

Mass offerings - "Like oxygen for our religious Life"



A parish in India that has no chapel at present. The faithful celebrates Holy Mass on a verandah of a private house.



Mozambique: Proclaim the Good News, especially in Africa. Mass offerings are often the only means of support for priests.



This congregation in Ethiopia has no church and Mass must be said in a make shift shelter and shows how much our help is needed.

1,245,352 Masses were celebrated last year for your intentions. That is equivalent to 3,412 each day. Every 25 seconds, somewhere in the world, a priest began to celebrate Holy Mass for you.

Thousands of priests – young and old, healthy and frail – depend on these Mass offerings, in 96 countries, particularly in India, Brazil, Ethiopia, Colombia, Mozambique, Peru and Ukraine. They place your intentions on the Altar, and their thank-you letters are testimony to the Communion of Saints and the sheer vitality of the Church. In Islamic countries, such as Bangladesh and Pakistan for example, priests receive no help from the State but depend entirely on the offerings of the faithful – and especially on Mass offerings. In other countries, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, the dioceses are so poor that they would be unable to train their seminarians without this help. The rector of the new interdiocesan seminary in Malole, which opened about a year ago and already has 84 seminarians, has written to us, *"The priests and professors make do with no more than a symbolic salary and without your help in the form of Mass offerings, these priests would be unable to live in dignity. And if they can occasionally buy themselves a book or a pair of trousers, then it is thanks to the Mass offerings."*

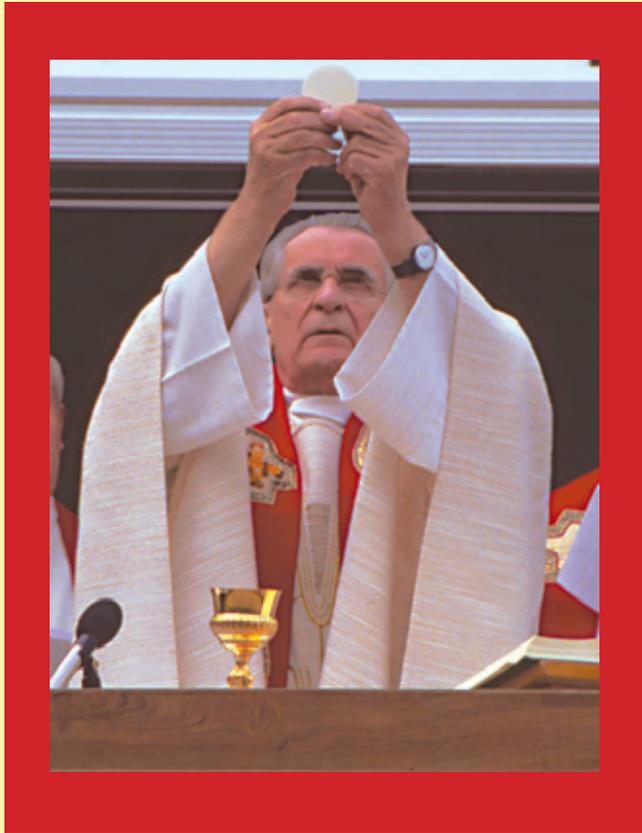
From the Seychelles, a bishop sends us this message: *"The offerings are like a candle in the darkness. They make the night into day"*. And in the diocese of Kerala in India it is thanks to this form of help that they can purchase altar breads and wine for the Mass, and indeed petrol so that they can travel to the mission stations and the meetings with the catechists. *"Your help is like oxygen for our religious life"*, they write. Jesus told his disciples to *"do this in memory of me"*. Your Mass offerings are helping to fulfil this mission in many different ways today.



Peru: The Lord is here. In many dioceses, Christ is their only hope

What is a Mass offering?

A Mass offering is a gift or alms offered to the priest who celebrates Holy Mass for our intention. We cannot purchase the spiritual fruits of the Mass, but the offering does unite the donor more intimately with the Holy Sacrifice. This practice has its roots in the early Church. Canon law lays down how such offerings must be administered.



For Father Werenfried too the Mass was the centre of his life

Photo: Andrzej Polec

When sending us your Mass Offerings

- Please tell us how many Masses you wish to have offered by priests in need.
- You may add your intentions but this is not necessary. God knows them and the priest offers Mass for the intention of the donor.
- In Australia the customary offering that accompanies your request for each Mass to be celebrated is now \$10.00. However we will always continue to offer Masses for the intention of our benefactors, irrespective of the amount offered.
- The Mass offerings that Aid to the Church in Need sends to poor priests overseas are as follows:
 - \$10.00 for each Mass
 - \$36.00 for a Triduum of 3 consecutive Masses
 - \$108.00 for a Novena of 9 consecutive Masses
 - \$400.00 for a Gregorian series of 30 consecutive Masses
- Unfortunately we are no longer able to have Masses offered on a specific date due to the administrative workload and costs involved in personally finding priests who are free to celebrate Masses on specific dates.

You can now donate and request Mass offerings online at www.aidtochurch.org

Aid to the Church in Need, PO Box 6245 Blacktown DC NSW 2148

Phone/Fax No: (02) 9679-1929 E-mail: info@aidtochurch.org Web: www.aidtochurch.org



* I would likeMass/es offered for my intentions and I enclose as an offering to support poor priests overseas to enable them to proclaim the Good News of Christ. \$.....

* Charity donation for the Projects of Aid to the Church in Need (optional) \$.....

Total enclosed \$.....

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to Aid to the Church in Need OR please debit my Visa or Mastercard:

Expiry Date _____/_____/_____ **Signature**.....

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