

LET US HELP THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS TO HELP THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE



Konotop, April 2022

THE SITUATION

The voices of the Franciscan friars living on the war front reach us with all the inevitable anguish. Br Daniel Botvina, Minister Provincial of Ukraine, described to us the situation of serious difficulty experienced by the friars who live in the city of Konotop, occupied by the Russians since 24 February.

"The friars are well and have stayed there with the people, not to abandon them".

Among them is Br Romuald, parish priest of the friary of Konotop, who told us about a scenario that no one thought possible. The streets have become a theatre of war, with armoured vehicles that have been knocked destroyed, cars set on fire and above all, military and civilian victims scattered throughout the city.

The situation is a serious emergency: there is a lack of food, medicine and basic necessities. This is why we ask you to stay close to our suffering Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

HERE ARE THE LOCATIONS OF THE FRANCISCAN FRIARIES IN UKRAINE



THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS
IN UKRAINE NEED YOU



Read the testimony of Br Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, who went to Ukraine in person and saw with his own eyes the needs of the suffering people.

Dear Friend,

during the Easter period, I went to the borders of Romania, Western Ukraine and Poland.

During the pilgrimage, I touched - or rather **I was touched by - the wounds of Christ's passion**, especially meeting refugees, women with children, orphaned children, and elderly people.

For example, I met an elderly woman in Ternopil in the large gymnasium where 107 refugees are housed. The only thing she had managed to take with her was beside her: a small cage with a small parrot. For her, it is a sign of life, a companion, for a lonely woman hundreds of kilometres from her home that no longer exists.

I was touched by the wounds of Christ, and **I was reached** - through the people I met - **by the proclamation of Easter, through the dignity, the desire for life for their children, the hope for their people to have a home again, to start living again.**

A hope that our Friars Minor do all they can to keep alive.

When I went to Ternopil and Sbarash to express my support, I saw how much they are doing to **distribute food, medicine and many items for the children.**

The need, however, is still immense, and that is why **I ask you to continue to support their activities so that they can continue to be a light of hope and a witness of peace** for this suffering and strong, indomitable people.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM

Br Massimo Fusarelli, OFM

OFM Minister General

Founder OFM Fraternitas Foundation



FRANCISCAN FRIARS ON THE FRONT-LINE BRINGING HELP AND CONSOLATION

■ THE EMERGENCY AID PROJECT

All 16 friaries and 54 Franciscan parishes immediately opened their doors to everyone. The 65 friars present offer answers to basic needs, such as a place to spend the night or where to receive a meal and the need for a word of comfort. They are mostly elderly people, women and children who have found themselves helpless in the face of the explosion of war on their doorstep. Despite their efforts, it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide food, medicine and the bare necessities for those who have left their homes.

The number of people being cared for is increasing, and the friars need help.



“Now more than ever, our Franciscan charism of bringing peace and goodness is revealed where there is unrest, darkness, and war. The children who come to our centres play, watch cartoons and even forget that there is a war around. Some adults, perhaps for the first time in their lives, experience true peace that cannot be achieved through tanks or other weapons because we have and believe in the very peace that Jesus Christ left:

*“I leave you peace, I give you my peace.
Not as the world gives it, I give it to
you. Let not your heart be troubled
or afraid.” (Jn 14:27)*

Br Romuald OFM,



**Stay close to our war-torn brothers and sisters:
SUPPORT THE CHARITY PROJECTS
OF THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS IN UKRAINE**

HELP THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS TO STAY CLOSE TO THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE



Help the Franciscan friars **buy and distribute food parcels** to Ukrainian families.

Help **distribute medicines, hygiene kits and baby products** to those who have lost everything.

Help the Franciscan friars **welcome Ukrainian families** fleeing the fighting.

Here's how to support the Franciscan friars in Ukraine



BONIFICO

Bank: Intesa Sanpaolo
Branch: 09606, Piazza della Libertà, 13 00192 Roma - Italia
Account Name: FONDAZIONE OFM FRATERNITAS ONLUS
Account Holder Address: c/o Casa Generalizia OFM, Via di Santa Maria Mediatrice 25, 00165 Roma - Italia
EUR ACCOUNT IBAN: IT15T030690960610000168958
USD ACCOUNT IBAN: IT22V0306909606161009304690
SWIFT: BCITITMM
REASON: Ukraine Emergency



ONLINE

at www.ofmfraternitas.org



If you would like to support our Franciscan activities and projects or have further information to get to know us better, you can call us on **06 92917107** or cell phone **+393207135875**.



FONDAZIONE OFM FRATERNITAS ONLUS

c/o Casa Generalizia dell'Ordine dei Frati Minori
Via di Santa Maria Mediatrice, 25
00165 Roma - Tel: +39 06 92917107

sostenitori@ofmfraternitas.org - www.ofmfraternitas.org

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