

President Maher's Message on the War in Ukraine

“How pleased Our Lord is with your concern for the relief of His suffering members.”

— St. Vincent de Paul

March 1, 2022

Dear Members of the Niagara University Community,

During a crisis, we often take comfort in individuals and organizations who become a source of inspiration and relief to the suffering. As we watch the news of the escalating conflict in Eastern Europe, our Vincentian heart calls us to serve and support the Ukrainians in their home country and worldwide.

If you are looking for a way to support those most deeply impacted, I would ask you to consider a donation to Depaul International, a London-based charity that is part of the Vincentian Family of organizations. Depaul works directly with the displaced in Ukraine and the Ukrainian refugees pouring into Slovakia. I can assure you that Depaul International is of the very highest caliber and is trustworthy. Its website updates the situation every four hours.

Last week, Pope Francis reminded us that God is “...the God of peace and not of war, who is the father of all and not only of some, who wants us to be brothers and sisters and not enemies.” As Christians around the world begin preparations for Lent, Pope Francis has asked that we mark March 2, Ash Wednesday, as a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine.

Today I ask you to join me in prayer and reflection for the people of Ukraine—for those still living in that region and the thousands of individuals of Ukrainian descent who live around the world. May the strength of God provide them with faith for the future, and may He guide us all to a peaceful end to this senseless violence.

With prayers for peace,

James J. Maher, C.M.