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Zhytomyr, 27.02.2022

Dear Brothers,
PEACE AND GOOD!

I am Brother Daniel Botvina, Provincial of the OFM Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Ukraine.

As you know, our country is under attack by a real act of war and since February 22, several friaries of our Province, composed of 16 friaries, with 65 brothers serving about 54 parishes, must cope with the dramatic situation that has been created, trying to help, as much as possible, many refugees, mostly women, children, elderly and fragile people of our society, who do not know how to protect themselves by seeking safety, defense and warmth from our brothers and friaries.

The situation is already critical, for example, in our Convent-Parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Konotop (East of Ukraine, 90 km from Russia) already taken by the Russian Army, where the friars are hosting several refugees in search of food, defense and protection.

We think that the situation is deteriorating in other friaries too, given the global attack that is encircling both Kiev and all the cities in the East. Even in Zhytomyr, the seat of the Provincial Curia (120 km west of Kiev), explosions are already being heard and the situation is deteriorating and could get worse at any moment.

With our hearts filled with sadness but without losing faith, we ask for your prayers and solidarity asking for your immediate short-term assistance to the emerging needs of being able to welcome and provide the refugees with food, medicines and shelter. The priority is food, which will surely be followed by shelter materials to accommodate refugees and people in need, as our medium and long term response.

We remain at your disposal for any further information, and with gratitude for your help we remain united in the search for peace for our dear nation.

Fraternally,



Fr. Danyil Botvina
Fr Danyil Botvina, OFM
Ministro Provinciale