

Annual Report 2020





Catholic Near East Welfare Association, or CNEWA, was founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as an instrument of love and encouragement 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 one hundred years — thanks to the generosity of good people such as you — CNEWA has walked side by side with these communities of faith. 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. And we have been there with them as they in turn care for others, living the Gospel of Jesus as they counsel the despondent, care for the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, teach the eager and form new generations of leaders.

CNEWA's mission is simple: to follow the lesson of the Good Samaritan, to “go and do likewise” and bind the wounds of a broken world, body and soul.

We work for, through and with the local churches, quietly, prayerfully, joyfully. The professionals 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.

When a crisis hits, and a community is confronted with disasters natural and human-made, CNEWA is there — and we stay, offering continued support, ensuring immediate needs are met, faith is sustained, and hope prevails.

The year 2020, which this report covers, was a year of crisis worldwide. COVID-19 reached even the most remote areas of the globe, killing millions, leaving a path of destruction as it devastated families, communities and nations. As the

virus gripped its innocent victims, discriminating against no one, panic ensued as people, families, communities and nation states closed in on themselves. Economies came to a grinding halt, the effects of which are felt to this day.

The world stopped and, for many, a year disappeared.

The people of God stepped up, often disregarding any concern for their own personal safety, to answer the needs of those who were lost and scared. Even as their sanctuaries and shrines were shuttered, Christians brought food, medicine, a caring ear and an open heart. Hope prevails indeed.

Hope is our calling card. We exist not only to give those things one can see — food, shelter, medicine — but also to provide those things one cannot: comfort, faith, education, consolation, hope.

CNEWA is a network of generous and compassionate people scattered throughout the Americas, Europe and beyond — individuals just like you — living Jesus' great command to “love one another” by reaching out to those in need.

This network, always, includes the laity, priests, sisters and bishops of the local churches — CNEWA's “boots on the ground” — who receive our aid and use it to touch countless lives in incalculable ways in Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, CNEWA distributed **\$18,884,647** for **487** project grants and **167** subsidies to child care programs, seminaries and other houses of formation — thanks to your faithful prayers and generosity. Together, we 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. Since then, our mission has evolved, but our mandate to walk with these churches — which date to the time of the apostles — remains the same.

Central to this commitment to accompany the Eastern churches is our concern for faith formation — 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 faith formation, the outreach of the churches would be ineffective, shallow, hollow.

In addition to faith formation, we support bishops, pastors and their associates with their many outreach activities. These include pastoral works, such as 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 — especially as COVID-19 continues to ravage the world — in the shadow of death.

WE RESPOND TO HUMAN NEEDS

CNEWA accompanies the Eastern churches as they witness to the Gospel in word and deed.

And the opportunities are endless.

But our work is focused to ensure the selected works we support 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 entrusted to lead their communities.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

It was as if the world had stopped. By March 2020, the coronavirus swept the globe, leaving behind a trail of sickness, death and grief. Businesses, offices, schools and houses of worship shuttered. Families locked themselves in their homes as the virus indiscriminately marched on, wave after wave.

Devastated by the virus and economic and political turmoil, the situation in Lebanon took a turn for the worse when an explosion rocked Beirut on 4 August 2020. The shockwave devastated hospitals, schools, churches, homes and businesses. Hundreds died or sustained injuries and hundreds of thousands lost their homes. The country's fragile economy and political system collapsed.

Armed conflict in September in the Caucasus over the contested region of Nagorno-Karabakh stunned Armenia, as its allies in the embattled region suffered





heavy losses. Streams of displaced Armenians fled to Armenia proper, exhausted and penniless.

And in Ethiopia, the fragile system binding the country's many ethnic communities into an uneasy union fell apart in November. Open warfare broke out among various ethnic groups. Overnight, shelling, arrests and armed combat devastated a nation reeling from the virus, locust infestations and crop failures.

Although wounded themselves, the Christian faithful throughout CNEWA's world rolled up their sleeves and got to work, assessing critical needs and rushing aid where most needed. Thanks to you, CNEWA quickly responded to these critical needs. Your gifts rushed **\$2,634,273** for:

- Personal protection equipment, medicines and food packages to the local churches combatting the pandemic in Armenia, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Ukraine.
- Emergency distribution of food to families in Beirut devastated by the port blast; initial restoration work on 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.
- Humanitarian aid to families displaced by war in Nagorno-Karabakh cared for by Caritas Armenia and the Armenian Catholic Ordinariate.
- Nutritional support to feed families through parishes, youth ministries and eparchies in Alitena and Adigrat, Tigray, Ethiopia.

FORMING CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Thanks be to God, men and women are saying yes to serve the Lord and his people as priests, religious sisters or brothers, lay catechists or community leaders.

While the pandemic closed some seminaries and houses of formation, the programs to form, nurture and educate people in service of the church continued.

Thanks to you, CNEWA committed **\$2,073,861** in subsidies in 2020 to help form men as priests, and women and men to serve as religious sisters and brothers.

Your gifts:

- Enabled Eritrean women to begin formation as Daughters of St. Anne in the capital of Asmara.
- Made it possible for aspirants to study theology in preparation for their ordination at St. Ephrem's Seminary in the Ethiopian city of Addis Ababa.
- Permitted the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church to continue its seminarian formation program in Pattom, southern Kerala.
- Offered young men in Iraq the opportunity to study for the priesthood at St. Peter's Patriarchal Seminary in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.
- Supported women in their preparations to become Sisters of St. Basil in Lviv, Ukraine.

In addition, CNEWA allocated **\$123,742** in scholarships for the advanced studies of priests and religious.





BUILDING THE CHURCH

The Eastern churches, while vulnerable to the challenging — even hostile — socioeconomic and political environments in which they exist, are among the most dynamic communities of faith in the universal church. Their ingenuity and creativity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, illustrates their ability to adapt and change, notwithstanding their ancient apostolic roots.

The many pastoral programs of these churches, particularly those that engage and empower youth, animate them, bringing life and hope as they confront the challenges that lead others to despair.

In 2020, your generosity enabled CNEWA to provide **\$3,474,217** in grants to:

- Provide pastoral animation programs for the laity and youth in the Eparchy of Barentu, Eritrea.
- Fund chaplaincy programs at four universities by the Eparchy of Adigrat in northern Ethiopia.
- Support catechetical and counseling programs for displaced Iraqi children administered by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Zakho, Iraqi Kurdistan.
- Sponsor programs for migrant workers in Israel sponsored by the Hebrew-speaking apostolate of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.
- Fund the Pontifical Mission Community Center's pastoral work among Jordan's Filipino migrant workers.
- Support the pastoral work of the St. Mark Syriac Orthodox Charitable Society in Jerusalem.

- Provide funding for the School of Catechists at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

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 pastoral initiatives of the Holy See, including an annual subsidy of **\$750,000** to the Holy See's Congregation for Eastern Churches, our primary partner in support of the Eastern churches throughout the world.

SUPPORTING CHILD CARE INITIATIVES

The core of CNEWA's work has been the support of child care initiatives — for decades. Even as CNEWA has shifted its focus over the years from annual subsidies to child care institutions to the provision of grants for the care of children, turbulent sociopolitical circumstances — such as tighter funding legislation for charities in India in 2020, the nationalization of Catholic schools and health care facilities in Eritrea in 2021, and the closure of schools in response to COVID-19 — are demanding changes in how we provide support for the care of children.

In 2020, thanks to you, CNEWA provided **\$4,491,045** for child care activities, including funds for:

- Sight-impaired children studying and living at Santa Lucia's Home in Abou Kir, Egypt.
- Children attending Blessed Gebremichael primary school in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia.
- Prenatal and postnatal care of children and their mothers at the Mother of Mercy Clinic in Zerqa, Jordan.





- Students attending the after-school programs of the Little Prince Center in Artashat, Armenia.
- Daily meals for 320 kindergartners sponsored by the Comboni Missionaries in Kulluku and Agani, Eritrea.
- Vulnerable children enrolled in Caritas Georgia's youth programs in Arali, Eshtia, Tbilisi and Vale.
- HIV-positive children cared for by the Malnad Social Service Society of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in Karnataka, India.
- At-risk youth enrolled in programs of the House of Grace in Haifa, Israel.
- Adaption of classes impacted by COVID-19 at the Terra Sancta Girls Schools in Jerusalem.
- Milk, clothes and other necessities for displaced children throughout Syria.
- A safehouse for at-risk girls in Lviv, Ukraine.

CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED

At the heart of the church's service is the commitment to care for the least fortunate:

“ ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. ... For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?”

“ ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ ” (Mt 25:31-40)

Despite the many setbacks of 2020, your kindness enabled us to allocate **\$2,310,395** in funds to:

- Provide food for more than 500 families living in 15 remote villages in the mountains of northern Armenia.
- Offer support to the Catholic Eparchy of Assiut's program for the care of prisoners in Egypt.
- Empower women through church-sponsored workshops and counseling in Segheneity, Eritrea.
- Improve living conditions for asylum seekers and refugees through the Jesuit Refugee Service in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.





- Support soup kitchens and other programs for the elderly offered by Caritas Georgia in Kutaisi and Tbilisi.
- Equip a rehabilitation center of the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda for people recovering from substance addictions in southwestern India.
- Fund the Comboni Sisters' program for African asylum seekers in Tel Aviv, Israel.
- Provide medical beds and programmatic support for the elderly living at Abu Dis Home near Jerusalem.
- Support activities for people living with physical and emotional challenges sponsored by Caritas Ukraine, the Ukrainian Catholic University and L'Arche in Lviv, Ukraine.

HEALTH CARE

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the glaring gaps globally between those with access to sophisticated health care and those without. While the virus affected all, regardless of education or personal wealth, those most vulnerable to the effects of the disease bore the brunt of the cruelty and pain.

CNEWA has long partnered with the religious communities of women who run most of the hospitals, dispensaries and clinics serving all peoples throughout the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe. The people who serve with distinction in their care for the sick place themselves in harm's way on the frontlines, so to speak.

In addition to rushing funds for emergency health care as noted above, our generous friends in 2020 provided us with an additional **\$986,378** to maintain our health care commitments, as follows:

- Italian Hospital in Amman, Jordan, administered by the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation and known as the “Hospital of the Poor.”
- Near East Council of Churches neonatal clinics in Gaza.
- St. Anne Health Centre in Mokonissa, Ethiopia.
- Church of the East dispensaries serving displaced Iraqis, Christians, Muslims and Yazidis, in Dohuk and Zakho, Iraq.
- St. Anthony’s clinic, run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Jdeideh, Lebanon.
- Maternity care program at Shepherd’s Field Hospital in Beit Sahour, Palestine.
- Health care needs of Syrians displaced within Syria by the civil war.





SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

CNEWA's regional 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 policy controls that enforce fiscal transparency, accountability and the protection of children and vulnerable persons.

In 2020, CNEWA's generous benefactors provided **\$609,792** to:

- Maintain the water pump system at the Hagaz Agro Technical School of the De La Salle Brothers of the Christian Schools in Hagaz, Eritrea.
- Complete the truss work on a terracing project at the Santhome Snehatheeram in Thiruvallur, India.
- Offer self-help capacity training for Iraqi refugees, sponsored by the Syriac Catholic Patriarchate in Beirut, Lebanon.
- Install solar panels at Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza's only Christian-run hospital.
- Fund scholarships and tuition subsidies for Palestinian Christian students studying at Bethlehem University and beyond.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Educating people in the West about the church, peoples and cultures of the East, and the colossal societal challenges impacting East and West, have been a part of CNEWA's mission since its founding in 1926.

For nearly 50 years, CNEWA's magazine, *ONE*, has presented its print and online readers to the communities we are humbled to serve. Feature stories take you to places rarely covered anywhere else, introducing you to men and women valiantly making a difference in this world of ours. Our videos and blog stories introduce art and culture from these rich communities of faith, inspiring millions to want to get involved.

The Catholic Media Association again recognized *ONE* and CNEWA's websites for the dynamic journalism, inspirational stories and stunning photographs and videos profiling these communities working for the greater glory of God.

CNEWA's senior staff 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 more — is done thanks to the generosity and prayers of good people like you, who last year enabled us to allocate **\$1,430,944** for our public awareness programs as mandated by the Holy See.

CNEWA looks forward to the day when our mission will be obsolete, when the local churches no longer need to feed the hungry, cure the sick and restore dignity and hope to lives once broken. But until that day arrives, we press forward in faith and love, and always full of hope.



Your compassion and generosity inspire us anew as you remind us daily of our Gospel mandate to love one another as we together express Jesus' concern for the most vulnerable in our world.

We are privileged to conduct our mission of service on behalf of the Holy Father — and we are committed to continuing, grateful as ever for every opportunity to accompany our brothers and sisters in need.

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.

2020 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenue	Without Restrictions	With Restrictions	2020 Total
Contributions	\$6,589,251	\$5,610,275	\$12,199,526
Grants from funding agencies	182,295	4,488,184	4,670,479
Collections	1,487,752	—	1,487,752
Legacies and bequests	3,278,644	822,216	4,100,860
Investment return	1,222,526	772,699	1,995,225
Contributed services	157,238	—	157,238
Net assets released from restrictions	10,946,237	(10,946,237)	—
Total Revenue	\$23,863,943	(747,137)	\$24,611,080

Expenses	Without Restrictions	With Restrictions	2020 Total
<i>Program services</i>			
Accompanying the church	\$6,421,820	—	\$6,421,820
Responding to human needs	11,031,883	—	11,031,883
Public awareness	1,430,944	—	1,430,944
Total program services	18,884,647	—	18,884,647
<i>Support services</i>			
Management and general	2,724,963	—	2,724,963
Fund-raising	2,458,011	—	2,458,011
Total support services	5,182,974	—	5,182,974
Total Expenses	\$24,067,621	—	\$24,067,621

Net Assets	2020 Total
Undesignated	\$18,419,429
Board designated	9,317,636
Plant	3,662,597
Without donor restrictions	31,399,662
With donor restrictions	35,995,325
Total Net Assets	\$67,394,987

To see the 2020 audited financial statements, please visit cnewa.org/financials



