

By Don Turbitt
COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for UKRAINE & POLAND

Don has been a Catholic lay leader for over forty-five years. He has coordinated the People of God's Love Prayer Group; led parish missions and conferences throughout the US, Europe, Africa, and Vietnam; and continues his work overseas as Renewal Ministries' country coordinator in Poland, Ukraine, Slovenia, Belarus, Ireland, and Latvia.

Don and his wife Pat live in Glocester, Rhode Island, and have three children, thirteen grandchildren, and one great-grandson.



Spreading the GOSPEL in Ukraine & Poland

This mission began in Kiev, Ukraine, at a Franciscan church where my wife, Pat, and I have ministered for several years.

- Fr. Blazej Susko, OFM Cap, is the head of all the Franciscan Capuchins in the Ukraine and has become a friend over the years.

A community group meets in this church and is building a solid group of committed Catholics. I ministered to them with a weekend retreat. Thirty men received teachings on Friday and all day Saturday. On Sunday, I taught and prayed with approximately 200 men and women.

On Monday, I was in Stawyszcz, at Fr. Marek Rudz's church. I say "church," but it's actually his house, with a large room for Mass. Fr. Marek pastors two churches, with a total congregation of about fifty people. He told me he was so fulfilled working with these people, rather than in a big parish in Poland. We had Mass, a teaching, and I prayed with all of the people.

Next, we drove to Zytomer, where I visited a Benedictine monastery. I met with these particular sisters last year, and they were eager for my return visit. Last year, I gave them a spontaneous teaching that pleased them and actually surprised me.

Consequently, I was eager to return and share another teaching with them. The monastery has a morning Mass open to the public. At the end of Mass, the priest was going to leave the monstrance out for exposition. When the priest opened the tabernacle, a young man ran up, grabbed the host, and wouldn't let it go. It took some time for his mother and sister to get the host away from him, and the rest of us prayed aloud for him. I used the situation to show how some Catholics don't believe in the real presence of God in the Eucharist, yet Satan obviously does believe in the true presence. It was a great opportunity for a teaching moment. I prayed over each of the sisters and then returned to the parish.



⦿ Fr. Blazej Susko, OFM Cap, is the head of all the Franciscan Capuchins in the Ukraine and a friend to Country Coordinator Don Turbitt.



Don Turbitt ministered to Fr. Marek Rudz's congregation of fifty people.

Work with MOSJI Bears Fruit

That evening, we had Mass with Fr. Jaroslaw Olszewski, SAC. I gave a teaching and prayed over about 200 people. They are working at building a men's group in the parish, but it is a slow process.

The following day, Andrzej Lewek (from Poland) drove me seven hours to Drohobych to meet with Fr. Ihor Kozankevych. He took us to a house for recovering alcoholics and drug abusers. We had Mass with forty men and a team of ten men and women workers. After my teaching, the men came forward with very sincere requests for prayer. They are now building a second house, hoping to double the patients.

The next day, we attended Mass at the Ukrainian Catholic Caritas Center. After Mass, I gave a teaching to some adult and young people with disabilities and their caregivers. There was a psychologist present, and I wasn't sure how she would react to my very faith-based presentation. At the end, I prayed over everyone, and when I prayed over her, she began to weep tears of relief for her own personal struggle.

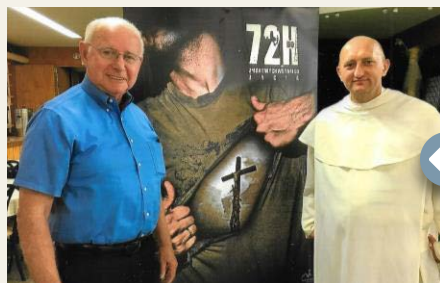
The priest and two laymen have a room in the center where they minister and pray every day, but they haven't seen many positive results. So I prayed with them for the release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially healing. It ended up being a good conversation for Andrzej and me also.

Finally, we were blessed to celebrate the feast of the Exultation at Fr. Dennis Shastakovich's small parish called Exultation of the Cross. We celebrated with Mass and adoration. I gave a teaching and prayed with 120 people. There are only one hundred parishioners in that church, but all left very blessed. We then drove to the city of Gorodno for a weekend parish retreat. Approximately seventy people attended. My presentation included a very challenging question-and-answer period. I prayed over everyone on Saturday night, and I expect to return next year to hear some excellent witnesses. ✠

Don Turbitt's mission outreach extends beyond his work with Renewal Ministries, as does the work of many of our country coordinators. He also serves extensively in Poland and in promoting The Men of St. Joseph International (MOSJI.) We want to share with you some of the amazing fruit Don's ministry is bearing:



I recently was invited to lead a retreat for a group of Men of St. Joseph International in St. Stanislaus Parish in New York City. God has blessed me by giving me numerous opportunities to initiate men's groups in various places, mainly because of my connections with Poland. This was yet another group of men all born in Poland, but now living in the US and desiring to stay connected to other Polish men and the Church.



The pastor, Fr. Ladensz Lizinczyk, OSPPE, requested that I lead a parish retreat weekend. Sebastian Gryka is the lay leader in charge of the group. It was very well organized, with approximately twenty men in attendance. I also was given an opportunity to speak to the parish's Charismatic group.

For me, the highlight of giving a retreat is praying with the attendees. Almost all of the men rested in the Spirit and experienced the power and peace of the Holy Spirit, which was the first time anyone from that group experienced that. Several witnessed to experiencing the power of God, and a young man named Andrzej witnessed to his back being instantly healed. When he came forward for prayer, I asked him what he wanted Jesus to do for him. He said, "My lower back, it's been bad for a long time." I asked him when he wanted it to be healed. He said, "Now!" I prayed over him, and he rested in the Spirit, and then I continued praying for the remainder of the men. When prayer ministry was over, Andrzej got off the floor and said the pain was gone! Andrzej was healed!

“ ALMOST ALL OF THE MEN RESTED IN THE SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE POWER AND PEACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... ”

I am so blessed to see how many men's lives have changed for the better, emotionally and spiritually, through Men of St. Joseph International (MOSJI). While I was writing this report, I received a call from Poland. Andrzej Lewek, MOSJI leader of Poland, told me he had just returned from Czestochowa's MOSJI Conference. They originally expected 2000 men to attend. Days before the conference, 1500 more men registered, and then 5000 men showed up for the conference! This was the largest men's conference ever in Poland.

GOD IS ON THE MOVE—ALL GLORY TO THE LORD FOR THIS BLESSED WORK!