

*Dear Colin and Friends at St. Andrew's –*

*Thank you for your concern, prayers and offer of help at this time.  
I am happy to direct you to the following agencies at this time:*

**From the Office of our Bishop, Bryan Bayda:**

Many of you have been inquiring about possible donations to support Ukraine. Our recommendation is that you direct your parishioners to the website of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) which works directly with Caritas Ukraine: <https://cnewa.org/ca/donate/>

**From the Ukrainian Canadian Congress:**

The Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal established by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) The main efforts of cooperation are to provide humanitarian assistance/relief in the areas of Assistance to displaced persons, Medical care, Emergency Shelter and Food security. We urge all of our members and the entire community to actively support this fund. Click on the link below to donate or visit [www.cufoundation.ca](http://www.cufoundation.ca)

**From Canadian Red Cross:**

All donations for humanitarian aid in in Ukraine will be matched by the Government of Canada. Please access your local Canadian Red Cross office.

**From our Canadian Ambassador, Larisa Galadza (now working out of Poland and my daughter!):  
Regarding shelter in Canada:**

All applications are online. They can fill out the application in Ukraine or in Poland or wherever. A payment must be submitted with the application. (If it is possible to write UKRAINE 2022 somewhere in one of the fields of the application, they should. I don't know where specifically.) The visa online application process is set out here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/apply-visitor-visa.html>

Some people who submit the application will need to also submit their biometrics (ie fingerprints and photo). They will be told about this once the payment is processed. The applicant will get an email letter telling them that they should go to a Visa Application Centre (VAC) to submit their biometrics.

HOWEVER, the VACs in Ukraine are CLOSED, so they can only do this part in Warsaw or another EU capital. People can find a list of VACs here: <https://ircc.canada.ca/english/information/where-to-give-biometrics.asp#where-to-give>

The application gets processed after the biometrics are received, or for people who are exempt from the biometrics thing, once the payment is processed.

Once the application is approved, applicants get a notice saying that they should drop their passport at the Visa Application Centre. Again, this has to be in Warsaw or another EU capital.

After a few more days, they'll be able to go back to the VAC to pick up their passport with the visa inside.

*Colin,*

*There, you have a good start! Please call me towards the end of the week and let me know how and what you are doing.*

*Gratefully on behalf of my community and Ukraine.... Fr. Roman*