



WEEK THREE  
-----  
**St. Martin Center  
at Fastiv**



*I cordially welcome you to the page of the Christian Center of St. Martin de Porres. I want to share with you our motto: “We strive to give the child at least one day in safety, warmth, and satiety. A smile is gratitude.”* Father Mykhailo Romaniv OP ([St. Martin Center](#))

**Our Credo**

*From the European Lay Dominican Newsletter*  
Since 2014 and even in the midst of the escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war with Russia and separatists continues to wage in the eastern Donbass region. Yet people throughout the country feel the impacts of the war. Dominicans are very involved in several programs and projects that promote peace and the accompaniment of victims of the conflict. In the search for peace the Dominicans in the Ukraine are participating in several youth projects.

*One project, in particular, will be the focus of the Dominican Month for Peace to provide spiritual and financial support. This is the St. Martin de Porres Center in Fastiv, which, for many years, has been caring for socially disadvantaged children: orphans, street children, sick children and children from disadvantaged families. Since the start of hostilities in Eastern Ukraine, the Center has opened its doors to children whose childhood has been poisoned by war. It has hosted more than 220 children from the combat zone, and offered them psychological and spiritual support and the opportunity to recover in a safe environment.*

3rd September 2020.NEWS By [Editor ECLDF](#)

**The main goal of the St. Martin Center is to provide comprehensive assistance to people in difficult and hopeless life circumstances, especially among the youngest and weakest children with disabilities. Prevention of child neglect, which is a continuation of the service of the House of St. Martin de Porres**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** The Center implements integrative Christian education for children as young as 3 years of age, as well as provides rehabilitation services for people with disabilities.

**HELP IN A CRISIS:** The Center’s activities are aimed at providing comprehensive assistance to people in difficult circumstances especially lonely underage mothers and homeless people.

**EVANGELIZATION:** The heart and strength of our ministry is the Service of God and Adoration. Course Alpha, Preacher, Light from on high are our evangelistic projects.

**CULTURAL SPACE:** On the campus of the Center, there is a recreational and sports complex, a social enterprise – San Angelo Theater Studio.

# LAST YEAR, THE CENTER REPORTED

**20,570** lunches for children who visit the Center.

**150** children covered by the rehabilitation clinic

**114,570** pounds of clothes collected and distributed to the needy

## MOTHER AND CHILD'S HOUSE

**Mrs. Zina** At the age of 73, she raised 11 children, two of her own and 9 foster children, had grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and, in her old age, she took care of two more granddaughters because their mother left them as babies. Unfortunately, she suffered from psychological and physical violence from her own adult children. Therefore, in the winter of 2017, neighbors from the village of Stavyshe and a local priest brought Mrs. Zina and her granddaughters to our Center to save them from danger. The girls' eyes changed. And, instead of tears, we saw smiles more and more often. Eight months later, Ms. Zina took her "children" to her eldest daughter, probably feeling that "time is short." She died in 3 months. We know that the granddaughters were already under the care of the eldest daughter, that is, safe. We are grateful to Ms. Zina for her testimony of sacrificial motherhood. May she rest in peace.

**Valentina** "I am 43 years old, I have two children but unfortunately, I am now homeless. I have a house in Kyiv, but I have to rent it out to have at least some income. Two years ago, I even lived at the train station, where I often received hot lunches from Caritas with my children. There I first heard about Fastiv and the Center from my brother Sebastian. I did not have the strength to go and delayed for almost another year. The first time I arrived I stayed for only for 8 days. When we took a warm shower and ate, I began to feel safe after many years of homelessness. Here my boys, who could hardly talk, went to the developing children's space for the first time. With the care, love and help of the Center's my boys grew stronger and started talking. I am grateful for their help. Today we live in the village of Kotsyubynske. My children are finishing the 2nd grade, and although there are a lot of problems, we always remember that time with warmth and a smile, because it was 6 months of calm and peaceful life, like at home!"

**Fatima** I am 29 years old. My story is very interesting and sad. There were 5 of us in the family. I am the oldest. In 2003, our house burned down, and I lived without documents until I was 25. I came to St. Martin's House, because it was warm, and you could always eat delicious food. I dreamed of my family where alcohol was often abused. All I was wanted peace. In 2014, I met a man who "loved" me. However, I was locked up in the house like in prison for the whole day. One day I ran to St. Martin's Center because I had nowhere else to go. A few days later I became very ill, and a week later, at 5 months of pregnancy, my son Yakub was born prematurely. If it weren't for the help of the St. Martin's Center, neither I nor my son would be safe. Today Yakub is 3 years old, and I am still learning to be a mother!



# REHABILITATION SPACE

## *Saint Martin's Center eagerly helps people with disabilities*

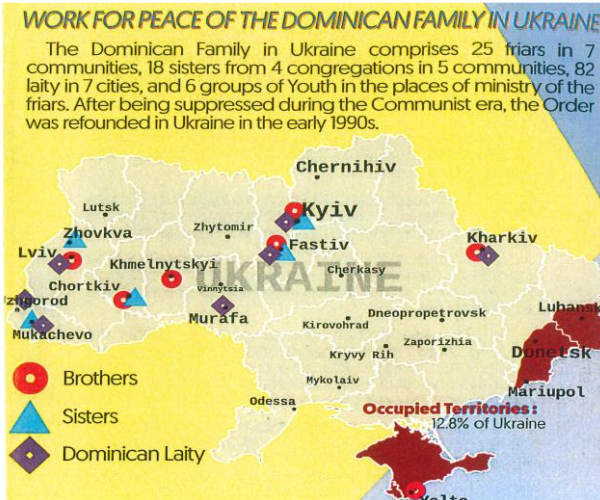
We invite children and adults with neurological and mental disorders or diseases of the musculoskeletal system. The most important task of the Rehabilitation Space is to receive any disabled person who will contact us (regardless of age and social status), and to provide comprehensive professional assistance in accordance with the individual rehabilitation program (IPR). [\(Read more\)](#)

**Dima** My name is Tatiana, I am raising two wonderful sons, we live in the area of Fastiv, since 2016. We try every day to come from the village for rehabilitation to the Saint Martin Center. The most difficult thing for us is to get there in winter, because I have to go over 1.5 km to the bus stop, and, if it's winter or ice, the bus may not come at all. My son needs rehabilitation all the time. The rehabilitation specialist – Ms. Olga - chose for us the optimal intensity and comprehensive rehabilitation. This year, he began classes at the School of St. Martin. He has learned to communicate better with people. His vocabulary and pronunciation of words has improved significantly. Asked to repeat various words, he pronounces them very correctly (with syllables, vowels – some consonants are not yet pronounced). He learned new sounds and follows instructions. Most importantly he follows directions using words instead of shouting. I really liked the way that learning, exercises and socialization all work together. Thank you!



**Viktor** We live almost next to Kiev, 54 km from Fastiv. Every day we come to rehabilitation with our son. We see changes that make us very happy. Meeting with other mothers and having conversations help us overcome everyday difficulties. Thank you for professional help and support for our family. We do not expect everything to change in one day, but we see Viktor becoming calmer every day, overcoming difficulties and confidently moving forward with hope.

# REHABILITATION OF “GRAY ZONE” CHILDREN



## Our beginnings

In 2016, together with the Christian Rescue Service, we launched a project to support children living in the “gray zone” in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (regions). Every day the children are fearful that the grenade will hit their house, that their parents will be hurt, or some other violent reality will happen to them. Rehabilitation and recreation of “gray zone children” is a sign of our solidarity and compassion for suffering kids. In eastern Ukraine, volunteers form a group of up to 10 people and organize escorts to Fastiv. The target group are children from the neediest families with many children or social orphans, as well as disabled children. Of course, we cannot answer all their needs or cure war trauma

within 7 days, but we can provide a week of real, carefree childhood in the House of Saint Martin.

Every day, children receive a full range of rehabilitation services: psychological support and individual consultations, halotherapy and relaxation massage, water procedures in the jacuzzi with chromotherapy, outdoor fitness classes and support from the scoliosis prevention practitioner. Consultations with a dentist and dental treatment are extremely valuable for children. Classes in the ceramic and carpentry workshop, recreational and educational trips as well as nutritious homemade food leave an unforgettable experience in the memory of children. All this helps strengthen mental resilience. This time gives children hope that one day peace will come to their city. We strive to expand the scope of our services, and, in addition, to rehabilitation stays, we also organize summer holidays for children in their dream places.

3 YEARS – 30 STAYS,  
 MORE THAN 350 CHILDREN  
 FROM 7 TO 16 YEARS OLD

**WEEK FOUR:** We Raise Our Voices in Justice letters  
**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Financial support of Dominican ministries

