



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

Register Now
www.catholicactionforum.org

Online

Languages: English | Ukrainian | Italian | Spanish

Testimony from the countries

Olena Penjazeva

from Odessa to Oradea in Romania, currently in Canada

Your Beatitude, dear friends Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу! Laudat sa fie Iesus kristos.

We all are going through difficult times now, and the context of the terrible war is written into the life history of every Ukrainian.

The fact, that I am now temporarily in Canada, so far from my beloved Odessa, is exclusively connected with the war. But these months I had a special experience of God's presence. His mercy touched me through other people everywhere. And I want to share this... with you.

I want to say about the Church. universal and united by the body of Jesus Christ. When we left Odessa with three children in the car on the first day of the war, we were received by the Romanian Greek Catholic Church. For 6 months we lived in the house of the bishopric of Oradea under the care of Bishop Virgil. We became family, great friends and I am most grateful not only for the house and food, but for the opportunity to be part of the Church community in Oradea.

And also I want to say about the role of the Catholic action and all of us. Our sister Codruca Fernea wrote to me on the first morning of the war just as we were on our way to Romania and proposed help. Thanks to her, not only my family, but also many other Ukrainian families were able to get temporary housing in Romania. mulțumesc foarte mult

And this solidarity, brotherhood--- are the fruits of our past meeting in Odessa. The Catholic action is active!!!

I want to talk about God's touch here in Canada. One Catholic family invited us to their home for the first weeks to help and integrate with life in Canada. This 6

months Refugees from the occupied territories live in my apartment in Odessa. But other people also opened the doors of their homes to me. In the name of Jesus Christ, the circle of mercy does not stop the movement.

But most of all, I want to say about the importance for me of the Church at home - I want to share with you my love for the Odessa Exarchate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Home is not walls. This is the place of your heart and your life. This is the place to which the Lord has called me. A place of pulsation of my heart. The war took away our territories, but it didn't take away unity and community.

On the other side of the ocean, I remain faithful to my work, to our bishop Michael Bubniy and to my Church. I am waiting for the Victory, returning home and active work to restore the life of the Exarchate. We really believe in Renaissance after victory.

Our story is completely Biblical. I see around me people who have stepped out of the pages of the Holy Scriptures to show the face of Christ.

Our parishes have now become a place of divine mercy. We see the sacrificial *секрiфiшл* volunteer work of our priests and parishioners. everyone works to help refugees and the army

The history of our people, of our Ukraine, is also completely biblical. The Lord will restore everything that was destroyed. All occupied territories will return. All broken hearts will sing a song of glory. Home towns will take back all refugees. Life in our parishes will resume, we will see the triumph of joy.

And the last thing I want to share is the experience of trusting God in moments of life when it seems to you that life is crumbling into small pieces. That the past life is destroyed. And the future is unknown.

At this moment, I choose complete trust in the Lord. I put my life and my home in his hands. I believe in his mercy to us. I believe in the victory of light after dark night. I believe in the truth and in the power of God. I believe in goodness and unity. And I believe that we can unite in the name of Jesus Christ to be his hands, to be his face and his deeds in a place where we are called.