



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN INTERNATIONAL

Children pray the Rosary for peace in the world

Like last year our Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is inviting you to join in the wonderful prayer initiative, „A million Children Praying the Rosary“. For as that renowned and popular saint, Padre Pio – St Pio of Pietrelcina – once said, prophetically, „When a million children pray the Rosary, the world will change.“

we all long today – and not only in those places torn by war, but everywhere, on every continent – to see the world become a better place! Poverty, violence, injustice, fear – and in recent times above all the terrible crisis in the Middle East with its associated phenomenon of mass migration – have brought unspeakable suffering to so many people – from children to adults, to old people. The following message, sent out by the Catholic and Orthodox patriarchs in Syria on 1st of June 2016, the World Day of the Child, is just one cry for help among so many from all over the world:

„The children in our homeland of Syria are the little brothers and sisters of the suffering Child Jesus. For over five years now they have been, wounded, traumatised and killed by a brutal war. Many have lost their parents and everything that was dear to them. So many children have been born during this war and have never even known what peace is. Their tears and their sufferings cry out to Heaven... We appeal to Christ, the King of the Universe, who as a tender Child in the arms of His Mother holds the world in his hand, to bless the children of Syria. To Him, who alone can bring peace, we implore: „Save and protect the children of this land! Turn now and hear our prayers! Delay no longer to grant peace on our country! Look upon the tears of the children, dry the tears of the mothers, let the cries of anguish at last fall silent!“

Much of this suffering could be avoided if only we at least, as Christians, would truly live by God's commandments and would teach our children to pray and lead them to God by our example.

The fact that God himself chose three children of Fatima in order to reveal them the spiritual remedies renders visible the power of a prayer that comes from the pureness of a child's heart. Those remedies could have protected us from the satanic power of atheistic communism and could even have prevented the Second World War. But the "older ones" of this world paid little heed to this message and, as a result, millions lost their lives.

We face very similar situations in the world today. Peace is endangered on every level. That is why we need the help and protection of Our Lady, the Mother of God, who crushes the serpent's head.

In the year 2005, in Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, some women saw a group of children praying the Rosary at a wayside shrine and experienced such a powerful sense of Our Lady's presence that they were made profoundly aware of the power of children's prayer. This led



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them to launch the initiative now known as „A million children praying the Rosary“

We at ACN have adopted this initiative and made it our own. We are joining this prayer for peace because we see the danger of a worldwide armed conflict as one of the great dangers of our time. Pope Francis underlines this when he says, „In the world there are numerous armed conflicts taking place. It is a sort of Third World War, conducted in piecemeal fashion...“ This battle is first and foremost a spiritual one, and therefore above all we need to pray, with profound trust – and who else than the children can help us with this task? And so we extend our most heartfelt invitation to you to, please join our initiative and spread the message to the children in your locality, in every parish and every school.

Already in previous years, tens of thousands of children have taken part in this initiative, and we have received so many moving and enthusiastic testimonies about it from all over the world. They shared with us the joy they have seen in those kids who were praying the rosary and also the moving experiences of helpers and organizers, who were truly touched by grace and have now begun to make the Rosary a steady part of their life.

Please help us, especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, to spread the word to children in all the schools, kindergartens, hospitals, children’s homes and parishes... and let us all together pray the holy Rosary – at 9 a.m. on 18 October – on every continent, for peace in the world!

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