



WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

BISHOP *of* CALGARY

May 3, 2022

Dear Reverend Fathers, Pastoral Council Chairs, and Parish Finance Council Chairs,

The war in Ukraine continues to force many Ukrainians to flee their homes in seeking safety, protection, and assistance. Since February 24, 2022, over 5 million refugees have fled Ukraine, and those who remain in Ukraine will be in need of our support.

The Government of Canada has recently put in new measures to help those affected by the war in Ukraine. Ukrainian refugees can be sponsored to Canada by relatives or they can apply for a special temporary visitor visa that offers them the ability to work and study in Canada for up to three years.

In collaboration with Calgary Catholic Immigration Services (CCIS), we invite the Catholic faithful and parish communities in our Diocese to be in solidarity with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and to consider offering assistance in one of the following ways:

1. Donate to the Emergency Funds for Ukraine

Donate individually or consider organizing a fundraiser for:

- **Development & Peace – Caritas Canada (for Caritas Ukraine)** <https://www2.devp.org/en/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3&gl=24360>
- **Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA Canada)** <https://cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/ukraine/>

2. Donate directly to CCIS to help with resettlement in Calgary

CCIS is working to provide temporary housing and financial support. To help CCIS, [please donate here](#)

3. Parish supporting a Ukrainian Family

Similar to the Syrian refugee program in 2015, parishes are now able to support a Ukrainian family. The screening will be done directly through CCIS, with sponsorship ranging from 3 months to 1 year. The Diocese of Calgary will subsidize participating parishes up to \$5,000 from the Pastoral Fund. For sponsorship please complete the initial Form [available here](#). To apply for the subsidy, please contact Alejandro Heno at finance@calgarydiocese.ca

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY

Catholic Pastoral Centre | 120 17 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

Phone: 403-218-5526 | Fax : 403-264-0272

4. Individual hosting a Ukrainian family

Individuals interested to host a family can contact CCIS directly for details. The initial form is [available here](#).

If you have any questions concerning any of these options please contact CCIS representative **Jouhayna El Chamy** at 403-290-5750 or jelchamy@ccisab.ca

The tragic consequences of this war have created grave needs for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Now more than ever we are called to recognize the responsibilities we have for each other as St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians reminds us, "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God." (Ephesians 2:19).

Together let us be united in our efforts with Pope Francis who has entrusted Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and let us ask Our Lady for her powerful intercession. Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. McGrattan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary