



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED STATES



One Year of War

ACN Supports a Suffering Ukraine





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Help in Numbers

As of January 27, 2023

War began on February 24th, 2022, and because of our longstanding relationship with the Church in Ukraine, we were able to deliver help almost immediately.



During this period, our Head of Section for Ukraine, Magda Kaczmarek, visited the embattled country regularly, and she is in constant contact with bishops, priests, and sisters in Ukraine, listening closely to their needs and responding actively to an evolving situation.

In 2022, Ukraine received the largest share of ACN assistance worldwide. **The spiritual and material generosity of our donors has reached so many struggling people, and they are grateful for our support.**



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By January 2023, ACN had approved 292 projects amounting to more than \$10 million.

Our pastoral and humanitarian projects were approved in various phases. They were aimed at supporting the Church in Ukraine so they could attend to the faithful during the war.

Since February 2022, ACN donors have poured out their hearts. **Below are figures for just some of the work that our donors funded:**

- **7,447 priests, sisters, brothers, and diocesan staff** were given emergency existential aid. 5,661 of them received this aid in March 2022; the rest received it as part of our Phase II projects.
- **2,274 refugees** were given direct humanitarian aid.
- **1,712 children and young people** (almost all of them refugees or residents of war-affected areas) received pastoral care in the form of holiday camps and other youth activities.
- **At least 738 seminarians** were supported in their formation or subsistence.
- **3,280** people went on formation or spiritual retreats, including:
640 priests, brothers, sisters, and catechists through 17 projects
2,640 families and lay people through nine projects.
- **994 religious** (831 sisters and 163 brothers) received existential aid.
- Projects to help with energy shortages and winter conditions:
205 generators to maintain a consistent electricity supply.
78 heaters and heating systems for monasteries, seminaries, churches, parish houses, and parish halls
25 construction, sanitation, and renovation projects to improve or enlarge shelters and places of worship.
3 projects to install or replace **windows**.



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- **231 kitchen upgrades** for parishes, monasteries, and seminaries to feed and care for displaced people.
- **The purchase of 80 cars and vans**, which are used to provide pastoral care and distribute relief supplies. Recipients of the vehicles include dioceses, seminaries, organizations, religious orders, and parishes.
- **130 liturgical Mass kits** for priests to celebrate Mass on the move, even at the battlefield.
- **6,549 Masses** were celebrated thanks to Mass stipends from ACN donors, thus also contributing to the pastoral and existential needs of Ukrainian priests.

Subsistence aid and Mass stipends have been critical. People can no longer support themselves, let alone their priests. And priests and religious gave what little they have to their communities. From day one of the invasion, it was very clear they would be on the frontlines every day, helping people in shock. Since the beginning of the war, ACN has distributed \$1,273,000 for Mass stipends.



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Ongoing Emergency Aid

Along with a small delegation from ACN, our project manager, Ms. Kaczmarek, visited Ukraine in late April, and again in November, to meet with project partners and evaluate the situation on the ground. On each visit, she assessed the needs of the people and the Church's capacity to provide help.



Based on this assessment and feedback from the field, ACN developed two types of programs:

- To support the Church where there was a need for equipment, vehicles, infrastructure and direct aid.
- To improve the wellbeing of those who provided care. In a stressful environment, with daily bombardments, we assisted them to bear the burden of the suffering their people felt, while they were experiencing tremendous distress.

The ongoing emergency help will continue to support initiatives for parishes, monasteries, and seminaries helping displaced or impoverished people.



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Examples of projects supported include:

- The purchase of household appliances for 55 convents taking in IDPs.
- Humanitarian aid for the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit.
- Humanitarian aid for the sisters of the Holy Family, who took in 160 IDPs.
- Humanitarian aid for the Eparchy of Chernivtsi and 10 parishes in the Archdiocese of Ivano-Frankivsk, to help provide for IDPs.
- Help for IDPs at a Catholic grammar school in Ivano-Frankivsk.
- Emergency help for diocesan institutions in western Ukraine.



*Refugees in the parish
of St. Archangel Michael
of Oblates community
in Tyvriv.*

Regarding the help given to IDPs housed within Church facilities, Ms. Kaczmarek explains:

“These are internally displaced persons, whole families. Many of them no longer have a home because they have lost everything. People were often asked to leave their homes, because the Ukrainian soldiers could not provide security for them.”



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ACN's aid projects for Ukraine are grouped into the following categories:

- Tending to the needs of the displaced.
- Generators, heating, kitchen upgrades, and other equipment to keep warm and operational.
- Emergency support for priests and religious.
- Vehicles for mobility.
- Seminarian support.
- Formation and spiritual retreats.
- Summer camps and pastoral activities for children and young people.
- Support for sisters and their mission.
- Construction of shelters and places of worship.
- Mass stipends so that priests can continue to celebrate Mass and keep the presence of the sacraments in the midst of chaos and despair.

Father Krzysztof Machelski, OMI writes to us: ***“We sincerely thank you for your help. May the example of the poor people we help, help us all to cherish what is most important: a deep relationship with God, something no rocket or occupation can destroy.”***





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Words of Gratitude

The bishops and priests in Ukraine are very grateful for the help provided by ACN donors.

Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas, the Apostolic Nuncio to Ukraine, expressed his gratitude in a short video sent to us at Christmas:

“We don’t know how we will survive this Christmas. It will be a difficult time. But the help and charity that we receive from all over the world means Christmas every day. And we are especially grateful for your prayers, because these prayers reach God, our Father. This is the most important help that we receive.”

Bishop Pavlo Honcharuk of Kharkiv-Zaporizhzhya told us: ***“It is going to be a big challenge to warm homes and cook food, because not everybody has access to electricity or gas. Many people have come to us asking for help. Once again, we are very grateful for your assistance. We are also grateful for the prayers and support we have received from so many people. May God reward all the benefactors of your organization!”***

In another video message, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church said: ***“Let me convey the best wishes and thanks from Ukraine. We have no electricity and no heat. But we have God, who is born among us again! May God’s presence be our hope and the source of life in Ukraine!”***





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The Outlook

The Church is staying with the people.

Thanks to ACN donors, the Church can maintain its priests and religious, and guarantee their presence for people in extreme need. We are also able to provide for elderly and sick priests who struggle to survive.



Our priority is to support the Church in need and the faithful wherever they suffer. We will continue to do so with benefactors' generous support. We are continuously re-assessing the situation and are in constant contact with people on the ground. The greatest need will emerge when the fighting ends and the reconstruction of cities and souls can begin.



Appendix

Diocesan structure. Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), is the majority Church in western Ukraine. **Map of the dioceses of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church**

Administrative structure of the UGCC within Ukraine



Map of the dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine. In Ukraine there is also a very small Armenian Catholic minority, which is cared for by the Ordinariate.





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Thank You

for Not Leaving Them in the Dark!



For more information, please visit us:

www.churchinneed.org