MIRROR

Aid to the Church in Need



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Dancing, singing, praying... for John Paul II – at the youth meeting in Rome in 1985, which marked the beginning of the World Youth Days.

"In Denver the Pope encountered a new kind of youth. A youth by no means without problems, but without bitterness, without aggression without despair or destructive rage. These were young people earnestly seeking, willing to bring their problems to the Church and to their priests; ready to kneel, pray, confess, receive Communion and seek their strength in the grace of God."

Father Werenfried, after the World Youth Day in Denver / USA, 1993

Dear Friends,

His eyes were fixed on the three sheep that had starved to death. He himself was trembling. For 20 days he had lived only on milk and a handful of dates. It was an experience the shepherd Ahmed Asubad had never before endured in all his 90 years of life. Pope Pius XII said "Never again war" and this has been the constant refrain of popes since then.

In recent months new theatres of war have flared up in North Africa, and indeed throughout the Arab world. It was from one of these conflicts that Ahmed Asubad was rescued, following weeks of fighting. He looked at

his rescuers and said, haltingly, "Thank you, thank you... Please tell me your names? I would like to know the names of the men who have liberated me."

In our prayers we call Christ "Saviour," "Redeemer," "Liberator".... Often we do not perhaps realise what our lips are praying. Without the inner experience of having been saved oneself, it is scarcely possible to live seriously as a Christian. It was not enough for that poor shepherd in the desert to see only the faces of his rescuers; he wanted to know their names as well, so that he would

never afterwards forget them. The Eternal Word, who took flesh in the virginal womb of Our Lady, was given the name Jesus by his parents, a name which means Saviour (cf Mt 1:21). He purchased our freedom as children of God by paying the supreme price of his life, by his death on the cross. We know his name; we know his liberating act.

ACN is a pastoral charity, which means that it is called to help those engaged in the task

"Evangelisation means placing the name of Jesus with fervour in every human heart."

of evangelisation, who lack the necessary means for their work. Evangelisation means liberating others from a meaningless existence; it means placing the name of Jesus with fervour in every human heart. It is not sufficient simply to transmit information. As Christians we not only hear the name of our Redeemer. Rather, we can personally reach out to our God, can praise and adore him in the Eucharist. ACN not only helps with the printing of Bibles but also for the formation of priests and theologians, in the construction of fitting places of worship and in the

outreach to young people. It helps to make smooth the path to God – for everyone, old and young alike. That is why, for Pope Benedict XVI, a charity such as ours is so vitally important. It is not a matter of indifference whether future generations will live with or without God. The Gospel is no superfluous luxury; it is the necessary Bread of Life.

Dear friends, for decades now you have been supporting ACN. And you know that the liv-

ing God is as necessary to us as the air we breathe! Jesus is the only one who can free us from Cain and his terrible wars of hatred. He is the only Way through the desert. He alone knows every oasis, he shows us the Father, the

true goal of the Promise. Thank you, each and every one of you, thank you for your fidelity; thank you for having shown so many others, like Ahmed Asubad, the way of love; for having helped to make known the face and the name of the Redeemer.

My priestly blessing on you all

Father Joaquín Alliende, President

P. Sperguin Olliende



Paths of reconciliation, for a shared future



With Bishop Jonas, centre, altar servers enjoy their day in Telsiai, Lithuania.

"He seeks you even before you seek him! While fully respecting your freedom, he approaches each one of you and offers himself as the authentic and decisive response to the longing deep within your hearts, to your desire for a life worth living."

The young people in Zagreb greeted Pope Benedict XVI enthusiastically when he addressed these words to them on 4th June. Some of them struck up a song, and they would gladly have struck up with their guitars, drums and trumpets too, as when they perform in their musical band "Vis Pro-

roci" (the Prophets). Through their music they give expression to this longing

Young people need their own space.

which the Pope spoke of. In this way, via modern, spiritual music they proclaim the joy of the redemption, the presence of God among men. It is music that inspires and touches the hearts of the young people in the diocese of Subotica in **Serbia**. Most of these young Catholics belong to the Croatian minority in the country. The group "Vis Proroci" arranges the music for the Masses and the other meetings of the young people. Their spiritually inspired pop music has attracted many, and the small team of school pupils and students aged between 16 and 25, who formed the band after the meeting in the Croatian city of Pula in 2006, has now grown into a group of 200 young people. Many of them also take part

in the annual diocesan youth meetings in Bac, in Serbia, a day-long gathering with Holy Mass, talks, group work, sport and a concert.

Young people not only need prophetic figures like the Holy Father; they also need their own space – not necessarily a smart new parish centre, it could be in the openair, or a simple basement room – but it must be a space where they can experience community for themselves. This is the point of the youth apostolate and especially of the programmes for the altar servers. Above all in countries like **Serbia**, **Macedonia**,

Bosnia and **Croatia**, where the scars of war are still visible in the streets,

and even on many people's faces, such a pastoral approach can offer opportuinities for reconciliation that will help bring people together after the various conflicts.

There can only be hope for the future, said Pope Benedict in Croatia, "if ... conscience is rediscovered as the place in which to listen to truth and good, the place of responsibility before God and before our fellow human beings". It is in the formation of conscience that the Church offers her most important contribution to society, he added. This is precisely what the youth apostolate is all about, and that is why ACN is supporting this work throughout the world. It is not merely short-term help but an investment in the future.



Preparing for the big Mass in Kasese, Uganda. A first test for these youngsters.



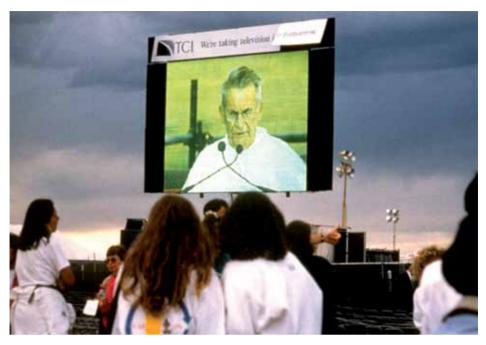
Innocence, but with a twinkle – Altar servers in Burma.



Bearing the light of the future – before Holy Mass in Kareeb, Egypt.



The Church is alive, and she is young



"What catastrophes will break over us if we do not succeed in giving a future and an ideal to the rootless youth of today? Christianity is facing a test of strength here, because Christ died and rose for these young people too."

In 1975, when Father Werenfried first spoke these words, the World Youth Days did not yet exist. Today they have become an institution, reminding the world every three years that Christianity can indeed withstand this trial of strength. You are with them,

whether you are young or old, for it is your generosity that will once again enable many young people from some of the poorest countries to take part in this year's World Youth Day. This time 36 young adults will be coming from **Sudan** with a bishop

Father Werenfried at the WYD in Denver in 1993 – despite everything, he had great hope in the young people of today.

to Madrid while from **Bangladesh** another 18 will join them also with their bishop.

Others are coming from Haiti, Iraq, Burma and China. All problem countries, where Christians have a hard life and a hard time living their faith. Whether because they are poor or because they are persecuted, or both. Ten young people have even come from Turkmenistan, and are discovering that their tiny flock (barely more than 200 Catholics, with 40 catechumens, waiting for baptism) is still a part of the world-spanning Church of Christ. In Madrid they will hear, see and feel the universality of the Catholic Church and will discover that it is alive and young, as Pope Benedict XVI has said.

Once again, as Father Werenfried himself told the young people at the World Youth Day in Denver in 1993, "I remain an optimist, because God is love and never ceases, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to fill the earth with the love of Jesus and the love of all who continue His Life." That should include every one of us.

The Child's Bible in the language of San Juan Diego

"Tlaxiccaqui noxocoyouh Juantzin, ¿campa in timohuica?" – "Listen, my little son, little Juanito, where are you going?" So began the affectionate dialogue between Our Lady of Guadalupe and the peasant, Juan Diego, on 9 December 1531 not far from today's Mexico City.

They spoke in Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs. Even today many people in central **Mexico** still speak this dialect, especially in the countryside. Their numbers are estimated at around 1.2 million. Nahuatl is one of the seven national languages of Mexico; however written documents and traditions are rare. And so the *Child's Bible* in Nahuatl will in fact be more than a Bible. For, as with the Mayan language too (see above),



it will be a book that reflects and enlivens a culture, the culture of San Juan Diego. At the same time it will be the 167th language into which the *Child's Bible* has been translated, bringing the

total number printed in all languages to almost 49 million copies. *God Speaks to His Children* is its title. And he now does so in the mother tongue of these children, as does Our Lady also. It costs money to translate, print and distribute these books. But this must not be an obstacle to the word of God – and if it is, then you can overcome it.



A dialogue with Heaven – in Nahuatl. So this artist pictures the scene.



It was the first ever contemplative convent in Bolivia. For almost 400 years now, since the 16th of January 1636, the nuns of St Clare have been praying here uninterruptedly before the Blessed Sacrament. "Thanks to the grace of God there have always been new vocations from among our people" writes the Abbess, Mother Simona. Now



they need new breviaries, for the Liturgy of the Hours, the daily Divine Office. But unfortunately, in these times of crisis "more money is going out than is coming in", she tells us. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to send them 25 four-volume editions of the Divine Office. "You cannot imagine how the sisters' hearts were filled with joy when we gave out the books," Mother Simona adds. "God alone can reward you for your generosity. We pray to our Lord to shower his graces upon you for all the many projects you are supporting."

Need, love and thanks - Your letters

Love that never runs dry

When I receive your journal, I always have the impression that I am but a drop of water in the sea. The needs are so great, not to mention immense, without end.... And also, when I send you financial aid, I ask God to add on a few zeros and to evoke the spirit of generosity in His children.

I have discovered over the course of my life (I am now 74 years of age) that when we go into our own basket to help those in need, the Good Lord ensures that it is never empty.

An elderly lady in Canada

Children's Rosary booklets for our school

Thank you for the beautiful Children's Rosary booklets and Rosary beads that you recently sent to me. I would like to order more of these as I can give them to the students I teach. The teachers are al-

ready using them in their classrooms and we use the booklets when we pray a decade of the Rosary with the whole school at Monday morning assemblies.

A teacher in Australia

Thanks for your moving witness

I thank the Lord for your work! What a moving witness; how uplifting your generosity, courage and love for God and for the most frail and needy! May God continue to help you with his immense mercy, and also be with all those who respond to your appeals. I send you my modest contribution with great joy, and I assure you that I am praying for you, and with you.

A benefactress in Portugal

Notice: Annual Accounts, 2010 The General Council has now approved the Annual Report of ACN at its meeting on 28 June 2011.



Saint
John Bosco
(Don Bosco)
(1815 - 1888)

He devoted his life to young people. Giovanni Melchiorre Bosco, known to all as Don Bosco, was born of peasant stock and grew up in grinding poverty. His childhood in Becchi, near Turin, unfolded against a background of revolutionary unrest in Europe. The neglect of young people was a growing phenomenon. Aged just nine, he had a vision of his vocation. In a courtyard he saw a throng of urchins, lounging around and cursing. In his dream, he was trying to pass through them when he heard a voice: "Put yourself at the head of these boys! You must win their friendship – not with fighting, but with gentleness, kindness and love."

After ordination in 1841, he did just that. He set up schools, homes and workshops, published magazines and books. His saintly mother, Margareta Occhiena helped him with loving generosity. Their approach to education, involving encouragement and affirmation – one widely recognised today among psychologists – had a lasting effect. Already in his own lifetime some 130,000 youths and boys found a secure and loving home in 250 houses throughout Europe and America, and by the time of his death no fewer than 6,000 priests had emerged from his initiative. Don Bosco was canonised in 1934 as the Patron Saint of young people and of those caring for them.

Where to send your contribution for the Church in Need:

Please use the **Freepost** envelope.

Aid to the Church in Need, 151 St Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Tel. (01) 8377516. (Registered Charity No. 9492).



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