Glory to Jesus Christ!

June 27, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

In light of the tragic events taking place in Eastern Ukraine, due to unprovoked aggression of the enemy of freedom and sovereignty of Ukraine and its people, an initiative has been put forward by the League of Ukrainian Canadians and the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women to form a group of concerned citizens "Friends of Ukraine Defense Forces".

The goal of this group is to collect funds and help those, that are fulfilling their duty as patriots and loyal citizens of Ukraine in defending their nation. At the same time this fund has been established to assist those that are most vulnerable, the families and children of those serving in the armed forces of Ukraine. Christ teaches us: No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends (Jn. 15. 13).

Therefore, I bestow my paternal Episcopal blessing on this worthy and urgently needed immediate response to help our Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine. I praise the above mentioned organizations for their caring and timely response for the most urgent challenge our Ukrainian People are facing in their homeland and here in their Diaspora. With this message I appeal to your hearts and the generosity of all the faithful of the Toronto Eparchy.

+ Stephen Chmilar
Eparch of Toronto and Eastern Canada