

Riga, 22.09.2022

Dear Sisters,

autumn is coming fast. Three weeks ago we had the first mornings with white meadows covered in hoarfrost. It is a big relief, that your donations were so generous, that they will help us to keep warm.

The summer was very eventful. A big event was the demolition of the victory monument of the Soviet Army over Nazi-Germany, which also marks the beginning of the occupation of Latvia by the Soviet Union. Every year on the anniversary of the "liberation" there were fights at this monument, now finally the political situation was such that the demolition was decided.



Soviet monuments are to be demolished in all Latvian cities. - For some, this is a source of great joy; for others, some are called to resistance. The city of Daugavpils is considered entirely Russian-speaking. From here

came the request that all monuments in the city may remain. - Now the government is considering removing all members of the city administration from office.

This is only an example to explain in which way the internal political situation is becoming more tense. But what worries many more than this, is Russia's silence on the demolition of the monument in the capital. And we have again been told by the Ministry of Defence to prepare for the first 72 hours after "X hour", what means to have our emergency backpacks packed. So, of course, the news of the success of the Ukrainian counter-attack was very welcome.



Thanks to the support of all of you, we were able to fill this summer with some happy moments for many refugees from Ukraine!



We already told you about the centre for children with autism in our last letter. Now we were able to finance a "cultural evening" where Ukrainian and Latvian kids cooked with their mothers for each other and could make new friends.

We also could help out to finance a bus for various excursions, and on one day they went to the beach where they created small works of art from found materials. An artist who fled from Ukraine was at the holiday camp and enjoyed working creatively with the children. Of course, this also has therapeutic elements, because here the children can express what they have experienced on the run or what they miss from home.





We were also able to save a small holiday camp organised by a Baptist community for the refugee children they had taken in, when the funding for the catering was cut off by the city a week before the event. These children had fled Mariupol with their mothers. It was very important to all of us that this little recreation could take place for them.



The first woman who arrived at our convent as a refugee is now also the first to make her way back to Ukraine. Her sons have told her that it is quiet in their region at the moment. She hopes to make her home ready for winter. All the windows are broken, one of the neighbours has improvized a door for her, so that it doesn't look like you can just walk in and take what you want. We hope that things will continue well for them back home. But she knows, that we will help her to return to Latvia, if needed.

Our other refugees have not yet all made up their mind. It looks as if the little family will stay in Latvia for good, but the others try to understand for how long they are staying. But they start to look for their own flats. As they all have work and could put something aside while staying with us, they will be able to pay the deposit asked when renting.

As you all know, during the last days the situation in Russia has changed as well. It seems Putin's attempt to mobilise more soldiers leads to more protest and a wave of refugees coming from Russia. Young man, not wanting to die. Some hope for the revolution of the mothers. Let us keep all of them in our prayers, so Ukrainians and Russians can live in peace, and we with them.

Greetings from Riga,  
Sr. Hannah