

# Annual Report 2021



CNEWA

**C**atholic Near East Welfare Association was founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as an instrument of love and a sign of hope for those in need scattered throughout the historic but unstable lands of the ancient Eastern churches — the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

For nearly 100 years — because of good people such as you — CNEWA has walked side by side with those in need. We have prayed with them when they were attacked, comforted them when they grieved, fed them when they hungered, bandaged them when they bled, sheltered them when they had no place to call home. We have been there, always, through the arms of the living body of Christ, the church, as they live for others, counseling the despondent, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, teaching the eager and forming the next generation of leaders.

CNEWA's mission is simple: to follow the lesson of the Good Samaritan, to “go and do likewise,” binding the wounds of a broken world, body and soul as we strive to answer the question put to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

**Q**uietly, prayerfully and joyfully, we work for, through and with the local churches. The men and women who form our regional teams in Addis Ababa, Amman, Asmara, Beirut, Ernakulam and Jerusalem — and our close partners at work throughout the Caucasus and Ukraine — have decades-long relationships with the people we serve and the ministries we support; they come from the communities of faith we serve for the common good of all.

When a crisis hits, and a community is confronted with disasters natural and human-made, CNEWA is there — and we remain there, offering continued support, ensuring immediate needs are met, faith is sustained and hope prevails, even when the lights, cameras and attention turn elsewhere.





The year 2021, which this report covers, remained a year of crisis worldwide. COVID-19 continued its devastating path, sickening and killing millions, regardless of age, race or wealth, even as millions more were inoculated to combat the virus. Yet, as nation states slowly reopened after closing in on themselves in 2020, and economies slowly returned to life, violence and turmoil came roaring back, especially in Ethiopia, Gaza and Lebanon; clouds of war gathered over Ukraine.

Nevertheless, and disregarding any concern for their own personal safety, the people of God stepped up to answer the needs of those who sought refuge, safety and food in northern Ethiopia; medicines and comfort in Gaza; and the restoration of human dignity even as Lebanon imploded.

Hope is CNEWA's calling card. We exist not only to provide the essentials one can see — food, shelter, medicine — but we also provide the essentials one cannot see: comfort, consolation, education, faith and hope.

**C**NEWA is a network of generous and compassionate people scattered throughout the world, committed to living Jesus' great command to "love one another" by reaching out to their neighbors in need, regardless of where their neighbor may be.

This network links you, our generous donors, with the laity, priests, sisters and bishops of the local churches — CNEWA's "boots on the ground" — who receive our help and touch countless lives in incalculable ways in Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

In 2021, CNEWA distributed **\$22,469,363** — an increase of more than \$3.5 million from 2020 — for **438 project grants and 248 subsidies** to support child care programs, seminaries and other houses of formation. Thanks to your prayers and gifts, we together are building up the church, affirming human dignity, alleviating poverty, encouraging dialogue and inspiring hope.

# How?

## WE ACCOMPANY THE LOCAL CHURCHES

Pius XI founded Catholic Near East Welfare Association to support the Eastern churches in their efforts to serve the world as they witness to and preach the Gospel of Jesus. While our mission has evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of an unstable world, our mandate to walk with and accompany these communities of faith — which date to the time of the apostles — remains the same.

Central to this commitment is our concern for leadership development — especially for those preparing for lives of service as priests, religious sisters and brothers, and as lay catechists and community leaders. Without this commitment to and investment in education, faith formation, understanding of human behavior and psychology, the outreach of the churches would be ineffective and unsustainable.

In 2021, thanks to you, CNEWA committed **\$2,362,442** in subsidies to advance the formation of priests and religious sisters and brothers. Your gifts:

- Enabled Egyptian men to study and prepare for ordination as priests to serve the Coptic Catholic Church at St. Leo the Great Seminary in Maadi, a neighborhood in Cairo.
- Supported Syro-Malabar Catholic women in their preparation for lives of service as members of the Sisters of the Destitute in Changanacherry and Ernakulam in southwestern India.
- Offered young men from the Middle East to study for the priesthood in the Melkite Greek Catholic Church at St. Ann's Seminary in Raboue, Lebanon.
- Helped Greek Catholic seminarians at Blessed Theodore Romzha Theological Academy in Mukachevo, Ukraine, complete their preparations to serve as priests.



In addition, CNEWA allocated **\$150,484** in scholarships for the advanced studies of priests and religious.

In addition to investments in community leadership, CNEWA supports bishops, pastors and religious sisters with their outreach efforts. These pastoral works include university chaplaincies, prison ministries, summer Bible camps for youth, and counseling for refugees, migrants and the displaced.

CNEWA's support of these faith communities also includes grants to make improvements of parish facilities and structures, especially those impacted by violence or natural disasters. These modest works represent an investment in the good health and future of these local churches, so they may bring light to some of the darkest places of the globe, giving life to those living in the shadow of death.

In 2021, CNEWA allocated **\$4,033,924** in grants to:

- Provide computers for the young men attending Holy Archangels Armenian Catholic Seminary in Yerevan, Armenia.
- Start a poultry farm with housing for livestock and room for a kitchen garden to help feed the Daughters of St. Anne and the community they serve in Akurur, Eritrea.
- Support catechetical programs administered by the Bethany Missionary Fathers for the Gumuz people in Galiyarogda, Ethiopia.
- Sponsor catechetical activities for displaced Iraqi children in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.
- Fund youth ministry programs at St. George Orthodox Church in Kfar Yassif, Israel.
- Fund the CNEWA-Pontifical Mission Community Center's pastoral work among the Filipino migrant community in the Kingdom of Jordan.
- Support parish pastoral work in Homs, Syria.
- Provide funding for the values leadership program at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine.

Each year, CNEWA receives a portion of the World Mission Sunday Collection taken up in parishes across the United States. These funds support a number of initiatives of the Holy See, including an annual subsidy of **\$750,000** to the Holy See's Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, our primary partner in support of the Eastern churches throughout the world.

## WE RESPOND TO HUMAN NEEDS

CNEWA accompanies the Eastern churches as they respond to the very real human needs that envelop them. While the need can be overwhelming, CNEWA remains focused in its support, so the response of the churches are effective, just and sustainable. Our regional teams listen, dialogue, review and assess the needs with our boots on the ground — the people of the Eastern churches who are entrusted to lead their communities and their crisis responses, as well as their health care, social service and educational initiatives.

Our teams assess potential programs or projects based on their sustainability, short- and long-term impact, concern for the common good, care for creation, and rigorous agency policy controls that enforce fiscal transparency and accountability and safeguard, secure and protect children and all vulnerable persons.



The core of CNEWA's work has been the support of child care initiatives. Even as CNEWA has shifted its focus from annual subsidies to child care institutions and the provision of grants for the care of children, turbulent sociopolitical circumstances — such as tightening funding restrictions for charities in India passed into law in 2020 and the nationalization of Catholic schools in Eritrea in 2021 — are demanding changes in how we provide support for the care of children. Yet, our commitment to the care of children remains. This is an investment for the future, for the more tools we offer children now, the better equipped their lives and communities will be.

In 2021, thanks to you, CNEWA provided **\$4,418,662** for child care activities, including funds for:

- Saint Marina Coptic Orthodox Orphanage in Port Said, Egypt.
- Don Bosco Technical School in its final full year of operation in Dekemhare, Eritrea.
- Lidetamariam Secondary School in Alitena, the historic center of the Catholic Church in the Tigray Region of northern Ethiopia.

- The care of children living at the Dbayeh refugee camp, north of Beirut, Lebanon.
- Support for hearing-impaired children studying at the Paul VI Ephpheta Institute in Bethlehem, Palestine.
- Medical care for mothers and their children offered by the clinics administered by the Near East Council of Churches in Gaza.

At the heart of the church's service is its commitment to care for the sick, the vulnerable and the marginalized. In 2021, your generosity prompted the allocation of **\$3,756,197** for the following programs:

- Home care for senior citizens living in and around Artashat, Armenia, which lies near the Turkish border.
- Program for prisoners sponsored by the Coptic Catholic Eparchy of Assiut in Egypt.
- Care for people living with H.I.V./AIDS, provided by the Daughters of Charity in Asmara, Eritrea.
- Literacy and educational programs for prisoners sponsored by the St. Paul Catholic Prisoner Chaplaincy of the Archeparchy of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Caritas Georgia's work to shelter the homeless in Batumi, especially those with COVID-19 and other health, psychological or emotional challenges.
- Care for the elderly by the Chaldean Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Ainkawa and Dohuk, Iraqi Kurdistan.



- Support for African asylum seekers in Tel Aviv, Israel, offered by the Comboni Sisters.
- Health care for Iraqi and Syrian refugees at the Italian Hospital in Amman, Jordan.
- Repair of extensive damages to Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui and Rosary Sisters Hospital caused by the port explosion in Beirut in August 2020.
- Psychosocial support offered by the Oum el Nour Association of the Maronite Church for those suffering post-traumatic stress caused by the explosion in the Beirut harbor.
- Scholarships and tuition assistance for students at Bethlehem University in Palestine.
- Upgrading the facilities of Marie Doty Park in Bethlehem.
- Employment assistance for Christian young adults through Holy Family Church in Gaza.
- Support for displaced Ukrainian families in Mariupol and Zaporizhzhia, eastern Ukraine, sponsored by Caritas Ukraine.

## **WE RUSH EMERGENCY RELIEF**

The coronavirus pandemic that brought the world to a halt in 2020 did not disappear in 2021. The virus marched on, wave after wave, killing millions indiscriminately. In CNEWA's world, COVID-19 devastated the Horn of Africa, India and the Middle East in particular, compelling us to rush personal protection equipment, funds to secure medical supplies and devices — such as respirators — and emergency food packages.

Despite the fragility of its people, armed conflict in northern Ethiopia erupted into a full-scale war, devastating communities, civilians and crops. And the aftereffects of the August 2020 port explosion in Beirut spiraled out of control, as Lebanon's economy collapsed, threatening the nation's backbone: its Catholic hospitals and schools.

Nevertheless, local Christian communities responded to the crises head on; men and women of all ages rolled up their sleeves and got to work, assessing critical needs and securing aid where most needed. Thanks to your generosity, CNEWA quickly responded to these critical needs, rushing **\$4,981,729** to:

- Provide more than 20 eparchies of the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Catholic churches in India with funds to secure personal protection equipment, medicines and food packages to combat the pandemic ravaging their rural and urban communities.
- Emergency distribution of food to families in northern Armenia; urban areas of Egypt; multiple areas in Eritrea; Tigray, northern Ethiopia; refugee families in Jordan; and food distribution programs of the various churches throughout Lebanon, particularly in the neighborhoods of Beirut, Bourj Hammoud, Dbayeh, Deir el Ahmar, Gemayze, Haret Sakher, Jbeil, Naba'a, Roueissat and Zahleh.
- Emergency repairs to Geitaoui and the Rosary Sisters hospitals as well as two additional dispensaries of the church, all critically damaged in the blast; repairs to homes and small businesses in the neighborhoods closest to the site of the blast.

## WE RAISE AWARENESS

Educating Catholics in the West about the churches, peoples and cultures of the East, as well as the challenges of these communities, has been an integral component of CNEWA's mission since 1926.

For nearly 50 years, CNEWA's magazine, **ONE**, has introduced its readers to the world we are humbled and privileged to serve.

Our contributors take readers to places rarely covered anywhere else, bringing to you the stories of the men and women who valiantly make a difference in this broken world of ours. Our digital footprint, which includes the website, blog, email campaigns and social media posts, engages readers, inspiring our growing network to want to know and be engaged more. Again, the Catholic Media Association recognized the team behind all of this work, giving multiple press awards for dynamic writing, stunning photography, clean design and compelling video production.

CNEWA's executive continues to play a significant role in the formation and motivation of the members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, regularly speaking at regional and international meetings.

All of this — and so much more — is done thanks to the generosity and prayers of good people such as you. In 2021, CNEWA allocated **\$1,428,053** for our public awareness program.



**W**e look forward to the day when our mission is complete, when the local churches no longer need to feed the hungry, cure the sick, restore dignity and offer hope to a broken world. Until that day arrives, however, we press forward with faith and love, and always full of hope.

Your compassion and generosity inspire us anew as you remind us to strive to answer that question put to Jesus: **“And who is my neighbor?”**

We are privileged to live out our mission of service on behalf of the Holy Father. God bless you for helping to make all this happen through Catholic Near East Welfare Association. And remember: The people whose lives you have so generously touched remember you and your intentions in their prayers of gratitude — for the Lord hears the cry of the poor!



**Thank you!**

## 2021 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2021 TOTAL
Contributions	\$7,655,098	\$5,749,222	\$13,404,320
Grants from funding agencies	10,000	8,857,171	8,867,171
Collections	1,033,579	–	1,033,579
Legacies and bequests	3,343,851	1,108,472	4,452,323
Investment return	868,042	660,366	1,528,408
Contributed services	125,281	–	125,281
Net assets released from restrictions	14,863,934	(14,863,934)	–
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$27,899,785</b>	<b>\$1,511,297</b>	<b>\$29,411,082</b>

EXPENSES	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH RESTRICTIONS	2021 TOTAL
<i><b>Program services</b></i>			
Accompanying the church	\$7,884,722	–	\$7,884,722
Responding to human needs	13,156,588	–	13,156,588
Public awareness	1,428,053	–	1,428,053
Total program services	22,469,363	–	22,469,363
<i><b>Support services</b></i>			
Fundraising	2,713,947	–	2,713,947
Management and general	2,895,670	–	2,895,670
Total support services	5,609,617	–	5,609,617
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$28,078,980</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$24,078,980</b>

NET ASSETS	2021 TOTAL
Undesignated	\$20,357,678
Board designated	10,586,059
Plant	3,610,436
Without donor restrictions	34,554,173
With donor restrictions	38,053,104
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$72,607,277</b>

To see the 2021 audited financial statements, please visit [cnewa.org/financials](https://cnewa.org/financials)

