



Bp Andrzej Jeż
Biskup Tarnowski

Tarnów, 07.04.2022.
Prot. N. OC-3.3./11/22

Most Reverend Bishop James Golka
Diocese of Colorado Springs, U.S.A.

Your Excellency,

At this time of the war that is taking place beyond our eastern border, in Ukraine, words that inspire hope seem to be the words of St. John Paul II from the Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2004: "If many people share the 'dream' of a world in which there is peace, if the contribution of migrants and refugees is appreciated, humanity can become more and more the family of all, and our earth a true 'common home'".

Also, as Pope Francis notes in his Message for the 51st World Day of Peace 2018: "Many in history have believed in this "dream," and what they have achieved proves that it is not an impossible utopia".

On behalf of our Diocese, Caritas and people of Ukraine, I would like express my heartfelt gratitude for your prayers and financial support. Please thank, on my behalf, all priests, deacons and all the people of good will who took part of this sacrificial gift you made to such an important cause.

The funds raised were transferred in full to Caritas of the Tarnów Diocese. They were distributed to Caritas diocesan centers, where the refugees found shelter and housing, food and necessary livelihoods. Thanks to this specific help, we can activate all available resources and help, which Ukrainian refugees can use to stay and live with their dignity, and if circumstances so require, integrate with Polish society. We do not like to call them refugees even if it is their status. We would like to call them brothers and sisters and members of our big family. We would like them to feel at home as they live now in Poland either temporarily or for a longer period of time. Moreover, because of people like diocesan members of Colorado Springs Catholic Community our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, brutally uprooted and torn from their homes, can learn about the solidarity of Christians and the compassionate face of the Church that we all form.

In this way, our local Churches build this "common home" and, moreover, make the dream of peace more real every day. The aid offered by the Diocese of Colorado Springs thus becomes, as Pope Francis asked and hoped in his speech on March 26, 2022, "a concrete and personal way of building peace".

The Resurrection of Jesus takes us beyond the Cross to the joy and hope that comes from seeing the Risen Lord. It was Christ risen who allowed his disciples to fully know that God exists, that there is a future for every human being and that our cry for unending life is indeed answered in Him. This is the true message of Easter!

Easter calls us to courageously follow Jesus Christ, the risen one, and to boldly proclaim that out of darkness and suffering comes new life. It is my hope that in this coming year we discover new ways to share this Easter faith, the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

A blessed Easter Season to you and your diocese.

Your Brother in Christ,

† Most Reverend Andrzej Jeż
BISHOP OF TARNOW IN POLAND