forming up for prayer: A company in Córdoba, Argentina, praying the Rosary.



Inner freedom: Retreat day in the presence of Mary for prisoners in Córdoba.



The Rosary is for everyone – whether men, women or children, managers, masons or waiters. Or indeed for prisoners, or for soldiers...

Our Lady is there for us all – like the Good News itself, of which the Rosary “can be said to be a compendium”, as Pope John Paul II put it. After the terrorist attacks of September 11 2001, the Pope recommended this prayer for peace in the world. One year later, in the year of the

Rosary, he gave us the gift of the Mysteries of Light. ACN thanked him with a little booklet, entitled: *The Rosary – Joy, Light, Sorrow, Glory*. Since then this little booklet has gone round the world, been published in 11 languages and in well over a million copies. For many people it is a great support in their daily lives. The Archbishop of Santiago de los Caballeros in the **Dominican Republic** has asked us for several thousand copies for his planned

home mission. He has no doubt that “the Rosary helps the family to become a true domestic church”. To this, the Bishop of Huánuco in **Peru** adds his own request: “With this booklet we are strengthening the unity within the families.” Demand for this little compendium of the Gospel is great. Please help us to meet it! ●

Wanted: People to pray with us

Pray, pray the Rosary! Our Lady told the children of Fatima.

That was 90 years ago. Today, Mary’s request is more relevant than ever – and on 18 October, at 9 a.m. the time will have come again. For on this day over a million children will pray the Rosary for peace and reconciliation. This initiative, which began three years ago in **Venezuela**, has now spread to every continent. “We don’t really need money,” say the organisers. “Mary will take care of that. What we

need is people to join in and pray with us.”

Fatima is like a mustard seed where out of small beginnings great things grow. It is sprouting in **Kazakhstan** as well, where we are supplying prayer books with Rosary beads (€15,500). In **Sri Lanka** and **India** too, with your help of €20,000, the *Holy Rosary Sisters* (pictured right) are praying these Mysteries day and night before the Blessed Sacrament for peace in the world. “The word is more than mere communication,” according to the theologian Romano



Guardini. “It is power, essence, form.” He also adds, “The Rosary consists of holy words.” Let us join in and pray it too. ●



Venezuela, 18 October 2006: Beaming children after praying the Rosary.



Pope John Paul II: “The family that prays together, stays together.” Whether outdoors or in church, whether in Kenya or Armenia, everywhere, Mary unites us.





The most beautiful and best form of thanksgiving is prayer. The Daughters of the Resurrection have composed just such a prayer for you, their benefactors, to mark the 40 years of their foundation, and have sent it to us as a thank-you letter:



Almighty and Eternal God, bless the charity Aid to the Church in Need, which you have chosen to found, nurture and sustain our Priory of the Daughters of the Resurrection. Bless our founders and the leaders of this charity and reward its co-workers and benefactors. Grant the blessings of eternal life to all those who have done good to us for the sake of your Name. Help the Daughters of the Resurrection to be always thankful for everything they have received. Give them the strength to demonstrate this gratitude by a total abandonment to your holy will, a fervent love for the poor and an unshakeable fidelity to their vocation. May the Mother of God, the most Blessed Virgin Mary obtain this grace for us. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

On behalf of the Daughters of the Resurrection, Mother Petronella Nkaza, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo



Hans-Peter Röhlin,
President

The Last Word

The antidote to hatred

No one who has their eyes open can fail to see how much suffering and need there is around them day to day. Often we too have to endure such things. And when we are subjected to injustice, hurt and suffering by our superiors, friends or even family members, then there is a real danger that our hearts may be filled with anger and even hatred. I pray daily that I may have the strength not to let that happen to me. I want to fight against injustice, suffering and need wherever possible, but on no account should hatred affect and ultimately poison my life.

This is something I have also learned from Father Werenfried, who in 1947 launched his charity with a widespread campaign for reconciliation that found expression in genuine “anti-hatred campaigns”. He taught the Christians of the then-victorious powers to love their former enemies and thus became one of the spiritual pioneers of a united Europe. The medicine he prescribed against the poison of hatred was an active Christian charity. It can be a smile that reaches out, an apology or a word of thanks, maybe a gesture of sympathy or a small service. Try it for yourselves!

Need, love and thanks – Your letters

Praying for the good of the Mirror

Many thanks for your kind and touching letter. It gave me great joy, yet at the same time made me sad, since I can now do little or nothing in terms of money, on account of the small pension I receive. But I hope that God will answer my poor prayers just a little, for the good of the Mirror. I wish you much strength and God’s blessing for your doubtless not always easy work.

A retired woman from Burghausen, Germany

Vital help for our Faith

This year ACN is celebrating its 60th anniversary. And so I would like to express my great joy and heartfelt congratulations on this important event.

This great Jubilee inspires words of thanks and praise for everything that this worldwide charity of pontifical

right has achieved, especially here in the Archdiocese of Zagreb and throughout Croatia. Your many projects have helped the Faith in our country to thrive and bear good fruits.

**Cardinal Josip Bozanic,
Archbishop of Zagreb, Croatia**

A special donation

Enclosed is an offering that was gathered on the occasion of the religious profession of one of our sisters, who has requested that it should all be given to ACN. Her profession took place on 13 May, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima and the day on which the Italian benefactors celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of ACN.

*With the assurance of our prayers,
Convent of Santa Chiara, Vicoforte,
Italy*

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, 12–14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4DA, tel. 020 8642 8668. (Registered Charity No. 1097984).



If you give by standing order, or have sent a donation recently, please accept our sincere thanks. This Mirror is for your interest and information.

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