

BLACK SEA AGORA MEETING
to pray together, to reflect on the situation and share the experience of these months, in the light of Fratelli Tutti

Let us continue, to advance along the paths of hope, for a real and lasting peace
 Each one of us is called to **BE AN ARTISAN OF PEACE**, to sow seeds of reconciliation. (Fratelli Tutti)

TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2022

15.00H ARGENTINA
20.00H ITALY
21.00H UKRAINE, ROMANIA, MOLDOVA,
BULGARIA, TÜRKIYE, RUSSIA
22.00H GEORGIA

with participation of
His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk
 Head and Father of the Ukrainian Greek
 Catholic Church

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Languages: English | Ukrainian | Italian | Spanish

Testimony from the countries

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Chisinau 13.09.2022

The beginning of the war in Ukraine has shook and affected the whole world, but those in the immediate vicinity, such as the Republic of Moldova, lived the effects of the war directly.

First of all - PANIC. Moldova is a country that used to be part of the Soviet Union, and knowing the Kremlin's imperialist ambitions repeatedly expressed since 2014, we would automatically be the next ones at risk of occupation, as Moldova did not have the capacity to fight back armed.

Second – THE PRO AND CON ATTITUDE. Moldova having been part of the Soviet Union for many years, there are still many nostalgic people who see Russia as the only salvation, which has created rifts and divergences within parochial communities.

Thirdly – THE REFUGEES. From the early days, Ukrainian citizens (mostly women and children) began to arrive, fleeing the war and in need of help. Although no one was prepared for such a situation, both society and the church showed exemplary mobilisation in offering a help.

Thus, the Catholic Church in Moldova made available all its structures, parishes and resources, human and material, to help. Caritas and all other charitable organisations have made it a priority to receive, house, feed and provide all necessary assistance.

At parish level, family networks have been set up to provide rooms, apartments or houses free of charge. Parish doctors offered medical consultations, often going to where people were staying; psychologists offered their services to help those in shock, panic, stress.

In other words, the whole diocesan community, from organisations, parishes and the faithful, got actively involved to be there for our brothers and neighbours.

After the first few months when the priority was accommodation and the provision of what was needed, it was found that the accommodation and food provided alone were no longer enough. So we started to organize courses and programs for children, summer camps, involvement of adults in different activities, even employment for some.

Special attention is given to women who are pregnant or who have given birth on the territory of the Republic of Moldova after 24 February 2022, which is a project of the Bishop of Chisinau, Mons. Anton Coşa.

The situation is currently stable. Some have left for EU countries, many have returned to Ukraine (which are from areas where there is no direct fighting, only sporadic bombing), but all church structures continue to be full of refugees and every day they are given all the assistance and help they need and we will continue to be with them as long as we can and as long as it is necessary.

Pr. Mihai Bălan, Parish priest in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova