

# MIRROR



*Aid to the Church in Need*



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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 forlorn. 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 loyalty in 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 Luis gave a lift 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, so that the source of his strength had dried 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 Offerings 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, in profound gratitude,

*P. Joaquín Alliende*

Father Joaquín Alliende, President



# For the future of the People of God



**“This is My Body.”  
But 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)**

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 help that ACN has provided for the impoverished Church in Mali. The situation is similar in the diocese of Muyinga, **Burundi**. 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 Ntahondereye 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 Offerings. 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 Offerings 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 more 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. ●

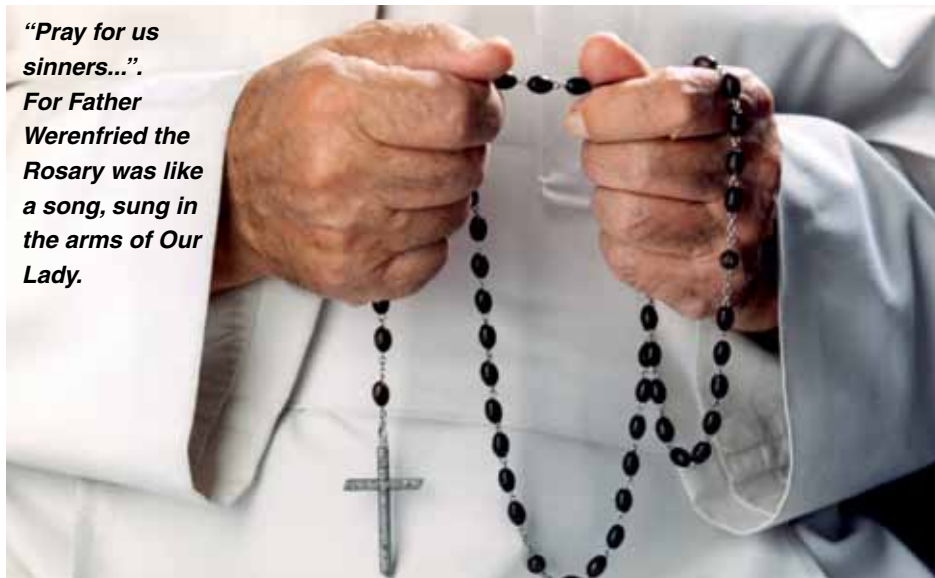


**“The priest is a priest for you”  
(Curé of Ars) – in Zambia as elsewhere.**



# A fortress of faith and prayer

*“Pray for us sinners...”  
For Father Werenfried the Rosary was like a song, sung in the arms of Our Lady.*



**Here is one reaction to ACN's Rosary booklet: “Reading the biblical scenes is a proclamation of our Faith, while the contemplation of the Mysteries is a guide to the spiritual life; this prayer becomes liturgy in its purest form.”**

Letters like this one from Father Carlos in Barranquilla, **Colombia** are by no means uncommon. They testify to the profound impact ACN's Rosary booklet has made. It is

being widely used as part of the great continental mission in Latin American. For as Bishop Fidel Cadavid Marin, also from Colombia, writes, “the Rosary is a fortress



**Learning to pray, with the Rosary. Now there is also an ACN Rosary booklet for children and 171,000 copies have been printed in five languages.**



## Please pray for China!

**Often they have to move on – or even flee. Contemplative sisters in China rarely have a lasting dwelling on this earth. As soon as they are recognised, things can get dangerous.**

Their real home is found with God in prayer. And life is equally dangerous for their brothers in the Faith. Today bishops and priests faithful to Rome are still disappearing into unknown prisons. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict, has appealed to us to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in China.

We cannot show you any pictures here, nor can we give any specific details. All we can say is that we are supporting Sisters, seminarians and catechists. Please keep them in your prayers – it is the best help we can give them. ●

of faith and prayer,” a precious tradition of our Church, “which is gradually being lost in our families amid the wider social changes”. Within the Latin American Continental Mission, the Rosary is a key part of catechesis in house visits and parish gatherings – especially during May and October. But equally on the other side of the globe, in Tura, **India**, ACN's booklet is “a great help in the daily Rosary among families and in schools,” says Bishop Andrew Marak. Over 1.8 million copies have been printed in no less than twelve languages. Thanks to your help, millions of people are finding their way through this prayer to the heart of Our Lady. And there is nowhere more safe and secure than that. ●

## Bringing blessings – from his wheelchair

**Father Mario Aguilar was the very picture of health. As one of the few priests in the diocese of Pinar del Rio, on the western tip of Cuba, he was at the heart of everything, enlivening catechesis, visiting the sick, caring for the young.**

Then a terrible blow fell. A car accident left him paralysed, unable to move his arms or legs, and in a wheelchair. That was 10 years

ago. As Father Aguilar was still able to speak, and so to say Mass, his bishop asked us to help him with Mass Offerings, to pay for the cost of rehabilitation therapy. He can now move his arms again. He can raise his hands to give blessings and absolution after confession as well as celebrate Holy Mass. So from his wheelchair he can impart grace to souls. He can also bow in prayer for you and your intentions. Your continuing Mass Offerings remind him that God is good. ●



**Dispensing light and life – Father Mario, celebrating Holy Mass.**



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 helping towards 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.” And the Holy Father extends to us all his “heartfelt Apostolic Blessing”.



## Saint Dominic

(1170 – 1221)

*A legend that first became widespread round about 1468 states that St Dominic, the founder of the Dominican order, had the Rosary revealed to him by an apparition of Our Lady in 1208. Our Lady gave him the Rosary, it is said, as a weapon in the spiritual battle against the the Cathars, who believed the physical world was evil. What is certain is that St Dominic sought a means to instruct the ordinary people in the Faith. The Rosary, with its 15 Mysteries (or 20, with the addition of the Mysteries of Light by Blessed Pope John Paul II) is an effective means of learning the essence of our belief.*

*St Dominic, whose original name was Domingo de Guzmán, was the son of a Spanish nobleman. Following a period spent in the contemplative life with the Augustinian canons, he travelled as an itinerant preacher through the South of France on the instructions of Pope Innocent III. Three times he was offered a bishopric, three times he refused. His Order of Preachers, which he founded in 1216, spread rapidly throughout Europe. Very soon Dominicans were lecturing as professors in Paris and Bologna. 13 years after his death, St Dominic was canonised by Pope Gregory IX.*

## Need, love and thanks – Your letters

### 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**

### Evangelisation, 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**

### Sharing news

*I would like to thank you for latest issue of Mirror 6. I was especially interested in the enclosed supplement “You are the hands of Christ in Eastern Europe”. I long for the reconciliation of Orthodox and Catholic Churches. Therefore, I would very much appreciate, if you please could send me ten copies of that brochure. I would like to share it with some friends.*

**A benefactor from Australia**

### 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**

## 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).



If you give by standing order, or have sent a donation recently, please accept our sincere thanks. This Mirror is for your interest and information.

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