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Ukrainian Nuns Honored with Catholic Extension's Lumen Christi Award

Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great aid Ukrainian families on the warfront and in the United States

Chicago, IL — [Catholic Extension](#) is proud to announce the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great as the 2023-2024 [Lumen Christi Award](#) recipient. Dating back to 1978, the Lumen Christi Award, meaning "Light of Christ", is Catholic Extension's highest honor awarded annually to those who radiate and reveal the light of Christ present in the communities where they serve. Upon receiving the honor, The Basilian Sisters will be awarded \$25,000 to support their ministry among the poor and suffering in Ukraine, and in the U.S., The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia will also receive \$25,000, where the sisters' U.S. province has been based for over 100 years.

The majority of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great are Ukrainian-born. They remain a presence of hope in their home country that has been ravaged by war since Russia's invasion in February 2022. The sisters' monastery in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, is less than 40 miles from the frontlines. Despite the danger, the sisters felt called by God to minister near the warfront, helping with evacuation efforts and regularly housing women and children, whose husbands and fathers are at war and whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed. They continue to provide comfort, food and clothing to residents, particularly the elderly who remain in Ukraine, as well as provide pastoral care to battle-weary soldiers.

Sister Lucia Murashko, a sister serving near the warfront said, "We decided what we have to do is help those who are most in need. The source of our light is Him. It's Jesus, and He just works. You just have to follow Him."

As tears of gratitude filled Sister Lucia's eyes, she expressed, "Thank you for all who are praying for us and for Ukraine. Your prayers are our protection."

In addition to the sisters providing aid in Ukraine, the Basilian Sisters in Philadelphia—their U.S. motherhouse—are helping Ukrainian refugee families as they get settled in the United States by providing food, clothing, and furniture, among other essential goods. Since the war started, they have served approximately 800 families through the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Philadelphia and hundreds more through the St. Basil Support Ministry.

Fr. Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension said, "Catholic Extension expresses our deepest congratulations to the sisters. Their perseverance, courage and joyful spirits amid such peril is a powerful witness of faith that we are honored to recognize through this award."

Sr. Sister Joann Sosler, OSBM, Provincial Superior of the Jesus, Lover of Humanity Province of sisters based in Jenkintown, PA, said of the Lumen Christi Award, "This tremendous gift recognizes our sisters' ministry to Ukrainian war victims who have been displaced in both Europe and the United States. It is a sign from God that our work is important and must continue. But it is also meaningful for the wider Ukrainian Catholic Church and Ukrainians worldwide."

Catholic Extension has supported the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States for nearly 45 years. And, since the war started, Catholic Extension has supported ministries like those of the sisters.

This year, 41 dioceses submitted nominations for the award. Out of the 41 nominations, seven were chosen as award finalists and received \$10,000 to support and enhance their ministry.

To learn more about the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great and the Lumen Christi Award, read Catholic Extension's latest story [here](#).

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About Catholic Extension: Founded in 1905, Catholic Extension works in solidarity with people to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities among the poor in the poorest regions of America. For more information visit www.catholicextension.org; follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/catholicextension or on Twitter at [@CathExtension](https://twitter.com/CathExtension).