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## **A Message of Hope**

My dear friends in Ukraine,

I am very happy to know you and to have the privilege to communicate with you.

Your presentations about your lived experience of the Russian invasion to my Educational Psychology class last fall left a profound mark on me.

You have given us your sacred story of suffering and resilience throughout a tragic period of violence.

I am happy that we share in our experience as students pursuing learning in higher education.

You have faced many more grave tribulations throughout your studies than I have.

You endure countless difficulties in earning your education and I admire your perseverance.

I am a Roman Catholic man in formation with the Salesians of Don Bosco.

I hope to become a priest at the end of my studies, God willing.

When I reflect on this Lenten experience and the upcoming Passion of Christ, I recognize how you walk with Christ in suffering and injustice.

Jesus overcame death and evil through his suffering, and I believe that your suffering is one with Jesus Christ.

Just as Jesus endured his Passion, death, and Resurrection, so we find hope that through our suffering we will rise to Easter joy and life.

For Jesus Christ is the light and “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).

The blessing I pray for you is for great hope, for with God we have everything.

God loves you very much, and he walks with you each day.

I am praying for you and your families.

God bless you all! Brother John Taylor