



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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March 18, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every day we witness the unfolding tragedy in Ukraine as innocent and vulnerable civilians, even those in shelter and hospitals, are targeted by Russian military forces. This unjust war has produced a humanitarian crisis of enormous proportions and has threatened the peace and stability of the whole world.

Pope Francis has actively appealed for peace, has arranged for much humanitarian assistance, and has led the whole Church in praying for the victims of this war. Very recently, His Holiness decided to consecrate Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation, Friday, March 25. He has invited the bishops of the world to join him in this Act of Consecration. **Accordingly, I will celebrate Holy Mass that same day at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. I cordially invite you to attend this special Mass.**

In addition, the Holy Father has asked that priests throughout the world participate in his Act of Consecration. I have informed the priests of the Archdiocese of the Holy Father's invitation, with the promise to send more information early next week. **I also invite every Catholic in the Archdiocese of Baltimore to pray a Rosary next Friday for the suffering people of Ukraine and for a swift end to this war.**

Let me offer a further word of thanks for your generosity to the Ukraine. Catholic relief agencies such as Catholic Relief Services (located here in Baltimore) are doing heroic work in Ukraine. May the healing balm of Christ's love reach those in need through our continued charity.

As we reach the midpoint of our Lenten journey, please count on my prayers for you and your loved ones. And please remember me in your prayers, now and again.

With kind personal regards, I remain

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore