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*Cover: Medical Mission Sisters in Germany and UK are showing their solidarity with the people in Ukraine by “flying the flag” with many others and speaking out against war and against states that despise human rights. Here are German Sisters Thekla Schoenfeld, Monika Ballani, Associate Dr. Cornelia Kalz and Sr. Christiana Hanssen marching in Berlin.*



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# Ukrainian Refugees in Germany



Sister Karin outside Caritas.

Over 272,000 refugees have arrived in Germany and more come every day. Many move on to friends and acquaintances within Germany or to other European states. The Medical Mission Sisters in Berlin have offered their home to Ukrainian refugees and are waiting to receive two women and their children.

Sister Karin Knoetig reports that Frankfurt, her home city, receives around 1000 Ukrainians daily. Sr. Karin has been working as a nurse for Caritas (a social service organization) in various shelters for refugees in Frankfurt since 2016. She is currently providing medical care in a shelter with 300 people from 16 different nations. She shared that beds have been added so there is space for an additional 240 people from Ukraine. She adds, “I am glad that we can host these people and I am very happy that the people of Germany can provide support. Without the many donations in material goods and food, this

would not be possible. The refugees are grateful they can live in safety and without fear.” Although the situation is extremely difficult for the Ukrainians she is caring for, she notes that small kindnesses, a smile, seeing them as people with many abilities and not just as “needy” bring a sparkle to their eyes.



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April 2022

While six women of MMS gathered recently for dinner, our conversation turned to the war in Ukraine, to the refugees, to those staying to fight, and to a larger wondering of how we respond non-violently in the context of destructive enmity and aggression.

In addition to financial support, and other tangible demonstrations of solidarity, is there more we can offer? Sister Lucy Klein-Gebbinck wondered what might happen if we were to send loving kindness with keen intention to reach the hearts of those most responsible for the carnage. How would it be if six people, if dozens, scores and even more people at the same time, sent healing light, slipping past the violence and hatred, the isolation and brokenness to the vulnerable flickering point of goodness in Putin?

And so, we did. Silence at 8:00 pm, energy of light and love palpable, in our individual ways, reaching out as one, to one. Believing that, after all, we are connected, we are one.

We join a world at prayer, with hearts longing for peace in Ukraine, for peace globally. Will you join us, every evening sometime between 8:00 pm and 9:30 p.m., sending love and light, prayer and care, knowing that the sacred within you is the sacred within us all?

**Will you consider supporting the Medical Mission Sisters in Germany who are providing care and compassion to those fleeing Ukraine, as well as our Sisters around the world who are a healing presence to those most in need? Thank you for being a partner in mission through your gift as well as in your prayers, joining us and a world praying for peace and harmony.**

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*For more information please call Karol Devitt at 215-742-6100, ext.135.*

***Please make your gift, if possible, by May 27, 2022.***

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