



## ***CHALDEAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ERBIL***



# ***CHRISTIAN IDPs IN IRAQ***

***QUARTERLY REPORT ON AID AND RECOVERY***

***September 2016***



## MESSAGE OF HOPE

We Christians of Iraq, nearly one and a half million strong just over a decade ago, are now reduced to less than 300,000. And what becomes of these remaining Christians will be decided based upon the actions the world will take now.

And I say actions, because there is no time left for words. Truly, these coming months may well decide the fate of Christianity in Iraq: whether it survives and is given a chance for rebirth; or whether it perishes, existing only as a few scattered museum pieces with caretaker clergy, of interest to tourists and academics perhaps, but without the Christian people who had lived there for two-thousand years.



How a faithful people, who received their Christianity in the first century from the Apostle Thomas, could disappear in so short a time, will become a matter of study and debate for historians and politicians no doubt. But for us it will mean only the end of our ancestral home, and life amongst the permanent diaspora.

Those of us still in Iraq pray and meditate on this question every day. What is to become of us? But within this very question, lies a deep hope still. I say this because the reason we are still asking this question, is because we still believe there is hope for us, that we still have a dignified and constructive role to play as children of God in our own land. And it is this hope that I would like to share with you today.

**Bashar M Warda, CSsR**  
**Chaldean Archbishop of Erbil**

# DISPLACED CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

## HOPE, NEEDS AND RESPONSES

*What then can be done? What actions can make the continued existence of Christians in Iraq a reality?*

### 1. Housing

Housing and shelter remain a critical need as we strive to keep hope alive among the IDPs in our care. While the early provision of tents, and then caravans (trailer units) provided minimum shelter, it became clear that the lack of dignity and minimal privacy inherent in such conditions required a solution. In response a Housing Rental Program was developed which allowed families to move into area homes and live in a safe and sanitary communal setting, generally two or three families per house. The program currently assists over 6,500 families in over 3,000 houses throughout the Kurdistan Region. This program remains ongoing and we are actively seeking support for the remainder of 2016.



We must continue to provide dignified housing. Today we still have over 10,000 IDP (internally displaced person) families just in Erbil. Despite our best efforts and your generous aid, we still have many people living in unfinished commercial buildings, open to the elements, or living in caravans, really no more than construction trailers. These people are often living in multiple families for a single room. So this remains a critical priority, to remove them from these situations, to safe locations where they can have a simple dwelling, and begin to live a life as dignified human beings sharing the basic joys of family life. We have many projects in process to reach this goal and we ask for your continued support in this area.



Within these projects, we have several specific and critical needs. Foremost among these is access to power and water. Because the full reconstruction of the infrastructure in Iraq remains dependent upon the end of fighting, we must look to interim means of providing these basic services. For the provision of power within our communities, this means the use of generators. For the provision of water, this means the drilling of wells.



**First** . The Rented Houses by the Church as the Following table Below:-

### Providing Shelter for the Christian IDPs in Erbil (Iraq) for 2016

Camps.	No. of Houses	No. of Families	The Cost of each House	Total Cost of One month	The cost of Six Months	Total cost of One Year
Ozal City	306	887	400\$	122400\$	734400\$	1468800\$
Darwaza City	43	220	800\$	34400\$	206400\$	412800\$
Ouon Erbil	46	135	650\$	29900\$	179400\$	358800\$
Aqra City	19	39	270\$	5130\$	30780\$	61560\$
Ganjan City	160	499	575\$	92000\$	552000\$	1104000\$
Ashti	151	202	450\$	67950\$	407700\$	815400\$
Brazilian Center	117	232	520\$	60840\$	365040\$	730080\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>2214</b>	<b>3665</b>	<b>412620</b>	<b>2475720</b>	<b>4951440</b>

### The Families according to their Rite:

1. SRIYAC CATHOLIC = 1700 Families
2. SRIYAC Orthodox = 214 Families
3. CHALDEAN = 300 Families

Total Amount Spent for One month of Renting Houses Program = 412,620 \$

Total Amount Spent for Six months of Renting Houses Program = 2,475,720 \$

Total Amount Spent for One Year of Renting Houses Program = 4,951,440 \$

**Second:** The financial Help for Renting Houses:

1. **Syriac Catholic:**

- Number of Families = 2774
- Number of Houses = 1448
- The total amount per month = **182850\$**

2. **Syriac Arthodox:**

- Number of Familiy = 1320
- Number of Houses = 850
- The total amount per month = **102200\$**

3. **Chaldean:**

- Number of Families = 722
  - Number of Houses = 600
  - The total amount per month = **81500\$**
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**Total Amount:** **366550\$** Three Hundred Sixty Six Thousands and Five Hundred and fifty Dollars Monthly.

**Total Amount** for Six Months: **2,199,300 \$** Two Millions and one hundred and ninety thousands and three hundred dollars.

The Total amount we spent for six Months in all programs =  
**2,475,720 \$ + 2,199,300 \$ = 4,675,020 \$ Four Millions and Six Hundred Seventy Five Thousands and Twenty Dollars.**

## 2. Health

The second area of focus is providing quality basic health care. With help from generous donors, we have built eight clinics, and are at work on a full service maternity hospital, the first of its kind in all of Kurdistan Region of Iraq. These clinics are open to all, regardless of faith or belief. But the support needs for these efforts are ongoing, and require significant additional help.



Responding to the medical and health needs of the ID P population, several new health clinics were opened over the past 16 months. Of important note is the St. Joseph's clinic, which provides chronic care treatment and medicine to over 3,000 IDP patients per month. Managed by the Sisters of the Holy Cross and a dedicated team of volunteer local Doctors, the clinic offers services without charge, dispensing \$40,000 in prescription medicines per month. This program remains ongoing and we are actively seeking support for the remainder of 2016.



## 3. Education

The third area of importance is providing opportunities for education. One of the biggest fears of the IDP parents is that their children are losing critical years of their lives. To address this we have opened several new schools to serve IDP children. And this past December, we opened the Catholic University in Erbil (CUE), which opens for its first full course of study in this coming October.



Within CUE 's operating plan, we will be seeking to provide full scholarships to more than 150 IDP students per year. To date, we have received funding for nearly 85 of these scholarships. Full tuition and expense for the complete course of s tudy at CUE has been set at only \$3,000 USD per year



As a member of the global community of Catholic Universities, we hope that our University will allow us, and our situation, to benefit from the solidarity of Catholic Universities and scholars throughout the world. Already we have entered into agreements and exchanges with leading Catholic Universities in Europe, the USA, and Australia.

#### **4. Employment**

Our fourth action priority is providing employment. The combination of the collapse in oil prices together with the war against Daesh has crippled the economy in the Kurdistan Region. IDP families, most of which arrived with no money at all, have been unable to find jobs. All of these activities just discussed: construction of housing, developing healthcare, establishing new schools and universities, all create quality jobs which we can then use to provide employment to the IDP population.



## 5. Food Aid

Addressing the need to feed the IDP families, a Food Package program was established in which families would receive a monthly supply of food staple items such as cooking oil, rice, grains, meat and vegetables. For many of these families, this food package represented the difference between basic nourishment and real hunger. The cost of this food package has held steady at \$60 per month per family. Over the period a total of over 150,000 food packages have been distributed to Christian IDP families. This program remains ongoing and we are actively seeking support for the remainder of 2016.



## 6. Retaining our Population in Iraq

Taken together, these actions work not only to support the last remaining Christians in Iraq, but also to stop the incentive of our people to seek emigration from Iraq. I wish to emphasize this point to the people of Europe, who have carried so much of the burden in the current migration crisis. Assisting the Christian community while they are still living in Iraq will help them to stay in Iraq, and to remain part of the solution in Iraq, rather than part of the burden in Europe. These actions must therefore continue, and continue as a highest priority. For this we need help and continued aid from the West, and we pray that you will continue to support us in this.





Regarding these areas in which we are requesting help, it is important to understand the history of Christian service in Iraq. Living in an Islamic country, we are unable to engage in evangelization in the sense commonly understood in the West. Instead, we have developed over time the approach of "evangelization by example". In other words, by showing our willingness to use our talents and skills in service for the benefit of all those in our community, we show the example of our Christian love for our neighbors, and also that we have an important and positive role in society. Historically, healthcare and education are the two primary areas in which Christians have held a crucial role in Iraq. Your help in these areas thus builds upon a well-established foundation.

## 7. Addressing Traumatic Stress

In the violence of War, the civilian population is always scarred emotionally, beyond any other physical wounds or injuries they may have received. Addressing and healing this traumatic stress is often the most difficult task we face as we seek to rehabilitate and restore the displaced people to a re-beginning of productive life. In order to address this



need we have established care centers for traumatic stress, which provide trained counseling free of charge. These centers have treated thousands of patients since 2014, and focus especially on the needs of women and children, who are often the most marginalized victims of the violence. In this effort we have been funded by generous donations from the Christian community throughout the world, but the needs are long term and ongoing funding will be required for years to come.

## Future of Christians in Iraq

So then, what of our future? Soon, we pray, this evil that we call Daesh, will be driven from our ancient Christian lands. But what will become of things once this happens. Will our people be able to safely return and live in peace? Will they have homes to return to? Who will help us rebuild and reclaim our lives? All of these questions are unanswered. How they will be answered will in turn be determined in many ways by the level of solidarity our people receive from those in power in Europe and North America. I ask you, your people, and your governments, on behalf of the Christians of Iraq: please do not forget us, please stay in solidarity with us, please pray for us.

As you make this effort, we ask that you also be aware of the larger forces which have acted against us, and will continue to act against us without a firm, moral stand from the West. As Iraq, and the Middle East, continues in their violent convulsions, we cannot pretend that these things happen in isolation. We must admit and address the fact that forces exist which fund and support this violence and persecution against Christians and other minorities. As we are among those who have suffered the most from these forces, we pray that your leaders in government and business will include this reality in their moral equation when deciding on matters of policy and investment. Tolerance in this world cannot be a one-way street. This is a fundamental truth. The free people of the West cannot be afraid to speak it.



In closing, I would like to bring one final message of Hope to you, and to the Christians of the West, who face your own threats and difficulties in this uncertain world. In Iraq, the past two years at first brought us unspeakable evil and pain. But while it was the plan of our tormentors to destroy us, in fact the opposite has happened. These attacks not only brought us closer together as Christians, but more importantly, brought us directly into deep contact with the core of our faith. Who are we, really, as Christians? Perhaps we did not know this, in the fullest sense, before 2014. But we know it now, and regardless of where the future takes us we will hold this in our hearts.

## SUMMARY OF AID RECEIVED TO DATE

The efforts of the Chaldean Archdiocese and its local partners have been made possible only through the existence of generous and merciful donors throughout the world. Truly we have been blessed by the gifts from all of them. The summary below lists our major donors from August 2014 through September 2016.

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**DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHALDEAN ARCHDIOCESE OF ERBIL ON BEHALF OF CHRISTIAN IDPs,  
August 2014 through September 2016**

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N:	Donator	Donation \$	
1	Aid to the Church In Need	13,483,157.37	43%
2	Italian Episcopal Conference	5,518,416.02	17%
3	Knights of Columbus	4,119,103.17	13%
4	Caritas Italy	1,305,931.96	4%
5	Missio - Aachen	331,708.00	1%
6	Rottenburg - Stuttgart Diocese	693,060.83	2%
7	CNEWA- Pontifical Mission	272,689.00	1%
8	Fondazione PIME (Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions)	391,781.19	1%
9	Katholische Zentralst, Fuer entwicklungshilfe E. v.	241,659.00	1%
10	Custodia del Sacro Convento di Assisi	562,643.95	2%
11	Misereor	228,229.48	1%
12	Iraqi Christians In Need	226,391.71	1%
13	St. Tomas Chaldean Catholic Church USA	1,521,234.93	5%
14	Oeuvre D Orient	466,367.00	1%
15	Australian Bishops Conference	224,575.00	1%
16	Chaldean Diocese in Cairo	245,750.00	1%
17	Others Donation	1,842,548.55	6%
		31,675,247.16	100%

# FORWARD NEEDS AND CONCERNS

## I. CONTINUATION OF HOUSING RENTAL PROGRAM

An urgent need exists for continued funding of the Housing Rental Program to cover rental assistance costs for the second half of 2016. Details of the existing need are shown in the charts below, which represent two separate sections of the program.

### Housing Rental Program Needs Section 1.

Location	Number of houses	Rental per Unit	Monthly Rental Cost	Six month total cost
Ozal City	306	400\$	122400\$	734400\$
Ganjan City	160	575\$	92000\$	552000\$
Derwaza City	43	800\$	34400\$	206400\$
Ouon Erbil	46	650\$	29900\$	179400\$
Aqra	19	270\$	5130\$	30780\$
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Brazilian Center	117	520\$	60840\$	365040\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>3665\$</b>	<b>412620\$</b>	<b>2475720\$</b>

### Housing Rental Program Needs Section 2.

The table below represents additional displaced families of the Nineveh Plain who have benefited from the rental assistance program, and includes all affected denominations (Syriac Orthodox and Syriac Catholic and Chaldean ) in the center of Arbil as well as the families located in Aqra, Diana and Shaqlawa. Continuation of this Section of the Program requires a monthly amount of USD 365,000, for a six month total of USD 1,990,000.

Rites	Families	Houses
Syriac Catholic	2774	1448
Syriac Orthodox	1320	850
Chaldean	722	600
Shaqlawa (all rites)	73	39
Aqra (all rites)	155	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>5044</b>	<b>3032</b>

## **II. CONTINUATION OF FOOD PACKAGE PROGRAM**

A total of \$720,000 per month to support this project, with a total of \$4,320,000 for the entire six month period, is needed urgently to keep this critical program alive. With the continued failure of any meaningful government assistance, the generous help of our donors is essentially all that now stands between these Christian IDPs and the end of any food aid whatsoever for these families, the vast majority of whom are without work or any form of income. As the number of families served may decrease over time, donors can be assured that any decrease in food aid to families over the period will be used to continue the program into future months. Any remainder left at the end of the six-month period will be refunded to the donor or re-allocated as may be agreed upon.

## **III. CONTINUATION OF MEDICAL CLINIC DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICINES**

A total of \$77,000 per month, with a total of \$462,000 for the next six month period is needed to cover the costs of medicines dispensed at the various IDP clinics, including the St. Joseph Clinic.

## **IV. IDP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN ERBIL**

CUE is presently seeking scholarships to cover the full period of college tuition and expenses for a minimum of 150 IDP students. The cost for the entire 5-year program, including expenses, is USD\$15,000 per student. Each scholarship funded gives hope and brings stability not only to the student, but to the student's entire family.

## MAKING DONATIONS

As shown above, the need for funds to continue our care of the Christian IDPs of Iraq remains critical. On behalf of these IDPs we extend to you our deepest thanks, and pray that you continue to remember us and our plight as you make decisions on your charitable donations for the coming year. The continued existence of Christianity in Iraq hangs in the balance of your decisions for truly, there is no-one else that has come to our aid. Those wishing to make donations may do so by wire transfer at any of the accounts listed below. God bless you all.

### WIRING INSTRUCTIONS

#### For Donations in EU\*:

Beneficiary: CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN ERBIL  
Account Number: 0023010840542015  
Bank Name: IBL Bank s.a.l.  
Swift Code: INLELBBE  
USD IBAN: LB20 0052 0067 0025 7608 0039 2012  
Corresponding Bank (USD): The Bank of New York Mellon  
Or  
Citi Bank - New York

Beneficiary: CHALDEAN ARCHDIOCESE OF ERBIL  
Account Number: 0850023010857373015  
Bank Name: IBL Bank s.a.l.  
Swift Code: INLELBBE  
USD IBAN: LB20 0052 0067 0025 7608 0039 2012  
Corresponding Bank (USD): Citi Bank - New York

\* Please note: Both above accounts are held through the Beirut Office of IBL Bank for forwarding to the Erbil Branch in Iraq. As such both Swift Code and IBAN will show as a Lebanon Account.

#### For Donations in USA:

Beneficiary: NEAR EAST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND, INCORPORATED  
Bank Name: BANK OF AMERICA

Account Number: 004581 0424 02

Routing Number: (PAPER AND ELECTRONIC/ACH): 011200365

Routing Number: (WIRES): 026009593

The Near East Christian Education Fund is formed as of Feb. 9, 2016, as a registered Domestic Non-Profit Corporation under the laws of the State of Vermont as defined by IRS Code 501 (c) (3) for federal tax exemption. As of that date, the Fund also established a Federal Tax ID with the IRS. Formal 501(c) (3) status recognition by the IRS is pending, and expected no later than August 1, 2016. \*

\*When the IRS approves a timely filed exemption application, exempt status is recognized back to the date the organization was created. Thus, [while an application is pending](#), the organization can treat itself as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3). For example, it must file Form 990 (instead of an income tax return) while its application is pending. However, contributors to the organization do not have advance assurance of deductibility because the organization's exemption is pending. If the organization ultimately qualifies for exemption for the period in which the contribution is made, the contribution will be tax-deductible by the donor. Alternatively, if the organization ultimately does not qualify for exemption, then the contribution will not be tax deductible. (Source: <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/Contributions-to-Organization-with-IRS-Application-Pending>)

## CONTACTS

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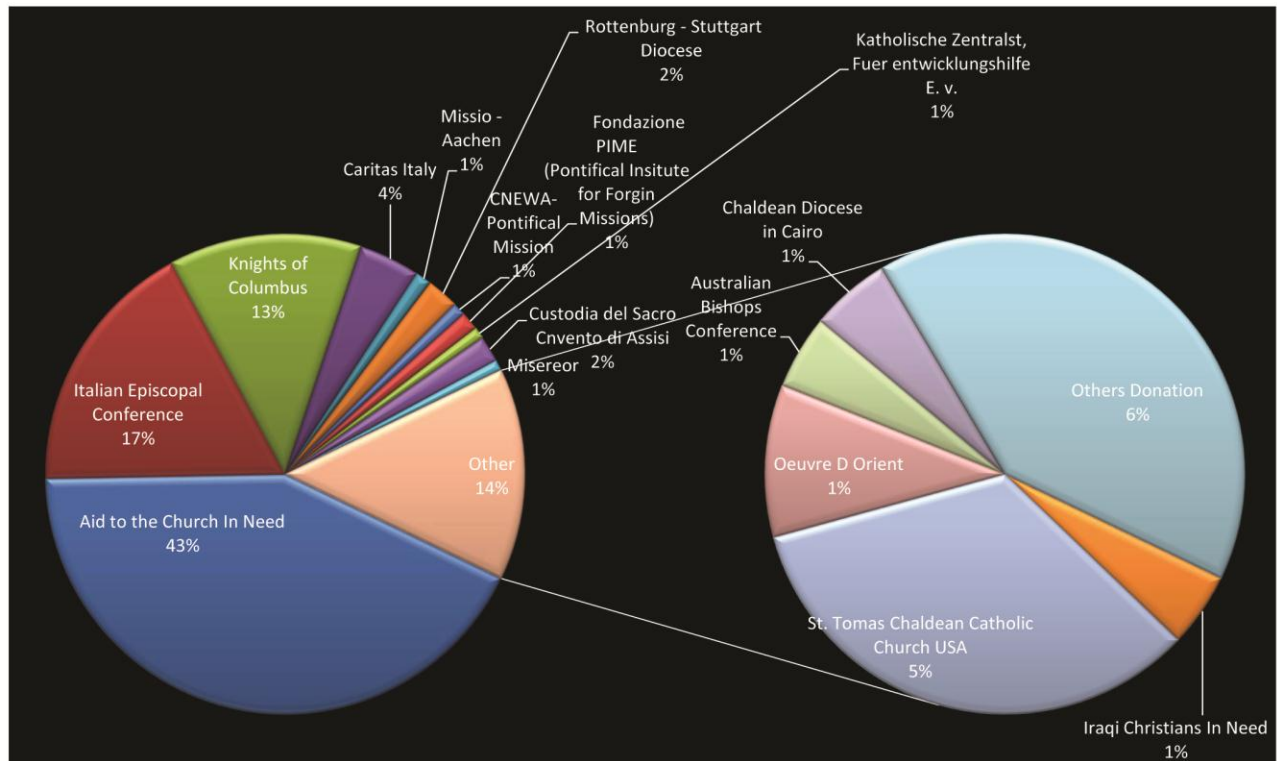
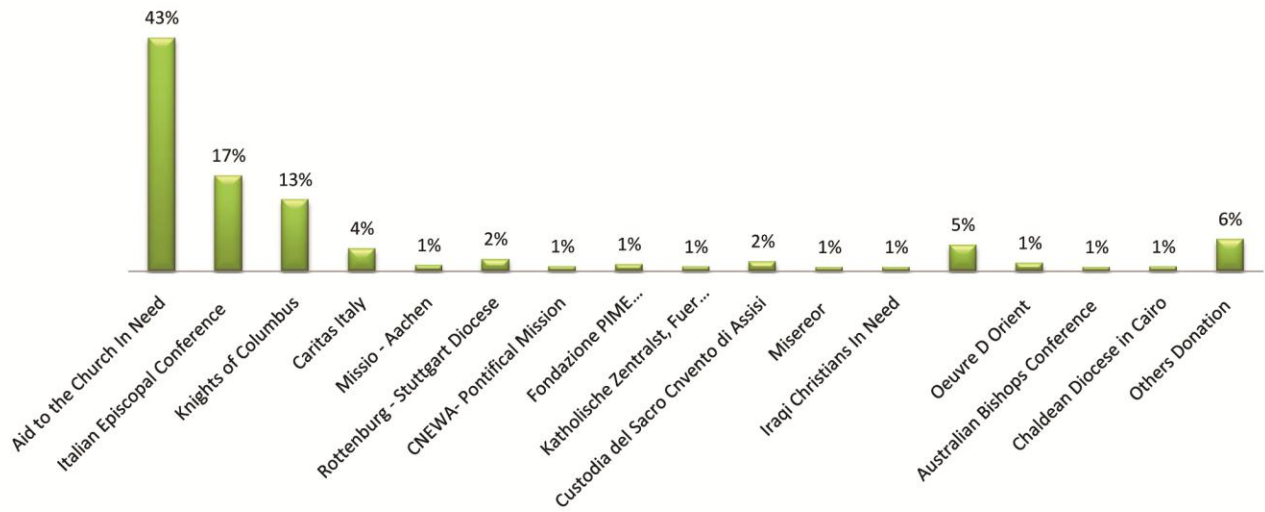
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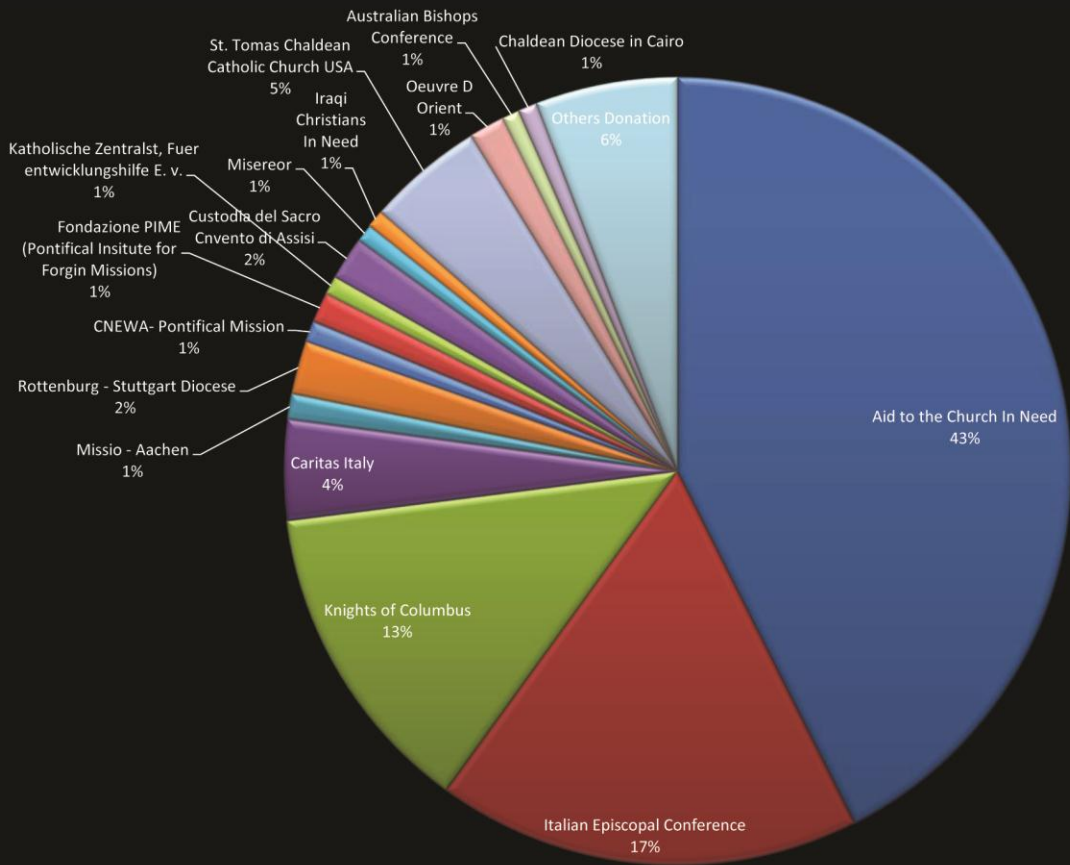
Tel: +964 (0) 751 230 2961 (IRQ)

Donations sent to the Chaldean Archdiocese of Erbil to the Christian IDPs from 13/8/2014 to 1/9/2016



Donations sent to the Chaldean Archdiocese of Erbil to the Christian IDPs from 13/8/2014 to 1/9/2016





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