



# Aid to the Church in Need

## 2019 International Annual Report

Aid to the Church in Need  
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Visit our website at [www.churchinneed.org](http://www.churchinneed.org)

### YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION



### *Dear Friends of Aid to the Church in Need,*

What was the impact of your support of ACN in 2019? Aid recipient Melkite Patriarch Joseph Absi, writing from Syria, provides the answer: “With your support, we have been able to rebuild our souls, rebuild our community and rebuild our country.”

Thanks to your generosity this past year, ACN was able to fund 5,230 projects in 139 countries and in 1,162 dioceses. These projects helped Christians overcome discrimination, harassment or violence, suffered because they stay faithful to their love of Christ. Some 300 million Christians are at risk of various forms of persecution; in their darkest hour, they draw strength from knowing that their brothers and sisters in the West have not forgotten them.

Much of our aid in 2019 went to Africa (\$25M) and the Middle East (Syria \$8.5M; Iraq \$6.2M). Though fast-growing, the African Church is hampered by Islamist terror, particularly in the sub-Saharan region. Jihadist violence has uprooted thousands in Burkina Faso, straining the local Church’s resources; Nigeria (\$1.6M) suffers from the terror of Boko Haram and from murderous raids by mostly Muslim Fulani herdsmen targeting Christian farmers. In northern Iraq, the focus has turned to the repair and rebuilding of Churches and infrastructure, devastated during the ISIS occupation; in Syria, our programs support a Christian population battered by nine years of civil war and severe economic hardship.

Increasingly, South Asia is a focal point of Christian persecution. In India (\$5.8M), there is a rapidly growing

Church but increasingly violent Hindu nationalism. Extremists there consider Christianity an unwelcome foreign import. Persecution continues in Pakistan (\$1M) and in Sri Lanka—where Islamist suicide bombers killed more than 270 people on Easter Sunday 2019.

Your support permitted ACN to help hundreds of local Churches around the world offer practical and spiritual support and hope for Christian communities in need. Hope is especially welcomed in countries suffering chronic hardship, such as Ukraine (\$4.5M) and Venezuela (\$1.1M). There, and everywhere, the Church is an indispensable force for good.

Please know that you are in the prayers of countless beneficiaries. “You have touched humanity in very unique and powerful ways,” write the Tertiary Sisters of Saint Francis in Cameroon. “We will forever be grateful to you. May the good Lord reward you all from his abundance and unite you all in his love.”

Thank you for staying at their side, especially during these difficult times.

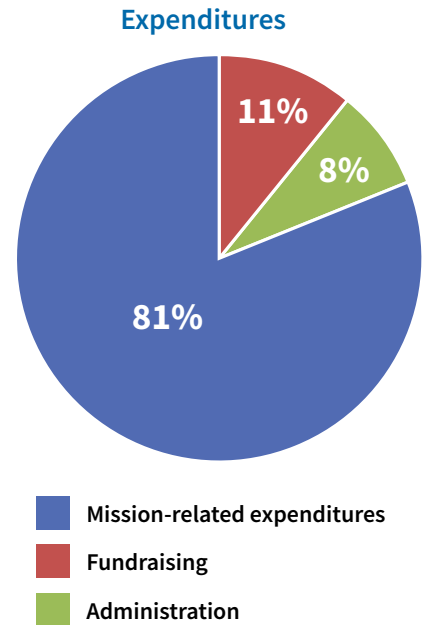
With gratitude and respect,

**George J. Marlin, Chairman**  
Aid to the Church in Need-USA



## ACN International Income Statement – 2019

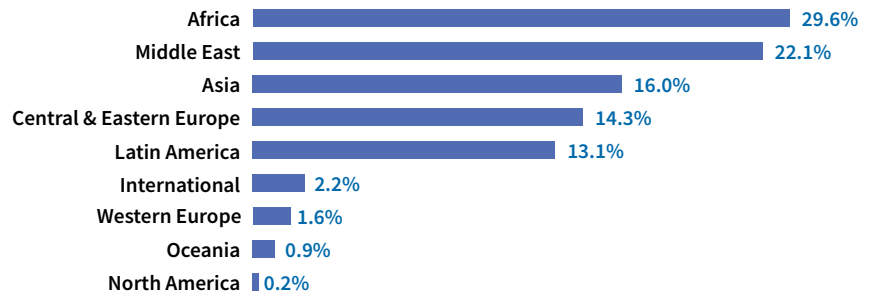
Income		
Donations	\$124,489,053	
Expenditure		
Mission-related expenditures		
Construction & repair of churches & convents	\$20,406,140	20.4%
Evangelization & advocacy	\$15,112,118	15.1%
Refugee & emergency aid	\$14,284,289	14.3%
Formation of priests & religious	\$13,604,093	13.6%
Mass stipends for poor priests	\$13,519,068	13.5%
Religious formation of the laity	\$9,352,814	9.3%
Transportation: cars, bikes, mules	\$4,931,484	4.9%
Support for religious Sisters	\$4,251,484	4.2%
Mass Media	\$2,720,819	2.7%
Religious literature & publications	\$1,955,588	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,137,700</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$14,229,267</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Administrative costs</b>	<b>\$10,122,086</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$124,489,053</b>	<b>100%</b>



### 2019 Summary

- ACN has offices in **23 countries**
- We are supported by more than **330,000 donors** worldwide
- We work with the local Church in **139 countries**
- We supported **5,230 projects** worldwide

### Aid Allocated per Region



### How Your Gifts Were Used

- **1,315 construction projects:** A good third of all our construction projects were in the Middle East and involved the rebuilding and repair of churches, religious houses, pastoral centers and family homes for the returning Christian refugees. Most of the other projects for churches, religious houses and retreat centers that we funded were in Africa.
- **1,378,635 Mass offerings:** Almost 1.4 million Masses—that means that Holy Mass was celebrated approximately every 23 seconds somewhere in the world for the intentions of our benefactors. At the same time, we were able to help roughly 1 in 10 of the 414,582 Catholic priests around the world. Approximately 38% of these Mass offerings went to the Church in Africa.
- **16,206 seminarians supported:** All together, there are 115,328 Catholic seminarians around the world. One in 7 of them receives support from ACN, most of them in Africa (8,039), followed by Latin America (3,061) and Eastern Europe (3,254). Once again, we particularly emphasized formation in human maturity this year.
- **13,862 religious Sisters supported in their apostolate or training:** Most projects were for religious formation and other studies for a total of 4,416 Sisters and 1,035 novices. Subsistence aid for religious Sisters was divided among 3,529 active and 2,190 contemplative religious.
- **663 means of pastoral transportation:** This included bicycles, motorcycles, cars and boats. Most of these, in 2019 as before, were for priests, religious Sisters and catechists engaged in pastoral and missionary outreach.

**All together, we supported 5,230 projects in 2019, 211 more than in the previous year.**



### “Thank you”

Children gathered together for a baptism in Benin, with a message of gratitude to ACN’s donors. It speaks for so many other religious, children and persecuted Christians around the world.