

Zelensky's Focus is Hope for the Future

With his world in chaos and the war becoming harder to fight, the President of Ukraine, amid the "darkest times for our state," speaks words of hope. Quotations on different days (*indicated*) reveal much about his aspirations.

He reminds the Portuguese government that there are 10 million displaced Ukrainians, which is equal to the entire population of Portugal. He says of displaced persons: While it is a common term for the people forced from their homes to other sections of their home country, such as from Kyiv to Lviv, he also uses it for those forced out of Ukraine completely. "We use the term 'displaced persons' to refer to them, these people. We hope that they will all be able to return home when it is safe. But when will it be? And what will be left of their house?" (*April 21, 2022*)

He expects that the people who left will return. One of the reasons for the expectation is that their husbands, fathers, and sons are still in Ukraine. They stayed behind to defend their homes and their country.

He has asked the world to supply therapists specializing in PTSD to come to Ukraine. If they cannot do so physically, he would like them to be in contact with the Ministry of Health when they can be coordinated with TeleHelp Ukraine. (*May 27, 2022*) This service provides online medical, psychological, and legal assistance. This program developed by medical students at Stanford University expanded to students of other medical schools and is supported by their professors. They also support medical personnel in Ukraine with professional consultations in the US.

The second reason is that Ukraine will need their help to create the Ukraine of the Future. "We've brought together the world's best educational institutions to support Ukrainian students and scholars with the opportunities for quality education and research to rebuild Ukraine." The Ukrainian Global University (*March, 2022*) will provide educational opportunities for displaced persons to continue their education online wherever they are in the world. When they return, they will not have fallen behind but rather be there to use their education in rebuilding Ukraine.

"For the people who experience and survive this terrible war, they will be yearning for knowledge and skills... Everyone is sick of this idleness. Life at our educational institutions is re-galvanized.... People want to continue with their lives, and work is an essential part of life, especially if you are an intellectual, researcher, or educator. They want to see their students—they want to see the future, even if only virtually on a cellphone or computer." (*May 16, 2022*)

Because of the war, he also asked American and European Universities to provide expertise in defense, cybersecurity, aeronautics, and healthcare to rebuild the country's war-torn economy and infrastructure. People outside of Ukraine and setting up funding to rebuild the physical structure of universities and libraries.

President Zelensky, in dealing with the present, always looks toward the future.

President Zelensky assures his listeners that Ukraine will win this war as the Ukrainian people have shown their strength and courage. "It will be a strong state with concrete security priorities. We understand that anything can happen at any moment with such a neighbor and unfortunately, there can be war. The war may be repeated. I am convinced that we must create conditions so that people and businesses are not afraid to develop

in our country." (*May 23 2022*)

"In particular, we invite the friends of Ukraine to join the reconstruction, taking patronage over the regions, cities or industries in our country that have suffered from the war, that are destroyed." (*May 8, 2022*)

"Now, it is a historic moment. The moment when we can solve many old problems of the whole environment of our life once and for all. ... Last year, I set a task for the government—to do everything possible to provide all veterans who were waiting in line with housing this year. Next, we planned to provide all our military with housing. And now, we are actually expanding last year's task to the whole state and refining it so that it would be a real modernization of Ukrainian cities and Ukrainian communities. And we combine this with the housing energy modernization program. As a result, there will be several stages.

"Today, I set a task to provide temporary housing to all our IDPs at the first stage. Those whose house was destroyed by war. Temporary housing until we rebuild their homes. Or until people receive compensation in square meters or money.

"In the second stage, we restore what the occupiers tried to destroy. All affected cities and communities.

"And at the third stage, we provide housing for all those who have defended or are defending the state, who have worked or are working in the interests of society, and do not have their own housing. It can no longer be the case that a person devotes his whole life to military service, but retires without having his own apartment. It can no longer be the case that a son or daughter is defending Ukraine in the war, and a father and mother do not have their own housing and are forced to live in a rented apartment or look for other options. It can no longer be the case that a doctor or nurse, teacher or law enforcement officer spends his whole life honestly and stays in a dormitory for decades, if not for life.

The government, all central authorities together with local authorities must ensure this. And they will ensure. Everyone in Ukraine has the right to their own housing, their own home, or their own apartment. The right to a safe and comfortable living space that will be designed for anyone.

All those whose homes were destroyed by the occupiers and all those who were waiting in line for many years. All our people who deserve to live in a modern environment.

"To implement this project, we are already involving leading architects, the full potential of the state, and international support. The participation of companies, partner countries, and international donors can be added. I have absolutely no doubt that we will be able to do this. It will be possible not only to restore that was destroyed but also to restore justice for those whose right to housing has been violated." (*April 16, 2022*)

The President has hopes for a brighter future for the people of Ukraine. He knows that his will cost \$600 Billion, and he is already putting together collations for a "Marshall Plan" for Ukraine. He asks the Displaced Persons to return. He asks for people throughout the world to assist. He sees a strong Ukraine, a European Ukraine, and with all his stress on education, a country that will be an intellectual light to the world. Glory to Ukraine.

Fr Jonathan Morse