

*Father Maher's Reflections on the War in Ukraine*

*Feb. 23, 2024*

***"Let us continue our help and intensify prayer, especially to ask for the gift of peace in the world." — Pope Francis***

This weekend marks two years since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, beginning the largest attack on a European country since World War II. Since Feb. 24, 2022, more than 10,000 civilians have lost their lives in this senseless conflict.

Last month, Pope Francis cautioned that the war in Ukraine was being forgotten and condemned the conflict. Saying that strikes on civilians and infrastructure were "vile, unacceptable and cannot be justified in any way," he continued to urge the international community, and all involved to seek peaceful solutions.

Today, we remember the hundreds of thousands of individuals who have been impacted by the war globally. I ask you to join me in prayer and reflection for the people of Ukraine—for those still living in that region and for the thousands of individuals of Ukrainian descent who live around the world. May God continue to give them strength each day, and may He provide them with faith and hope for the future.

Let us intensify our prayers for an end of violence and remember the words of Pope Paul VI, "If you want peace, work for justice!"