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## Conflict in Ukraine

DEAR SISTERS,

Thank you for all the expressions of solidarity and prayer in this difficult time for all of us. Here in Poland we are indeed close to the war and close to Ukraine, but for the moment we are safe and there is peace here. Thanks to this, as a nation we are able to help people from Ukraine who come to us. What is the situation like? Almost one million refugees from Ukraine have recently crossed our borders. Some of them came by car, some by train and some on foot. They walked for several days, there are long queues at the borders. There is organized help at border crossings: warm



meals, necessary things, accommodation in halls, at people's homes, schools, religious congregations.... Everyone who can, helps. They do not want to stay in the border

areas, because it is very close to the warfare. Some of them already had family or friends in Poland, some of the refugees are going further west, e.g. to Germany.

We have our communities in the center of Poland: Warsaw, Lodz. There are already refugees from Ukraine in these cities. The help is coordinated by Caritas. We have prepared our houses in Warsaw, Lodz and Zabiczki to receive refugees. We reported our houses to Caritas and we are waiting for guests. For now the refugees are directed to retreat centers. We are thinking about concrete and long-term help. They will be able to stay in our houses as long as it is needed. In our kindergarten in Łódź three children have already been accepted. In the kindergarten we run in Skierniewice there will be a separate group for 25 children from Ukraine. Parents are already starting to sign up their children. Sr. Ewa, who is the director of the kindergarten, has a job for a woman from Ukraine. Moreover, the catechist sisters in schools organize collections of necessary things that are given to Ukrainian families in Poland. Similarly, in the kindergarten there is a collection of children's things for children from orphanages, who are gradually being brought to Poland. We can say that for the time being those people who found themselves in Poland have assured help. It is much more difficult for those who stayed in



Ukraine. Humanitarian convoys are being organised from Poland to bring food and water, medical supplies and other necessary items to Ukraine, but this is becoming increasingly difficult. Recently I had an opportunity to talk to sisters from other congregations that have communities in Ukraine. The reality looks worse than we see in the media. Sisters and priests remained in Ukraine with the people. The Russians do not count with anyone, everything is destroyed and razed to the ground. The most difficult are the nights they spend in shelters, for example under churches. Sisters, priests, families are together. In these shelters, they pray, celebrate Mass, and wait for this war nightmare to end.

We do not know how the situation will develop and how long the war will last. We all pray for an end as soon as possible, for peace and for conversion for those who started this war. Helping the refugees from Ukraine has united us all and released so much good in people.

**Thank you again for  
your support.**

God bless us all.

**Magdalena with Sisters  
from Poland**

