March 1, 2022

Please read at the beginning of Mass for Ash Wednesday or Ash Wednesday Services

My Dear Friends in Christ:

As we embark into this holy season of Lent, I write with a special appeal for the Church in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, where a humanitarian crisis is unfolding. I ask that together we make a timely contribution and provide assistance in today’s special collection to the victims of war in Ukraine, among many other projects the Collection supports in the region.

As fellow Catholics in the United States, we are uniquely positioned to provide aid to the region, having built strong relationships with Churches in the former Soviet Republic Countries these past 30 years assisting them to respond to pastoral and social needs where the existence of the Church had been underground for nearly 70 years. A robust response from us will allow the Church here in the United States to continue to be a strong partner in the rebuilding and restoring of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and to give critical and timely humanitarian aid now for Ukraine.

Let us ask our Lady, Queen of Peace, to bring a swift end to the violence, and thank you for your support as fellow Christian disciples. I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton
Bishop of Steubenville