



Aid to the Church in Need

2017 International Annual Report

Visit our website at
www.churchinneed.org

725 Leonard Street
P.O. Box 220384
Brooklyn, NY, 11222

Your Donations in Action



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Dear Friends,

In 2017, the persecuted Christian communities in the Middle East – particularly in Iraq and Syria – remained a top priority for Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Thanks to your generous and faithful support, ACN has been able to roll out a ‘Marshall Plan’ to help thousands of displaced Christians. You have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Syrian and Iraqi Christians by supporting humanitarian and pastoral projects in excess of \$85 million since 2011. You have become a lifeline for Christian communities in the Middle East threatened with extinction – feeding, clothing and sheltering those desperately running out of hope.

With your help, some 4,000 Iraqi Christians, who fled ISIS in the summer of 2014, have been able to return to their homes on the Nineveh Plains. In Syria, to restore the dignity of our faith and send a strong message of hope to the faithful, work has begun to rebuild desecrated churches, cemeteries, and to repair badly damaged schools.

In 2017, we provided \$11 million in aid to Christians in Iraq and \$6.7 million to Christians in Syria. However, thousands of Christian families and their children still depend on us for monthly food packages, and we are committed to continuing that humanitarian aid with your support.

Your generosity also served Christians in other parts of the world. For instance, thanks to you, we were able to give \$6.8 million in aid to Christians in India confronted with a rise in Hindu extremism. I am happy to report that despite persecution, Catholic communities are growing very quickly; vocations are flourishing, between 500 and 1,000 priests are ordained in India each year, and more than 15,000 seminarians are in formation.

In Europe, we committed \$5.5 million in projects helping the faithful in Ukraine, a country suffering economic hardship and an ongoing deadly conflict with Russia. The Ukrainian Church is a beacon of hope, providing both spiritual and material support to its people.

As in 2016, a significant portion of our aid in 2017 went to strengthen the Catholic communities in Africa, the youngest and fastest-growing Church in the world. Poverty is Africa’s greatest challenge, alongside the growing threat of radical Islam.

Overall, your generosity in 2017 enabled our organization to support more than 5,000 projects in 149 countries, with a total of almost \$100 million of aid distributed to strengthen communities of Faith facing persecution.

You may never meet those to whom your prayers and gifts bring healing and comfort, but you can be assured of their gratitude and prayers in return.

Thank you for your continued trust and generous support, I am

Respectfully,

George J. Marlin
Chairman, ACNUSA

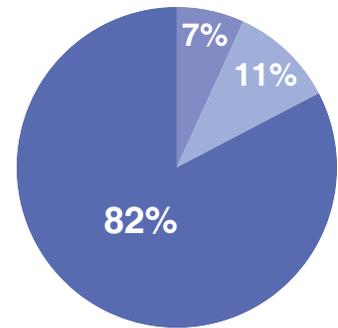


ACN International Income Statement – 2017

Income

in Euros

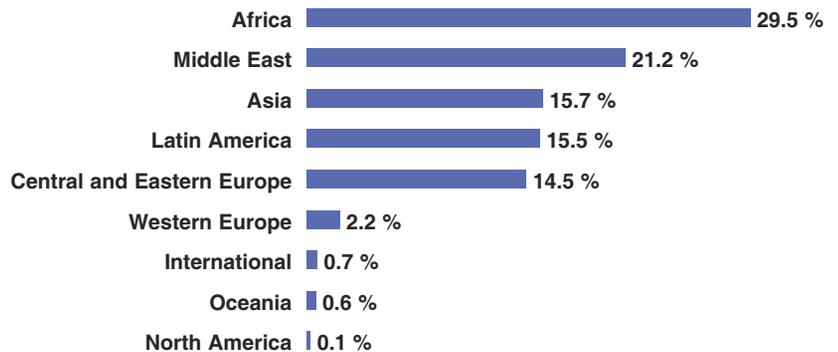
Donations.....	€ 124,057,414
Expenditure	
Projects	
Construction & repair churches and convents 33%.....	33,039,653
Refugee & emergency aid 16%.....	15,814,712
Mass Stipends for poor priests 15%.....	15,512,520
Formation of priests & religious 12%.....	12,188,409
Religious formation of the laity 10%.....	9,670,142
Transportation: cars, bikes, mules 8%.....	7,554,799
Support for religious Sisters 3%.....	3,424,842
Religious literature, media apostolate 2%.....	1,913,882
Mass Media 2%.....	1,611,690
Total Projects.....	100,730,649
Fundraising.....	12,847,144
Administration Costs.....	8,537,798
Donations carried over.....	1,941,823
Total.....	€ 124,057,414



2017 Summary

- ACN has offices in **23** countries
- We are supported by more than **368,000** donors around the world
- We work with the local Church in **149** countries
- We approved **5,357** projects worldwide

Aid allocated per region



How Your Gifts Were Used

- **1,212 construction projects** You helped build chapels, churches, cathedrals, convents, rectories and seminaries—many in regions devastated by natural disasters or ravaged by war and terror. One third of these projects involved the building or repair of churches.
- **1,504,105 Mass Offerings** You helped one priest out of every 10 with your Mass offerings (40,383 priests in total), especially in Africa (15,440) and Asia (10,748). Every 21 seconds in 2017, a Mass was celebrated somewhere in the world for the intentions of our benefactors.
- **You supported 13,643 seminarians in 2017** This was the greatest number of future priests we've helped in the last 20 years. You supported one in every nine seminarians around the world. Most of the seminarians who received aid were in Africa (5,486), Latin America (2,919) and Asia (2,101).
- **12,801 women religious supported** We helped one Sister out of every 52, mostly with their ongoing formation and their apostolate.
- **More than 11,100 transportation projects** 424 cars – 257 motorcycles – 429 bicycles – four trucks – three buses – three boats; most of the cars were for Africa and Eastern Europe; most of the bicycles for Africa and Latin America.
- **In 2017, you helped fund a total of 5,357 projects** We were able to support 54 projects more than in 2016. As in previous years, the largest proportion of our funding went to construction projects. It accounted for 32.8 percent of the total, followed by aid for refugees and other emergency projects, and by funding of religious formation, including support for 37,797 catechists and lay pastoral helpers.

