



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ukrainian Community Celebrates Resiliency and Valor Amid Two Years of War**

Jenkintown, PA — Marking two years since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, and Ukrainian organizations joined at an awards ceremony to celebrate the resiliency and valor of the Ukrainian community and acknowledge all the good that they have done in response to the war.

Hosted by the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, notables in attendance were Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, as well as Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, who serve in Ukraine near the frontlines of war and in the U.S.

During the program, [Catholic Extension Society](#) presented the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great with the [Lumen Christi Award](#)—the organization’s highest honor—for the sisters’ work helping war victims both in the United States and abroad.

Sister Lucia Murashko, OSBM, said of the award, “Thank you, Catholic Extension, for honoring us with the Lumen Christi Award. To me, this award signifies that we are not alone in our work. With your support, we can continue our mission of serving those affected by the war in Ukraine.”

Fr. Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension Society, which is both sponsoring the event and conferring its Lumen Christi Award, said, “The Ukrainian Catholic Church’s witness of solidarity with their suffering people is an inspiration to all of us. May we continue to match their perseverance with our prayer and generous support.”

Upon receiving the honor, The Basilian Sisters were awarded \$25,000 to support their ministry among the poor and suffering in Ukraine. In the U.S., the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia also received \$25,000, where the sisters' U.S. province has been based for over 100 years. The Archeparchy of Philadelphia dedicated their \$25,000 to the sisters' outreach to Ukrainian refugees in the U.S. The Lumen Christi Award, meaning "Light of Christ", is awarded annually to those who radiate and reveal the light of Christ present in the communities where they serve.

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 combat zones, 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.

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 hundreds of families through the Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Philadelphia and hundreds more through the St. Basil Support Ministry.

Catholic Extension has supported the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States for nearly 45 years.

To read more about the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great and the Lumen Christi Award, visit [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 and in America's poorest regions. For more information visit [www.catholicextension.org](http://www.catholicextension.org); follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/catholicextension](https://facebook.com/catholicextension) or on Twitter at [@CathExtension](https://twitter.com/CathExtension).