

UKRAINE: “PLEASE DON’T ABANDON US”

Father Lucas Perozzi during Food distribution

These words send saddening thoughts through our minds and hearts, as a reminder that the conflict in Ukraine has been ongoing for four years now, a conflict that unfathomably has become a way of life for the people of Ukraine, including millions of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fr. Lucas Perozzi knows so much of the dangers faced every day by people in Ukraine.

“We face death every day. Every day we hear of soldiers killed in the war, and every day there is a burial nearby,” says Fr. Lucas.

As temperatures drop rapidly, airstrikes often target energy systems.

“We have blackouts every day. Sometimes we celebrate Mass by candlelight or a battery-powered flashlight when it is charged. The electricity is turned off at 4 a.m. and only turned back on again at around 5 p.m.,” he

tells Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

“Sometimes we have electricity, sometimes we don’t; sometimes we have water, then we don’t, sometimes we have food, other times we go hungry.

“Prices are rising, and people don’t know what to do. It is a miracle that people manage to live at all, especially the refugees from the east who live here now, I don’t know how they even survive.”

Father Lucas Perozzi shows a picture of a small cardboard house and asks for help for his parishioners

Any contribution you can make to ACN projects in Ukraine will directly support Christians suffering in this time of war. They need our help, and we need your support to continue providing much-needed help.

Thank you very much for your kindness and prayers. Your support means the world to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. 🙏

If you wish to receive this leaflet by post please send us your contact details via SMS on 7922 5500



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN MALTA



SYRIA: **“MISSILES ARE RAINING DOWN ON US”**

Displaced people taking shelter at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Lattakia

This winter in Syria is especially hard. Fighting has returned to Aleppo, and families who have already endured more than a decade of war, now face fresh violence and increased hardship.

This new wave of fighting began just as Christians were preparing to celebrate Christmas and Epiphany. “Bombs are raining down on us,” told us Fr. Fadi Najjar, an ACN project partner. “We don’t know what is happening or what is going to happen.”

The Church has opened its doors once more - parish halls, monasteries and convents now shelter families who fled with nothing. Priests and Sisters are doing everything they can, even as they themselves live under the same fear.

“Civilians are always the weakest link. Many have left their homes. Many have died. Please pray for us”, says Fr. Fadi.

And yet, even in this moment of deep uncertainty, the Catholic Church stands strong, providing both practical and spiritual help to all in her care.

This is where, dear Benefactor, your love



becomes life-saving.

Your support helps ACN strengthen the Catholic Church’s presence in Aleppo through small but essential acts that keep families going:

- **Safe shelter** in Church buildings for families who have fled the fighting.
- **Powdered milk for babies and toddlers** through the Drop of Milk programme, which now supports around 3,000 children each month

in Homs and Aleppo.

- **Warm clothing for children**, many of whom have nothing suitable for the terrible winter months.

The people of Aleppo are asking for prayers — and they are asking for help. Please donate today. Your love brings hope into a city longing for peace. ✝



VENEZUELA: **WHERE HOPE** **TRAVELS ON** **DUSTY ROADS**

Sisters of the Missionaries of Jesus and Mary transport food from the borders of Venezuela's neighbouring countries

There are places in Venezuela where hope travels on dusty roads, in the back of a small truck, driven by women who have given their whole lives to the poorest of the poor.

For more than 50 years, the Sisters of the Missionary Association of Jesus and Mary have been that hope. They care for the sick and feed the hungry. They shelter girls who have been abandoned or orphaned and run a preschool where over 80 children receive meals, education, and dignity.

But in recent years, their work became almost impossible. Their old vehicle broke down constantly, and with food and medicine being too scarce, the only place they could get basic necessities was the Colombian border — 290 miles away.

Still, the Sisters kept going. They never stopped. They never turned anyone away.

Then, because of people like you, dear Benefactors, something changed. ACN provided a sturdy Toyota Hilux that became a lifeline on wheels - a way to reach the forgotten and to bring food, medicine, clothing, and comfort to

families who have nothing.

When the Sisters received the vehicle, they said: "With all our hearts, we thank you."

Today, Venezuela needs that help more than ever. The country is living through deep uncertainty, and the recent political tensions have shaken communities and increased fear among people. The Bishops have pleaded for calm, unity, and prayer.

In the middle of this, the Church

remains the one steady presence - where people can find help and hope.

With your support, ACN equips the Church to reach the poorest with essentials, care for children and, most importantly, the hope they cannot find elsewhere.

Please donate today. Your support helps the Church keep going - one family, one act of mercy at a time. ✚



Children helped by the Sisters of the Missionary Association of Jesus and Mary





YOUR COMPASSIONATE HEART BRINGS HOPE

acnmalta.org/compassionate-hope

NIGERIA: **DESPERATE** **FOR HELP** **AND HOPE**

Victims and displaced people after
Fulani attacks in Benue, Nigeria

Imagine having to run for your life, carrying nothing but the clothes you are wearing. Imagine seeing loved ones killed in front of you, with nowhere safe to turn. For so many of our Christian brothers and sisters in Nigeria, this is not an imagination. It is their daily reality.

In Nigeria, violence against Christians has been escalating for years. And just days after the relief of seeing more than 250 kidnapped schoolchildren released before Christmas, the New Year opened with fresh heartbreak.

In the Diocese of Kontagora, 42 men were massacred in the village of Kasuwan Daji. Nearby, attackers entered a Catholic church compound and destroyed the crucifix, the Stations of the Cross, and the instruments used for Sunday worship. Families are terrified. Communities are grieving. Once again, the Church finds herself on the front line of pain.

Particularly distressing is the situation of the Papiri schoolchildren. After being released from captivity, they are now further traumatised, forced to hide in the bush with their families whenever there are reports of attackers nearby — sometimes day and night.

Yet, in the middle of all this, the Church remains the one source of hope people can still turn to. Priests, Sisters, and lay leaders continue visiting traumatised families, offering comfort, practical help, and the Sacraments — often at great personal risk.



Archbishop Ndagoso of Kaduna visiting destroyed village communities after violent attacks

With your support, ACN can strengthen this vital work where the need is greatest, providing:

- **Emergency relief** — food, hygiene items, medicines, and temporary shelter for families who have lost everything.
- **Trauma-healing training** for Priests and Sisters so they can accompany victims of massacres, kidnappings, and displacement.

Please donate today. Your kindness turns your concern into something real and life-giving. ☕



ACN

Aid to the
Church in Need
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