



Dear Friends,

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10). The son of God became man so that he might lead us into the fullness of life with the Eternal Father. On the Cross he paid the price of all the sins that separated us from God and opened the gateway to heaven, so that our lives might find fulfilment there in the perfect happiness for which we were created. Here on earth we are privileged to believe this; in the future we will see it. This new life is so important that the Lord instructed his apostles: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:19-20).

Baptism carries within it the grace of new life. In the waters of regeneration we become children of the Eternal Father, members of the Body of Christ, temples of the Holy Spirit. Accordingly, St Paul writes: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17).

So that the grace of baptism can be fully effective, God grants special spiritual graces proper to each vocation. Religious men and women, who feel called to live this baptismal grace in a unique and special way follow the "evangelical counsels" of poverty, chastity and obedience – and are strengthened accordingly.



"So that the grace of baptism can be fully effective, God grants special spiritual graces proper to each vocation."

In the sacrament of matrimony, married couples are given the spiritual armoury they need for a life lived in love, fidelity, mutual affection and forgiveness – so that they can imitate Christ in this way and be the living embodiment of the love of Christ for his Church (cf Eph 5:32).

In the sacrament of Holy Orders we priests receive a spiritual grace that makes us like Christ – as shepherd and head – and helps us to watch vigilantly over his flock and sustain it in faith and to lead it to good pastures (cf *Pastores Dabo Vobis* 15).

These specific graces can become living and fruitful – if they are believed in,

embraced and nurtured. Otherwise they remain sterile.

One of my seminarians, a late vocation who was originally a nurse, and then a mountaineer, and had even been engaged, explained his decision to pursue a priestly vocation with the following image: "You know, the decision between marriage and family and the priesthood is not like deciding between a rusty bicycle and a Ferrari, it's like deciding between a Ferrari and a Lamborghini. Both vocations are splendid and wonderfully beautiful."

Can there be anything more important and more beautiful than to guide others to the fullness of life in God, by following your vocation and relying on the power of Jesus Christ?

My grateful thanks to you for helping us in this mission, and with my warmest good wishes and blessings,

Father Anton Lässer CP
Ecclesiastical Assistant



BOLIVIA needs priests!

“The harvest is great, but the labourers are few.”

These words of Christ most certainly apply to Bolivia, where the Church urgently needs more priests. The 20 young men currently training in the seminary of St Joseph in Cochabamba not only come from very different areas of the country, but also from wildly differing social backgrounds.



Very different personalities, but all with a common goal!

Take just two of the seminarians: prior to entering the seminary, Carlos Alberto was a telecommunications engineer, whereas Juan Gabriel was forced to do hard manual labour, even as a child, in order to help his parents. He rarely had time to himself. Juan was actually planning to marry a girl in his village when an encounter with two seminarians changed everything for him. When he told his parents he wanted to become a priest, they were angry at first. Whereas in Carlos's case, it was

his parents who were his “greatest support”, right from the start. But as he explains, what he has in common with all the other seminarians is this: “A vocation can come when we are not expecting it. Often we don't really know where we're going, but Jesus shows us the way. In the seminary I learnt to be prepared for the unexpected, to trust and to be ready to be surprised by God. I'd like to give this advice to any young people who are wondering what to do with their lives: God is always surprising us, and if we trust in him, he can change everything. The seminary is not the end, but the beginning of a journey with Jesus, who gives our lives meaning and joy.”

But if these 20 young men are to continue on their chosen path, the seminary will need support. We were asked to contribute €9,200. Will you help us to provide new priests for Bolivia?

Seminarians in **UKRAINE** are counting on your help



174 seminarians: with God's help, and yours, they will soon be priests.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted”, sing the young seminarians. Their song rises up like incense – in the Eastern Churches chant is an essential element of the liturgy. Many of them are already themselves in mourning, since the war has taken from them father, brother, friend or someone else dear to them.

174 young men are currently training for ordination at the Greek-Catholic seminary of Ivano-Frankivsk. They will become shepherds who know, from their own experience, that true healing and consolation are found only in Christ. And so for

countless suffering and grieving people they will be a source of comfort and hope.

The high number of vocations is reason for rejoicing. However at the same time it means sleepless nights for those in



Rejoicing in the Lord – despite the war.

charge. The war and economic crisis have caused living costs to rise sharply, and this has hit the seminary hard. Rector Taras Putko writes to say: “Only with your help can we afford to train these future shepherds. We are counting on you!”

By all working together could we manage to raise the €139,200 they still need?



Called by **GOD** to serve

“You are holy, you alone are the God who works marvels.”

So wrote St Francis of Assisi, the 800th anniversary of whose death we are celebrating this year. God often works these marvels through those whom he calls to his service.



Tireless: the Franciscans visiting a village.

In Quibala, in the west of **Angola**, the Franciscans have a formation house, where 15 young men are currently preparing to serve God and the poor in the spirit of St Francis. In fact novices and their teachers are already travelling out into the surrounding villages, visiting the sick, teaching reading and writing to children and adults, and reaching out to young people who might also feel a calling to the Franciscan life.

These visits to the villages are important, because even though it is God who calls, it is often contact with real people that marks the beginning of this journey.

But the villages are far away, and travelling on a moped takes a great deal of time and energy – and it is also dangerous, especially when several people are ferried by one motorbike. But taxis are expensive.



Keeping their guardian angel busy!

Having a car of their own would be safer and simpler and also save a great deal of time and money in the long term. It would also be a great help in emergencies, for example for transporting the sick.

We have promised €29,500 to these African sons of St Francis, for a sturdy vehicle that can cope with the challenging road conditions. Can you help us?



They have no electricity supply. Can you help?

In neighbouring **Zambia three “Little Sisters of St Francis” are living and working in the parish of Makunka, in a remote region where most people have never heard of Jesus Christ before.**

Poverty and superstition dominate people’s lives and until now the traditional “witch doctors” were the only ones they could turn to when facing sickness or other problems.

The sisters’ presence here is a blessing. They care for the sick, teach children and young people and provide precious support for the women and girls, who are traditionally married very young. And, sadly, sexual abuse is also widespread here.

Many of the people are filled with enthusiasm for the Gospel, which is helping to take their fears away and teach them to appreciate their own dignity as children

of God. They are delighted to have the sisters among them, and they take part enthusiastically in the life of the Church.

However, the sisters themselves are living in extremely poor circumstances. Until now there has never been any main electricity in Makunka, and the old solar panels the sisters used to rely on have long since failed.

It would cost €8,300 to connect their convent to the electricity supply, which has only recently become available in their region. So if you can help them, you will, quite literally, be giving new light and power to the sisters.



Please help these “**POWERHOUSES** of the Church”!



Lebanon: all for the love of Jesus!

Prayer is a powerful force. That’s how four Jesuit priests were able to survive the atomic bomb in Hiroshima without coming to any harm – because they were praying the Rosary. And as we read in the Old Testament, the three youths in the fiery furnace were able to sing and praise God, untouched by the flames.



Kenya: delighted with their new Eucharistic bread baking machine!

To this day so many people can tell of help and consolation received in severe illness, of astonishing transformations in seemingly impossible situations and of how they managed to find the strength every day to continue on their way, holding the hand of Jesus. Sadly, though, there are even more people who do not know God and have never learned to pray. In their suffering they do not know where to turn.

Contemplative religious bring before God the needs of all humankind, praying on their behalf. Night and day they raise up their hearts and hands to the Lord, imploring his help and mercy for the whole world. They are rightly called “spiritual powerhouses”, or the “heart” of the Church, providing, as they do, the spiritual energy for all other vocations and missions. But sadly, many people just don’t understand the importance of their quiet presence and complain that they should go and do “something useful” instead.



Colombia: “Thank you, ACN!”

In Uruguay, Maria Isabel used to think that way herself. But when her husband left her, the mother of their four children, for a younger woman, there was no one to support her in her pain and loneliness. But then she came across the Carmelite Sisters in Montevideo, who helped and supported her. “The prayer and sacrifices of these sisters makes their words and their unconditional acceptance meaningful”, Maria Isabel says today. The pain of her husband abandoning the family has not gone away but now, with the help of the sisters, she can unite her sorrow with the sufferings of the crucified Jesus, she says. And there are many others who have experienced similar things.

Contemplative nuns and monks strive to support themselves by the work of their own hands. But not at the cost of interrupting their life of prayer. For everything else they lack – and that is often a great deal – they trust entirely to God’s providence, which often manifests itself in the help of other kind hearts.

Again and again our benefactors have shown how important the prayers and sacrifices of the contemplative religious are to them. And so it is, thanks to your help, that in many cases that we have been able to help with the construction or repair of their convents, contributing to their basic support or providing essential equipment such as Eucharistic bread baking machines, which they can help to support themselves with. In this way you have helped many communities of nuns and monks, in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, to continue praying in quiet seclusion for the healing of the entire world.

And that also includes us! Will you continue to support them in their prayer?



LOVE for ever!

“Among the vocations to which men and women are called by God, marriage is one of the most noble and exalted”, wrote Pope Leo XIV on the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Zélie and Louis Martin, the parents of St Thérèse of Lisieux.



Searching for answers... with the help of YOUCAT.

The fact that more people are called to the vocation of marriage than to the priesthood or religious life does not mean there is no need for careful preparation beforehand. The number of divorces and broken families show clearly that this is often exactly what is missing. Falling in love is no guarantee of a happy family life, and the films and social media from which so many people draw their notions about love frequently convey a false image. Which is why Pope Francis appealed for solid marriage preparation.

One response to this appeal is contained in the book “YOUCAT – Love forever”. It is the result of a process that has taken many years and involved over 200 young people from 30 different countries – among them single people, engaged and married couples, priests and catechists. They were invited to express their questions, doubts and experiences which, after much theological reflection, were presented in this engaging book.

“YOUCAT – Love forever” is addressed to a variety of different target groups, including young people still seeking to find their way in life and wanting to explore such topics as love, vocation and relationships; young couples already preparing actively for marriage; priests and catechists involved in marriage preparation courses and accompanying young couples; and not least for more established married couples, who wish to renew and deepen



Ghana: They're already a happy family – with help from God.

their married relationship. “This book speaks from lived experience and helps people to rediscover the beauty of the Church’s teaching. And so it is something not merely to be read, but lived as well”, the publishers of the ACN-linked YOUCAT Foundation insist. Workshops and other activities are likewise planned by the foundation in order to creatively engage young people with the book’s content.

This book could be a useful instrument not only in societies dominated by individualism, but also in those societies where life is conditioned by ingrained traditions and taboos, which often distort the Christian ideal of marriage, and some-



It will soon be available in other languages and can be ordered from

youcat.org

or your bookstore.



Ethiopia: They are looking for eternal love here as well.

times even impose polygamy. In cultures where the human dignity of the individual – and especially of women – is not respected, this text clearly promotes the Christian ideal of marriage as a bond between free individuals, coming together in a spirit of responsibility and mutual, loving respect.

The new book aims to promote a new approach to relationships – regardless of the cultural context. The need for a genuine, sustaining love is universal. When love is lived as a vocation, it grows, matures, and is supported by God; then what may seem like a fairy tale can indeed become reality – eternal love!



A message of thanks from the Holy Father



On 10 October 2025 Pope Leo XIV welcomed an international delegation from ACN. He imparted his apostolic blessing on our charity and likewise on you all, our dear friends and benefactors, and expressed his gratitude for everything that your help has made possible in so many places around the world:

“Wherever Aid to the Church in Need rebuilds a chapel, supports a religious sister, or provides for a radio station or a vehicle, you strengthen the life of the Church, as well as the spiritual and moral fabric of society. And as I am sure you are aware, your organisation has helped many of the missions in Peru, including in the Dioceses of Chiclayo, where I was privileged to serve. Your assistance likewise helps Christians, even small and vulnerable minorities, to be ‘peacemakers’ (Mt 5:9) in their homelands.

“Dear friends, I thank each of you for this work of solidarity. Do not grow weary of doing good (cf Gal 6:9), for your service bears fruit in countless lives and gives glory to our Father in heaven.” Pope Leo XIV

Need, love and thanks – your letters

A great source of information about the Church

I came to know ACN through Radio Horeb, and really excited by your work. You provide more information about the universal Church than anywhere else.

A supporter in Germany

The fruit of his labours

I’m recently retired and had the pleasure this autumn of helping with the wine harvest in Burgundy. It was a real celebration of God’s gifts to us (and the fruit of human labour). And so, to follow through on this experience, I’m sending you what I earned, for the support of our Christian brothers and sisters wherever it is needed. May God bless you all abundantly!

A friend and benefactor in France

Spiritual help through her prayers

As a Christian I’m familiar with Jesus’ words: “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to me.” My contribution is no more than a drop in the ocean – since I’m a pensioner and don’t have much money – but we can also help spiritually through our prayers. And this is what I try to do.

A friend and benefactor in Slovakia

You can go where my legs don’t take me
I’m delighted with the work of ACN. Sadly, I can’t do a lot to help, but I’d like to make a small monthly contribution. It’s wonderful to know that we can make a little difference in someone else’s life. You can go where my legs won’t take me and, indirectly, I will be going with you.

A friend and benefactor in Brazil



Regina Lynch

Executive President,
ACN (International)

Dear Friends,

One of the great privileges of working with this foundation is that we meet many bishops, priests and religious of the universal Church either in our offices or out in the field. It is an opportunity to learn about their life, their challenges and their joys and for me it is also a chance to ask about how they found their vocation.

Some will mention being inspired by a particular saint or by the charisma of a congregation but many of the priests will tell me how it was the example of their own parish priest, who made them want to join the seminary in order to be like him. I remember how one priest from a former Communist country of Eastern Europe told me that his parish priest led such a holy life that ten young men from that village found their vocation and became priests. He taught them to play sports, to study, to love all those around them and to pray.

Prayer is very important. We should pray not only for vocations but also for those men or women, who are already ordained or in religious life. They need our prayers so that they can be an example and an inspiration for those, who are seeking this special way to serve in God’s Kingdom.

Regina Lynch

Where to send your contribution for the Church in Need

Please use the envelope. Aid to the Church in Need, 35/3, Mdina Road, Attard, ATD 9038; Tel: 21487818; Fax: 21586257

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Pass this leaflet on to your neighbours, friends or leave it at the Parish Church for others to review.



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