



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

Consilium Internationale

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Prot. n. 3447

Rome, March 7th, 2022

Re: Ukraine

To
all OFS and YouFra National Councils
all OFS and YouFra National Ministers
all OFS International Councilors

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the last few days many of you have asked me personally or through the General Secretariat, or our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and in Hungary, what the situation is in this country that is being torn by the war, and how can you help our sisters and brothers in Ukraine.

I have been in contact with some of our sisters and brothers on an almost daily basis in Ukraine. and I can tell you that the situation is changing very, very quickly, day by day, hour by hour.

1. The majority of our sisters and brother about whom there is any information are safe and secure. There are some with whom they could not establish contact.
2. As for today, the majority of them have electricity, gas, water, internet, food, medicine, can withdraw cash, and in spite of the terrible fear of war, they try to continue to live their daily lives.
3. In this terrible situation there are many refugees coming to Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania. It is an enormous effort to deal with the flood of people. Whether they are Secular Franciscans or not, it is part of our duty to help these people and those who are dedicating time and efforts.

Certainly all this may change from one moment to the next.

There are two ways that we, as a family, can help. We agreed with Dina Shabalina, the Presidency councilor living today in Ukraine, to do the following:

1. For our OFS brothers and sisters: establish a special fund for Ukraine at CIOFS. This means, that anyone who intends to send financial help for the OFS in Ukraine, should send it to the CIOFS bank account, indicating 'Ukraine'.
 - This fund will be used immediately in coordination with the OFS in Ukraine for the urgent daily needs of our sisters and brothers, following the procedures and amounts in conformity with the requests received. We will forward it through certain organized and managed channels in order to make money arrive with the least risk of loss as possible.
 - We have to look to the future, too. We hope that war will not last very long, and there is no question that the Ukraine will have to be rebuilt. If we have any funds

left in the fund at the end of the war, the money which is not requested to be sent for the daily needs, will be used for the support of our sisters and brothers in rebuilding their homes.

2. For the refugees: for those of you, who wish to help the refugees and those who are helping them now, we recommend that you send your financial support directly to these countries through the friars who have the closest contacts with those in need. Our sisters and brothers are working together with them, and they have houses on both sides of the border. We recommend that you send your support directly to them. You can find the necessary banking data attached to this letter.

Let us join our prayers, asking the intercession of Mary, Queen of Peace, that this war may come to an end very soon, and all those who suffer from it anywhere may get back to a normal, peaceful life.

With my fraternal greetings

Your minister and your brother,



Tibor Kauser
CIOFS General minister

