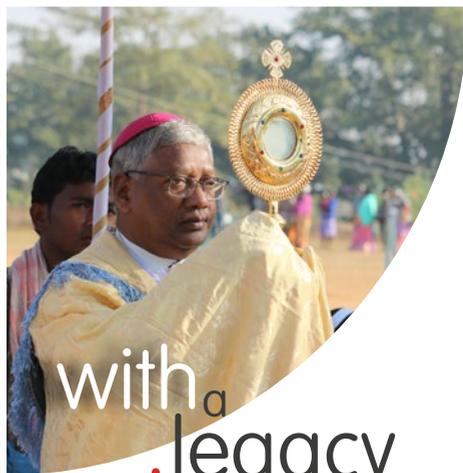


# Keep the Faith alive



with a  
legacy  
of love



Aid to the  
Church in Need

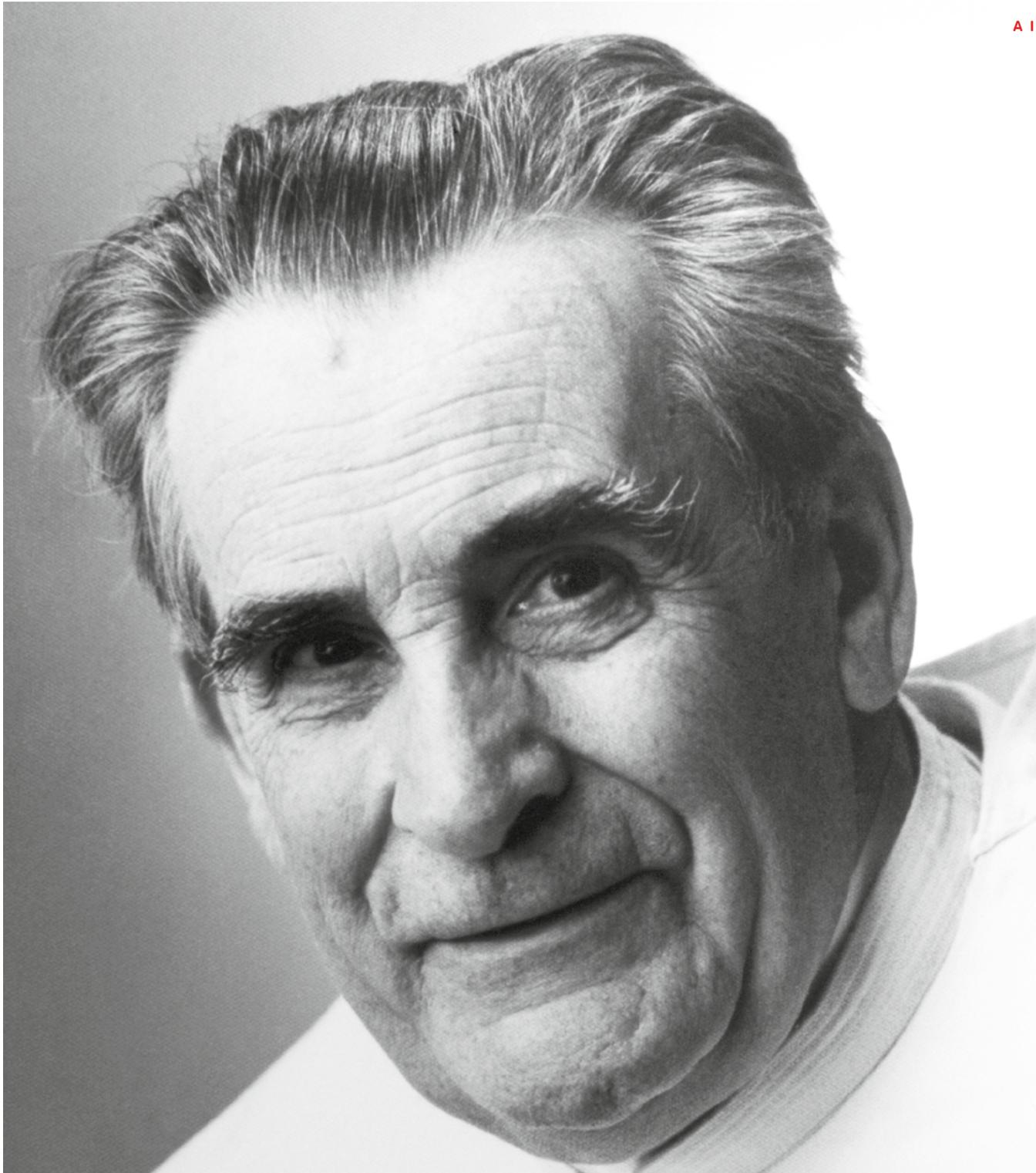
ACN AUSTRALIA

PONTIFICAL  
FOUNDATION



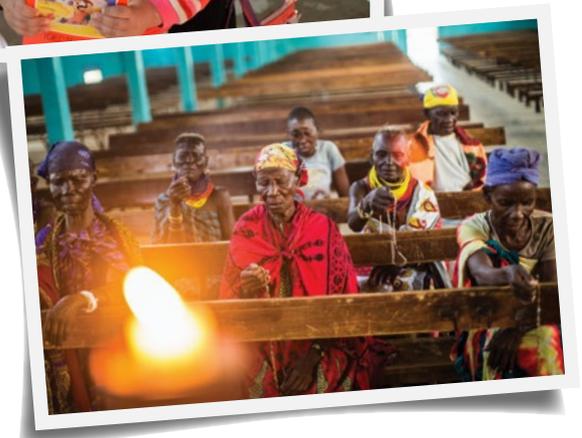
“Freely  
you  
have received;  
freely give”  
Matthew 10:8

This elderly woman prays for peace in her parish church in Aleppo, Syria. One of the oldest Christian communities in the world, Syria has lost hundreds of thousands of Christians to violence; they have been kidnapped, killed or they have fled, all on account of their faith.



“They are being tested in faith; we are being tested in love”

Fr Werenfried van Straaten (1913-2003)  
Founder, Aid to the Church in Need





## THE GIFT OF FAITH

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*



Every year thousands of young men reach ordination through the support of ACN benefactors. That support is never forgotten in the prayers of those priests.

*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.

Our life is given to be a gift for others; to share that which we have received.

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**





## A GIFT TO THE CHURCH

In 1947 a young Dutch priest, Werenfried van Straaten, saw the needs of millions of displaced Catholic Germans after the war. He pleaded with those in neighbouring nations to assist their brothers and sisters suffering material poverty and spiritual neglect. His pleas unleashed a flood of generosity and *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN) was born.

Father Werenfried was repeatedly successful at getting unique aid projects off the ground; priests travelling on foot were given motorcycles and VW Beetles; Chapel trucks were sent as mobile churches to keep the faith alive. When the Cold War began in the 1950s, ACN launched an unprecedented campaign for the persecuted Church behind the Iron Curtain; in the 1960s projects to support the faith moved into Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Today, it is estimated that more than 200 million Christians worldwide cannot freely exercise their faith. Christians are persecuted, discriminated against or oppressed in more than 40 countries. In these places the Church's infrastructure and the human dignity of the faithful cannot be maintained through their own resources, or if so, only with great difficulty. ACN engages in projects at the request of Catholic bishops and religious superiors who have nowhere else to turn.

Raised to the level of a Pontifical Foundation by Pope Benedict in 2011, ACN works at the heart of the Church. We are not a humanitarian charity, but a spiritual and pastoral one, which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction. ACN funds over 5000 projects each year in over 150 countries where Christians suffer persecution or grave pastoral need. Support comes solely from private benefactors, who give what they can, to provide hope to suffering faith.

ACN's main areas of work are:

-  Mass offerings for poor priests
-  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



Father Martin Barta (International Ecclesiastical Assistant of ACN) celebrating Holy Mass with two newly consecrated bishops from Ukraine – Bishop Edward Kawa (Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv-LAT – on the left) and Bishop Vitaliy Krivitskiy (Bishop of Kyiv-Zhytomyr – on the right)

From the very beginning Christians have prayed for those who have died that they might be swiftly received into heaven. Those who have died and who are undergoing that final purification in purgatory are in need of our prayers.

The custom of Mass offerings for the deceased dates back to the second century and is a tangible sign of the dependence that Christians have on one another. A Mass offering is a small gift (now usually monetary) given in thanks to a priest who has offered a Mass for a person's particular intention. It is important to note that a Mass offering does not 'buy' a Mass, rather, it is a token of thanksgiving.

For over fifty years *Aid to the Church in Need* has arranged Masses on behalf of poor and oppressed priests and today one-in-ten priests worldwide is supported by the Mass offerings of ACN benefactors. There can be

no more powerful or beautiful gift than that of a Mass, with the added knowledge that one hundred percent of the Mass offerings that ACN receives are passed on to priests in need. Masses can be offered for any intention but most commonly the faithful have Masses arranged following the death of a loved one.

As you plan your own Will what could be more important than arranging Masses to be offered for your soul? You might include in your will that a Gregorian Series (30 consecutive Masses) be offered for your repose, or, you might further request for Masses to be offered annually for a certain number of years.

When our earthly life ends nothing will matter apart from our relationship with God and nothing will be more important to us than prayers offered for our soul. So many of us make plans for the smooth transfer of our physical estate when we die but so few of us will make arrangements for our eternal repose.

**"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead"**  
2 Maccabees 12:46



### In thanks for your kindness

As a spiritual charity which exists solely to support the suffering and persecuted Church, ACN knows the importance of prayer. Every benefactor of ACN, past and present, is remembered daily in prayer at our international headquarters in Germany where Mass is offered by the ACN chaplain with visiting bishops and priests from around the world.

In addition, all who have died and left a legacy to support the suffering Church will have their names added to the memoriam book of the Discalced Carmelite Sisters in Kiev, Ukraine. These religious women live apart from the world and have dedicated their lives to following Christ in prayer and contemplation. Their work is to be a spiritual powerhouse for the world.

**"Bury my body wherever you will, one thing only I ask, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord"**

St Monica +387AD

Further, each day at midday, the Australian office of *Aid to the Church in Need* pauses to pray the Angelus for our benefactors living and deceased. Each November, we also hold an annual requiem Mass for departed benefactors, where our own memoriam book is taken to God's altar.

## 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 the Church in need:



**\$1,500**

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



**\$2,250**

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



**\$3,300**

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



**\$5,500**

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



**\$6,000**

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



**\$6,500**

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



**\$8,000**

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



**\$16,000**

Formation of 32 seminarians in Ecuador.



**\$25,000**

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



**\$40,000**

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



**\$50,000**

Repairs to St Peter's Chaldean Seminary, Iraq.



**\$50,000**

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



**\$100,000**

A two-week formation course held in Rome for the rectors of seminaries of Latin America.



**\$250,000**

Construction of a monastery for the Carmelite nuns of St Joseph, Philippines.



**\$500,000**

Six months of living assistance for Syrian Christian refugees in Lebanon.



**\$1.25 million**

Construction of a centre for children and families with special needs in Guaratingueta, Brazil.



## PREPARING A LEGACY

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.

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.

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* [PO Box 335, Penrith NSW 2751 Australia, ABN 62 418 911 594] 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* [PO Box 335, Penrith NSW 2751 Australia, ABN 62 418 911 594] 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* [PO Box 335, Penrith NSW 2751 Australia, ABN 62 418 911 594] 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



**100%**  
of every Mass offering is sent directly to the priest in need who will offer the requested Mass/es

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 \$1880 to *Aid to the Church in Need* [ABN 62 418 911 594] 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 asks for the following offering for these Mass types:

### SINGLE MASS/ES

\$13 for each Mass

### TRIDUUM OF MASSES

\$43 for three consecutive Masses

### NOVENA OF MASSES

\$127 for nine consecutive Masses

### GREGORIAN SERIES OF MASSES

\$470 for thirty consecutive Masses

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 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 Australia we are classed as a 'basic religious charity'. There are of course many noble charitable causes in our society, but *Aid to the Church in Need* 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. In our own century it is estimated that between 100,000 and 160,000 Christians have been killed each year. 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 200 million Christians experience high levels of persecution for their faith.



## 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.



*The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Kazakhstan run a home for abandoned children. The Sisters care for their every need; they feed them, educate them and teach them to love Jesus.*

## PLEDGE FORM

Please complete and return. Alternatively, you may make a legacy pledge online at [www.aidtochurch.org/legacies](http://www.aidtochurch.org/legacies)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor number (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

### Please tick one of the following:

- I have already included a gift to ACN in my Will.  
 I intend to include a gift to ACN in my Will.  
 I would like to discuss leaving a gift to ACN. Please contact me.

### The following information is optional, but it would be helpful to us in planning for the future. My gift will be:

- A fixed sum legacy of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- A residual legacy of \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate, this percentage has an approximate current value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- A specific legacy of \_\_\_\_\_ with an approximate current value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- A portion of a testamentary trust. (Include brief information if possible) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this pledge form to  
**ACN Australia**, PO Box 335 Penrith NSW 2751

# Thank you

for working  
with us to keep  
the faith alive



“Go into  
all the World,  
proclaim  
the gospel”

Mark 16:15

Father Pedro Schewior blesses the community of Saint Antonio, on the Tefê River in Brazil, from his boat, *Padre Werenfried*. This community, which is completely Catholic, receives the visit of the priest four times a year.



# PRAYER FOR Persecuted Christians

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
as the Good Shepherd,  
You gave Your life for all people.  
You have personally called each one of us  
to serve suffering and persecuted Christians.  
In them, You continue Your passion  
for the redemption of the world.  
It is a grace to carry the cross with them.  
Grant us love, courage and  
a readiness to sacrifice  
so that we can aid and console  
our brothers and sisters in faith.  
Fill us with Your merciful love  
for one another,  
that we may also bless  
our enemies and forgive them.  
Thus, we want to joyfully  
testify to Your presence  
in the world and find  
fullness of life in You.  
Amen.*



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

PO Box 335 Penrith NSW 2751

1800 101 201 • [www.aidtochurch.org](http://www.aidtochurch.org)