



ACN

# MIRROR

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***“If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family.”***

**St Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

## Dear Friends,

From 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September this year, in the Hungarian capital Budapest, the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Eucharistic Congress will be taking place on the theme of “All my springs are in you” (Ps 86 (87):7). Every four years the entire Church celebrates a major international Eucharistic celebration of this kind as a way of promoting and deepening the reverence and honour due to the Holy Eucharist. This public profession of faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament will have

great symbolic significance in Hungary, where the Church suffered for over 40 years under communist persecution and oppression. In a special way the faith of the martyrs demonstrates that the Eucharist truly is the source, the essence and the summit of the Christian life. It was this Bread of Life that gave the martyrs the invincible power of love. Even when deprived of everything, they were still prepared to offer up their lives for the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Already for the earliest Christians, despite the most brutal persecution, the Sacrifice of the Mass was the centre of their lives, as testified by the Church historian Eusebius of Caesarea, who wrote: “Every

place where men suffered became for us a place to celebrate Holy Mass, regardless of whether it was an encampment, a desert, a ship, a guesthouse or a prison.” And in the same way the martyrology of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries contains a wealth of moving accounts of secret celebrations of the Eucharist – even inside the concentration camps.



***“The human heart yearns for intimate, loving and incarnational union with God.”***

In many countries, as a result of measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the public celebration of Holy Mass was suspended, sometimes for many months. Most of the Catholic faithful could only follow the Eucharist on TV or via live online streaming. It is true that this painful situation gave birth to many new forms of evangelisation, especially using the modern means of communication, and many families also discovered afresh the meaning of the domestic Church. Nonetheless, it was also the cause of a great deal of loneliness and separation. Ultimately, the human heart yearns for intimate, loving and incarnational union with God.

“Take, and eat. This is my body”. In the Sacrament the Word of God is made flesh and comes to us, bringing the gift of full communion with him and with one another. Jesus makes himself the Bread of Life in order to fulfil our hunger for love. That is why Saint Peter Julian Eymard, the founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, said: “You will find everything in the most Blessed Sacrament – the power of the word, wisdom and miracles, yes, even miracles. The Eucharist is the supreme proof of the love of Jesus. After this there is nothing more but heaven itself.”

And so, dear friends, let us always say ‘yes’ to the invitation of Jesus to his sacrificial banquet, which he himself prepares for us. Then we will never be alone, and will never leave anyone alone or in need.

With my grateful blessing on you all,

*P. Martin M. Barta*

Father Martin Maria Barta  
Ecclesiastical Assistant



Cameroon: discovering the sanctity of the family together.

# Encouraging others to trust in love

**Family is important in African society, but traditional practices and modern mentalities can make it difficult for married couples.**

“The traditional dowry system is demeaning towards women, who become the ‘property’ of her husband and his family,” says Sister Anne Daban from **Cameroon**. “So, if they don’t have the money, many couples simply decide not to marry and live together instead.

And the widespread polygamy is also a problem, since it often generates jealousies and hatred between the different wives. Such marriages cause great suffering to young women,” she adds. And many young girls enter sexual relationships hoping to find a husband. But if they become pregnant, they soon find themselves abandoned. They quickly attach themselves to a new man, ending up with several children by different fathers, but still without a stable family life.

In the capital, the Sisters run marriage preparation courses, teaching young couples to truly love and respect each other. Those married for many years share their experiences. Where young couples are too poor to have an elaborate wedding, the Sisters help them to celebrate a simple marriage, as what really matters is not a big party, but the sacrament. And newly-weds are supported as they start their lives together. **£4,300** will help strengthen family life. ●

# Longing for the word of God

**“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Mt 4:4).** Many young people in **Uruguay** today understand the truth of Christ’s words, despite the fact that since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the leaders of the country have made every effort to expel Christianity from public life.

To this day there are no officially recognised Christian festivals in this, Latin America’s second smallest country. Instead of Christmas there is a “Family Day” and instead of Holy Week and Easter there is “Tourism Week”. And in many other respects the laws of the country are equally contrary to the teaching of the Catholic Church. But despite this, around half the population still consider themselves to be Catholic. The diocese of Florida wants to acquire 2,000 Bibles, in order to help its young people to satisfy their hunger for the Word of God, and we are happy to help. It will cost **£13,800** altogether. Will you help us? ●



# “God speaks my language!”

Most people have lifelong memories of their first child's Bible – Adam and Eve in Paradise, Noah's Ark, the birth of Jesus in the stable, the wedding feast in Cana, the miraculous multiplication of loaves – all these stories and images become imprinted on our hearts.

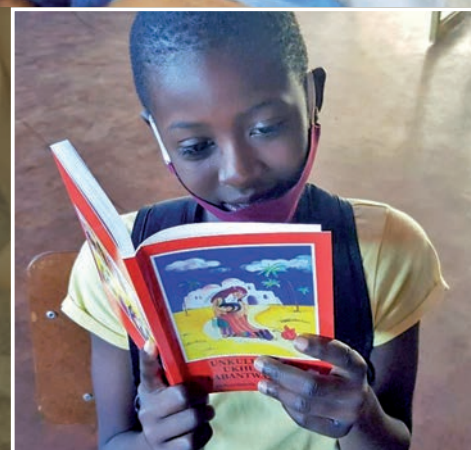
In order that as many children as possible throughout the world can also enjoy reading these stories, for the past 42 years we have been publishing our ACN Child's Bible “God Speaks to His Children”. To date it has been published in no fewer than 191 different languages and ACN has printed 51 million copies. The goal is that children should be able to read the Word of God in the language in which they naturally pray and talk with their parents, brothers and sisters, and friends.

In the western part of **Zimbabwe** in southern Africa, the children of the Kalanga tribe are eagerly awaiting their Child's Bibles. For them the idea that God should speak to them in their own language is something quite new. For ever since the 19<sup>th</sup> century their tribe has been dominated by the Ndebele people, who were given preferential treatment by the colonial rulers and subsequent governments. Although their language is recognised as one of the official languages of the country and is used in 188 local schools, with the exception of a few school textbooks there are no other written books in their language – until now, that is. Having translated the Child's Bible into Kalanga, with your help, we are planning to give 12,960 copies to the tribe's children. Each copy costs 86 pence, so altogether we need **£11,150**.

It is not only the little ones who love the Child's Bible, many adults are fans of it as well. In regions where many people cannot read or write it helps promote basic literacy. As one young boy in Angola proudly informed his parish priest, “Father, my mummy is learning to read by using the Child's Bible.”

But this little red book is not just any old book, but stories from the Word of God. Many children bring it with them to Holy Mass, carrying it in their hands as they walk. “For them it is as though some kind of divine protection emanates from this book, so they feel safeguarded as they go”, a missionary explained.

All over the world, wide-eyed children admire this colourfully illustrated “treasure” – in the Amazon rainforest and in the African savannah, in the city slums, the refugee camps and even in places where war is raging all around them. Year after year the little books are passed from hand to hand, read over and over, and even pressed to their



hearts. For these children they are the proof that God loves them. And that he speaks to them in their own language. •



## In memory of a dear friend and treasured colleague, Jürgen Liminski



**Thomas Heine-Geldern,**  
Executive President,  
ACN (International)

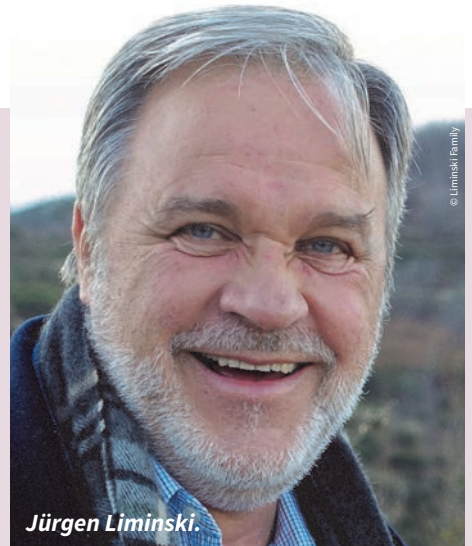
*Dear Friends,*

**This year, on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the heart of a faithful and highly valued colleague, here at ACN (International), finally ceased to beat. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the age of 71, Jürgen Liminski was called to the Eternal Father after quite unexpectedly suffering a heart attack.**

Many of you will not have known Jürgen Liminski personally. However, as faithful readers of ACN's *Mirror* newsletter you will have been familiar with his work which has

moved and enlightened readers over many decades. As editor-in-chief of the *Mirror*, he was personally involved in and profoundly committed to the mission of ACN. In this way he was a strong pillar in the bridge linking you, our benefactors, with our project partners. His life was characterised by his love for Jesus and for the Church, and through it he was able again and again to inspire others to love and follow Christ.

Right up to the day before his heart attack, he was working with the editorial team here in Königstein, discussing the current edition and determining its content on the theme of family and faith. This particular subject was very dear to his heart, and he focused on it throughout his journalistic career with exemplary consistency and unmistakable clarity, but at the same time with humour and human warmth. He lived his Christian vocation with great dedication – and was



**Jürgen Liminski.**

always supported by his wife. Whatever life brought, they were both determined to always be there for their 10 children and 21 grandchildren.

We will continue to pray for his whole family and will keep Jürgen Liminski in our hearts with deep love and gratitude.

## Need, love and thanks – your letters

### **Delighted by Benefactors' Day**

*This is to say a heartfelt thank you for your kind words in the last issue of the *Mirror* and to express my pleasure and delight at your wonderful idea of holding a Benefactors' Day on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – a sign of love, gratitude and solidarity, especially through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. May the Merciful Love of God continue to unite us and shape our mission. I wish you great love, joy and strength in your work, in a spirit of mutual esteem.*

**A benefactor in Austria**

### **The cost of a coffee in Lent for ACN**

*This is the money from a group who met for coffee after Mass during Lent – each of us put in the cost of a coffee each time and*

*planned to give the cash to ACN to help someone else. Thank you on behalf of others.*

**A group of friends in Australia**

### **Thanks for communicating so clearly**

*I want to express my appreciation for the way you communicate your projects and mission. Your information materials are precise and to the point. I like the transparency with which you speak about finances and fundraising for the various projects. Unfortunately, for many years now, I have had the impression that we Christians are very weak and clumsy when it comes to communication, and much of the information seems to be vague and unclear, even if that's not the intention. So I'm all the more pleased that your*

*communication seems so clear, practical and to the point. Thank God for you and your mission!*

**A benefactor in Slovakia**

### **Instruments of God's love**

*Among your many dramatic appeals there was one that particularly moved me. It was the urgent need for emergency aid for the thousands of people in Cabo Delgado, in Mozambique, who have been forced by the terrorist attacks to leave their villages, their land and all they possess – and who are now fighting for survival in the midst of the pandemic. May God continue to pour out his blessing on you all, that you may always be instruments of his love for those who are suffering so much.*

**A benefactor in Portugal**

## Where to send your contribution for the Church in Need

Our address: Aid to the Church in Need, 12–14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA. Please use the Freepost envelope – it saves you money and helps us. If you give by standing order or direct debit or have sent a donation recently, please accept our sincere thanks. This *Mirror* is for your interest and information.

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