

December 7, 2020
Kyiv-Lviv-Mukachevo

**To the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences
taking part in the "Pope for Ukraine" initiative**

**Your Eminence,
Your Excellency,**

As you are well aware, in April 2016, His Holiness Pope Francis initiated a pan-European collection to deal with the humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine, caused by Russian military aggression. The Churches of Europe, many charitable organizations, and people of good will have responded very generously to this appeal to help the people affected. In today's world, where wars and misfortunes have become almost commonplace, His Holiness has succeeded in stirring the hearts of the European community, and has set an example of care and compassion toward one's neighbor, and to a country abandoned in the tragedy of war. The Holy Father's initiative has collected more than ten million euros, including another five million euros donated by Pope Francis, himself.

As a result of the "Pope for Ukraine" campaign, funds raised have given birth to a number of projects intended to provide humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and victims of war. Moreover, the humanitarian aid was provided without reference to religious beliefs, Christian denomination, ethnicity or political affiliation.

As the hierarchs of the Catholic Churches in Ukraine, we express our sincere gratitude to your Episcopal Conference for contributing to this collection initiated by Pope Francis. Your gesture of mercy has become for all of the victims not only a significant financial support, but also a ray of hope and an invaluable witness of the true and active love of Christ. For us, it has become yet another visible sign of the solidarity of the Universal Church with the suffering and needy around the world.

Unfortunately, the war in our country is still continuing. Therefore, we ask you to remember the Ukrainian people in your prayers. For our part, we promise to pray for Your Excellency/Your Eminence and all of the faithful entrusted to your pastoral care.

With heartfelt gratitude and fraternal love,

+ His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk
*Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych,
Head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church*

+ Most Rev. Mieczysław Mokrzycki
*Archbishop of Lviv of the Latins,
President "ad interim" of the Conference of
Roman Catholic Bishops in Ukraine*

+ Nil Lushchak
*Apostolic Administrator
of the Eparchy of Mukachevo*