



Aid to the Church in Need

Wherever the Church needs us

For Immediate Release

Montreal, Wednesday March 17, 2010

The Year for Priests

Because a single year is not enough!

This year for priests, declared by Benedict XVI in June 2009, will be over in less than four months. It was first established to highlight the 150th anniversary of the death of Saint Jean-Marie Vianney, but also created as an opportunity to reveal the depth of the role of the priest to the Church – and also to validate his role.



Unfortunately, what draws attention not only from the media, but also from Catholics themselves – are the scandals, antagonism or “counter-witnessing” to all that is human and imperfect within the clergy. ACN believes deeply that Catholics can respond to all these extreme and difficult situations with at least one action, and they can do this with utter confidence: they can pray. This action does not exclude charitable acts, or acts of service to one’s parish, or acts in one’s own surroundings, etc... But, prayer gives meaning to all forms of action and infuses the action with the colour of God, of Christ, of the greater and lesser known, of the ecclesiastical history to whom we have affectionately given the name: our ‘Community of Saints.’

The importance of today's initiative: your prayers for a priest.

For if saints exist in the paradise believers are hoping for, then they exist already here on earth.

These priests who we will pray for come from countries where ACN supports pastoral projects. In other words, most are in developing, or very poor countries. Our initiative is geared as a voluntary act for the benefit of another; a personal commitment in which you will pray for a priest. It was natural for us to think of those priests who are living in newly evangelized Churches, those who are too often very poor and/or persecuted.

Becoming like Him: an extreme requirement

In many developing countries, these men are, and despite themselves at times, the new pillars of societies who have seen war and its afflictions, extreme poverty and its

afflictions, persecution and its afflictions..



Visiting the sick in Uganda © ACN

Priests, together with religious brothers and sisters; with laypeople engaged in local communities –form a force of love. A force that may one day, we hope, change the world. The Church and its members ask these men to represent Christ: to become suffering servants, to receive the poor, the rich, criminals, saints, aggressors, the abused... and to do so as Christ would. This is an immense challenge, one that transcends all eras and has always proven difficult.

However, priests are greater in number than they have ever been – all over the world, they are saying 'yes' to fulfilling this life's work.

ACN believes that this action of prayer can contribute to fortifying these

servants of God and to giving the Good News a credible voice, one filled with love.

Are you praying for one of them?

**It's simple, just contact
Aid to the Church in Need
at 1(800) 585-6333,
or by e-mail - info@acn-aed-ca.org.**

**By mail, if you prefer:
Aid to the Church in Need
Year for Priests
P.O. Box 670, Stn. H,
Montreal, Quebec
H3G 2M6**

We will send you a prayer card
including the first name and country of origin
of the priest you will be adopting
through prayer.

May the year for priests go on without end!

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Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is an international Catholic charity whose mandate is "to serve with love the most suffering and destitute local Churches." Founded in 1947 by Father Werenfried, it gives spiritual and material aid to the Church in need in more than 137 countries.