

# OPERATION ST. NICHOLAS 2022

Since 2018 Operation St. Nicholas has provided gifts and financial support to disadvantaged and at-risk children and their families in Ukraine who are in the care of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. In Ukraine gifts are exchanged on St. Nicholas Day, December 19<sup>th</sup>, and in the spirit of giving we hope to make it a special occasion once again in 2022.

The Sister Servants Mary Immaculate (SSMI) in Ukraine support a variety of charitable endeavours and our partnership provides an opportunity to support those in the greatest need. The Sisters offer support and assistance to over 250 children in 12 centers. Some of these children are orphans, but most are from single parent homes or are living with a grandparent. The war has brought the added task of caring for evacuees from Eastern Ukraine.

The SSMI is involved in a multitude of charitable works.

## Conducting catechism program for evacuee children in Soposhyn



## Providing for the spiritual and cultural needs of children



## Assisting needy families with food, clothing and medications in Zalischyky



## Packaging of food preserves and supplies in Zhovkva for defenders of Ukraine and civilians affected by the Russian invasion into Ukraine



In prior years, sponsors have supported the children by purchasing gifts for distribution on December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St Nicholas. Cash donations were gratefully accepted to offset the cost of shipping to Ukraine and to purchase food and medical supplies for needy families. The generosity of our Canadian families has provided food hampers throughout the year during the Covid pandemic and more recently in 2022 following the Russian invasion.

Due to the risk of shipping goods to Ukraine and war-restricted supply chains, our consultation with Sister Elizabeth Prots, in charge of SSMI children's programs, centered on how best to support needy children and their families with financial aid.

This year, the Operation St. Nicholas campaign will run from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup> and will focus on cash fundraising to support the SSMI.

Operation St. Nicholas 2022 in Calgary and Red Deer is organized by:

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church
- St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church
- St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada
- PLAST Calgary

The fundraising target for Operation St Nicholas 2022 is **\$7,200 CDN** with the goal to send at least \$5,000 USD to the Sister Servants in time for them to deliver modest St. Nicholas gifts by December 19 and begin to distribute food hampers and medical supplies to the neediest families.

Donations will be put to good use by the Sisters Servants.

- \$20 will fill a St. Nicholas gift bag with toothbrush/paste, shower gel, socks, mittens, candy, fruit
- \$5 can buy fruit for a month
- \$20 can fill a food hamper with butter, oil, flour, pasta, rice, sugar, tea, cornmeal, and buckwheat
- \$50 can augment the smaller hamper with condensed milk, mayonnaise, baking supplies
- \$100 can augment the medium hamper with canned sardines, chicken breast, kovbasa



We welcome all financial support. Donations greater than \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt. Cheques should be made payable to 'St Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church'.

Thank you and God Bless your generosity!

Operation St. Nicholas Campaign Committee

A translation of a letter received from the Sister Servants Mary Immaculate in Ukraine after funds were sent in July 2022.

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Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Dobrodiy from Calgary!

We express our sincere gratitude for your help. With the funds collected by you, we bought bags with necessary food products for poor children in Chervonohrad.

The children were very happy and thanked you!

We greatly appreciate your desire to ease the suffering of poor children during the war in Ukraine. Depriving yourself of money, you showed Christian solidarity with children who lack the necessary things: fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, sweets.

This assistance is not just money. This is love and care for Ukraine. This is the approach of our victory. This is a sincere smile, a loving heart, the generous palm of the Heavenly Father.

May good, holy virtues always be in your hearts, and may God's blessing surround your families!

With gratitude,

Sister Natalia Hrytsula, SNDM  
Monastery of the Servant Sisters of the NDM in Chervonohrad

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Zhovkva

The needy children from Zhovkva sincerely thank the Benefactors of the parish of St. Saint Stephen of Calgary for food. We pray and love you!

Dear Father Mykhailo and dear Dobrodiy - parishioners of the Church of St. Stephen the First Martyr!

Sisters of the Servants from Zhovkva are sincerely grateful to you for your hand of support for Ukraine, for your compassionate heart and care for those who are most downtrodden and suffering. By helping and supporting needy families, and especially children, we, together with you, bring our victory, which every Ukrainian heart longs for, closer.

We pray for all the Benefactors, asking for God's grace, health, longevity and peace for them.