



Press Release
For Immediate Release

Urgent appeal for support in Lebanon—Joint call for help and prayers

Montreal, 15 October —With the support of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), Aid to the Church in Need Canada (ACN), Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) Canada, and Development and Peace — *Caritas* Canada (DPCC) are launching an appeal for prayers and generosity to support the most urgent needs of people in Lebanon, following the bombardments in the country that have already claimed hundreds of innocent lives.

“With the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel now having spread into Lebanon, causing further death, destruction and displacement, let us, the Catholic faithful in Canada, renew our prayers for peace in the Middle East, as urged by Pope Francis, and do whatever we can to help the people who are affected by this recent escalation in violence,” says the Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB).

Caritas Lebanon reports, “Thousands of families are fleeing their homes as conflict escalates in southern Lebanon. We are providing shelter, food, medical care, and psychological support, but we need your help to continue. Every contribution makes a difference.”

Echoing Caritas Lebanon, Most Rev. McGrattan says, “There are people in Lebanon who urgently need our help at this time. That is why, in my capacity as CCCB president, I invite you to donate either to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Canada, to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) Canada, or to Development and Peace—*Caritas* Canada (DPCC).” He adds, “Each of these organizations will work with local agencies in Lebanon to ensure your donations bring targeted and effective relief to those who are suffering.

Marie-Claude Lalonde, National Director of ACN Canada; Dr. Adriana Bara, National Director of CNEWA Canada; and Luke Stocking, interim Executive Director of DPCC, are launching a joint appeal for help for the Lebanese people: “Your donations and prayers will be a great comfort to the shaken population.” According to Marielle Boutros, ACN’s project coordinator for Lebanon,

“People are now living in church halls, so they will need food, sanitary products, mattresses, blankets, and if it continues, we will need heating for winter, though, of course, we hope it will not last that long.”

Religious sisters persevere despite violence

According to information received by CNEWA Canada, religious sisters in Lebanon belonging to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary have also been affected by the bombing. “I am still in one piece,” confided Sister Maya Beiano, who is also director of a school run by her congregation. “Missiles are hitting just next to us, the convent is shaking, and windows are breaking.” Just a week ago, she was planning on opening the school whose goal is to preserve the Christian presence in the region while offering a sound education to all. “As long as there is a child and a mother in the village, I will maintain my mission,” she says, ending the conversation by asking us to keep her in our prayers.

The directors explain that funds received will be used towards food, medical supplies, shelter, and other essential goods now and, in the months to come, to meet the basic needs of the affected population. With winter just around the corner, heating assistance will also become important. When the conflict subsides, which they hope will happen as soon as possible, the focus will move to the reconstruction of the buildings and, above all, the healing of all those who are traumatized.

“Finally, we call on our benefactors to pray for an end to the violence, not only in Lebanon, but throughout the Holy Land and Middle East,” implore the directors, adding, “We echo Pope Francis’s call for a ceasefire, which is a necessary first step toward a just and peaceful resolution of this conflict.”

To donate or for more information, please contact the organizations as follows:

Aid to the Church in Need Canada (ACN) website and phone number: <https://acn-canada.org/>, Toll-free 1-800-585-6333 ext. 228, donation page: <https://acn-canada.org/attacks-on-lebanon-affecting-everyone/?form=Lebanon>

CNEWA Canada website and phone number: <https://cnewa.org/ca/>, Toll-free: 1-866-322-4441

Development and Peace — *Caritas* Canada (DPCC) website and phone number: <https://devp.org/en/>, Toll-free: 1-888-234-8533

About the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) is the national assembly of the Bishops of Canada. It was founded in 1943 and officially recognized by the Holy See in 1948.

About Aid to Church in Need (ACN)

Aid to the Church in need is a pontifical charity founded in 1947 and funding emergency and pastoral projects in more than 140 countries. It also works to raise awareness and provide information about the discrimination and persecution of Christians around the world.

About CNEWA Canada

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) has been a lifeline for the poor, displaced people, and those affected by war in the Middle East, North-East Africa, India and Eastern Europe. Founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926, and under the guidance of Pope Francis, CNEWA works for, through and with the Eastern Catholic churches to identify needs and implement solutions.

About Development and Peace — *Caritas* Canada

Development and Peace — *Caritas* Canada (DPCC) is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. It works in partnership with local organizations in over 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin American and the Middle East to create greater justice in the world and to act in solidarity with the most vulnerable people.

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