



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

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Rome, February 25th 2022.

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Ukraine!

May the Lord grant you peace!

This greeting which wishes peace has today a special strength, a special meaning. I would like to express my solidarity and that of the whole Presidency with you. In the middle of such terrible things, like the war you are suffering from now, we always ask God, why could it happen? Is there a chance for better days?

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.¹

We don't have anything else but this faith and hope for better days. Do not let your faith be broken. I know that it is difficult to believe in peace when you are in the middle of a terrible war, but please, do not let your faith be broken. Do not give up believing in the strength of the solidarity, in the strength of the fraternal love. Jesus Christ is on your side. Support one another, pray for one another.

You have to know that though we cannot imagine that fear, suffering, concerns, that you feel now, we are as much close to you as possible, with our prayers, with our full solidarity, with our fraternal love. The entire Presidency of the CIOFS is praying for you and is following as closely as possible what is happening with you, with your people, with your country. Your suffering is also our suffering, your pain is our pain, too.

I wish I could send you this letter written in Ukrainian, but I hope that you can understand also from these simple words of mine, how much I love you all, each and every one of you, one by one, and how deep is my concern for you. May the intercession of Mary, the Queen of peace grant you peace and much happier, peaceful days than the ones you have to go through today.

Your minor brother

Tibor Kauser
CIOFS General minister



¹ Mt. 10.28-31