

# MIRROR

**Aid to the Church in Need**

*Evangelizing – always  
and everywhere (Benedict XVI)*

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**Applause for the Pope at the WYD in Madrid.  
Benedict XVI inspired great enthusiasm everywhere.**

**“God is the source of life.  
To set God aside is  
to separate ourselves  
from that source and,  
inevitably, to deprive  
ourselves of  
fulfilment and joy.”**

**Message of Pope Benedict XVI  
for the 26<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day  
(2011)**

*Dear Friends,*

The man standing by the roadside looked careworn. In one hand he held a small suitcase, with the other he held up his outstretched thumb to hitch a ride. Luis, a lorry driver, spotted him from some distance away and applied his brakes. The man climbed in and asked, “Are you alone?” Luis was about to answer yes, when his eye fell on a picture of Padre Pio in his cab. “Actually, no”, the lorry driver replied. “In fact I never travel alone.” Seeing no one else the man looked puzzledly at Luis. As the driver took a bend, and briefly hooted his horn, he explained “I am never alone. God is always with me. You only have to look for him. And whenever I pass a church, as I did just now, I hoot briefly to greet him, so that he doesn't feel so alone there in the Tabernacle.” The man looked shocked. For several seconds he stared at Luis, then in a trembling voice he said “Please stop. Stop, I must go back. I am the local priest here. I was just about to run away.”

Luis, the lorry driver, lives in the presence of God wherever he is and wherever he is

going. His simple attention to little things saved the vocation of that priest. The call of God has followed this son of his, even on the road. “God needs people,” said Pope Benedict in 2006 in Germany. “He needs people to say: ‘Yes, I am ready to become your harvest labourer; I am ready to offer help so that this harvest which is ripening in people’s hearts may truly be brought into the storehouses of eternity and become an



**“Let us help to keep alive  
the love in the hearts of  
our priests.”**

enduring, divine communion of joy and love.’” For it is in fact a harvest of love. But it is all too easy for the sprouting seed to be smothered. The priest who got into Luis cab, had been overwhelmed by the five parishes he had to manage, by the petty squabbles of his parishioners, by the sheer loneliness. He had stopped praying, resulting in the source of his strength drying up. Perhaps we too, like Luis, by our faithfulness in prayer and our joy as children of God, can help to keep alive that first love – that fearful yet joyful ‘yes’ in the hearts of

our priests. Even here, in the lives of our priests, we can find the Church in need!

Our charity’s mission is profoundly priestly. It sprang from the heart of a priest, at the prompting of a Pope. With his ‘yes’ -- Father Werenfried extended ACN’s work to the whole world. But, he always kept in mind the Church’s priests, since the priest is “the one through whom the power of the Lord is transmitted” (Benedict XVI). We must not desert our priests. Let us help them by giving them time when they can meet and pray together at shared retreats. Let us help with their training. And above all, let us support them as they fulfil the most sacred action God has called them to – the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Let us help them with Mass Stipends to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice, for the intentions of the Holy Father, for our own intentions, and for the work of ACN. With my priestly hands – which although empty are filled by God – I bless you all. With profound gratitude,

*P. Joaquín Alliende*

Father Joaquín Alliende, President



**Helping our priests**

# For the future of the People of God



***“This is My Body.”  
What if there were no priests?***



***Latens Deitas – Godhead here in hiding.  
Adoration and Benediction in Haiti.***



***“Do this in memory of Me.”  
No priest means no Calvary today.***

**As Pope Benedict XVI said to a group of priests in 2005, “Christ really is the Face of God, but we should also deepen this certainty and the joy of knowing it and thus truly be ministers of the future of the world, of the future of every person.”**

Ministers of the future – this is indeed a challenging task, as are the problems that have to be overcome in meeting it. For one thing there is the absence of community, of opportunities for exchange of ideas and experiences, especially in the vast and thinly populated wastelands. In **Mali**, for example,

the episcopal conference has set up the *Union of Priests of Mali* (UPM), which aims to foster mutual help and fellowship. Every two years they hold shared retreats to support priests who would be otherwise isolated from each other. This year’s retreat theme is “Joy in the priesthood, joy of service”. During this fortnight particular empha-

***“Oh, how great is the priest!” (Curé of Ars)***



***“The priest is a priest for you“  
(Curé of Ars) – in Zambia as elsewhere.***

sis is laid on cultivating the virtues and on deeper spiritual formation. Some 145 priests will be meeting together – a meeting made possible by the **\$16,800** that ACN has provided for the impoverished Church in Mali. The situation is similar in the diocese of Muyinga, **Burundi** (**\$21,000**). Here, however, their challenges are aggressive proselytism by sects and the spread of the Islamic Brotherhood. All 54 priests of the diocese took part, and Bishop Joachim Ntahonder-eye wrote to thank you: “These formation weeks strengthen us in a sense of solidarity and enliven our apostolic spirit.” This is the

result that Pope Benedict is hoping for “a real communion of life that shows young people: Yes, this can be a future for me too; it is possible to live like this.”

Indeed priests give spiritual life to their flock. “The priest is the one who continues the work of Redemption on earth,” says Jean-Marie Vianney, the Curé of Ars and patron saint of priests. “Oh, how great is the priest! ... for God obeys him; He utters two short phrases, and at his word the Lord descends from Heaven and encloses himself in a small host.” And you too share in this through your Mass Stipends. Every 25 seconds, somewhere in the world, the Holy sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated for your intentions. This may not always be in a church, however; sometimes it will more likely be in a cata-

comb. Not infrequently, your Mass Stipends are also a vital means of support, as with Father Emilio in **Peru**, for whom it is “my only source of income”. He gives thanks “to the Lord for his providence and for the generosity of my brothers and sisters in the Lord, whom I do not even know”, but for whom he asks “the Lord for his blessing, so that he



***A spiritual fatherhood that transcends the human dimension.***

may fulfil the desires of your hearts.” Similarly, the 56 priests in the diocese of Raigarh, in **India**, and the 28 priests in the archipelago that constitutes the diocese of Tarawa and Nauru in the Pacific Ocean, and the 31 in the diocese of Mpika in **Zambia** could not survive without your Mass offerings. Like many others, they place their lives in the hands of God, just as God places his work of redemption in their hands. Let us support their uplifted hands, just as Aaron supported the hands of his brother Moses – for the sake of the future of the People of God. ●



**Papua New Guinea**

# Paving the Lord's paths



**Regardless of colour, rite, or custom – God's Word brings light to all cultures.**



**Inculturation, on a wing and a prayer – Bishop Gilles Côté of Daru-Kiunga.**



**Strengthen your brothers – Confirmation in Wara-Lai.**

**“What is the biggest obstacle to the work of the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea?” The answer to this question is always the same, whoever one asks: “The transport problem.”**

A Canadian bishop, Msgr. Gilles Côté, who was travelling through Rome last September can testify to this difficulty. In fact, Msgr. Côté has lived in Papua New Guinea since 1971, first as a priest and starting in 1999, as a bishop. Often planes are the only answer, though even here the neglected landing strips make it a perilous venture. Public railways are unknown. The road network totals around 20,000 km, yet just 700 km of this is proper tarred road. For example, the diocese of Daru-Kiunga in the west of the country



**Courage, trust – and a Jeep! River bridge on the road to Wara-Lai.**

covers an area of about 24,000 square miles (62,000 km<sup>2</sup>), yet has just three roads. Any one of its 12 parishes that does not lie either directly on one of these roads, or else on the banks of the River Fly, has to be reached on foot and through the bush. The rain quickly turns the paths into mudslides. And so it takes a great deal of courage, patience and trust in God to bring the Good News even into such remote places – that and a sturdy four-wheel-drive Jeep.

And yet, given its rich natural resources, Papua New Guinea could be a wealthy country. But the lack of infrastructure drives up the costs for the dioceses to dizzying heights. It is difficult to obtain building materials, and still harder to transport them. Bishop Cesare Boni-vento of Vanimo has therefore made a virtue of necessity. He has set up his own workshops, where vehicles can be repaired, and he has also made his own concrete blocks, welded up steel water tanks, carpentered roofs, manufactured doors, windows and furniture. He also employs a reliable engineer who helps him with all his building projects. “In this way, for example, we have been able to reduce the construction costs of our new seminary by two thirds,” the bishop reports, adding, “And at the same time young unemployed

men are gaining a sound training and a steady job.”

But the transport problems have an effect on daily pastoral work as well. Above all where the priests live in isolation, widely scattered, as they care for their remote parishes, there is a need to bring them together regularly for retreats, in-service training and so that they can share and

**Courage, patience, trust in God – and a Jeep!**

exchange ideas and problems. The same is true to some extent for the religious, the catechists and the teachers in the Catholic schools. However, it often proves impossible because of the immense cost of transport.

In the face of such obstacles, it is clear that the service of the Church to the country in the field of development is of inestimable value. This is most evident in her work in the social field, in healthcare and education, which depend extensively on the input from the Church. But most important of all is her work in spreading and teaching the Catholic faith. ACN supports this pastoral ministry in all kinds of ways, including Mass Stipends, support for the training of priests, religious and laity, help for motor vehicles and transport and for construction work. It is help that is effective and transforming, even deep in the bush. ●

*Kira von Bock-Iwaniuk*



Earlier this year, the president of ACN, Father Joaquín Alliende, our Vice president, Mr. Pieter van der Velden, and the Executive Director of the international secretariat, Mrs. Susanne Zeidler, were able to thank the Holy Father on behalf of all our benefactors for his tireless pastoral commitment and at the same time to express their pleasure that ACN was lending their support to the World Youth Day in Madrid, through a major contribution to the production of the new youth catechism, YouCat, and by sponsoring the musical Pelican. In a letter from the Vatican Secretariat of State, the Holy Father conveys his thanks – “for your commitment in stilling the spiritual hunger for God and his message in many parts of the world.” The letter continues, “May Almighty God grant you all the grace to experience ever more profoundly the great mystery of his love and enable you in your own lives to show forth this divine love to others.” The Holy Father extends to us all his “heartfelt Apostolic Blessing.”



## A tsunami of love

*From the 16th to the 21st of August, young people from 193 countries flooded into Madrid. “How extraordinary is Jesus to have been able to gather us in such a way!” exclaimed a youth during the Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI before over 1 million people gathered at the “Cuatro Viento” airport.*

*Five Haitian youths asked to witness to their first experience at the WYD were unanimous in stating how welcoming the youth of Madrid had been and collaborating to make of this experience a united event: “The WYD, is that, having life in common!”*

*Two of them had the “privilege” of participating in the Way of the Cross by joining with Japanese youth at the 14th station. A uniting idea had by organizers and which contributed to making the WYD a tsunami of love.*

*The Church lent a hand to the youths who grasped it and transmitted a message of hope and thereby witnessing to the Good News.*

*More than ever, they were Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the Faith (St-Paul).*

## Need, love and thanks – Your letters

### A source of great comfort

*I’m always moved and amazed by the work you do in helping persecuted Christians all around the world. It must offer them great comfort to know that they can turn to your wonderful organization in their times of great despair. Please accept this small donation towards the training of seminarians so that they may increase God’s work here on Earth.*

**A benefactress from Australia**

### Evangelization, information and prayer

*A few words to express to you and to the others at ACN, how much your Mirrors are themselves evangelisation!*

*The words of Father Alliende are both “information” and a “source of prayer in oration!” The extreme and confident hope of the Blessed John-Paul II, supported by the folly of love in the Curé of Ars and Teresa of the Andes, stimulate us to take part in ACN’s work, and to “dig into our budgets,” after having received*

*in our hearts, inspiration from the Holy Spirit...*

*Your Mirrors “draw tears,” ... and, I am grateful for the blessing at the end of Father Alliende’s letter.*

**A 93-year-old grandmother from Canada**

### Suffering that cuts to the heart

*I wish you good health, great peace and joy. Enclosed is €50 to help the poor children in Sudan. It cuts one to the heart to see such great suffering. It is not much, but given with great love. I trust in your prayers and know that they are true. I likewise pray for you each day – and so we are united in our prayers.*

**A benefactress from Portugal**

### Food for the soul

*I am writing today to thank you for the Mirror. Your newsletter is very informative and your Leader also provides food for the soul.*

**A benefactress from Germany**

Send your donation to: **Aid to the Church in Need (Canada) Inc.**

P.O. Box 670, Stn. H, Montreal, QC H3G 2M6

(514) 932-0552 – 1-800-585-6333

Website: [www.acn-aed-ca.org](http://www.acn-aed-ca.org) – email: [info@acn-aed-ca.org](mailto:info@acn-aed-ca.org)

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