



BRIAN BOWMAN  
MAYOR • MAIRE

March 3, 2022

Father Dmytro Dnistrian  
St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church  
250 Jefferson Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R2V 0M6

Dear Father Dnistrian and Parishioners of St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church,

When the terrible news that Ukraine had been invaded first reached me, I wrote immediately to His Worship Andriy Sadovyi, Mayor of our Sister City, Lviv. I told him that the people of Winnipeg are united in our care and concern for the people of Lviv, and all Ukraine. I also assured him that the people of Winnipeg are united in prayer for the safety and security of all Ukrainians in the midst of this cruel and unprovoked attack.

I have been deeply moved to see Winnipeggers of all denominations and all religious faiths join as one to pray for peace in Ukraine. In so doing, we have followed the inspiring example set by the many Ukrainian-Canadian faith communities here in our city. In heartfelt words, in sacred music, and in countless acts of charity and devotion, you have reminded us all how important it is to keep hope alive, even in the darkest times.

Faith and courage are woven through the story of Ukraine and its people, like the bright threads of a treasured *rushnyk*. I know that this courage is being sorely tested now, but I am sure it will prevail – and that Ukrainians' love of freedom and democracy, will prevail.

As we approach the holiest season of the Christian year, I want you to know that I am praying with you and the members of your parish (cathedral) community. For the courage of those defending Ukraine; for those killed and wounded in the struggle against tyranny; for all those who are being made to suffer, especially children, the elderly, and those with disabilities; for those driven from their homes and seeking shelter; and for all those who are grieving or fearful for loved ones.

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May God keep them all, and may God bless and support you in your continued intercessions and action to support the people of Ukraine. My heart is with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Brian Bowman, J.D., B.A. (Adv.), CPA (Hon.), CGA (Hon.)  
Mayor  
The City of Winnipeg