

Український  
Католицький  
Університет



Ukrainian  
Catholic  
University

вул. Іл. Свенціцького, 17,  
м. Львів, 79011  
тел.: (38/032) 240-99-40  
факс: (38/032) 240-99-50

Ilariona Svientsitsko St., 17  
Lviv, 79011, Ukraine  
email: info@ucu.edu.ua  
www.ucu.edu.ua

*Lviv, February 24, 2022*

### **Dear Partners of UCU and Ukraine!**

Today, on the 24th of February, at 5.00 AM the armed forces of the Russian Federation backed by the Republic of Belarus launched an intensive shelling of numerous Ukrainian cities and delivered missile/bomb strikes on the military infrastructure of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. At the same time, the aggressor started artillery shelling of the areas and settlements along the state border and administrative boundary with the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea.

This war has been going on for the last 8 years, but today, Ukraine and the whole world face the greatest danger since 2014. Do not believe that this war was provoked by Ukraine. We are a peaceful people defending right now our Motherland and a right to live in a free democratic country!

We call on now all our Partners abroad to be alert and show your solidarity with the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian academic community. The evil is revealed now, and there is no space for cajoling the aggressor. Now, more than ever, we need the support of the entire global academic community. It will be extremely helpful for us if you approach your governments with institutional and/or individual appeals to support Ukraine with military, economic, and humanitarian assistance and to impose devastating sanctions against Russia. Remaining silent and apathetic are the greatest enemies right now.

This war is not just the war of the Russian Federation with Ukraine. The Kremlin's regime is ruining the fundamentals of international order. So, for all of us, this is the war of the entire civilized world against dictatorship and against violation of the basic rules of international law.

Despite the harsh circumstances and no matter how great the challenges stemming from today's world crisis, our spirit remains strong, and together with the help of our Lord, strong Ukrainian Army, and inexhaustible global academic support, we are – incomparably stronger to defeat the evil that rebelled against humanity!

Ukraine strongly needs your support!

Please, pray for the peace and victory of Ukraine!

With sincere gratitude for your partnership,  
Rev. Dr. Bogdan Prach  
Rector



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