
September 28, 2026



Most Reverend and Right Reverend Bishops!

With this letter, I am addressing you in response to the initiative of your representatives on the Patriarchal Council, who gathered in Lviv for their meeting.

As winter approaches, millions of Ukrainians are anxiously and fearfully awaiting the coming winter. Last winter, repeated attacks on Ukraine's energy and critical infrastructure caused serious disruptions in the supply of electricity, heat, and water during severe frosts. In particular, in January 2026, thousands of residential apartment buildings were left without heating and water when the air temperature fell to

approximately -12°C .

Today, the United Nations warns that Ukraine is facing the harshest winter since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion — one that, if Russian attacks on energy infrastructure intensify, could turn into a humanitarian catastrophe. This threat concerns not only the energy grid but also food infrastructure, including warehouses, logistics centres, and food transportation

Back in 2022, in response to the challenges of the war, the Patriarchal Foundation **“Wise Cause”** launched two humanitarian projects in the areas of food security and the provision of safe spaces.

Since then, **29 Points of Heating (“Points of Invincibility”)** have been established in the eastern, central, and southern regions of Ukraine to help people survive the winter. Very quickly, these centres became much more than places where people could warm themselves and access communications. They have developed into centres of social and humanitarian service, including places for distributing aid as well as for meetings of volunteers, local residents, and students.

Today, these centres once again primarily serve as support points for people who have been left without electricity, heat, or water. Here, people can warm themselves, charge devices, receive hot tea and food, and more. A similar situation exists in our

parishes in the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, many of which operate as warming points for everyone who needs them, regardless of religious affiliation.

However, without reliable electricity supplies, neither these centres nor the parishes can operate effectively. To address this problem, we plan to equip the Points of Invincibility and Ukrainian Catholic parishes with **inverter systems with batteries**. These systems store energy when electricity is available in the grid and provide backup power during prolonged outages. The cost of one such system (inverter and battery) is **€7,700**.

Another important area of activity of **“Wise Cause”** is food security. In response to the acute shortage of food products in regions affected by the occupation or directly affected by military operations, in May 2022 we launched an emergency food assistance project. Thanks to a network of local partners in the central, eastern, and southern regions of Ukraine, we have distributed more than **205,000 food packages** to people affected by the war, particularly in frontline communities.

In addition, our **Charitable Kitchen**, which has been operating in Kyiv since January 2023, prepares and distributes **200–400 hot meals every day** to people from vulnerable groups in Kyiv and the surrounding region.

Both projects are actively operating and can be rapidly scaled up in the event of a widespread need. Our capacity allows us to prepare up to **5,000 food packages per week** and **1,000 hot meals per day**.

However, scaling up these initiatives requires timely financial support that will enable us to respond quickly and effectively to people's needs during a crisis. The cost of one food package is **€19**, while the cost of one hot meal is **€4.90**.

Therefore, we sincerely ask you to support these initiatives with whatever contribution you are able to make, in order to help the people of Ukraine endure and survive this winter.

Yours sincerely in Christ, our Lord,

† SVIATOSLAV