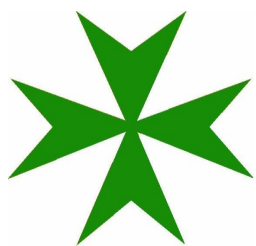


March 2022



SAINT LAZARUS[©]

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter



Father of all, your Risen Son gave new hope to his apostles with words of peace and the assurance of his presence: send your Holy Spirit upon the peoples of Ukraine. Bless them with Christ's gift of peace, and strengthen the resolve of all who labour for an end to this conflict; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

With grateful thanks to the Rev Canon Jeremy Haselock EGCLJ



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The Ukrainian War Refugee Crisis

On 24th February, we were shocked by the launch of the large-scale military invasion of that democratic independent country by neighbouring Russia. This scale of military invasion was reminiscent of the Nazi invasions experienced during the Second World War. Besides the tragedy of the direct effects of warfare – death and destruction, war brings about other consequences as innocent people abandon all their belongings and flee for their lives seeking safer lands as refugees dependent on the goodwill of others. These innocents need the support of the free world to provide humanitarian aid to help them survive.

The members and jurisdictions of the Order have within their resources supported the humanitarian aid process in a number of ways.

A. On an individual level: Individual members have donated necessary goods and money to international organizations who are working on-the-ground to ameliorate the suffering of these victims of war.

B. On a jurisdictional level: Jurisdictions have risen to the occasion within the limits of their resources. Some jurisdictions have donated goods and funds to on-the-ground international organizations. Two jurisdictions, in particular, have actually organized themselves the direct delivery of required goods to the war refugees. These initiatives have been fully supported by the Office of the Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancery. The account details of these two on-the-ground jurisdictions are given below.

Let us help our neighbours in need in the spirit of Jesus's words:

“Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” [Matthew 25:40]

“If you have two coats, give one away, do the same with your food”. [Luke 3:11]

	Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic	Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe
Account name:	VSR SV.LAZARA J,Z.S. Vojenský a špitální řád sv. Lazara Jeruzalémského, z.s.	Order of Saint Lazarus Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe (GPEU)
Beneficiary address	Vodickova 682/20, Praha 1, 110 00, Czech Republic	
IBAN	CZ680300000000254939405 <i>(This is EUR currency account)</i>	DE31 6609 0800 0009 8009 48
BIC/SWIFT	CEKOCZPP	GENODE61BBB
Bank	Československá obchodní banka, a. s. Radlická 333/150, Praha 5, 150 57, Czech Republic	Badische Civil Service Bank Karlsruhe Herrenstraße 2-10, 76133 Karlsruhe, Germany

For jurisdictions outside Europe, to avoid sizable money wire transfer fees, the Grand Chancery will be making available the Order's PayPal Account to facilitate the transfer.

PayPal Account Details:

Send donation amount to sdeboom@planet.nl, linked exclusively to the Sabadell bank account of the Order in Madrid.

Identify as UKRAINIAN REFUGEE SUPPORT DONATION

Include on the transfer to which jurisdiction the donation must be forwarded, the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic or the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe.

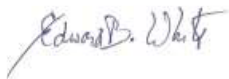


C. On an international level: The Grand Hospitaller and Grand Chancery support all the above initiatives. The urgency presented by the quickly developing crisis requires very urgent action – whatever it takes to get the job done.

a. **Fund donation:** The Grand Chancery has sent the remainder of the non-previously committed Flagship Account [€3,000] to support the initiative of the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic. It has also served to help with the transfer of other donated funds from jurisdictions to the on-the-ground active jurisdictions.

b. **International link:** It has also tried to serve as a link between individual members & international jurisdictions and the on-the-ground jurisdictions through the Facebook resource encouraging members and jurisdictions to make donations. This has actually led to a private passenger plane being made available free of charge to help transfer goods.

PLEASE USE ALL YOUR RESOURCES TO HELP RELIEVE THE CRISIS
Atavis et Armis



Edward B. White, GCLJ
Grand Commander



Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura, GCLJ
Grand Hospitaller



Ukraine Aid - Humanitarian Grand Priority Europe (GPEU)

Since 2020, the GPEU has been active in the field of Ukraine Aid. In 2021, approx. 65 square metres of relief supplies in the form of care beds, wheelchairs, walking aids, mattresses, bed linen, children's clothing and men's clothing were handed over to Ukraine-Hilfe Lobetal, a non-profit organisation that has been delivering relief supplies to Ukraine for more than 28 years.



Despite the outbreak of war, aid shipments continue to reach Ukraine, including the east. The number of transports has even increased. Before the war, a truck was dispatched every 1-2 weeks. Since Friday, one lorry a day has been loaded with aid for Ukraine and sent on its way.

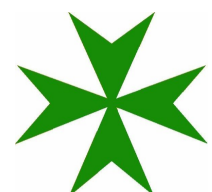


Through the GPEU, we will continue to support Ukrainian aid, albeit with a different focus in terms of relief goods.

Currently, the first transport with bandages, nappies, medicines and selected foodstuffs has been prepared for delivery on Saturday 5 March 2022.



If you would like to support the activities of the GPEU for Ukraine, please contact our Chancellor Dirk Augustin CLJ (d.augustin@st-lazarus.eu).



Reports from the borders

A report from our Regional Communications Officer for Central Europe, Consoeur Dr. Tünde Lengyel

The outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war has hit Europe hard. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to leave their homeland and find refuge and protection in neighbouring countries.

A small number of citizens who fear for their lives are fleeing to Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and Slovakia, and a large number to Poland and Hungary. Already, more than 140,000 refugees have arrived in Hungary and more than 600,000 in Poland.



In Hungary an impressive collaboration is under way. The Hungarian government has supplied food and hygiene products, sent initially to the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine and then on to other border reception facilities, as part of a

humanitarian aid operation. A multitude of NGOs and volunteers has come together to help receive and care for refugees, groups are being organized on Facebook to coordinate accommodation for refugees with local families, hundreds of buses are going to the border to ensure travel assistance for families.

At the same time fundraising is being organized by all the Central European Jurisdictions of the Order, such as the Czech Bailiwick, the Hungarian Grand Priory, the Slovakian Grand Priory and the Romanian Grand Priory.

The first delivery of humanitarian aid was sent on 27th February by the Czech Grand Bailiwick, and an official account was opened to which monetary donations can be transferred. The Czech Bailiwick account is available internationally, so that any members of our Order can help. *[See page 2 for details]*



The Hungarian Grand Priory has also started collecting donations from among its own members, and the proceeds have been donated and sent with a covering letter to our member Dr Gergely Lajos OJ who manages the reception centre at Szamosszeg village close to the Ukrainian border.

In addition, preservable food, mineral water, blankets, beds and warm tops were donated to the refugee reception centre of Papos village on 25th February, 2022.



These 2 personal stories from the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic illustrate the involvement of members in providing practical help to Ukrainian refugees



Oleksandr and Katerina are from Rachov, a Ukrainian mountain town near the Hungarian border. They travelled to the Czech Republic with their 12-year-old daughter Katerina, their 20-year-old son Oleksandr and his girlfriend Polina, at a time when men were not subject to the ban on leaving the country. However, their employers gave the parents an ultimatum. They must either start work on Monday March 7, or their employment would be terminated

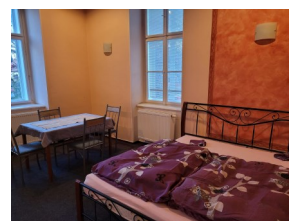
immediately. Despite fears for their lives, both parents returned to Ukraine on Saturday, March 5.

Oleksandr, an IT engineer, had a further reason to return, as his own parents and siblings had remained in Ukraine, and refused to leave the country. So, he returned - in the knowledge that he would be drafted into the army. He believes he will return home alive and well.

They left their son and daughter in Prague, along with Oleksandr's girlfriend Polina. Chev. Martin Kadrman KLJ (GB Czech Republic) and his wife provided their apartment in the centre of Prague for the young people to use.

Jan Uhlir OLJ and other members of the Czech Brethren Church are preparing accommodation for three families (mothers with children). Modifications to their church building are already at an advanced stage.

Colleagues provided equipment for the refugees (i.e. beds, tables, wardrobes, washing machine, iron, etc.), obtaining everything from their own supplies. Alongside other specific humanitarian aid, the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic will help with financial donations.



This extract from a letter from Rev Fr David Brown ChLJ, a former Chaplain of Cumbria Commandery (Grand Priory of England & Wales), now ministering to the Anglican congregation in Warsaw, offers a first hand snapshot of how the people of Poland are responding to the influx of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine:

“I have been really humbled and impressed by all that the Polish people are doing to welcome Ukrainians into Poland. Half a million refugees have come here in this last week and it is estimated that over 50,000 are arriving and being welcomed each day!

I was very moved today when I bought a train ticket to be asked whether I was Ukrainian because, if so, there would be no charge.

So many people are gladly opening their homes to the refugees, giving them accommodation and love. A couple of friends who own a hotel near Krakow have been driving to and from the border picking people up and taking them to their hotel for as long as they need. Thousands are doing the same journeys.

In these dark and tragic times, it is a great privilege to live here.”



In tempore belli

(In time of war)

At the end of 2021 no one would have believed that within two months we would be faced with Russia declaring war on Ukraine. Despite other internal conflicts in other countries, war was something consigned to history after 1945. How wrong we were! Now our social media, news bulletins and newspapers are dominated with harrowing scenes of destruction, distress, injury and hardship which become worse by the day.

Our Order was founded in war – the Crusades to Jerusalem – where we fought bravely to protect Jerusalem as the central focus of Christianity. But, alongside that we quickly became the focus of care for knights who had contracted leprosy (Hansen’s disease) through contact with infected local people and each other.

This caring concern, which we saw supremely during the COVID pandemic, is showing itself again in the way national jurisdictions are responding in practical ways through delivering furniture, clothing and medical supplies. Additionally, 2 international charitable projects have been established to provide ongoing funds to help those in Ukraine to help themselves.

All this is driven by the tenets of the Order which, in turn, are driven by our Christian values. We love because he loves us. As members of the Order we are called to be ‘Jesus’ wherever we are and whatever we do. The maxim ‘Actions speak louder than words’ is not a 20th century word of wisdom; it was first established in the words of our Lord who said “Anything you do for one my brothers and sisters... you do it to me.”

And that is what we are witnessing during these difficult times.

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ

Editor

“As members of the Order we are called to be ‘Jesus’ wherever we are and whatever we do”

