



STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS  
OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA  
ON THE  
**FOURTH ANNIVERSARY**  
**OF THE UNJUSTIFIED AND UNPROVOKED FULL-SCALE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE**

On the solemn commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the unjustified and unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA raises its collective voice before God and the world.

As shepherds of Christ's Holy Church, we stand in prayerful intercession before Almighty God, imploring His mercy, protection, and peace for the people of Ukraine; for those who courageously defend the God-given right to life, freedom, dignity, and sovereignty; and for all who continue to suffer because of this brutal and ongoing war.

The people of Ukraine defend not only their territorial integrity, but their sacred inheritance - the freedom to worship and glorify God, to speak their native language, to cherish their ancestral land, and to live according to the principles of freedom, responsibility, and democracy. These God-given rights are being violently challenged and systematically violated by the aggression of the Russian Federation.

Even during the sacred season of the Nativity of our Lord - when the world proclaims peace on earth and goodwill among all - millions in Ukraine were left in darkness and cold, without heat, electricity, or basic necessities. Children have been orphaned, women widowed, families displaced, cities destroyed, and countless innocent lives lost. Human suffering has reached unspeakable depths.

We cannot - and must not - remain silent!

The sanctity of human life stands at the very heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The deliberate killing, torture, and displacement of innocent people is a grave sin before God and a crime against humanity. True peace cannot be built upon lies, coercion, or injustice. It cannot be achieved by demanding that Ukraine surrender Crimea, its eastern regions, or any part of its God-given homeland in exchange for an illusory ceasefire. Peace without truth, repentance, and responsibility is not peace at all.

We therefore continue to unequivocally condemn the actions of the Russian Federation against the people and nation of Ukraine and call upon the international community to remain steadfast in defending truth, justice, and life.

At the same time, we offer heartfelt gratitude to the people of the United States of America. Through compassion, generosity, and unwavering moral support, the American people - of many backgrounds, nationalities, and religious traditions - have extended invaluable assistance to the suffering people of Ukraine. Through the humanitarian ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA - whether through the Metropolia offices or through individual parishes - we have witnessed countless acts of sacrificial love: food delivered, medical aid provided, refugees welcomed, children sheltered, and hope restored.

We bow our heads in gratitude and lift up our prayers to God for all who have stood with Ukraine. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your love, your courage, and your faithfulness to the Gospel commandment to care for “the least of these.”

We also issue a strong and urgent call to Orthodox Christian communities throughout the world. This is a moment of moral clarity. Silence in the face of evil is not neutrality - it is complicity. We call upon Orthodox faithful, clergy, theologians, and hierarchs everywhere to stand firmly for the sanctity of human life, to speak the truth without fear, and to condemn aggression, genocide, and the misuse of religion to justify violence.

We further call upon religious leaders within the Russian Federation to come to their senses and to courageously denounce this war, the murders, and the destruction being carried out in the name of state power. In particular, we denounce the position of the Patriarchate of Moscow, which has chosen allegiance to political authority over fidelity to the Gospel of Christ, thereby scandalizing the faithful and betraying the sacred calling of the Church.

We pray and labor for peace - but peace rooted in truth, justice, repentance, and respect for the God-given dignity and sovereignty of the Ukrainian people.

May the Lord, Who Himself was born into poverty, persecution, and exile, grant comfort to the afflicted, strength to the defenders of life, wisdom to the leaders of nations, and a just and lasting peace to Ukraine and to the world.

*With prayers, gratitude, and unwavering witness,*

**† Metropolitan Antony**

**† Archbishop Daniel**

