



UKRAINE

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# The Crisis Continues

Sister Faustina amid the ruins of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Kyselivka, Mykolaiv Oblast.

**“Tears flowed from my eyes – it was hard to imagine that, not so long ago, people gathered in this church to pray every Sunday, as they had done for countless years.”**

Sister Faustina was shocked to see the ruins of the Church of the Immaculate Conception after Mykolaiv Oblast was liberated. But turning to prayer she was consoled by the thought that although

the church building had been destroyed, the Church – meaning the Body of Christ – was still alive. **Today Sister Faustina and her order are ministering to the wounded members of Christ’s Body (see overleaf).**

To help the Church respond to the crisis, ACN has provided subsistence grants and Mass stipends to support priests and religious’ vital

ministries – like Sister Faustina’s – as well as providing emergency aid for displaced families.

It may be 18 months since invading soldiers first set foot on Ukrainian soil, but the needs are as great as ever.

**Our Church partners in Ukraine are relying on your love so they can help those crushed by war. Please don’t abandon them now.** ☩

Image: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/ACN

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# Helping Fr Gregory's Mission of Mercy

**"We do not know how we would have survived without help from the Church."**

In Lviv, Fr Gregory has been supporting refugee families since the war began, providing food parcels for starving families and providing shelter in his parish for those fleeing the fighting.

**Fr Gregory said: "Here in St John Paul II parish, we have welcomed refugees since the beginning of the war – in the first 100 days of the war about 2,000 passed through the parish! Today we have 100 people here from destroyed cities in eastern Ukraine – the great majority are women and children."**

Through your love, Aid to the Church in Need has been able to help Fr Gregory carry out his mission of mercy. He was



Fr Gregory with a mother and daughter carrying food parcels provided by the priest's parish.

one of 222 priests in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Lviv to receive subsistence aid and his parish in Lviv received one of 111 generators – ACN is also providing emergency aid for internally

displaced persons (IDPs) being cared for in his parish.

**You have our thanks – and Fr Gregory's – for all your love for Ukraine's suffering women and children.** 

Image: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/ACN



On a pastoral visit Sister Faustina consoles a man in Kyselivka, Mykolaiv Oblast whose house was damaged during the fighting.

Image: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/ACN

## Sisters are staying with the people


**When Mykolaiv Oblast was liberated in November 2022, the residents started returning to their homes – and so did the Benedictine Missionary Sisters.**

Sister Faustina (*see front*) has been there alongside those who returned, comforting and counselling those who have lost loved ones, homes and possessions.

**The Benedictine Missionary Sisters have remained with the people. Sister Jana told ACN: "Despite the ongoing war we have not suspended our pastoral work in parishes and all the Sisters are staying and working in Ukraine."**

"We serve the Catholic Church by running orphanages, caring for young people, organising days of recollection, retreats, catechesis, preparing adults for the sacraments, helping with pilgrimages, holding other meetings, as well as helping people affected by war – especially refugees."

Over the last two years ACN has helped the Benedictine Missionary Sisters across Ukraine with subsistence aid and heating for their convents – basic things, but without them they could not carry out their ministry of love.

**Sister Jana wrote: "We assure you that our friends and benefactors have a special place in our hearts and daily prayers."** 



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