



DONATION *for* UKRAINIAN AID

⑦ SUORE FRANCESCANE MISSIONARIE DI GESÙ BAMBINO

House "S. Maria della Porziuncola" · ROMA

**Whoever welcomes you welcomes me;
and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one Who sent me.**
(Mt 10:40)

An unexpected situation was the beginning of the war between Russia and Ukraine, but the Church, always attentive to every conflict situation, immediately responded to the needs of so many people who from one moment to the next had to flee their nation, leaving everything behind to save the lives of their families and their own.

To the heartfelt desire to collaborate with the local Church to respond to this humanitarian emergency, we Franciscane Missionarie di Gesù Bambino, have given the availability of a small apartment in Rome, to take in refugees who have fled the horrors of war and are in need of everything.

In collaboration with the Diocesan Caritas and through it we welcomed a family unit of four.

On March 30 with much joy we welcomed Tetiana along with her children, Anna and Sviatoslav and her little 6-year-old grandson Stanilav. During this time of their stay with us, we provided them with all kinds of support, corporal, spiritual, and even moral. From feeding them with food, to paying all the expenses of electricity, water and gas, to medication needs and every other need. Above all, we cared for closeness, taking an interest in the situation they are experiencing, distant family members, encouraging them and assuring them of our prayers. This was done either through a Caritas volunteer who acts as a language mediator or through a cell phone translator.

We put them in touch with the neighboring Parish of "San Saba" which has a field for games and sports and included both boys and the child in the recreational activities of the other boys in the Parish.

Some neighbors offered their help: some shared the w-ifi network, some offered to teach English, and some brought them sweets. Our parish priest of "St. Marcella" also gave us help in food and money. Having then informed the parishioners that we have taken in a family of Ukrainian refugees, Mrs. Tetiana has found a job in a hotel, which makes her very happy because she can contribute to the needs of the family.

Despite the situation of being far away from their land and the concern about the war that unfortunately continues, they are quite serene, they feel supported by us, they have confidence and express their gratitude both for everything we provide for them and for our presence and closeness. They feel that God is close to them and gives the strength to live with serenity while waiting for this absurd war to end. They always ask us to pray for them, for their distant family members and for peace in their country.

Our fraternity since the beginning was in favor to accept and help those in need and thanks God for the beautiful opportunity to be able to make them feel love and closeness toward these suffering brothers and sisters. In our own small way we are glad to be able to collaborate in helping people who carry so much suffering in their hearts because they are exiled from their land and home. May the Lord hear our prayer and grant peace to this people so tried by war.



Ukraine refugees in Cutro