



Dominican Sisters International Confederation

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Dear Sisters,

Attached you will find a list of the Congregations which have a presence in Ukraine, as well as in the countries which surround it: Russia, Latvia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. This information is based on what we have to date in our database. If there are any additional Congregations present in these countries, please let us know.

This is what we know as of now regarding our Sisters:

The Sisters in the **Congregation of Santo Domingo (Spain)** have left Ukraine and have just arrived back in Madrid safe and sound. We hope to be able to share some of their experience with you very soon.

Sr. Marie Kašparová (Czech Republic) shares the following information regarding the situation in the **Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine**

“The Slovak Dominican congregation has a convent in Mukačevo, which is in the Western region of Ukraine. Sisters provide catechesis and preparation for sacraments there. At this moment, one of the two Sisters decided to return to Slovakia and the other one stayed with the people and runs the programme as usual. Many children have already left with their families; however, some new people from the Eastern regions came recently. The situation is very unstable there and nobody knows what to expect in the next few days. Sisters ask for prayers and also for help. The humanitarian aid is organised through a local bishop who is a Dominican brother as well.

The first news from Slovakia is that there are about 7000 people crossing the border daily. For now, the accommodation capacities for refugees are covered but it seems that this is just the beginning of the migrants' flow. Therefore, Sisters request the other European congregations to think about any possible help to offer in the following weeks and months including offering places to stay. The Slovak government talks about financial support for families who receive migrants, which is a great reaction of the state apparatus.

Here in the Czech Republic, we have already started seeking our possibilities for practical help. We have sent some funds to the trustful charities and assessed our house capacities to receive refugees, mostly mothers with young children. These families usually have some connections in our countries since we have strong manpower from Ukraine. However, many men have been mobilised and others (including women) volunteered to return home to fight. Nevertheless, they seek help for the more vulnerable members of their families. We hope we would be able to offer it.

Let's pray for the early end of this terrible war.”

Sr Marie OP for the Dominican Sisters Europe-Central European Zone

International Coordinator: Sr. Margaret Mayce, OP

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Sandra Toussaint

Secretary for Communication: Mrs. Elizabeth Perugachi



We have heard from our **Sister, Hannah Laue (Dominikanerinnen von Bethanien von Venlo – The Netherlands)**. Hannah lives with a small group of Bethany Sisters in **Riga, Latvia**. They have opened up their convent to Ukrainian refugees, including any women religious who may be fleeing Ukraine. As we receive news from Hannah, we will pass it along to you. Our sisters in Slovakia and Czech Republic are also preparing their houses to provide accommodation for refugees coming from Ukraine, specially to mothers with young children.

Sr. Pilar del Barrio and I are personally reaching out to these Congregations, to assure them of our support and to establish a line of communication as this situation unfolds.

We all know that the refugee situation which this war is provoking will be catastrophic for Europe – especially those countries which surround Ukraine. Our prayers are with our Sisters as they struggle to meet the challenging demands of wartime.

We have sent you the I HAVE FAMILY IN UKRAINE logo in English; and we hope to have it in other languages this week. Please feel free to use it! And, for your information, the SUNFLOWER is the national flower of Ukraine.

If any of you receive news from any of our Sisters in the affected countries, please share it with us, so that we can spread the word among all of our Dominican Sisters.

In prayerful solidarity,
Your sisters,

Pilar del Barrio, OP (Coordinator for Europe)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pilar del Barrio" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Margaret Mayce, OP (International Coordinator)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Mayce, OP" in a cursive style.

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