

Letter from the XIV Roman General Chapter of the Order of Saint Basil the Great of Saint Josaphat to the Ukrainian people

On February 24, 2022, the Ukrainian people suffered a brutal attack from the Russian Federation, which is a continuation of the undeclared war that has been going on since 2014. In this difficult time, we, the members of the XIV Roman General Chapter of the Order of Saint Basil the Great of Saint Josaphat, want to assure every Ukrainian of our support and to express our closeness with them.

Our General Chapter represents the entire Basilian Order (Ukrainian Rite), which is present in thirteen countries. In one way or another, the war has affected every Basilian. Among us are representatives of the people who suffer, as well as those who help those who are suffering. Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, our Basilian community has extended a helping hand in various ways where there is the greatest need. Presently, we continue to carry out our unchanging mission - opening the doors of our monasteries to forced migrants and refugees both in Ukraine and beyond, organizing humanitarian aid, carrying for the soldiers and their needs, as well as providing pastoral care. We are faithful to the ideals of our holy founders and have a firm intention to continue to be close to the Ukrainian people.

We thank the brave defenders of the Ukrainian Nation, the dedicated medical personnel and the selfless volunteers. Our prayers go also to those who suffered and died as a result of the hostilities of the war. We express our closeness and support to the families who have lost their loved ones. These days, Ukraine is not alone - God is actively present through the fraternal support, empathy and openness of many nations and Ukrainians abroad.

Our common fight continues and together we are marching toward the victorious dawn. We work for the Lord, confident that our suffering is not in vain, because suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope (Romans 5:4-5). May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Basil the Great and the great son of the Ukrainian people, the holy martyr Josaphat, be our constant support and help.

Participants of the XIV Roman General Chapter of the Order of Saint Basil the Great of Saint Josaphat

Rome, Italy
23 July, 2022