



ACN is supporting 56 elderly or infirm Sisters like Sister Olga.

## A life well lived

After the Soviet authorities seized control of Ukraine's religious buildings in the late 1930s, the country's nuns were forced out of their convents. One of these was Sister Olga, who publicly became an accountant and teacher, but in secret continued to live with her community.

From 1946 to 1949, Sister Olga worked as

an accountant, before becoming a teacher in 1950 working for 20 years in Serednie village, Uzhhorod District. Despite difficulties, disadvantages, and persecution by the Soviet authorities, Sister Olga and her community of Basilian nuns in Mukachevo held firm to their Faith.

Today Sister Olga is 104 years old, cared for

by the Sisters in Khust Monastery. Across Ukraine ACN is providing support for 56 Sisters like Sister Olga who are elderly or infirm.

The provincial of Sister Olga's order, Mother Danyjila Vynnyk told us: "We remember all of you and all the benefactors and donors of Aid to the Church in Need in our prayers every day."

[acnuk.org/ukraine-donate](https://acnuk.org/ukraine-donate)

## A life-line for priests

With the priests of Lviv Archdiocese caring for their flock in a difficult period, Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki of Lviv turned to ACN to ask for help supporting them: "Our priests have no income apart from Mass intentions – indeed as a rule these are their only income."

Archbishop Mieczysław was delighted with ACN's response: 2,000 Mass offerings and additionally stipends for 100 novenas and 200 triduums. Masses for UK benefactors' intentions have been offered in Lviv Archdiocese, giving priests a basic income and enabling them to carry out their pastoral ministry.



Across Ukraine ACN supports both Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic priests with Mass stipends.

 Aid to the Church in Need  
ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Aid to the Church in Need UK, 12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA  
Tel: 020 8642 8668. Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church and a registered charity in England and Wales (1097984) and Scotland (SC040748)

Reports by John Newton.  
All photographs by Aid to the Church in Need, except where noted.  
© Aid to the Church in Need (August 2025)  
Printed by Cliffe Enterprises, Eastbourne BN22 8UY

### Donate:

 [acnuk.org/ukraine-donate](https://acnuk.org/ukraine-donate)

 Call 0345 646 0110

 Or scan the QR code



 Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR

## Please don't abandon Ukraine

Fr Maksym, parish priest of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Kherson.

"War has been raging for three years – death and destruction are daily realities... Every day young men, women and even children are dying." These were the words of Bishop Stanislav Shyrokoradiuk of Odessa to ACN.

Even priests and seminarians have not been safe. Fr Maksym (above) escaped with his life when a rocket smashed into the

presbytery. Miraculously, it did not explode. Inside you will read how seminarians supported by ACN narrowly escaped a drone attack when they were out on pastoral duties. And yet amid the conflict and chaos priests are bringing God's love to the frontline. ACN has supported them with Mass stipends and provided mobile chapels.

Children – including those displaced,

traumatised, or otherwise scarred by war – are being given holidays by the Church where they can play, escape the fighting for a while and learn of God's love. Without your generous love, none of these projects would be possible. Bishop Stanislav said: "We will never stop thanking all those who make sure that we do not feel alone. Many thanks for your prayers and your solidarity with us."

Helping the suffering Church today  
[www.acnuk.org](https://www.acnuk.org)

 Aid to the Church in Need  
ACN UNITED KINGDOM

UKRAINE  
[acnuk.org/ukraine25](https://acnuk.org/ukraine25)

Image: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/ACN





## Faith on the frontline

**On the frontline of the war, priests are bringing God's love into the midst of death and destruction.**

Fr Witalij Novak is ministering to those affected by the fiercest fighting, including young men risking their lives to defend Ukraine. He recently received a mobile chapel from ACN to celebrate the sacraments in and spiritually support those

scarred by the conflict.

**He says his “most difficult task” is ministering to the families of those killed or badly wounded.**

Priests are responsible for administering the last rites and performing the burial. They support the family, helping them plan the funeral.

Although 84 percent of Ukrainians are Christian,

the shadow of the Soviet past means that many know little about their Faith. Fr Witalij gives them a rosary or a miraculous medal: “When the soldiers return from the front, they often confide in me, full of thanks: ‘This rosary and this medal were my constant companions. I remember what you said to me and prayed to God with my words. Thank you!’” ☩



Fr Novak with his mobile chapel.



Holidays with God offer children faith and fun.

## Holidays with God

**Every year groups of 8-12 children – including those displaced, traumatised, or otherwise scarred by war – enjoy a time of fun, freedom and faith at the Church’s “Holidays with God”.**

Through laughter, prayer, and shared meals, these children can experience sanctuary from the fighting, filled with peace that comes from God’s love.

Bishop Leon Dubravsky of Kamianets-Podilskyi told us: **“Thanks to your support, many children and young people experienced an unforgettable time on the ‘Holidays with God’ and were able to, at least for a short period, distract themselves from life in war conditions, frequent air raids, and get some physical rest and spiritual support while being in nature.”**

Daily prayer, games, catechesis and creative activities help the young people begin to rediscover trust, joy and hope.

Bishop Leon said: “I would like to thank you, on behalf of all participants, for supporting important projects of our diocese during this difficult time of war... especially those helping our children and youth.” ☩



These young men are offering themselves to be tomorrow’s priests in war-torn Ukraine.

## Risking all to respond to Christ’s call

**Fr Ihor Makar was travelling with a group of seminarians from Drohobych Seminary to perform the traditional Byzantine blessing of the waters in January 2025 when their vehicle was attacked.**

Fr Ihor said: “We were driving behind one of our parishioners and I noticed a drone in the sky. Because of the frost, the

road was very slippery, and we could neither stop nor turn back... I realised that this drone was probably targeting us.” **The explosion shattered the vehicle’s windows, damaging its doors and wheels.** Fortunately, none of the seminarians was injured, and Father Ihor got off lightly, with a piece of shrapnel lodged in his leg. These are the risks facing

those training at Drohobych Seminary where 86 young men are preparing for the priesthood, following the call to serve Christ despite the potential dangers. **ACN is supporting their studies.**

Fr Ihor said: “Living here is really dangerous but people continue to live here, and my vocation as a priest is to be with them.” ☩

