

Now What?

At the recent meeting of our Clergy and Bishops in Chicago, we were reminded of the need to evangelize.

But, with the crisis in Ukraine and the American political parties both saying military aid should be cut back, how can we help?

The approach for both scenarios may lie in a series of programs to educate our neighbors.

1. CAROLING: while usually this involves parishioners going to other parishioners' homes, we can expand it to the neighborhood the parish is in or in public areas like shopping areas, with proper permission. Music attracts people. They might be given two flyers: one for raising funds for Ukraine and/or political action to keep the aid coming. The second could be an invitation to a parish festival or church service.

2. HOLODOMOR PROGRAM: This is a chance to explain the Ukrainians' fear of what Russians will do because of what they have done. If you have an exciting speaker, great. If not, there are movies like *Mr. Jones* and at least a dozen free films on YouTube to get the message out. Provide a sample of borscht, introducing them to Ukrainian soup, while stressing the hunger they may still have with a little bowl of soup to understand from experience what happened. Once again, have flyers for funds for Ukraine. The next idea may be added, or done separately, if possible.

3. TOUR OF THE CHURCH: this experience aims to make people feel comfortable. If there are Roman Catholic visitors, you might note that we pray for Pope Francis nine times in the Liturgy whereas the Roman Mass mentions him only once. If they ask, let them know Catholics fulfill their Mass obligation. You can give them links like <https://godwithusonline.org/event-library/>, which has videos explaining our Church's beauty and theology. The Melkites have pamphlets that would also be of value, and are available through the link <https://melkite.org/oes-publications>.

4. CULTURE OF UKRAINE: an exhibition of Ukrainian art, embroidery, pottery, especially pysanky. It can be a show of parishioners' items, and if there are local artisans, they can provide a demonstration. Always distribute flyers.

5. FOOD OF UKRAINE: samples of pyrohy, holubtsi, and pieces of bread can be given out at different locations for free. Flyers about supporting Ukraine and when the parish will make the food items for sale.

6. RESOURCES: The president of Ukraine, President Zelinsky, was featured on a television broadcast in Ukraine entitled *Servant of the People*, which is available from Netflix. Some think these shows inspired people to vote for him because it dealt with corruption in Ukraine and reformation.

7. HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: while much is written, it has to be tailored to fit the interest of non-Ukrainians: focusing on the conversion of Ukraine under Volodymyr; the sufferings of our Church; why we came to the United States; the different reasons of different waves of people. Someone might deliver a lecture, or people might relate to storytelling, where parishioners can tell of their life in Ukraine and why they love Ukraine even though they left, and why they left. It would be valuable to record these presentations, primarily if people share pictures of their time in Ukraine and here. Coverage of families being divided into the Displaced Persons camps would be interesting to some sections of the American population.

8. CONCERTS: Free concerts of Ukrainian music can be done with secular or religious music. They could be based on particular artists or styles. Religious concerts of seasonal music is another opportunity to share.

People should know that fundraising is not being done for the parish, even though the parish is carrying the costs involved.

For example, checks may be made to the eparchy for distribution in Ukraine if the parish has no specific project. Receipts for tax purposes would be appropriate. Two things to remember: other people's money is just as good as our people's money. First, they, too, will feel good about helping. Secondly, it shows a parish involved in something other than itself. This will make others especially comfortable going to parish events in the future, even when they are for the parish.

Support for Ukraine is an immediate need. Evangelization is done over time.

Fr Jonathan Morse