



**Chancery Office
Eparchy of New Westminster**

**To the Rev. Clergy, Religious and Lay-Faithful
of the Eparchy of New Westminster**

14 April 2016

Christ is Risen!

Dear Friends,

On Saturday, 5 March of this year, His Beatitude Sviatoslav and members of the Permanent Synod of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (of which I am a member) had a meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican. At that meeting we spoke of the horrific situation in Ukraine that has resulted in the two years of war. The death toll continues to rise, and the number of internally displaced citizens has reached in the millions. These families have had to flee their homes and cities in the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine, leaving everything behind them and take refuge in other areas of the country. This of course is placing tremendous stress on the rest of the country who have opened their homes and communities to try and accommodate their fellow Ukrainian citizens. You can also imagine the trauma that these people have and are suffering; witnessing the killings, the bombings and the destruction of their homes.

His Holiness promised His Beatitude and the members of the Permanent Synod that he would not only keep our sisters and brothers in Ukraine in his prayers but would encourage the faithful to come to the aid of those in Ukraine. To this end, His Holiness announced a special collection be taken up in all of the Catholic parishes of Europe for Ukraine to assist in the Humanitarian crisis.

Caritas Ukraine, an organization that our Eparchy has been supporting over the years has taken up the challenge of assisting with the internally displaced people and working to meet the challenges of housing, food and other essentials along with also being present to those who have not been able to flee their homes in the war torn areas.

I am providing a letter from Most Rev. Borys Gudziak, who is not only the a member of the Permanent Synod and Ukrainian Catholic Bishop in Paris for Ukrainians in France but also the head of the Synod's department of External Affairs. You will see how he elaborates more on this situation.

I have been asked by some of our faithful how they can contribute to this worthy effort. So, I would like to invite our Eparchy to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Europe in making a special collection that His Holiness requested. You may make a donation to the Papal organization, Catholic Near East Welfare Association Canada (CNEWA) for their projects with Caritas Ukraine and the internally displaced people in Ukraine. These funds are urgently needed so follow this procedure:

Make your donation cheque payable (CNEWA CANADA will issue you an income tax receipt) to:
CNEWA CANADA

Place in the memo section or with a cover letter that this is a donation for Caritas Ukraine's project for Internally Displaced people in Ukraine.

You may also want to indicate that you are a member of the Eparchy of New Westminster.

Place it in an envelope addressed to:

Mr. Carl Hetu

CNEWA Canada

1247 Kilborn Place

Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9

With assurance of my prayerful best wishes, and Episcopal blessings, I remain,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,
+Ken