

St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Church

Views from the Pews

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SISTER MURIEL GEISLER AND MARY WALSH

In the past two years I shared stories through the Pews News about Sister Muriel Geisler and her friend Mary Walsh, who delivered food to 195 destitute elderly and families in nearby villages and mountains of Bosnia/Hercegovina on a monthly basis.

On July 21, 2020 Sister Muriel passed into God's hands one hour before her 96th birthday. I recently learned that Sister Muriel's wish was for her work to continue with the destitute elderly / families and asked that future donations be sent to Jakov of Mary's Hand, Medjugorje. St. Stephen's International Charity Trust Fund will add this organization to the list of recipients.



***“You have not
lived today until
you have done
something for
someone who can
never repay you.”***



The tireless work these ladies did for others who could not repay them was shared by Judy and Dave Shewchuk, parishioners of St. Stephen's Protomartyr.

Judy and Dave had the opportunity to visit Sister Muriel many times on pilgrimages to Medjugorje.

On a number of occasions they assisted Sister Muriel on trips into the mountains to deliver food to the 'orphaned' seniors in the area. Many of these seniors had gone into the mountains around Medjugorje to escape the war and they lived alone. Some of them still waiting on husbands and sons to return home from World War II.

Some had been hiding there for all those years believing that the war had not yet come to an end.

One of the vans donated by Irish pilgrims.



A mountain trail leading to an elderly woman. The road ends at the base of a large tree.

Galatians 6:9

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

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This woman was found living in a house at the end of the road and was in need of immediate medical assistance because of her black legs. A nun, from a nearby village, was successful in convincing this woman she must go to the hospital to be treated. She remained in hospital for a couple of weeks, then placed into the brand-new nursing home in the village. Sister Muriel had been instrumental in building this nursing home using donated funds.

Judy and Dave Shewchuk





The chapel in the nursing home authorized by the Bishop of Mostar to be used for worship.

Sister Muriel and her helper Mary would put bagged food hampers together and personally deliver them. The hampers contained staples such as; flour, oil, salt, and some soap. Sometimes there was clothing and personal care items left by the visiting pilgrims that were also distributed.



Judy assisting with a delivery of a food hamper.



This woman was mostly blind and living in what once was a cement animal pen. No door, no bathroom, no water, no electricity. A food hamper was delivered and gratefully accepted.

Dave Shewchuk said; “The last time I visited Sister Muriel was in May 2016. She was in her 90's and still going strong. Not bad for a woman just barely 5 feet tall.”

The Shewchuk family was instrumental in presenting Sister Muriel's organization, St. Joseph the Worker, to St. Stephen's International Charity, which led to yearly donations directed to help the elderly under Sister Muriel's care.

- Mary Chudyk

