



On Polish border, Ukraine Refugees Ache for Home

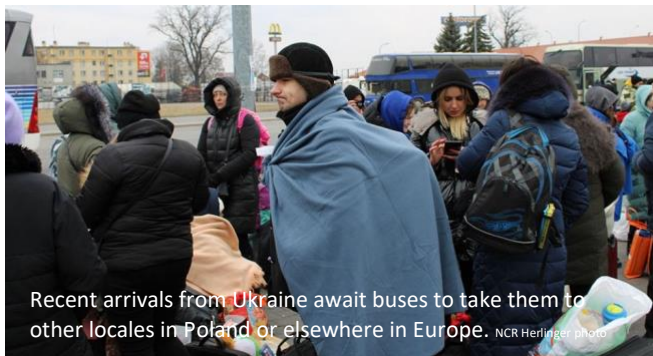
~ by Chris Herlinger, National Catholic Reporter

Przemysl, Poland – The scale of what is happening in and around Ukraine is both alarming and staggering: A mounting humanitarian crisis grips Ukraine, with Europe experiencing its largest refugee crisis since World War II.

“More than two million refugees have fled the country in less than two weeks, almost all of them women and children. Millions more have been displaced within Ukraine,” noted Sean Callahan, President of the U.S.- based humanitarian organization Catholic Relief Services. Children are “dragging bulky luggage, their faces wet from tears,” Callahan said. Crowds in Poland and neighboring countries are “huddling inside bus terminals for shelter, knee-deep in their belongings.”

“There’s immense suffering and there’s a huge humanitarian need and a crisis that is evolving daily,” Tetiana Stawnychy, President of Caritas Ukraine, said in an interview. “And that crisis needs both material and ‘a heart response’ and a prayer response.”

Stawnychy said the immediate needs Caritas and other humanitarian groups are responding to within Ukraine include getting temporary shelter, food, medicine and hygiene items to those displaced, as well as trying to provide “psychosocial” support for those who are traumatized.



Recent arrivals from Ukraine await buses to take them to other locales in Poland or elsewhere in Europe. NCR Herlinger photo.

While pressures within Ukraine increase, Stawnychy believes the act of helping is healing for both those displaced – those “fleeing for their lives” – and for those, say, taking people into their homes. “This act of helping another person is a restorative act in itself – it’s restoring something in the person that’s being helped and it’s restoring something in the person who’s helping.”

From the Polish capital of Warsaw, Jesuit Fr. Wojciech Mikulski shared, “For three weeks now I have seen that the victims of this war are women, children and old people, defenseless people who came to us. With uncertainty they run away and do not know where they will go.”

The European Center of Communication and Culture, a Jesuit-run center - housed one family – a young woman named Irina, her twin children, and her grandmother, carrying “only small suitcases” with them – and then got them on a bus to Spain. “[They] don’t know Spanish. They don’t know what will happen to them there. What to do next is unknown,” said Fr. Mikulski.

“When you see the numbers, it’s easy to slip into statistics, but behind every statistic is a face,” said Stawnychy of Caritas. “A face, a human life.”

To read the full account, please click [here](#)

Western Ukraine Convent Shifts Mission to Providing Shelter

~ by Thomas Scaria, *Global Sisters Report*

Little Michael was born February 23, a day before Russia invaded Ukraine. After spending his first five days of life in a bunker, he felt safe in the arms of a Catholic nun.

Sr. Ligi Payyappilly, an Indian nun who has been sheltering refugees in her convent in Mukachevo in western Ukraine, says rescuing the baby was the most touching experience in her mission among people fleeing the war.

The nun hailed the infant's mother, Julia Valatinivna, who held the baby close to her chest all five days in the bunker in Kyiv and during the long journey to Mukachevo. The mother had fled from the hospital and took shelter in the bunker a few hours after she delivered Michael.

Payyappilly said the infant and her mother reminded her of Joseph and Mary fleeing Bethlehem to Egypt with the infant Jesus immediately after his birth.

The mother and child are among some 80 Ukraine women and children sheltered in Payyappilly's convent along with 50 elderly people who are cared for as the congregation's usual primary mission.

"We have almost completed our evacuation mission of scattered and lost Indian students, and want to concentrate on Ukrainian mothers and children now," Payyappilly explained. The convent has 17 other nuns, mostly Ukrainians who assist Payyappilly.

"Where can they go?" she said of those displaced by the war, who have become refugees in their own country and neighboring nations. "These people have nowhere to go."

Holding Michael in her arms, Payyappilly said the baby is one of the few children of this age who escaped the war and found a safe place.

She said more than 40 children have been killed in Ukraine since the war broke out. The United Nations confirmed 29 child casualties.

The Indian nun's service to people stranded in Ukraine earned her the "Woman of Courage" award on March 8 from Distress Management Collective, a Delhi-based organization.



Sr. Ligi Payyappilly with 14 day old Michael, rescued from Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. (Photo courtesy of Sr. Ligi Payyappilly)

The award comprised a citation and a cash prize of \$200. Payyappilly said she does not work for honors, but she will accept the award “as a token of appreciation from the world, so that more people get involved with my mission.”

She said their funds and resources are drying up and require support from well-wishers to



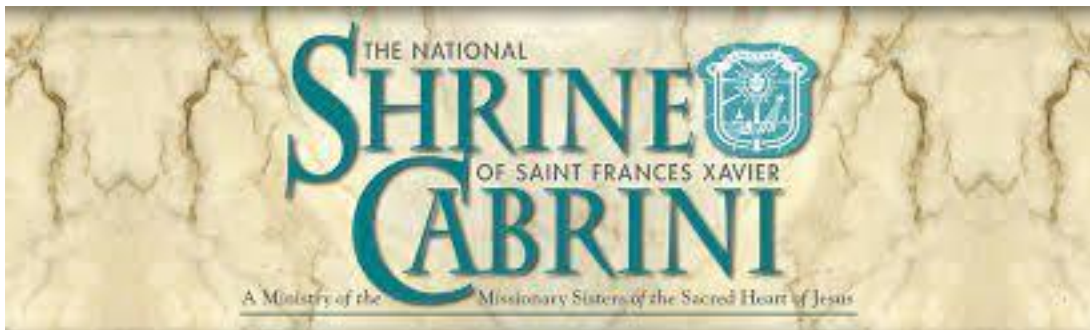
These are the children who are being sheltered in the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Saint Marc. (Photo courtesy of Sr. Payyappilly)

accommodate more fugitives. She said that her main worry is the heating charges for the dormitories that cost around 3,000 euros a month. (3,000 euros = \$3,284.94 USD) The temperature in Ukraine is minus 7 degrees Celsius (44 degrees Fahrenheit) at night and the refugees are mostly women and children who require heaters, she said.

Payyappilly made a video holding Michael to ask people to pray for Ukraine and to support her humanitarian mission. “The

little Michael gives me more hope and confidence,” she added.

To read the complete account, please click [here](#)



We are pleased to report that our Shrine Mass attendees were very generous in their support of Ukrainian refugees. The second collection taken up at our two Masses last weekend, March 12 and 13, came to almost \$4500.00.

In an additional effort to help Ukraine, the Shrine is sponsoring a concert on **Saturday, March 19, at 5:00 PM.** All freewill donations will go to help refugees. The concert has garnered a lot of publicity through social media, and we are expecting a full house.

On April 3, the Shrine will have a Mass of Thanksgiving to honor and bless Sisters Bridget, Joaquina, and Joan for their many years of service to the Shrine. Bishop Robert Casey, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and Bishop Mark Bartosic, Auxiliary Bishop for our Vicariate, will be presiding at the Mass. ~ submitted by Barbara Ramberg, Liturgy Coordinator, National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Cabrini Mission Foundation - Help Those in Ukraine



We've changed our plans to answer the most URGENT needs in Ukraine!

Today we reach out to you to [join us](#) in our mission to come to the aid of children and families in Ukraine. Please help us help the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great assist orphans, refugees, injured and displaced persons in Ukraine and Poland (where many people have fled since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24). Help is desperately needed to provide food, shelter, clothing and other forms of assistance to those who need it most.

Let this be a Lenten offering – give rather than give up. As of this week we have received **\$8,890.00**.

Please Consider Donating!

[Donate Now](#)

Cabrini Mission Foundation Mission Statement "Cabrini Mission Foundation responds with boldness, urgency and courage to the unmet needs of the most vulnerable and those on the margins of society. We support charitable works of healing, teaching and caring that reflect the charism of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, founded by St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. With every response we foster hope as bearers of the love of Christ in the world."

Save the Date!

Please join The Ignatian Volunteer Corps of New York, Long Island and Northern New Jersey in presenting the
**2022
Madonna della Strada Award**
at
**An Evening
of Celebration**
Wednesday, May 4, 2022 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Wines and Delicious Hors d'oeuvres
Jesuit Conference Center Garden
53 East 83 Street (between Park & Madison Avenues)
New York, NY 10028
\$100 Tickets Invitation to follow
Reception benefits the work of
IVC NY/LI/Northern New Jersey



Honoring the Recipients:
Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York
Javier Ramirez-Baron
Executive Director
Ignatian Volunteer
Julia Mucci
In recognition of outstanding service
to the community

More Information:
Maureen Fullam
NY/Metro Director
mfullam@ivcusa.org
917-859-0928

**Ignatian
Volunteer Corps**

**Javier Ramirez –
Baron**

of

**Cabrini Immigrant
Services, NYC
to be honored...**

Please Save the Date.

**Congratulations,
Javier!**

Teamwork to Help Others

In the spirit of Mother Cabrini's mission to serve those in need, Mr. Liberto's 11th grade religion classes conducted a service project focusing on the Rebuild Center located at St. Joseph Church in New Orleans.

The purpose of the Rebuild Center is to provide a safe environment, resources and opportunities for collaboration among Catholic and other faith-based organizations in the City of New Orleans for the service of those in need, together in one location.

In collaboration with the Director of Institutional Advancement, Sheri Salvagio, and the Brown Foundation Service Learning Grant, the juniors were able to purchase supplies and create 600 lunch bags for the Rebuild Center. Then, they were able to deliver the lunch bags and tour the facility. Upon their return to the classroom, the students were prompted to write a reflective essay about their experience throughout the project.

~ submitted by Madeline LeBlanc, Communications Director, Cabrini High School



Cabrini High School juniors carry food items for packing lunch bags for the Rebuild Center.



Each lunch bag included a sandwich. Here the girls are making the sandwiches and wrapping them to insert in the lunch bag.

Teamwork accomplishes a great deal! The Cabrini juniors students packaged 600 lunch bags for distribution at the Rebuild Center. Following their time of service, each student wrote a reflection on the experience.



Witness & Grace Conversations: The Synod and Consecrated Life

Presented by Sr. Nathalie Becquart and Sr. Maria Cimperman

 GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT presents

Witness & GRACE CONVERSATIONS

March 31, 2022

2 P.M. New York | 1 P.M. Chicago | 12 P.M. Denver | 11 A.M. Los Angeles

REGISTER

Conversation

In partnership with the Catholic Theological Union, Global Sisters Report presents Witness & Grace Conversations: The Synod and Consecrated Life

The Synod on Synodality was launched in Rome in October 2021 by Pope Francis. This extraordinary two-year process is cause for hope for some and skepticism by others. But what is the Synod, really? How did it come to be, and what are its aims? How will it intersect with the lives of women religious?

To answer these and other questions, we are pleased to announce this two-session series in partnership with Chicago's Catholic Theological Union. We are grateful Sr. Nathalie Becquart and Sr. Maria Cimperman have agreed to lend their expertise to our sessions to provide clarity, answer questions, and maybe even challenge us.



Session one will be moderated by the Catholic Theological Union ([register here](#)); session two will be moderated by Dan Stockman and Gail DeGeorge of Global Sisters Report. You are welcome to attend either or both sessions.



Each week, as we journey through Lent, one of the Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLM) will offer a reflection. For the Third Sunday in Lent, the reflection is given by Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director.

Third Sunday in Lent

The first reading at Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent is taken from Exodus ([Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15](#)). Part of the reading is:

There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed.

So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.

Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

This is a very familiar Lenten reading but for some reason, I began to reflect on the reading in a different way. I thought about how Moses was intrigued when he noticed the bush was on fire but it didn't burn. He said, "I must go over to **look at** this remarkable sight."

When he was approaching the bush, God spoke to him and said that he was standing on **holy ground** and must remove his sandals. Truly, God was present to Moses. Interestingly, when God told Moses that he is God, Moses **hid his face**, he was **afraid** to look at God.

Lord, I find that especially during Lent, there are so many times when my attention drifts away from You. I say things like, I'll spend less time on social media and more time prayer. But, it doesn't always happen.

Lord, do I reverence others knowing they are created in your image? Do I treat them with respect? Do I believe that where I stand is holy ground?

Lord, I know you are aware of all things. I think that is why there are times when I can't look You in the face. There are things that I wish I hadn't done or said. ~ Lorraine Campanelli, CLM Director

Reflection:

- Am I making an effort this Lent to spend more time on my relationship with God? What are my distractions?
- Do I reverence people and creation? Do I believe that I stand on Holy Ground?
- Am I afraid to look at God in the face? Why or why not? What am I afraid of? Ashamed of?

Prayer Requests

Sr. Damien Ciminera, MSC

Please keep Sr. Damien in your prayers. She has been ill the past few days. She is doing a bit better but is still in need of our prayerful accompaniment.

Sr. Margaret Mary Hernandez, MSC

Sr. Margaret Mary continues to recover after her recent hospitalization. Greetings and well wishes can be sent to:

Sr. Margaret Mary Hernandez, MSC
St. Cabrini Nursing Home
115 Broadway
Room # 124 – One West
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Please join in offering blessings and prayers for the upcoming Assembly of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart that takes place from March 20-24th. Pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide the proceedings and that all participants will travel safely to and from the gathering.

In Loving Memory

Sheldon Goldberg

Your prayers are invited for Sheldon Goldberg, who passed away on Monday, March 14th. Sheldon is the father of Steve Goldberg, the husband of Laura Goldberg, the niece of Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC. Kindly pray for the Goldberg and Van Dusen families during this time of loss.

Change of Phone Number

Sr. Dianne McKenna, MSC has a new phone number:

347.468.4562

Kindly make a note.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.



The Feast of St. Joseph



There is very little about the life of Joseph in Scripture but still, we know that he was the chaste husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus, a carpenter and a man who was not wealthy. We also know that he came from the royal lineage of King David.

We can see from his actions in scripture that Joseph was a compassionate man, and obedient to the will of God. He also loved Mary and Jesus and wanted to

protect and provide for them.

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph had probably died before Jesus entered public ministry.

Joseph is the patron of many things, including the universal Church, fathers, the dying and social justice.