

 **LEBANON**

 **25 years**
ANNIVERSARY

acnmalta.org/summer-camp

WILL YOU HELP A CHILD STAY IN SCHOOL?

Children at Notre Dame de la Tour, Deir el Ahmar, Bekaa - one of the Catholic Schools supported by ACN in Lebanon

How many of us carry blessed memories from our time in a Catholic school? Perhaps it was where we first learned the basics of our faith, where we prepared for First Holy Communion or Confirmation, or where a Sister, chaplain or religion teacher offered the guidance we needed at just the right moment.

For countless families in Lebanon, Catholic schools have been that same source of formation and hope, but today, that anchor is under immense strain. Years of economic collapse have left families unable to pay fees. Teachers have gone months without salaries and, in the south, war has forced several schools to close entirely, pushing thousands of children into instability.

Some schools have moved classes online to keep education going, but many

parents can no longer afford even the most basic costs.

Support for Catholic schools in Lebanon is a priority for ACN. The Maronite Archbishop of Tripoli, Youssef Soueif, speaks with urgency and gratitude:

"This support is essential to ensure the long-term viability of our Catholic schools, to safeguard the continuity of their educational and spiritual mission, and to preserve their unique role as

beacons of light and Christian values in a world marked by war and uncertainty." Your kind support keeps this light burning.

With your help, thousands of children will continue to grow in Faith, families can remain rooted in their ancient homeland, and the Church's fragile presence will be preserved for generations to come.

Will you help a child stay in school? 



A Sister with a family helped by the Missionary Sisters of the Very Holy Sacrament, who run the "Jeune fille du Liban" school in the village of Beit Habbag, Lebanon

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BE THE REASON A CHILD SMILES AGAIN

 **UKRAINE**

A REFUGE FOR WEARY YOUNG HEARTS

ACN supported "Holidays with God" for children and young people in the Diocese of Mukachevo for 2025

War has stolen so much from the children of Ukraine - their homes, their safety, and their very sense of childhood. Yet, through your kindness, they can find moments of peace and comfort again.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) works alongside local Priests and Sisters to offer a refuge of love and care for these children. Through the "Holidays with God" retreats, around 4,000 children are welcomed into a nurturing environment every year.

These days away offer food, friendship, prayer, and the safe space their hearts desperately need. These retreats are not simply holidays - they are lifelines. They help children rediscover joy, rebuild trust, and remember that God has not abandoned them. They give them the strength to keep going.

Far away from the sound of war, they find a space to breathe, pray, play, and simply feel like children again. Surrounded by a supportive Faith community, these retreats become a sanctuary where young hearts can begin to heal.



Art activity for children at the "Holidays with God" summer camp in Ukraine

Your compassion makes this pastoral care possible. As ACN's Project Director, Marco Mencaglia says, "The chance to live some days of serenity in the company of Priests, animators and other young people, joyfully sharing the common Faith, is often the sole opportunity for

them to keep hope and try to heal the wounds of their soul."

Will you give a Ukrainian child a moment of peace? Because of you, a child can feel safe again - even if only for a few days. 🙏



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LEBANON

A PLACE TO BELONG IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Pastoral activities for young people at an ACN-supported summer camp in Lebanon

In a country where daily life has become a struggle, the sight of children running freely across a campsite feels like an immense blessing. These moments of joy and friendship are not accidental - they are made possible by the generous kindness of people like you.

For many of us, scouting was where we first learned what it meant to belong - the shared games or the first lessons in teamwork and service. In Lebanon, Les Scouts du Liban (SDL) continue to offer that same gift to a generation growing up amid war and uncertainty. Founded in 1936, the movement has become a steady presence in more than 100 schools, clubs and parishes, forming young people in citizenship, service and faith.

Last year, with support from ACN, over 4,000 scouts and 300 volunteers came together in Baskinta for three days of outdoor adventure, leadership challenges, creative workshops and spiritual formation. They learned about nature, about Père Jacques Sevin, Saint George



The young scouts in a group photo with their Bishop

and Lebanese saints - and about the joy of serving others with a generous heart.

Your kind support continues to make possible hundreds of these summer camps across Lebanon. Camps where young people deepen their faith, build

friendships that sustain them through hardship, and return home with a renewed desire to serve their communities.

Will you allow this beautiful story of friendship and community to continue unfolding in Lebanon? ✝️





BE THE REASON A CHILD SMILES AGAIN

 **EGYPT**

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TO KNOW THEY ARE NOT ALONE

A prayerful procession during a pastoral summer camp, supported by ACN in Alexandria, Egypt

In Egypt, where Christians make up only a small minority, and Catholics an even smaller one, many young people grow up feeling isolated, unsure where they fit, and often carrying their Faith quietly to avoid misunderstanding or ridicule. As a result, there is a deep longing to know they are not alone in their Faith.

This is why the summer camps at the Franciscan Monastery in Mokattam matter so much. With the support of ACN, the Coptic Catholic Diocese of Abo Korkass is preparing three pastoral camps: one for high-school students, one for university students, and one for Priests.

These gatherings offer something young Catholics rarely experience - a space where they can pray openly, ask questions freely, and meet others who share their Faith.

ACN's project reports describe how these camps help young people "navigate the modern world and find fellowship," giving them the confidence to live their Faith with joy.

In previous years, participants have spoken about discovering friendships that sustained them long after the camp ended, and Priests have shared how these

days of reflection renewed their strength for ministry.

Your kind generosity helps create these moments of courage and communion. Will you help a young Catholic find Faith and friendship this summer?

Any donation kindly given will go to support these or similar projects through Aid to the Church in Need. 

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