

Are the Ukrainian children finding a safer space?

Yes, thanks to the Salesians of Don Bosco these children and youth are getting helped at borders and finding homes in countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Czech and Hungary.

I asked Mr Bryan Magro who is part of the Salesian foundation, how these children are being helped. He replied “As our main work is with children and young people, our priority is orphan children who were in our care in residential homes in Ukraine”

He also said that “it was decided to move the 48 children who were under the care of the Salesians in Ukraine to a safe country and it was decided to move them to Slovakia.” I was told that in Presov all the children who are under the age of 10 years are living with foster families who are part of the Salesian family. These children are attending school every day in a Salesian house in Presov and have online school from Ukraine.

Mr Magro also told me “The older children who are older than ten years are living in four Salesian houses in Slovakia and attend different schools in the locality where they are living.” They are looked after by the Salesians and a group of volunteers who are members of the Salesian family.

These children are being provided with therapy by psychologists due to the trauma they experienced through war. Mr Bryan Magro said “psychologists are working with them through play and sand therapy to help deal with the fact that they had to be uprooted and leave their country.”

The Salesians are also working with women and children who are crossing borders and have nowhere to live. Mr Bryan Magro said “they are being supported to re-settle in Slovakia or a destination of their choice.” They are

provided with various needs such as food, medicine and health needs, and are assisted in finding rent accommodation and a job.

Mr Magro said “we are trying our best to meet the needs of these young families who are traumatized by the impact that the war had on their families.”

He has visited Slovakia earlier this month and met these children and the people who are taking care of them. He also visited the border with Ukraine to understand the experience of Ukrainian refugees who were leaving their country for a safer space. He said that their hope never dies, and they hope to return to their country and be able to live in peace.

They are accepting monetary donations through their revolut and bank accounts. Please help!

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FOR UKRAINE**

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or

APS BANK: PROVINCIAL ECONOMER,
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¹ Image provided from Fr Antoine Farrugia's Facebook page