



Dominican Sisters International Confederation

Convento di Santa Sabina
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Update on Ukraine

Dear Sisters,

As we witness each day the tragedy that continues to unfold in Ukraine, we are sure that each one of you struggles to know how best to respond. We have tried to keep you informed about our Sisters who live in the surrounding countries – Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia – and how they are offering assistance to refugees; as well as our Sisters in Madrid, who are welcoming refugees from Kyiv, where they had been ministering before the war broke out. Many of you have responded by sending financial assistance, which has been an enormous help.

We have recently received some information from the heads of some Catholic institutions, National Conferences of Religious and National Bishops' Conferences that we feel would be helpful to you as you continue to discern how best to respond. In Europe, **NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CARITAS INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS** together with some other NGOs are working together within each country to organize the reception of refugees. The important thing to remember is that it is not simply a case of bringing people into other European countries; but also providing them with all the necessary support systems once they are here: health care; counselling; education; language; shelter; employment; etc. In other words, all that is needed to help people become integrated into their new homes and countries. Since this refugee crisis will become part of our reality moving forward, it is very important that the response be well-coordinated by professionals, and not by individuals or groups.

So, our recommendation to you is the following:

- Connect with those who are coordinating refugee assistance within your countries; **CARITAS INTERNATIONAL, THE RED CROSS, AND OTHER NATIONAL / LOCAL AGENCIES.**
- Consider offering empty convents; schools; or other empty facilities to **CARITAS** as potential places to house refugees.
- Consider offering available space where you currently live, and let **CARITAS** know of this availability.
- Consider financial assistance to those Sisters who are bearing the major crush of refugees at this time – especially the Sisters in Slovakia and Latvia.

We believe that ***we all must be ready to respond*** in whatever way we can, and the best way to do that right now is through the local boards that have been established in each country.



International Coordinator: Sr. Margaret Mayce, OP

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Sandra Toussaint

Secretary for Communication: Mrs. Elizabeth Perugachi

At this point the greatest needs in terms of financial assistance are in **Slovakia and Latvia**. We are still waiting to hear from our Sisters in Hungary as to whether or not they need assistance. When we hear from them, we will let you know.

Here is the bank information for the **Sisters in Slovakia**.

Account Holder: Kongregácia sestier dominikánok blahoslavenej Imeldy
Address: Parková 27
821 05 Bratislava
Bank: Tatrabanka, a.s. Hodžovo námeste 3, 811 06 Bratislava,
Slovensko (Slovakia)
Account Number: 2669704092
Bank Code (Key): 1100
IBAN: SK14 1100 0000 0026 6970 4092.
SWIFT CODE (BIC): TATRSKBX

And.....attached is a message from our sister, Hannah Rita Laue, OP, from **Riga, Latvia**. She and her housemates have started to receive Ukrainian refugees, and would appreciate your help. The bank information is as follows:

Account Holder: Dominikanerinnen von Bethanien e.V.
Address: Ungerather Str. 1-15
41366 Schwalmatal/Waldniel Germany

IBAN: DE 6147 2603 0700 2145 0001 **BIC:** GENODEM1BKC
Bank : Bank für Kirche und Caritas
Address: Kamp 17, 33098 Paderborn, Germany

In prayerful solidarity,

Your sisters,



Pilar del Barrio, OP



Margaret Mayce, OP

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