

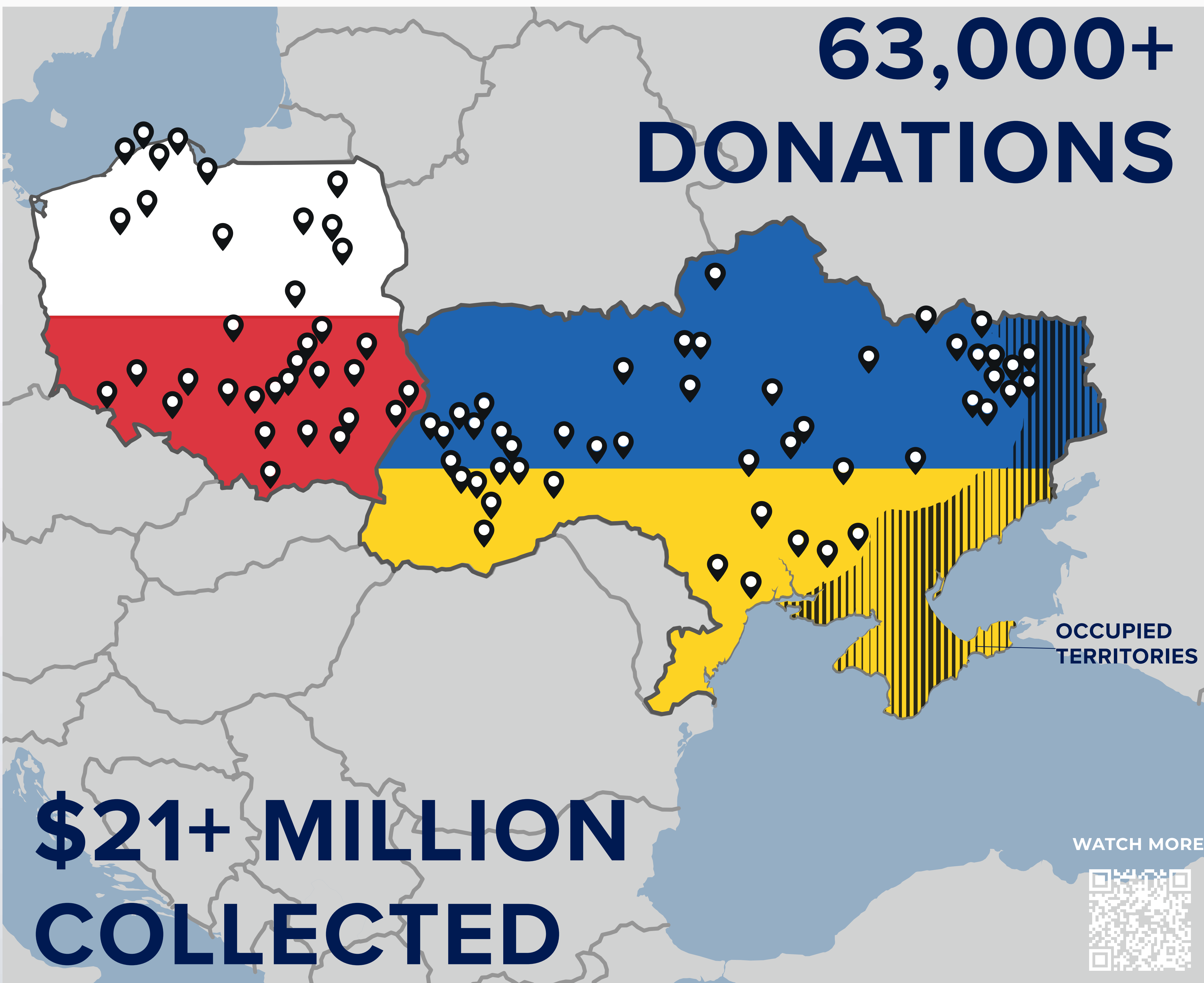
K of C RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

“The biggest gift of God to Ukraine today is the brotherhood of Knights of Columbus.”

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk

“We are very grateful to the Knights in Poland and in the U.S. for the tremendous help which flows in a wide stream.”

Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki

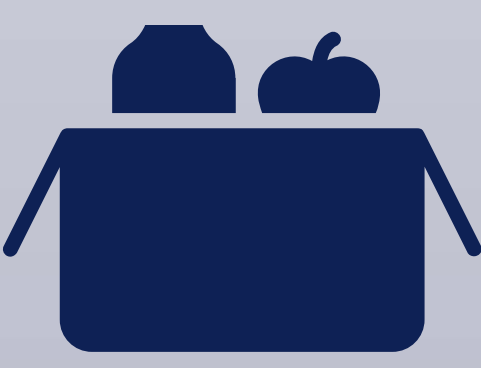


More than 9,000 Knights in Poland and Ukraine are active in providing help to victims of the war. The pins on the map above indicate cities that have received support and/or resources from the Knights of Columbus.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine spurred one of the largest relief efforts in Knights of Columbus history. Since February 2022, Knights around the world have prayed for peace, collected more than \$21 million for the Order’s Ukraine Solidarity Fund, and worked tirelessly to bring help to the victims of war — particularly refugees, children, orphans, widows, people with disabilities and the elderly. The Knights of Columbus is constantly giving support and hope to those in need.



OVER 7.2 MILLION POUNDS OF SUPPLIES AND GOODS SENT



MORE THAN 225,000 CARE PACKAGES DELIVERED



MORE THAN 300,000 REFUGEES WELCOMED AT MERCY CENTERS



60,000 ROSARIES DISTRIBUTED

A mother crosses the Polish-Ukraine border with children.



Myroslav Mazur, a Ukrainian K of C district deputy, hands a care package to a girl during a local food distribution.



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly is pictured with Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki and Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk at the KofC-sponsored modular housing site in Lviv.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

“In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help (cf. Mt 25:31-46). If we can recognize him in those faces, we will be the ones to thank him for having been able to meet, love and serve him in them.”

Pope Francis



Since February 24, 2022, Knights of Columbus in Poland and Ukraine have produced and distributed more than 225,000 care packages to help displaced families in Ukraine. Through K of C Charity Convoys, Ukrainian Knights were the first to reach territories liberated from Russian occupation. Care packages contained a letter with words of hope and support from Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly: “I assure you that we are with you today, surrounding you with our prayers and fraternal solidarity.”

Pope Francis blesses an Easter basket that represents 10,000 Easter care packages prepared by Polish Knights and Ukrainian war refugees in Poland.

“I want to thank the Knights from all around the world for the great and boundless support and love contained in these care packages. The support of the Knights of Columbus for Ukraine is extremely important, because Knights are always about supporting those most in need.”

Father Ihor Makar, K of C chaplain in Zelenivka, Ukraine

Knights and volunteers prepare care packages in a K of C Mercy Center in Radom, Poland.



Petro Phylpiv, a member of Council 16130 in Lviv, moves a pallet of care packages upon the initial delivery.



A young Ukrainian man, families and children hold Knights of Columbus “Solidarity with Ukraine” packages they received at the Church of Blessed Mykolay Charnetsky in Zolochiv, Ukraine.



A Ukrainian woman carries away a K of C care package that she received during her visit to the Albertine Brothers in Lviv.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly stands with Church and Knights of Columbus leaders in a Mercy Center in Radom, Poland, during his second visit to Poland and Ukraine.

WATCH MORE

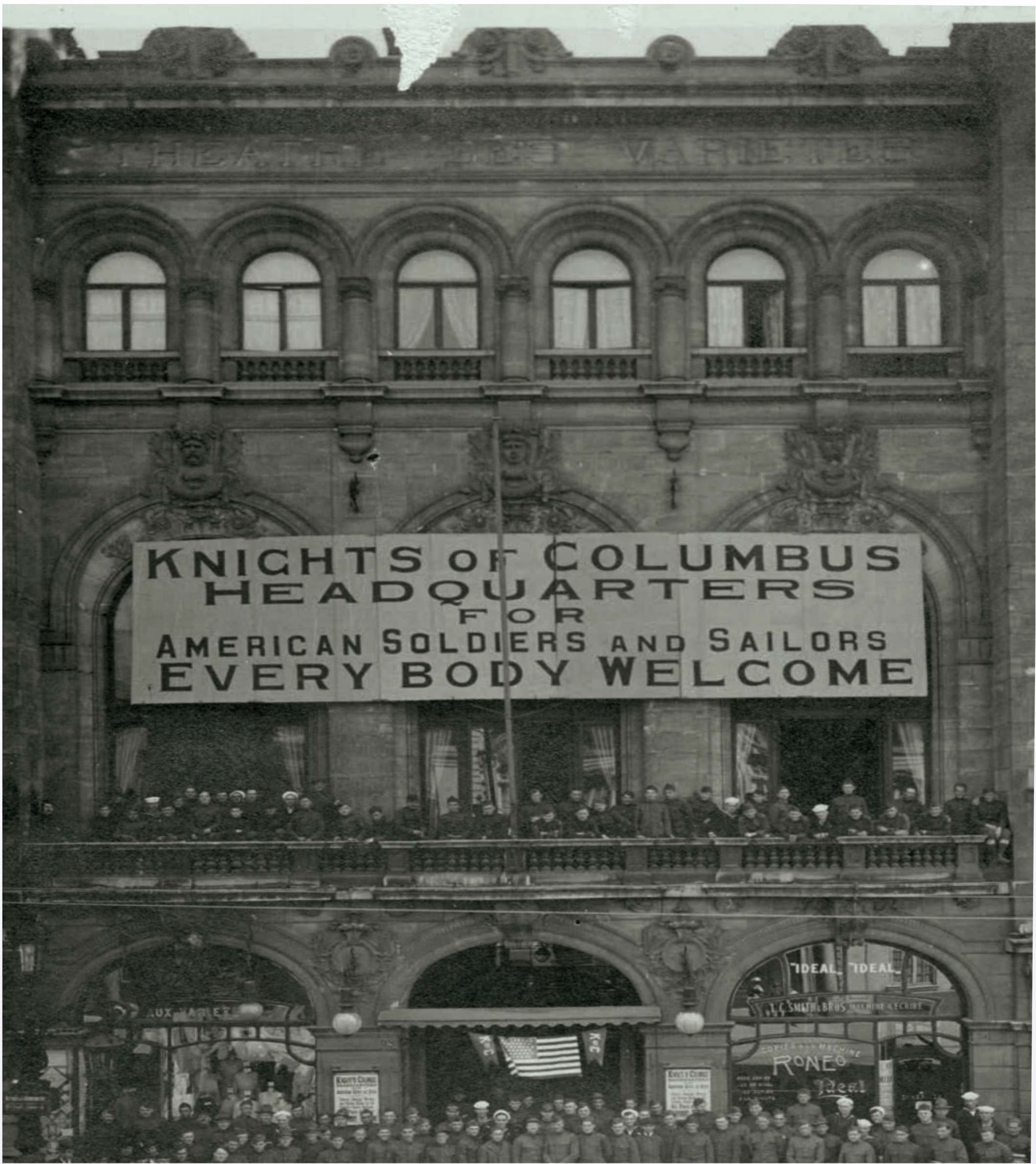


EVERYBODY WELCOME, EVERYTHING FREE

“*I urge Catholics to excel in the spirit of solidarity toward newcomers among them.*”
St. John Paul II

The Knights of Columbus, inspired by the World War I K of C Huts, established Mercy Centers at the Polish-Ukrainian border and in major Polish cities, where war refugees received a warm welcome and care. Today, Mercy Centers assist Ukrainian refugees with long-term integration within the Polish society and provide food and other necessary supplies, after-school and summer programs for Ukrainian and Polish children, Polish language courses, job training, and psychological and spiritual assistance.

In December 2022, the Knights opened a special place: the McGivney House in Radom, Poland, where Ukrainian refugees receive psychological support and language courses, and can join in initiatives to integrate Ukrainians and Poles.



The Théâtre des Variétés, the largest theater in Antwerp, Belgium, served as a K of C recreation center for U.S. servicemen visiting the country until late 1919.



© Tamino Petelinšek

“*For a very long time after I arrived from Ukraine, I was closed in on myself. However, having this place [McGivney House] in my life has made me feel so much better, and I am so thankful that we can come here and enjoy each other’s fellowship.*”
Kira, Ukrainian refugee

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly joins Church and Knights leaders in a ribbon cutting outside McGivney House at Our Lady of Częstochowa Parish in Radom, Poland.



© Fr. Wiesław Lenarowicz

Ukrainian children from Mercy Centers in Warsaw and Radom gather to form the Ukrainian flag.



© Sebastian Wyz

The McGivney House in Radom hosts art and psychological workshops for young Ukrainians.

As the front lines of the conflict continued to shift, Ukrainian Knights opened parish-based Mercy Centers across Ukraine to serve local communities and internal refugees seeking safety. In those Mercy Centers, Knights distribute care packages and wheelchairs, provide electricity with generators, and offer support and care to the families.

WATCH MORE



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly pours soup for internally displaced persons gathered outside the Albertine Brothers’ house in Lviv, Ukraine.



© Tamino Petelinšek

POWERING OUR PARISHES

“Winter was very difficult, but with the help of KofC we managed to pull through. This winter we had a lot of challenges but we tried to overcome them together with our brother Knights.”

Father Vitalii Martysiuk, K of C chaplain in Fastiv, Ukraine



A member of Council 18187 in Smila presents a care package to a Ukrainian mother and her child at a Knights of Columbus Mercy Center in the Cherkasy region. Knights operate several Mercy Centers at parishes throughout the country to provide aid to Ukrainians in need, especially families displaced by the war.



Members of Council 17293, including council chaplain Father Andriy Rehner, unpack a generator at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Ivano-Frankivsk.

As a result of Russian bombings that targeted civilian infrastructure, many Ukrainians were left without electricity throughout the winter. Lasting power shortages had serious consequences: without electricity there is no light, water or heat, and means of communication are severely limited. Knights of Columbus stepped in by “powering our parishes” and providing them with generators and fuel.

“The power generators in our parish have helped priests, nuns and parishioners, but first and foremost, they have benefited children and young people who come to the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul daycare center. In the face of power shortages, it was thanks to the generators that the Sisters were able to cook food and feed the children, as well as heat the daycare center. With lighting and the provision of an internet connection, the children were able to do their homework. There was no heating and no water in their homes, so basic hygiene tasks — washing, laundry — were also possible thanks to the energy flowing from the power generators in our parish. Thanks to your help, we were able to secure the normal functioning of our wards as in the days before the Russian aggression. We saw the great joy of children who came to us under difficult war conditions and were able to do their homework, take shelter, eat, do laundry and use the internet. Our greatest joy was to be able to make these children happy.”

Father Daniel Kułakowski from Balta, Ukraine

WATCH MORE



Members of Council 17740 in Fastiv present generators at their parish Mercy Center.



WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE

“Blessed Father Michael McGivney founded our fraternal organization to help the vulnerable. In this situation, the vulnerable are the Ukrainian families, women and children, and we as Knights are responding accordingly.”

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



Poland State Chaplain Archbishop Wacław Depo opens a KofC-funded school for Ukrainian orphans in Olsztyn, near Częstochowa.



Archbishop Lori joins Father Marek Bator at Ukraine's inaugural Coats for Kids event, where they distributed winter coats to Ukrainian children.

Knights of Columbus stepped in and supported thousands of Ukrainian children through the first European edition of the “Coats for Kids” program. Together with Caritas, the Order also funded a school in the village of Olsztyn, providing education to Ukrainian children in their native language.



Pictures drawn by children from the Archdiocese of Baltimore and sent to Ukrainian children that fled to Poland.

WATCH MORE

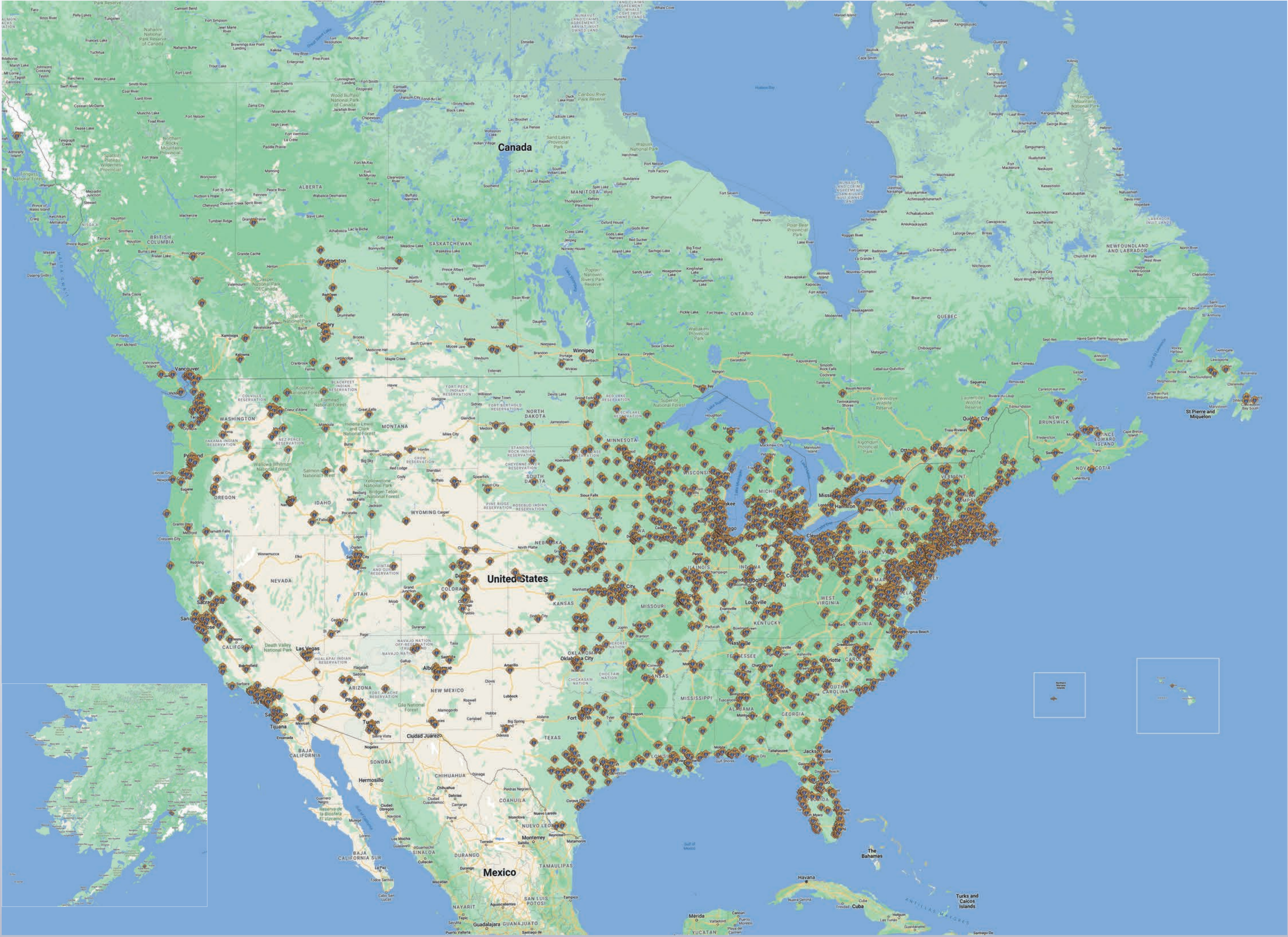


THE POWER OF SOLIDARITY

“Love of neighbor, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful, but it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level: from the local community to the particular Church and to the Church universal in its entirety.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Thousands of Knights of Columbus councils across the U.S. and Canada stepped up to support the Knights of Columbus Ukraine Solidarity Fund. These open hearts and generosity were crucial for supporting numerous charitable initiatives that provided temporary shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing, religious supplies and other humanitarian needs. That is the power of our moral commitment to support Ukraine.



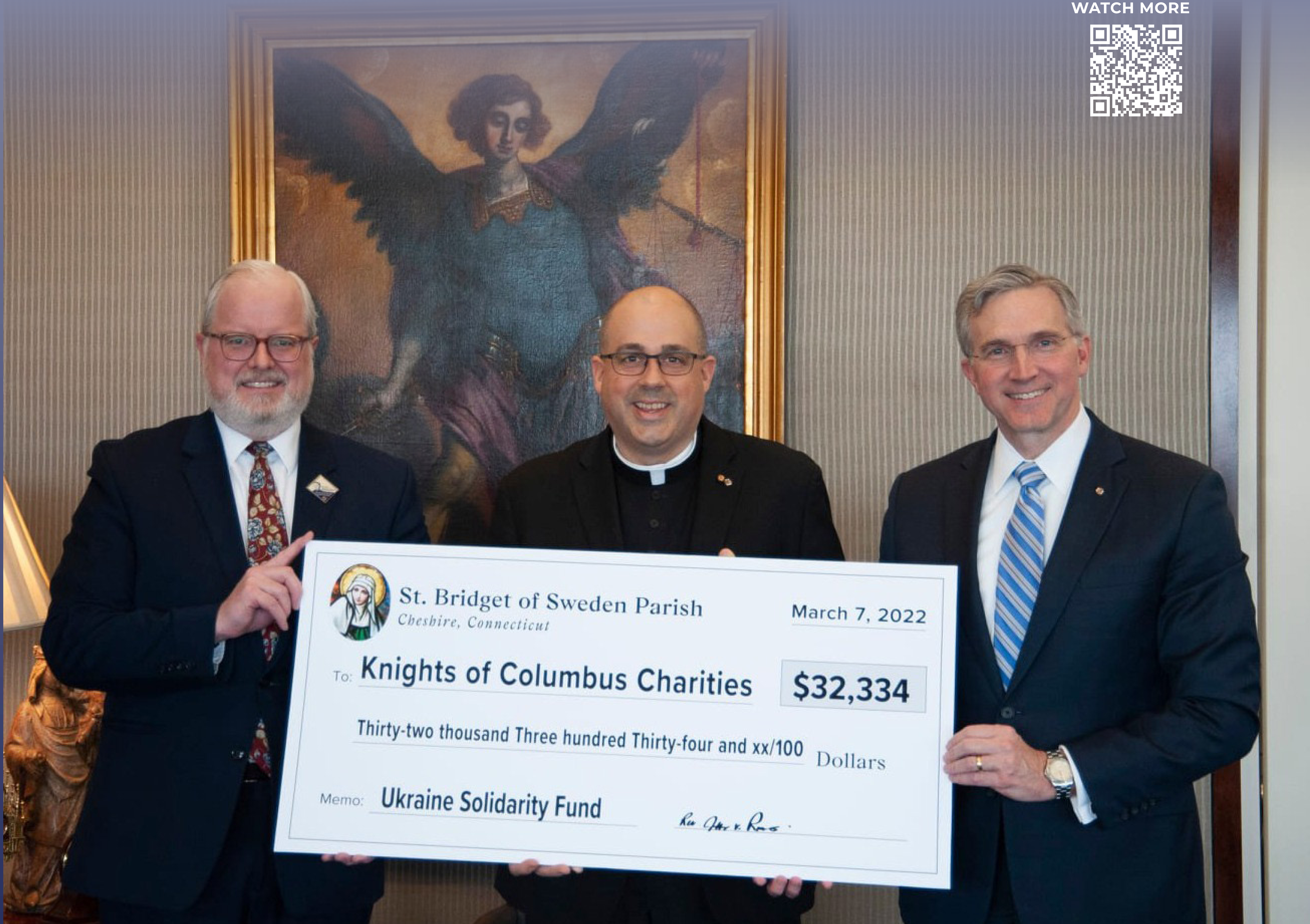
Knights and families attend “We Stand With Ukraine” dinner and charitable auction, a fundraiser organized by Council 10305 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska.



Danylo and Alexander Fedoryka, American musicians of Ukrainian origin, perform with their band Scythian. Through benefit concerts and social media, the brothers have encouraged their fans to support the Ukrainian Solidarity Fund.



Connecticut State Chaplain Father Jeffrey Romans of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish, joined by State Deputy Matthew McGrath, presents a check to Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly as a contribution to the Order's Ukraine Solidarity Fund.



LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH

“It is hard to imagine how people feel during missile or drone attacks, when they had no such experience before. It is also the experience that you are alive today and may not be there tomorrow. The realization that we live under constant threat of death, but we are still alive. And when we survived another day — we won that day.”

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk

More than 70% of Ukrainians have close relatives or friends who have been injured or killed due to the Russian invasion.*

“In 25 years of my life, I have attended more funerals than weddings of my friends. When we meet with friends, we remember the fallen and imagine how wonderful it would be to walk the streets of Lviv with them at least once more. I chose for myself the following direction — my brother died for me, so I now live for him.”

Magdalyna Dymyd



As parishes across Ukraine hold more funerals, there are more women who have lost their husbands and now try to provide for their children. It is exactly what Blessed Michael McGivney saw in his times: widows and orphans who need help. We are called to help these widows experience mercy, charity, and solidarity. That is what Blessed Michael McGivney would have expected us to do.

Denis Tarasov of Council 16460 in Zaporizhzhia, was a human rights defender and civic activist before the 2022 invasion. He quickly became one of the many brother Knights who joined the fight. On Jan. 8, 2023, he was killed in a mortar attack.



A solemn funeral for a Ukrainian soldier takes place at Sts. Peter and Paul Garrison Church in Lviv.

“The Ukrainian people experience the loss of their loved ones every day: their friends, their brothers and sisters. Facebook changed into an obituary that people are afraid to open; it reports every day about wonderful people, their talents and their unique role in the life of Ukraine, but who are no longer alive. This causes great pain. The scale of this grief touches every Ukrainian, no matter where they are in the world. The somatization of this pain is one of the consequences after 500 days of war.”

Testimony of a Ukrainian woman

One of the fallen Knights, Mykhailo Shpikula, a former missionary in Melitopol, gave his life for Ukraine during a combat mission near Bilohorivka, in the Donetsk region. The funeral celebrations of the heroically fallen soldier were led by Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki of Lviv.



*The Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, June 29, 2023

©Vita Jakubowska, credo.pro

DEEP SPIRITUAL WOUNDS

“From the Church people expected food, clothes, but also a word of hope. Pastoral care for the people is our number one mission, especially healing the wounds of the people. Almost 80% of Ukrainians need some help to overcome their traumas, psychological, physical, and others. Our task as a Church is to help heal the wounds of our nations.”

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk



One of the worst consequences of war is psychological and emotional devastation among the people affected by violence. The Knights of Columbus has partnered with the International Catholic Migration Commission to support spiritual and psychological rehabilitation programs for Ukrainian people, including war veterans and their families. While many aid organizations help Ukraine address this challenge, the Knights bring the perspective of faith and proper Christian anthropology to heal both psychological and spiritual wounds.



Participants of a mental health program gather for workshops and prayer.

During first weekend session of a program organized by the Knights in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, men were told that confession was available. None of them went. They had seen too much. The second weekend, now that trust had been built and they had the chance to speak with a Knights of Columbus chaplain, all the men went to confession. One grateful wife later said, “The only reason I agreed to participate in this program was to see my husband confess and be reconciled to God.”



STOLEN SAFETY

Stay alert. Focus. Choose well-known paved roads. Look for things out of the ordinary: clothes hanging on trees, out-of-place rocks. Avoid potholes as if your life depends on it — because it may. And don't delay; remember you must be home before sunset. These are the everyday thoughts of some 2 million Ukrainians and rules taught to children now living in territories riddled with landmines, unexploded bombs and improvised explosive devices.

“When it comes to demining, we need all the support that we can get. This project is a small, although much needed, investment in the future of Ukraine made by Knights of Columbus. The more people — professionals using appropriate equipment — are involved, the sooner we will clear those lands and remove those threats.”

Ukraine State Deputy Youriy Maletskiy



K of C-sponsored trainees receive instructions during a demining training program near Kharkiv, in northeastern Ukraine.

Nearly 30% of the country's land — an area roughly the size of Florida or Wisconsin — is contaminated by unexploded ordnance. Beyond planted mines, 3 in 10 shells dropped by Russian artillery remain unexploded, which will further hinder the difficult work of reconstruction. Removing those threats will take years, if not decades, and cost millions of dollars. Experts estimate that one year of war results in 10 years of land clearing.



The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in southern Ukraine on June 6, 2023, has had a devastating effect. Residents have lost their homes and farmlands, and many people have died. Some experts have called it the biggest catastrophic event since the Chernobyl disaster. It affected both the flooded area as well as the vast territory above the dam, which used water from the Kakhovka Reservoir to irrigate farmlands. Crops will be nowhere to be seen for many years to come. Infrastructure reconstruction will cost millions of dollars. The water also washed away minefields, creating additional hazards for the local communities by spreading the unexploded ordnance.

WATCH MORE



KNIGHTS OF CHARITY

“The limit imposed upon evil by divine mercy has entered human history, especially the history of Europe, through the work of Christ. So it is impossible to separate Christ from human history. ... It is God himself who can place a definitive limit upon evil.”

St. John Paul II

As the situation in Ukraine continues to change, the need for support continues to grow. In supporting Ukraine through acts of charity, Knights of Columbus show to the Ukrainian people that amid all their suffering God is present and they are not alone. With every care package, warm coat, baby product, wheelchair, power generator or other display of help, we can be the instruments of God’s mercy. Join our cause and become a Knight of Charity.



“We personally went to Ruchai and brought the wheelchairs. There was a man who made his own crutches and carved them out of wood. He seemed to be an independent person. When he saw that the wheelchair was coming, he just threw down his crutches and came up to us on his knees and happily got into the wheelchair and started to ride around the playground. We all cried when we saw it.”

Father Jerzy Lis
K of C chaplain in Busk, Ukraine

Ukrainian Knights of Columbus deliver care packages and wheelchairs to the vulnerable.

With your support, we can do more. Here is a summary of the cost of what the people of Ukraine need:



\$9

DAILY COST FOR HOUSING AND FOOD FOR AN INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON



\$20

DAILY COST FOR HOUSING AND FOOD FOR UKRAINIAN ORPHAN IN POLAND



\$25

ONE CARE PACKAGE



\$200

ONE WHEELCHAIR



\$1,100

ONE POWER GENERATOR



SUPPORT THE UKRAINIAN SOLIDARITY FUND

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO HELPING THOSE WE SERVE



UNITED IN PRAYER

“ My desire is simply to be with you, to pray with you, to listen and to learn, and to assure you that Ukraine is not forgotten in my country. The headlines about Ukraine may come and go, but our bonds of charity, unity and fraternity will not only endure but also, God willing, grow stronger amid present afflictions.”

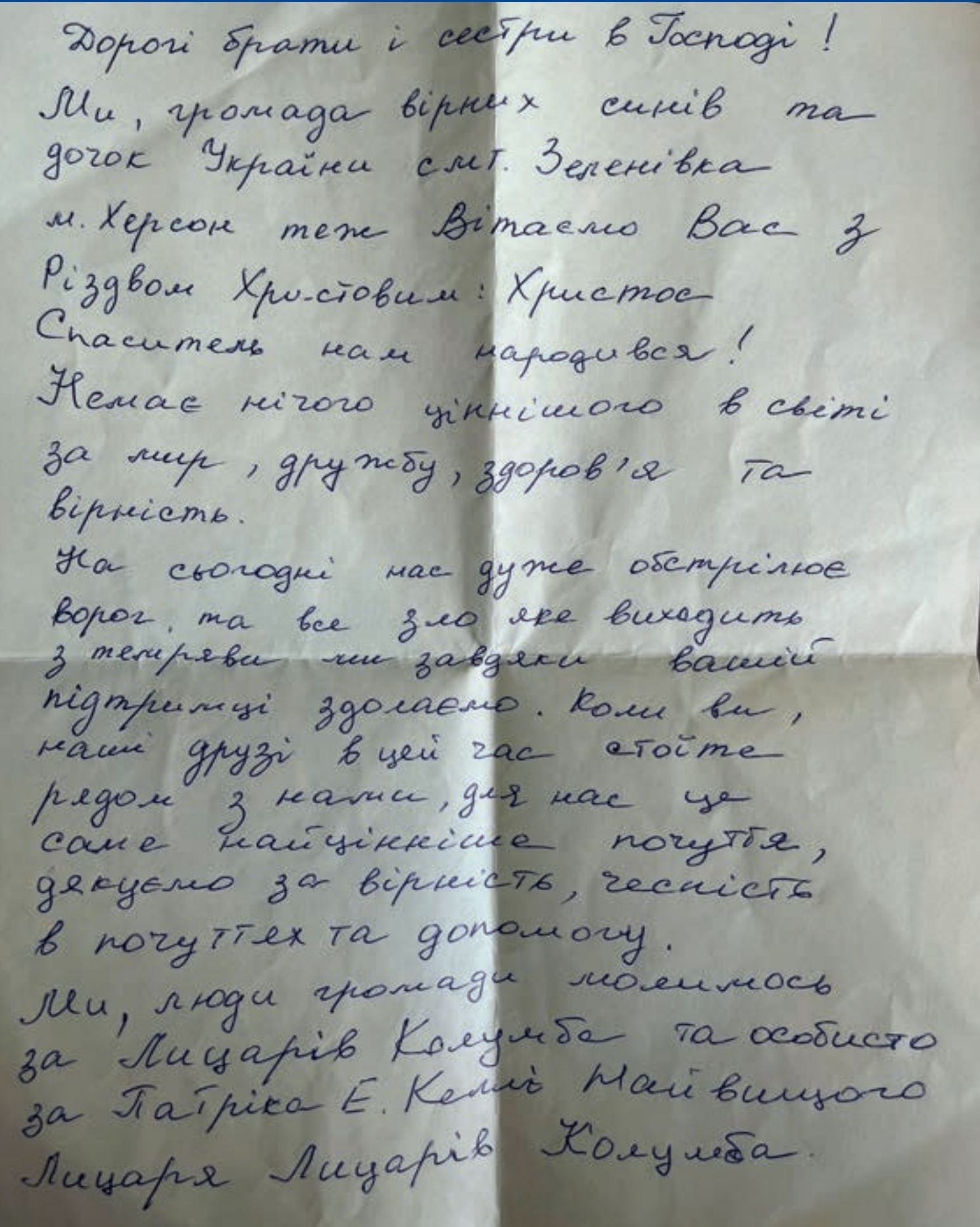
Supreme Chaplain
Archbishop William Lori

“ When I visit Ukrainians on the front lines, I always ask: As a Church, how can we help you? What is your primary need? Everybody responds: Please pray for us. So those who are defending Ukraine are asking for prayers. Everybody on the front lines has also told me, ‘There are no atheists here. Everybody prays’.”

Major Archbishop
Sviatoslav Shevchuk



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori praying and blessing internally displaced persons during his visit to Ukraine.



“ Today, we are heavily bombarded by our enemies, but thanks to your support, we will overcome all the evil that comes out of the darkness. When you, our friends, stand next to us at this time, it is the most valuable feeling for us. We, the people of our community, pray for the Knights and personally for Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. Let us not forget about the sufferings of Ukrainian nation and remember them in our prayers.”

Letter from the community of Zelenivka



In these times of darkness, prayer and spiritual unity is the first and most precious gift we can offer one another. So let us pray:

O Lord God of powers, and God of our salvation, O God, who alone work wonders: look down with mercy and compassion on Your humble servants, and out of love for mankind hearken and have mercy on us and on the land of Ukraine. Visit Your mercies and compassions upon Your humble servants, those who defend Ukraine and her much-suffering people, and hear us who fall down before Your deep compassion. For You are the health and victory and salvation of them that put their hope in You, and unto You do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer Service Sung in Times of War, Trebnyk, Book of Needs

WATCH MORE



THE POWER OF BROTHERHOOD

“We once again commit to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes.”

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly with Ukrainian Knights in a K of C humanitarian warehouse near Lviv.

“We must continue to support the people of Ukraine — among them are more than 2,000 brother Knights. They are fighting for their lives and their land, and we must stand with them. Sadly, as the war drags on, their needs only increase. Our brother Knights are in need. So are their families. We are serving children. We are aiding moms. We are walking with the elderly. And we are strengthening the Church throughout Ukraine. Our charity in Ukraine provides hope and shows the Ukrainian people that they are not alone.”

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



To learn more about our work in Ukraine, visit kofc.org/ukraine

