



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN IRELAND

L E G A C I E S



Keep the Faith Alive  
with a Legacy of Love

[acnireland.org/legacies](http://acnireland.org/legacies)

PONTIFICAL  
FOUNDATION



# Contents



**SYRIA: Reconstruction of the Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, Homs, that was damaged by ISIS during the war.**

A Gift of Faith .....	1
The impact of a Legacy .....	3
Examples of Our Work.....	4
Preparing a Legacy .....	10
A Legacy of Masses .....	13
Frequently asked questions.....	14
Legacy Pledge Form .....	17

# A Gift of Faith

A photograph of three children from a tribal community in India. They are carrying large, yellow, plastic pots on their heads. The child on the left is a girl wearing a red shirt and a yellow and blue patterned headscarf. The child in the middle is a girl wearing a red and white patterned shirt and a green headscarf. The child on the right is a boy wearing a white shirt and a red and white patterned headscarf. They are all looking towards the camera with serious expressions.

**INDIA:** Tribal children of a small town transport sand for the works of the mission parish in Jharkhand State.

Perhaps you were given the gift of Faith as an infant. Perhaps you chose to embrace the Faith as an adult. Whatever the story, we realise that our Catholic Faith is an undeserved gift, carried to us by generations of men and women we will never know.

These people are indeed our ancestors in Faith; the light of Christ was passed to them, they in turn kept that light burning brightly until it came to us.

**St. John Henry Newman** (1801-1890) once wrote that each of us is, *'a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons'*. Our life is given to be a gift for others; to share that which we have received. Even more so, those of us given the light of Faith are called to pass it on. We do not own our Faith; we enter into the Church and we become stewards of

the mysteries of salvation. We are obliged to ensure our Faith does not end with us, we do not want to be the last link in the chain, or the one who extinguishes the candle.

For over seventy years, **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)** has brought hope to millions of Catholics and Catholic communities who live their Faith through the reality of intense suffering and persecution. Aid to the Church in Need is in fact the only international Catholic charity dedicated to this mission.

We carry the light of Faith into those places where it is at risk of going out, or where the Church is simply unable to sustain itself. Our work is not publicly funded but supported solely by the generous offerings of more than 350,000 private benefactors.



**RWANDA: Pallotine Sister Cécire helping families in the Masaka district.**

By remembering Aid to the Church in Need in your Will, you leave a lasting legacy of Faith, you extend to others the free gift of your own baptism. Your gift will assist us to keep the light shining brightly in a world which cries out for the love and peace that only Christ can offer. Your legacy will help us to:

- **Support close to 15,000 seminarians each year** on their journey to the altar.
- Bring Christ to multitudes by providing **Mass offerings to priests in need.**
- **Build new churches** in areas of growth and **rebuild churches that have been destroyed by violence.**
- **Form lay Catholics who will serve as catechists** in villages and communities where there are no priests or sisters.
- **Help priests and sisters travel thousands of kilometres in their ministry** by supplying cars, boats, bicycles (even mules and horses).
- **Provide emergency relief to Christian refugees** fleeing persecution and war.
- **Sustain the lives of religious sisters** so that they can continue to bring Christ to the needy.
- **Proclaim the Word of God by supporting catechetical work,** broadcasting and publications.

# The impact of a Legacy

The impact of any legacy, large or small, is profound because that offering assists in turning souls towards the Lord. A legacy allows the Faith to grow and flourish in those places where it simply would not without external help. Here are just a few examples of how different sized offerings can help Aid to the Church in Need in it's mission to the suffering and persecuted Church:



€1,000

A motorbike for the pastoral work of the HGN Fathers in Pamban, **India**.



€1,400

1500 copies of the Child's Bible for children in Nova Iguacu, **Brazil**.



€2,000

A seminar on marriage and family for couples in Iringa Diocese, **Tanzania**.



€3,500

Formation of postulants and novices of the Brothers of St. Martin de Porres, **Uganda**.



€1,000

Existence help for 11 novices of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation, **Vietnam**.



€4,000

Seminar and retreat for the clergy of the Apostolic Life Community, **Africa**.



€5,000

Completion of a convent for the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer, **Tanzania**.



€10,000

Formation of 32 seminarians in **Ecuador**.



€15,000

A host baking machine for the Sisters of St. Clare, **Papua New Guinea**.



€25,000

2910 Mass stipends for 97 priests in the diocese of Kohima, **India**.



€30,000

Repairs to St. Peter's Chaldean Seminary, **Iraq**.



€30,000

Vehicle for pastoral work in the Diocese of Dili, **East Timor**.

## Examples of Our Work



IRAQ: Pope Francis' visit to the Church of 'Immaculate Conception' in Qaraqosh.

### Helping Iraq's Christians Rebuild

The Nineveh Plain is the Christian heartland of northern **Iraq**. The Assyrian Christian town of Qaraqosh is one of the most historic settlements in the region. The vast majority of the residents of Qaraqosh are Syriac Catholics.

In 2014, the Christians of Qaraqosh were forced to flee the advance of ISIS. ISIS occupied Qaraqosh and left the town in ruins when it was liberated by the Iraqi Army in 2016.

Most of Qaraqosh's Christians fled to Erbil, the capital of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region. Many returned to Qaraqosh after the town was liberated. ACN helped support these Christians when they were refugees, and we are determined to extend this help to assist with the rebuilding of Qaraqosh and other nearby Christian towns and villages.

ACN helped the local Christian community in Qaraqosh to rebuild the historic Al-Tahira Syriac Catholic church. Pope Francis visited this church during his visit to Iraq in March 2021. This is just one of the many churches in Iraq and the Middle East that ACN has helped repair or rebuild.



IRAQ: Finishing construction of partially damaged Holy Family Ephremite nursery Qaraqosh.

Iraq's Christian population is very young, with a high proportion of young families. Many young children have spent most of their lives as refugees. Socialising with other children is key to every child's development, with it being doubly important for children from displaced families.

ACN financed the reconstruction of the Holy Family Nursery in Qaraqosh, which is run by the St. Ephrem Sisters. There are now nearly 50 children enrolled in the rebuilt nursery who are able to safely play and socialise with each other.

The education and development of Iraq's Christian children is a top priority of ACN. In the Nineveh Plain we have rebuilt five kindergartens, a nursery and two schools at a cost of €2.3 million.

Legacies left to ACN are vital for us being able to carry out these long-term projects that are so vital to securing the future of Christians in Iraq.

*'It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.'*

2 MACCABEES 12:46



---

## Spreading Faith, Hope and Love

ACN supports 18,000 catechists worldwide. One of these catechists is **John Joseph Gasi** from **South Sudan**. John sadly lost his family and his home in South Sudan's civil war:

*"My father, my sister and my brother were killed. It happened in the space of a few minutes."*

John was able to flee and take refuge in neighbouring Uganda. He joined more than one million people living in refugee camps there. The living conditions for the refugees were tough, but just as bad are the scars of conflict left on the displaced people. This is particularly true for the young people, many of whom are still trying to recover from what they went through as child soldiers.

Being able to relate to the experiences of other refugees John was guided by the Holy Spirit to carry out a special mission to bring healing and Faith:

*"Many of them are filled with hate and thoughts of revenge. I talk to them about forgiveness."*

Through teaching people more about the Faith, John is helping them to recover from the traumas inflicted upon them. There are not enough priests and religious to minister to the South Sudanese in refugee camps in Uganda. Catechists are required to help the Church in Her mission.

ACN helped finance John's training at the Emmaus Centre in Uganda to become a catechist. John is now a catechist and is continuing his ministry to help his fellow countrymen to find healing in the Faith.



**UGANDA: John Joseph Gasi, refugee from South Sudan, at Bidi Bidi refugee settlement.**



---

## Protecting Christians

Since 2011, ACN has been supporting the Pakistani bishops' Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP). Christians are a small minority in Pakistan and face persecution and discrimination. The CCJP is at the forefront of advocating for the rights of Pakistan's Christians.

**Pakistan** has harsh blasphemy laws that are frequently used unjustly against Christians. False accusations against Christians are frequently made. If found guilty the accused can face the death penalty. The CCJP helps provide legal aid to accused Christians.

**Father Emmanuel Yousaf**, the director of the CCJP, understands the families of the accused are often at risk of retaliation. For this reason, the CCJP also extends support to the families of those accused of blasphemy.

One of the most distressing trends to emerge in Pakistan in recent years is the kidnapping of teenage Christian girls. These girls are forced to 'convert' to Islam and then placed in forced marriages. The families of these kidnapped girls are frequently frustrated by the police and courts in having their daughters returned to them.



This is because the courts regard the girls as converts to Islam and are often reluctant to return them to their Christian families.

The CCJP have begun a new project supported by ACN to address this injustice by providing greater protections and safeguarding measures for Christian girls. Father Yousaf believes that additional laws giving clear protection to the girls in these circumstances are needed alongside proper implementation.

With ACN's support, the CCJP has begun to consult and contact politicians and other representatives to raise awareness of the issue of abductions and forced marriages, and advocate for much needed legislation.



**PAKISTAN: Fr. Emmanuel Yousaf (Mani),  
Director of CCJP.**



**RUSSIA: Fr. Aleksandr Tkachenko with sick children and their parents at children's hospice.**

## Caring for God's Children

For almost 30 years, ACN has been working with the Russian Orthodox Church. Without doubt one of the most successful of these projects carried out as part of this partnership is the Orthodox children's hospice in St. Petersburg. The hospice was founded in 2003 by **Father Aleksandr Tkachenko**.

Father Aleksandr had previously studied in the United States as a hospital chaplain. Before the hospice was founded, terminally ill children were often sent home and the families were left to cope by themselves. Father Aleksandr initially started helping by delivering supplies to family homes.

Realising the situation was inadequate for both the children and the families involved, Father Aleksandr founded Russia's first ever children's hospice and has received support from ACN from the beginning. At the hospice, the children and their families are given the medical, emotional, and spiritual support that they need.

One of the main aims of the hospice is to allow the terminally ill children to still be children. Every effort is made to help the children to experience love and joy. The hospice has been a success. **Patriarch Kirill**, the current head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has visited the hospice.



**RUSSIA: Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all Russia visiting the children's hospice.**

Patriarch Kirill frequently publicly praises the hospice and Father Aleksandr's work and has even described visiting the hospice as one of the most moving moments in his life.

A children's hospice has now also been opened in Moscow. Father Aleksandr is recognised as one of the foremost experts in Russia on hospice care. Despite all that has been achieved there is more work that needs to be done.

The hospice building in St. Petersburg is in need of extensive renovations. ACN is helping Father Aleksandr to continue his ministry with a donation of €30,000 for the building renovations. This work is only possible through the support of our benefactors.



**RUSSIA: Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all Russia**

# Preparing a Legacy



SYRIA: A child, looks through the gate of the Melkite Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in the ancient city of Homs.

A legacy, also known as a bequest, is simply a gift left in one's Will to a person, or an organisation. The legacy comes out of the 'estate,' which is the total sum of a person's assets at their death. There are several types of legacies that can be chosen:

## Fixed Sum Legacy

Also known as a pecuniary legacy, this is a pre-specified monetary amount. Keep in mind it may be twenty or more years before a gift is realised, so the value of the final offering may be significantly less than what was originally intended. As a result, many of our benefactors choose to offer a residual legacy.

## Residual Legacy

This is the amount left in an estate after all debts, expenses, pecuniary and specific legacies have been paid. A person may choose to leave any percentage of their residual estate, up to 100%.

## Specific Legacy

This is a non-monetary gift, such as stocks and shares, or physical items, such as land, property, vehicles, jewellery, art etc.

## Testamentary Trust

This is a trust created in the Will which only comes into effect after a person's death. It is created to safeguard and distribute all or some of an estate for the benefit of other persons or organisations, known as beneficiaries.



INDIA: Missionary Sisters of the Queen of the Apostles - Mangalore Province.

It is recommended to notify family and/or loved ones about the general contents of your Will. Providing for dependants and family will always come first, but good communication can help ensure the totality of your final wishes are carried out.

**UKRAINE: ACN supported the studies of 213 seminarians.**

It is also recommended that any person writing their Will consult a qualified legal advisor. This will ensure that your wishes are listed clearly and accurately. If a Will is being updated, this can often be done by adding a codicil, a short legal amendment prepared by a qualified legal advisor. If needed, the Law Society or the Public Trustee, can assist in finding such an advisor.



---

In preparing a legacy, the correct wording is vital, and the suggested phrasing for a gift to ACN is as follows:

### Fixed Sum Legacy

*'I give the sum of €\_\_\_ to Aid to the Church in Need [151 St. Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9] to be applied to \*the projects most in need. The receipt of the National Director of Aid to the Church in Need shall be a full discharge to my trustee and my trustee shall not be bound to see to the application of this bequest.'*

### Residuary Legacy

*'I give \_\_\_% of the residue of my estate to Aid to the Church in Need [151 St. Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9] to be applied to \*the projects most in need. The receipt of the National Director of Aid to the Church in Need shall be a full discharge to my trustee and my trustee shall not be bound to see to the application of this bequest.'*



### Specific Legacy

*'I give [insert details] free of all taxes to Aid to the Church in Need [151 St. Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9] to be applied to \*the projects most in need. The receipt of the National Director of Aid to the Church in Need shall be a full discharge to my trustee and my trustee shall not be bound to see to the application of this bequest.'*

\*If you wish for your gift to be directed specifically to one of ACN's nine project areas, delete the words 'the projects most in need' and substitute one or more of these lines:

- Formation of seminarians and priests.

---
- Existence help for religious sisters.

---
- Emergency assistance for Christian refugees.

---
- Distribution of Bibles and religious books.

---
- Education of catechists.

---
- Construction of churches and church buildings.

---
- Transport for pastoral care.

---
- Media support for the propagation of the Faith.

---
- Mass offerings for poor priests.

---

# A Legacy of Masses



VENEZUELA: Mass Stipends for 41 priests.

If you are leaving a part, or all of your legacy, to Mass offerings, specify the number and type of Masses. You may choose to include your intentions, but this is not compulsory. God knows them and the priest offers each Mass for the intentions of the donor. An example of the suggested form of words is:

*'I give the sum of €1,500 to Aid to the Church in Need to be applied to four Gregorian series of Masses, to be offered for the repose of my soul, that of my husband and our children. The receipt of the National Director of Aid to the Church in Need shall be a full discharge to my trustee and my trustee shall not be bound to see to the application of this bequest.'*

**ACN Ireland humbly suggests the following offerings for these Masses:**

## **SINGLE MASS/ES**

€10 for each Mass

## **TRIDUUM OF MASSES**

€30 for three consecutive Masses


## **NOVENA OF MASSES**

€90 for nine consecutive Masses

## **GREGORIAN SERIES OF MASSES**

€300 for thirty consecutive Masses

## Frequently asked questions



**BRAZIL:** A child from Rikbaktsa tribe at the village of Pe-de-Mutum where his mather works crushing millet grains.

### 1 Why make a Will?

If you do not make a Will, no charity can benefit directly from what you leave upon your death (known as your estate). Without a Will, your estate will be distributed according to statutory provisions, which may not be in accordance with your wishes.

Making a Will ensures that all your assets are distributed as you wish - including any money or gifts you leave to charities. The law does give persons financially dependent on you the right to claim on your estate if you have not made adequate provision for them in your Will, but otherwise you are free to leave your estate to whomever you please, including charities.

### 2 How regularly should I update my Will?

It is recommended reviewing your Will every 3 years just to double check it is still valid and your wishes remain accurate. There are many circumstances that mean you may need to review it, for example, a birth, death, marriage, retirement or change in financial circumstances.



---

### 3 I would like to add a gift but I don't want to rewrite my Will. What should I do?

By using a codicil, you can make a simple change to a Will without too much trouble or expense. Your solicitor or legal advisor will be able to help you do this.

### 4 Does ACN receive public funding?

Aid to the Church in Need is not directed or funded by Church or Government. We rely completely on the generous offerings of individuals like you; people who want to keep the Faith alive in those places where it is at risk. Because our work is purely at the service of the Faith, we receive no public grants and nor do we have tax exemption status. In Ireland we are classed as a *'basic religious charity'*.

There are of course many noble charitable causes in our society, but ACN has a loving focus on only one cause, and

that is advancing the Catholic Faith and ensuring that those with whom we share baptism, are able to live and love their Faith, as we are free to live and love ours.

### 5 What is the state of persecution against Christians?

The oppression and persecution of Christians in our time is worse than it has been at any other point in history. Over the last 2000 years, more than 70 million Christians have been martyred, but more than half of those were martyred in the 20th century.

Since the beginning of the twenty first century there have been at least 100,000 Christians killed each year for their Faith. Every month, 214 churches and associated properties are destroyed by violence, while at the same time 772 forms of violence are committed against Christians. It is conservatively estimated that 245 million Christians experience high levels of persecution for their Faith.



SIERRA LEONE: Students pray the 'Pater Noster' together in St. Joseph Secondary school, Diocese of Makeni.

---

## 6 How much should I leave to ACN?

The decision around the size of the offering can only be made by you, in conversation with those closest to you. ACN has been blessed to receive many different types of legacies through the years, and no matter how big or small, each legacy is put towards keeping the Faith burning bright where it is needed most.

Some people will leave an amount in their Will requesting ACN arrange Masses for the repose of their soul (usually a Gregorian series of 30 consecutive Masses). Others leave a fixed amount, others a percentage of their estate, and others still have set up trusts of which ACN is an ongoing beneficiary. Whatever it is, and in whatever way it is given, we always offer the advice to ensure that dependants and family are first included and looked after in your Will.

## 7 Can I choose how my legacy is used by ACN?

Most of our benefactors choose to include a gift in their Will for the projects most in need, but we are happy to work with you to ensure your legacy can assist the suffering Church in a way that is most meaningful.

ACN has nine project areas and you may want to nominate a particular project area in which your offering can be used, including the offering of Masses for your intentions. Alternatively, some people

desire to leave a legacy to the suffering Church in a particular nation; if that is the case, please contact us first to discuss what is possible. If an offering is directed to a particular nation, there can be the risk that at the time the legacy is realised, there are no suitable projects in that area. We are very willing to work with any benefactor to ensure their gift can fulfil their request and also the needs of the suffering Church around the world.

## 8 Do I need to let ACN know about my legacy?

The decision to leave a gift in your Will is a very personal one. There is no obligation to let ACN know that you plan to leave a legacy, or how much that legacy will be, and a person is always free to change their Will at any time. However, if you do plan to leave a legacy to ACN, we would love to hear from you.

This allows us the opportunity to thank you, to stay connected with you and to also broadly be aware of the amount of assistance we may be able to offer the suffering Church into the future. You are invited to complete the pledge form in this booklet, online at our website, or to call us at any time. Please be assured any conversation or pledge is kept completely confidential.





Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN IRELAND



**SYRIA: A mother embraces her son during Holy Mass in the Church of Al-Bishara in Homs.**

**You Legacy will help  
Save Lives, Save Souls  
and Save the Faith.**

St. Joseph's,  
151 St. Mobhi Road,  
Glasnevin, Dublin 9,  
D09 HC82

TEL +353 (0)1 837 7516  
+44 289 531 3369  
EMAIL [info@acnireland.org](mailto:info@acnireland.org)  
WEB [www.acnireland.org](http://www.acnireland.org)

*Registered  
Charity Numbers:  
CHY 9492  
CRA No: 20023768*

PONTIFICAL  
FOUNDATION

