

## Salesians in Poland help Ukraine – update March 27, 2022

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Since February 24, 2022, Poland has received 2.3 million people.

Last week, about 30,000 people crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border every day.



The team coordinating aid activities in Poland operates in accordance with previously published reports by Fr. Krzysztof Grzendziński on projects and communication.

We appreciate the help of other Salesian provinces in the world and other organizations. Poles receive financial and donor assistance from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Austria, Malta, Ireland and the United States. Gifts in countless quantities also come from Salesian works in Poland and from many individuals. Part of the aid received is redirected to refugee homes in Poland, another part is transported to Ukraine on an ongoing basis. There are so many gifts that although we still carry them using different minibuses, we had to rent big trucks (TIR) seven times. We sent more than 120 tons of food alone. To this should be added more than 20 generators, medical supplies, personal hygiene items, beds, mattresses, sleeping bags, blankets...

The number of refugees in Salesian houses in Poland has increased compared to the previous one - we host 604 people out of 1,196 places.

On our websites on the Internet, we conduct social campaigns aimed at informing about our activities in Polish and foreign languages, which is an appeal addressed to our donors:

Krakow: <https://swm.pl/projekty/wojna-strach-cierpienia-pomoz-mieszkancom-ukrainy/#en-version>

Warsaw: <https://misjesalezjanie.pl/aid-for-ukraine/>

It is worth pointing out that the aid activities are documented by [the Salesian media group Art. 43](#), making short reports (**21 films** have already been published).

There is also a song "[Heart of Ukraine](#)" (Art.43) which is a great media success nationwide. The song aims to support the activities and comfort of our Ukrainian brothers.

More and more Salesian oratories and schools are approaching with a rich offer addressed to Ukrainian children. Polish language schools are run, psychological, medical and legal assistance is provided.

In total, 95.5 thousand Ukrainian children are admitted to Polish schools. They study in more than 11.5 thousand schools. It is estimated that there are currently about 700,000 children from Ukraine in Poland.

The Polish government has allowed *PESEL* (Universal Electronic System for Registration of the Population) numbers to be assigned to Ukrainians who intend to legalize their stay in Poland. This process began on March 16. So far, 301,000 have benefited, thanks to this number, they will be able to take advantage of social benefits. But even without this number, they can apply for a job or use medical assistance.