Wojna w Ukrainie: konflikt zbrojny a losy ludzi,
redakcja naukowa Łukasz Buksa OFM, ks. Dariusz Nawara, Kraków 2025, s. 7–8
https://doi.org/10.21906/9788376432649.01

Solidarity in the Face of War – A Reflection on the Human Burden and the Pursuit of Peace

Address of Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki, Metropolitan of Lviv

Praised be Jesus Christ!

I warmly welcome all participants of the Third International Scientific Conference *War in Ukraine: Armed Conflict and the Fate of People*, organized by Rev. Prof. Andrzej Zwoliński at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. I greet the speakers and the audience, all those who, through reflection on the events connected with the war, wish in any way to contribute to peace.

We live in a world whose reality this conference seeks to describe. While it is one thing to learn about war through press reports or even the testimonies of eyewitnesses, and another to experience it firsthand, every encounter with the reality of war should ultimately lead us to a conclusion close to the words spoken by John Paul II during his homily in Gdańsk on June 12, 1987, about solidarity:

> "Bear one another's burdens." This short sentence of the Apostle is an inspiration for interpersonal and social solidarity. Solidarity means: one and the other. And if there is a burden, then a burden carried together, in community. **Therefore never: one against the other. Some against others**.

The idea of solidarity in the face of war means supporting another person in carrying his or her burden. I trust that this very conference will also

be an expression of such support. On our part too, we strive to provide assistance to all whom we know are in need.

By necessity, scholarly reflection brings with it a certain level of generalization. We set aside details in order to draw universal conclusions. Yet here we must also confront the weight of the concrete. I have in mind above all such situations as the funerals of young people who have fallen in battle, the victims killed by rockets and bombs, the disabled returning from the front, people marked by fear in the face of danger–especially children. We stand amidst the victims of war, which has already robbed so many of life, health, property, joy, and the sense of security. And these victims include not only those directly engaged in the war, but also those who in one way or another bear its burden–unwillingly, by chance, or against their will drawn into the vortex of events.

These are situations that often overwhelm us. We cannot find the right words for them. Rather, silence. And so, all the more, we ask God for a good word–for you, dear participants, that you may fruitfully experience this time and make use of it for a good cause.

Keeping in mind the full drama of wartime, I would like to recall the words of St. Paul: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good!" I also ask that your intellectual reflection be accompanied by prayer–through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, to whom "belong time and eternity," true "power and dominion." For only He can bring to fulfillment, both in us and in those who bring death, the words spoken by God through the prophet Jeremiah: "I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jer 31:33). Let us pray for this, because only in this way shall we know peace. Let us pray, since human efforts alone are powerless to secure it.

I wish all participants of the conference that it may contribute not only to intellectual enrichment but also to spiritual growth, which today the world so greatly needs. I also impart to you all my blessing for the duration of your deliberations.