



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN INTERNATIONAL

Sunday Sermon 12/20/2020

A Mass for Aid to the Church in Need and their benefactors.

Dearly beloved heads of the Christian churches in Aleppo,

Dear brothers and sisters,

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

It is our pleasure to gather this evening to pray together while we wait for the day of the birth of the divine child, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the cave of our hearts, which we are preparing from now on so that they are pure, clean, deserving of the birth of the Son of God Almighty, the Savior of the world.

We gather to pray as one family even if we are multiple churches and different groups, but with our unity today and with the sharing of the Divine Sacrifice we show to our Redeemer that nothing separates us from each other except sin and hatred, and what unites us is love, peace and joint action for the good of our families, children and churches.

We gather today to pray in the name of the Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need and to remember all those in charge of its project administration and communication work, and to thank all the benefactors and donors from all parts of the world, who are many, and during our multiple visits to many countries in the world, we saw first-hand those who are helping to save thousands of people through their simple donations; the people who support us are workers, employees and even people of very low income, but they feel what is happening in countries that are under the weight of war and experience famine. They feel the pain of children, young people, men and women who taste death as a result of shells, mortars and bombings. They also suffer from the fall of martyrs all over the world, those who live in war areas and suffer under the yoke of persecution, displacement and pressures from the dominant powers in the world and countries that want to impose their control over weak peoples and countries.

We meet in the name of Aid to the Church in Need, we who received a share of the aid of this institution that stood by our side during the war that our beloved country, Syria, suffered for nearly ten years. They provided us with a lot of food baskets and medicines and helped in the reconstruction of what was destroyed in



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our churches and our homes. ACN did not skimp on the winter days, so they sent us aid to secure heating for thousands of families, especially in our city, Aleppo, which suffered a lot for more than five years.

We are meeting today as one family and as the people of one country and one city to remind this organisation that the war in Syria has not ended yet. Yes, the indiscriminate war, shells, mortars and bombings have ended, but a difficult economic war has begun, from which the people of our country suffer. Poverty and hunger have increased, and our families have become impoverished and many displaced. Immigration continues to attract many who can go out and flee to a safe country far from the life of torment that has claimed the lives of many. And now, especially what has happened since the beginning of 2020 in all parts of the world as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, our world is still pained by this malicious disease that has claimed huge numbers of lives everywhere. Even if this scourge introduced fear into the hearts of many and killed many people, the hope for life causes a person to struggle and work to keep this malicious illness away, this myth, this misdemeanour, or this game that costs the world billions of dollars while thousands of people benefited from it. It is nothing but a purely material game.

We meet here today in this cathedral to express our gratitude and appreciation to this pontifical institution Aid to the Church in Need, and to pray together so God may bless their work and bless all those who work in helping and saving people, and bless those who were the first to establish such a project that works for the sake of every human being without looking at their colour, race, or religion. To this day, we still ask and implore that ACN continues to support Aleppo financially, because poverty has dominated the majority of the city's people, and everyone is in need of help.

As we celebrate today with you the twentieth anniversary of my episcopal ordination, I ask for your prayers and I pray to God Almighty to give us strength and grace to follow our mission with the priests of our diocese for the good of the Church, the people and the country.

Finally, we thank all of you for your attendance and your participation in the Eucharist. We thank all the churches, the heads of Christian churches in Aleppo, and all organizations, fraternities, congregations, associations and clubs benefiting from this institution, asking everyone to raise prayers and supplications so that this institution continues its path of doing good in supporting and saving mankind.



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May the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit encompass you all. Amen.