



A SHIELD OF CHARITY



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“Through a variety of initiatives undertaken by local councils, **you and your brother Knights also seek to bring the compassion and love of the Lord into your local communities**, including through your efforts to uphold the sanctity of human life in all of its stages, **to assist victims of war and natural disasters and also to support priestly vocations.**”

– Pope Leo XIV, addressing the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors on Oct. 6, 2025

The day Pope Leo XIV commended the Knights of Columbus for their work aiding victims of war, members of Council 17651 in Lviv, Ukraine, were standing in the debris of their own council hall and parish.

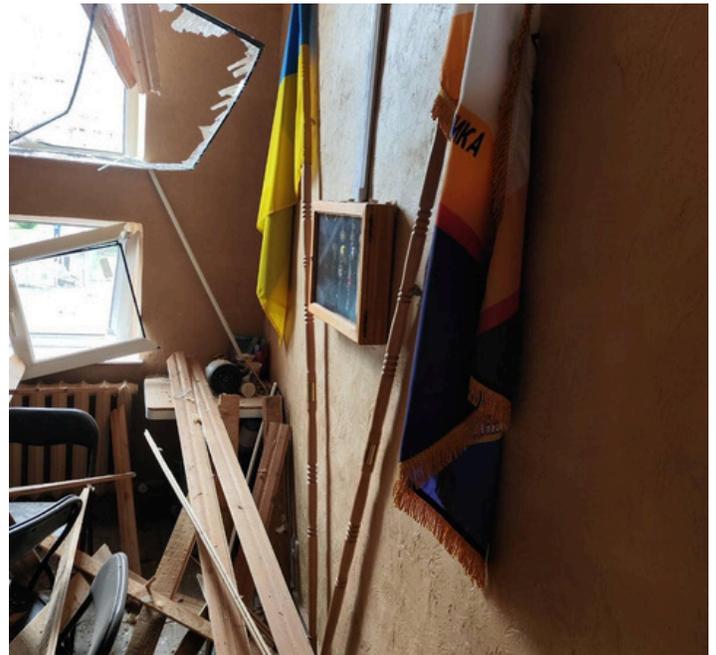
The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was badly damaged in an overnight missile attack.

“It was a terrible shock,” said Grand Knight Ivan Horbach, “but God was guiding us.”

He and his brother Knights face the long process of restoring years’ worth of faithful service — but they don’t do it alone. Other councils from the region came to help clear the rubble, their wives and children working beside them.

Over the past four years, Knights in Ukraine have been a **shield of charity** over their parishes and communities.

Through the support of faithful donors, we empower these Knights to continue providing material and spiritual support to those in need. And when it’s their own homes and churches that are devastated, we help them rebuild.



The next month, a missile strike on Ternopil killed many civilians and destroyed residential buildings. Knights cleaned up in the aftermath and distributed necessities.

Over the Feast of St. Nicholas — typically a day of celebration and gift-giving in Ukraine — residents of Fastiv sheltered underground for three days amid a wave of drone attacks.

While no one was killed, the effects of trauma run deep. Local Knights continue their work restoring their community.

➔ Rebuilding Communities

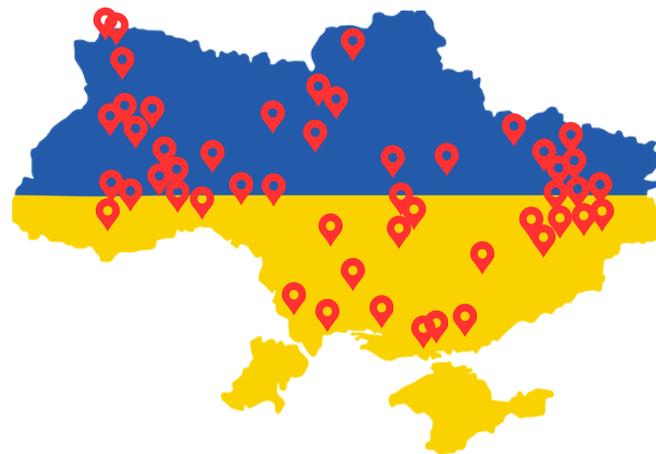


The attack that damaged the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was the largest shelling to date of Lviv and surrounding regions. As soon as it was over, Knights began checking on each other’s families before they gathered at what one Knight called their “second home” — the parish — to face the damage.



➔ Our growing impact

Since April 2022, Knights from Poland and Ukraine have assembled and/or delivered more than 320,000 care packages across Ukraine. This map of Ukraine highlights the locations where we have delivered aid.



68,300+
DONATIONS

\$24+ MILLION
COLLECTED

Since February 2022

➔ Saving and Transforming Lives

Following a bombing, mere minutes can mean the difference between life and death for victims. Partnering with the Order of Malta, Knights have received critical first aid training. Additionally, injured Ukrainians are receiving prostheses and rehabilitation through the Knights' partnership with the Protez Foundation.



➔ Fostering Spiritual Renewal

Reminders of God's presence are so important during the horrors of war. Working with their parishes, Knights have brought in icons of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for veneration and organized *Cor* — gatherings where men can center their hearts on Jesus and foster brotherhood. In December, they promoted nationwide devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe as Mother of the Civilization of Love. Knights have also provided stipends for thousands of Masses for the living and the dead.



➔ Supporting Children

Amid fear and uncertainty, Knights are giving Ukrainian children moments of normalcy through sports and summer camps. In addition, they've helped children receive school supplies and winter coats so that even in the most difficult times, life can continue.



➔ Bringing Relief to Orphans

Young Ukrainian orphans are receiving psychological support with help from the Knights. Additionally, the McGivney Scholarship Fund is helping Ukrainians who have lost a parent attend college and dream of a brighter future.



10 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES DELIVERED BY CHARITY CONVOYS



2 MILLION UKRAINIAN PEOPLE SUPPORTED



320,000 CARE PACKAGES PROVIDED



13,000 COATS FOR KIDS DISTRIBUTED

Since February 2022

➔ Supporting Widows

Countless women have lost their husbands in the war. Knights stand alongside widows, bringing aid and organizing special dinners for them. Working with non-profit medical and therapeutic organizations, Knights are also helping provide them with psychological support.



➔ Hand in Hand with the Holy See

In partnership with Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the Vatican's papal almoner, the Knights support a bakery run by the Albertine Brothers in Zaporizhzhia. The bakery feeds homeless and displaced people, including families who have lost everything.

In 2022, the Knights donated a power generator to the bakery so it could continue operating despite frequent, war-related power outages. In May 2025, the Holy See funded the purchase of a professional bread oven for the bakery, and on Nov. 8, Knights delivered a new industrial dough mixer. The bakery can now feed nearly 1,500 people four times a week.



➔ Partners in Solidarity

The Knights of Columbus is proud to partner with several other organizations serving war victims in Ukraine.



- CNEWA
- KNIGHTS OF MALTA
- STEP-IN
- RED ARCH
- MUDRA SPRAVA
- PROTEZ FOUNDATION
- ...AND MANY OTHERS

To learn more, visit
www.kofc.org/Ukraine

