

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin the Holy Season of Lent, we are called to fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Let us remember in our prayers the people of Ukraine who are suffering the ravages of a brutal war of aggression by Russia. We see every day how this brutality is affecting men, women, children, the elderly and infirm. Children and the elderly are being forced from their homes in an attempt to flee destruction.

None of us can imagine our lives being upended as the Ukrainian people are enduring. In the middle of winter they are without heat, electricity, food and medicine. Many of the elderly, walking with crutches, must tread through snow, water and mud trying to find safety. We cannot help but be moved to have compassion for our fellow human beings. Please remember them in your prayers. Pray also that national leaders will be moved to seek peaceful means to resolve their differences.

Many have asked how they could help monetarily. Donations will be used to provide food, medicine and even warm clothes. If anyone wishes to help, donations may be given to your pastor or to me at the Diocesan Offices, 1408 Carmel Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501, marked "Ukrainian Relief". The United States Conference of Bishops has a close relationship with the Ukrainian Bishops and any donations will be forwarded to them for relief efforts.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel  
Bishop of Lafayette



*Diocese of Lafayette*