

2014-15 Annual Report

Catholic Near East Welfare Association



Dear Friends in the Lord,

The past year has been noteworthy in many ways — and so much of it has been because of you.

Because of you, CNEWA has been able to extend the loving hand of Christ to the poor and displaced in Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon — reaching out to some of the tens of thousands of people who have had to flee their homes and start over.

Because of you, we have been able to accompany migrants and refugees seeking shelter and security in places like Ukraine and Ethiopia.

Because of you, we have been able to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ to new and unfamiliar places in CNEWA's world, most notably in northern India.

Because of you, we have been able to give comfort and compassion to the elderly in Armenia and Georgia, parents and grandparents who have become the “new orphans” of an impoverished land. You have made it possible for them to know a kind face, a reassuring touch, a nourishing meal.

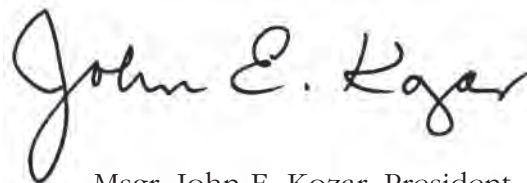
Because of you, we have been able to help form young men and women in Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon and Ukraine who want to dedicate their lives in service to the Lord as priests and sisters.

Because of you, we have been able to help restore churches in Egypt and staff medical dispensaries in Iraq and offer counseling and emotional support to children who were victims of war in Gaza.

Because of you, in so many places, orphans have a home, refugees have a new start, the sick have been healed — and those who may have felt abandoned or alone now know the love of Jesus.

Because of you, many are coming to know and recognize the face of Christ in those reaching out to them in their need.

Thank you for making that possible — and thank you, especially, for uplifting the work we do with your prayers and your gifts. May God continue to bless you and those you love. Know that many prayers are being said every day on your behalf, by people you may never know and may never meet, but whose lives have been changed ... because of you.



Msgr. John E. Kozar, President
Catholic Near East Welfare Association

The Middle East



It has been a year of exceptional challenges in the Middle East, as millions of people have endured war, displacement, persecution and poverty. In the midst of gathering storm clouds, very often the church — thanks to the generosity of CNEWA’s benefactors and donors — has been the only ray of hope. Emergencies compelled us to respond, and quickly, even as CNEWA continued its ongoing activity from the formation of clergy, religious and lay leaders to health care initiatives for the poor and disabled.

In Iraq, CNEWA has helped Christians who have fled ISIS — many literally running for their lives — and worked to provide emergency supplies like nursing formula and water, shelter, medicines, schools.

In Syria, with half the population driven from their homes, the landscape destroyed and the economy in ruins, CNEWA has provided emergency assistance, health care and, school kits to support displaced families and uplift Christians through counseling and catechesis.

Lebanon and Jordan have absorbed waves of refugees from their neighbors — and they have been overwhelmed. CNEWA is there, helping not just the refugees, but the poor of these “host countries,” whose hardships have been exacerbated by the influx.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Total assistance = \$6,561,038

Grants included:

- **\$338,099 for emergency relief supplies for Iraqi and Syrian refugees seeking safety in Jordan**
- **\$200,000 to the Al-Ahli Christian Hospital in Gaza for medical emergency assistance**
- **\$63,405 to the Maronite Patriarchal Seminary in Ghazir, Lebanon, for the formation of seminarians**
- **\$29,500 to the Saint James Vicariate for Hebrew-speaking Catholics in Jaffa, Israel, for youth group programs**

CNEWA’s partnerships with parish communities and clergy, as well as the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation, the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and the Good Shepherd Sisters, for example, have helped save lives and nurture hope.

And with Israel and Palestine still reeling from the 2014 war in Gaza, CNEWA has stepped forward to provide psychosocial support, counseling and educational assistance.



Northeast Africa



CNEWA serves three countries in northeastern Africa: Egypt, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Each has faced continuing hardships in the past year, but the loving kindness of the church, bolstered by CNEWA's benefactors and friends, has helped ease the burdens of the most vulnerable.

The next generation of Egyptians is contending with the aftermath of political upheaval that sparked violence in 2013. That violence left numerous Christian religious institutions destroyed or damaged. CNEWA is working with local communities and religious to help restore churches, schools and child care facilities. We are also continuing our long-standing support of such vital institutions as the Santa Lucia Home for the Blind and St. Leo the Great Coptic Catholic Patriarchal Seminary.

Reaching out to the young is key to assisting the church in Eritrea. We are helping fund child care centers and vocational schools as the country copes with increasing challenges.

Ethiopia has been facing a long and difficult drought, and CNEWA has worked to help provide food and nourishment, particularly to schoolchildren. We have also been at the forefront of educational initiatives in the country, helping to form priests, sisters and laity. Meanwhile, the superlative Catholic school system, supported by CNEWA, is offering new promise and possibility to Ethiopia's next generation.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Total assistance = \$1,541,999

Grants included:

- \$50,914 for the care of needy children living in Christian safe houses throughout Egypt
- \$120,670 for the formation of seminarians, religious sisters and brothers in Eritrea
- \$47,369 to the Mai Aini camp in Shire, Ethiopia, for the library serving the refugees seeking shelter there
- \$15,058 to Saint Therese Hospital in Beni Suef, Egypt, for medical supplies



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India traces its Christian roots to the Apostle Thomas, who tradition tells us brought the faith to the country in the first century. But despite its long Christian history, India remains a land that, in many places, is still waiting to hear the Good News.

CNEWA is doing its part to bring the Gospel to some of the farthest reaches of India, by helping form priests, sisters and lay leaders who not only proclaim the Word, but live it in their outreach to the poor and marginalized. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, CNEWA has been able to support schools, child care initiatives and social service works that uplift the poor, especially the Dalits, the so-called “untouchables,” who are scorned by so much of Indian society. All of this is supported through the dynamic efforts of the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Catholic churches that empower the poor, advance their concerns and offer opportunities to grow and flourish.

That kind of outreach can come at a high cost. Christians are facing increased persecution in India. Many churches and places of worship have been vandalized. Nuns have been attacked and even raped. But a steadfast faith endures, along with the invaluable work of proclaiming the love of Christ for those in need.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Total assistance = \$1,655,200

Grants included:

- **\$23,206 to the Major Archeparchy of Trivandrum, Kerala, to educate Dalit children**
- **\$5,977 to Saint Ephrem's Theological College in Satna, Madhya Pradesh, for the formation of seminarians**
- **\$142,230 to support child care initiatives in the Eparchy of Chandra, Maharashtra**
- **\$2,012 for the formation of Snehagiri Missionary Sisters in Palai, Kerala**



Eastern Europe



The remnants of the old Soviet Union are struggling to regain their footing after decades of disasters —natural, political, economic — and CNEWA is there working through the local churches to lend a hand.

In Armenia and Georgia, an older generation has been largely abandoned by the young, who left for jobs and new lives in other countries. Their elders have now become the “new orphans,” with no safety net to protect them. CNEWA is supporting the efforts of our partner, Caritas, to give security and sanctuary to these forgotten parents and grandparents, while also helping to support religious institutions and communities, such as the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and the Ordinariate for Armenian Catholics in Armenia and Georgia to keep the flame of faith alive.

In Ukraine, meantime, a church that was forced underground during the Soviet era has emerged into the sunlight. CNEWA is helping to train seminarians and foster vocations in a land where faith was hidden, but never disappeared. The country is also contending with civil strife that has displaced thousands. Through the church, CNEWA accompanies these people, seeking ways to provide both humanitarian and pastoral support in their time of need.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Total assistance = \$406,576

Grants included:

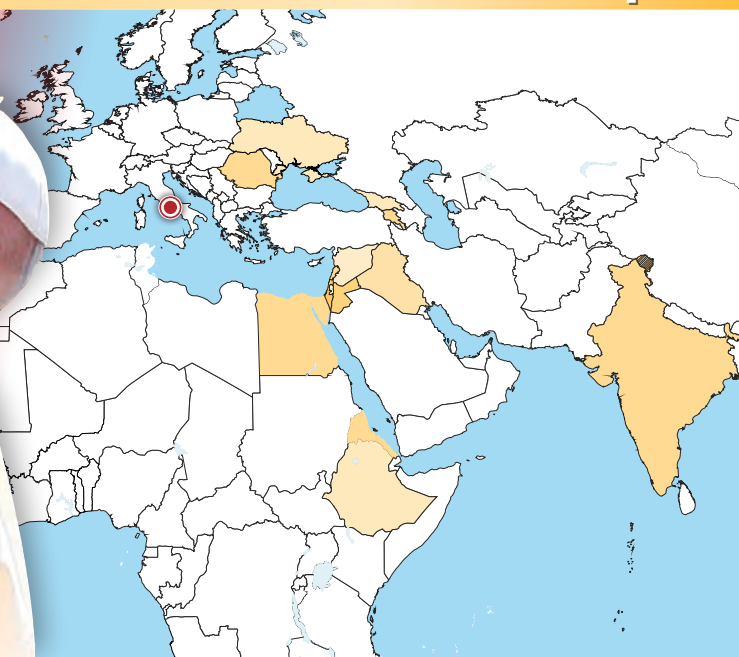
- \$17,000 to the Greek Catholic Theological Seminary in Oradea, Romania, for the formation of priests
- \$45,000 for the support of Armenian Syrian refugees exiled to Armenia
- \$58,730 to support catechetical initiatives of the Patriarchal Curia of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine
- \$5,000 to feed the elderly and street children in Kiev, Ukraine





Holy See

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CNEWA is an agency of the Holy See. As an association founded by the Holy Father, everything we do — from providing a Syrian refugee child an education to caring for an expecting mother in India — we do on behalf of the successor of the apostle Peter, the rock on which the church of Christ is built.

This papal character is not limited to our humanitarian assistance or pastoral support, but extends to how we work, from collaborating with the pope's delegates and his brother bishops around our world to support of the Roman Curia and their efforts.

From CNEWA's beginning, it has maintained a special relationship with the Holy See's Congregation for the Eastern Churches, a department of the Roman Curia that works with the Eastern Catholic churches. CNEWA also works with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, supporting the council's outreach to the Orthodox churches.

Support is wide-ranging and significant and includes grants for general operations and scholarship assistance for priests and religious. CNEWA also forwards Mass offerings and intentions to the congregation, which distributes them to the clergy of the Eastern Catholic churches.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Total assistance = \$1,333,230

Grants included:

- **\$750,000 to the Congregation for the Eastern Churches for its activities**
- **\$100,000 to the Congregation for the Eastern Churches for scholarships for women religious**
- **\$350,000 to the Congregation for the Eastern Churches for Mass intentions**
- **\$25,000 to the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity for scholarships**





For annotated financial statements with links to the complete financial schedules: [click here](#)

CNEWA

a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support

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