

UKRAINE:

BRINGING GOD'S PRESENCE TO THE FRONTLINE



acnmalta.org/mass-stipends

This travel trailer in eastern Ukraine, funded by ACN, has become a mobile chapel of hope amid the war

Amid the continued and disastrous devastation of war in Ukraine, Catholic Priests carry something profoundly life-giving: the presence of God. Military chaplains, such as Fr. Witalij Novak, assist thousands of soldiers, offering not only blessings in extremely harsh frontline conditions but also the Holy Eucharist and the strength of prayer that anchors the soul.

"Without daily Mass and personal prayer, I can't imagine how I could hold out here," says Fr Witalij, the sole Chaplain for a brigade of about 3,000 men.

He blesses soldiers defending their own country against the atrocities of the invading armies, knowing some Ukrainian soldiers may not return. He shares with them miraculous medals of our Lady the Virgin Mary and passages from the Gospel. "More than my words," he says, "it is the presence of God which I give to them."

Many Priests like Fr. Witalij also care for grieving families, bury the dead, and serve in rehabilitation centres. Over 1,500 Ukrainian clergy have now been trained to offer trauma support. Their pastoral service is desperately needed and extremely consoling. But they cannot do it alone.

Mass stipends, offered through Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), are a lifeline. They help Priests survive and serve in war zones, where parish income has vanished and danger is constant.

Your gift allows Priests to continue celebrating the Eucharist, comforting the wounded, and proclaiming Christ's peace in the shadow of war. It is a powerful act of solidarity, one that reaches far beyond borders and speaks directly to the heart of suffering. In 2024, ACN supported 175 priests in Ukraine through regular



Archpriest Vitaliy Herasymiv praying with soldiers in a blockpost

stipends made possible by Mass offerings from ACN beneficiaries. In this way, ACN is accompanying priests who remain steadfast alongside the Ukrainian people, standing with them as they endure daily threats to their lives with no clear end in sight.

Please offer a Mass today. Let your offering be a light in the darkness. Let it carry the presence of God to those who need it most. ✚

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NIGERIA:

“YOUR HELP GIVES US STRENGTH TO CARRY ON”

Christian families in Nigeria find strength together as Priests accompany them in prayer and pastoral care

In northern Nigeria, where violence and fear have sadly become part of daily life, Catholic Priests continue to serve with extraordinary courage. They remain close to their people - bringing the Sacraments, offering consolation, and standing as signs of hope in communities torn apart by fundamentalists terror.

Bishop Wilfred Anagbe of Makurdi has witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by extremist violent attacks. Entire villages have been displaced and families forced to flee. Yet in the midst of this suffering, the Church remains present.

Bishop Wilfred Anagbe, who shepherds his suffering congregations, writes:

“I am deeply grateful to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) for placing our plight to the fore. Your help gives us strength to carry on.”

As Parish Priest of Layin Minista in Katsina State, Fr. Stephen Solomon courageously serves in a region plagued by abductions and nightly gunfire.

“If we hear gunshots, we immediately

gather in the church to pray,” he says.

Three of his seven outstations have closed due to evacuations. Yet nearly 1,000 faithful remain, mainly because Fr. Solomon refuses to leave them.

“On three different occasions, families in his Parish told him to leave the area and save his life,” says his Bishop Gerald Mamman Musa. “The attackers already warned him he would be next. But he refused.”



Nigerian Priest Fr. Williams Abba praying with displaced people after extremist attacks in Kajuru, Kaduna

This kind of witness is only possible with support. Without Mass offerings from ACN, Priests like Fr. Solomon could not survive, let alone serve in such dangerous and poor conditions.

Please offer a Mass today. Your gift helps sustain the Church in places where it could otherwise disappear, and brings Christ's presence to those who need it most. ✠





TURKEY:

A LIFELINE FOR PRIESTS IN TURKEY

Holy Mass in the Church of the Theotokos in Ephesus

The Church in Turkey may be small, but its witness is bold and impactful. Although Christians make up only 0.1% of the population, Catholic Priests continue to serve small, scattered communities with great devotion and unwavering perseverance. Many assist needy families and those seeking spiritual support far from home, often without local financial backing, parish income, or even a permanent church building.

Fr. Massimiliano Testi, one of 26 Priests across Turkey supported by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), says: "We do not forget you when we ascend to the Lord's altar."

His words reflect the deep gratitude of Priests who rely on Mass offerings to continue their pastoral services. One Priest, serving a culturally diverse congregation in Istanbul, shared:

"We don't receive any local aid. Your



Fr. Seraphin Kayadi, celebrating Holy Mass in Karabük, Istanbul

help is extremely important to maintain our religious community."

In Ankara, Fr Seraphin Kazadi travels to Karabük to serve 80 Catholic students, most from abroad. With no church available, he rents a hall to celebrate Mass. The stipends he receives help cover travel, rental costs, and chaplaincy support.

These Priests are not only celebrating the Holy Eucharist, they are nurturing Faith in places where the Church is fragile but alive.

A Mass offered today can be a lifeline of grace. Your kind gift can help keep the Church alive in places where it struggles to remain. ✝





UKRAINE:

BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR

Ukrainian families gather in prayer, led by their Priest, holding fast to hope amid the trials of war

In Ukraine, the war has left deep scars not only on the land but in the hearts of its people. As violence continues, the Church is stepping into trauma healing - restoring hope and walking with the wounded.

Priests are no longer just Chaplains at the front; they are companions in grief and bearers of peace in rehabilitation centres. Over 1,500 clergy have now completed training in trauma care, thanks to support from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Their pastoral services reach soldiers, families, and displaced communities broken by war.

"Trying to be a calming influence in an atmosphere of aggression and indignation is a daunting task," says Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk. "Yet the Holy Spirit is at work through our Priests."

These Priests offer more than words. They listen. They pray. They help families bury their dead and find meaning in some of the most extreme human suffering. Their presence is especially vital when

grief turns to rage, or when Faith falters under the weight of human loss. In these moments, the Priest becomes a bridge between sorrow and healing, despair and hope. But they cannot do this alone.

Your Mass offering helps sustain the great benefit of healing. It allows these

Priests to stand beside the wounded, offering not just comfort, but the healing presence of Christ in some of the darkest periods of human life.

Please offer a Mass today. Your gift brings comfort and healing to those who need it most. ☩



Fr. Vasyl Kopychy is praying while leaning on the Cross



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