

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

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The Holocaust in Ukraine –Christian Leaders

Translation: D08 In a Leaflet, Bishop Hryhorii (Ohiichuk) of Zhytomyr and Vinnytsia Warns against Extermination by the “military resources of world Jewry,” 3 August 1943

## **ARCHPASTORAL EPISTLE**

FROM THE EMINENT HRYHORII, BISHOP OF ZHYTOMYR AND VINNYTSIA

**By God’s grace, the Humble Hryhorii, Bishop of Zhytomyr and Vinnytsia**

**To the Most Honorable Clergy and the Entire God-Loving Congregation**

*“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them.” (Ephesians 5:6-7)*

*“So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” (Romans 12:13)<sup>1</sup>*

### **DEAR CHILDREN!**

Many times have I made an appeal to You during this frightful conflict in the lands of our motherland, which has been dragging on for over two years. Today, this struggle between two worlds – the Christian-European world, headed by the German people under the leadership of the great Führer, and the Jewish-antichristian, communist world, which controlled our lands once already and has now joined forces with the international Jewish capitalists – has entered its decisive stage, and once again I address You with the following fatherly message.

For 23 years, the bloodthirsty butcher raged over the land of our fathers and slaughtered millions of our nation’s best people in the most horrifying way. Clear evidence of this are the excavated pits of Vinnytsia, in which thousands of our sons and daughters, tortured to death by the NKVD, lie buried. The people lying in these graves were no alien nobles or bourgeois, but for the most part poor kolkhoz farmers and workers, about whom the deceitful Stalin clamored that he would bring them happy, joyful and prosperous lives, that he was to them a true father. As of August 19 of this year, 4.459 tortured bodies with bound hands and even feet have been removed from these dreadful pits, and, by the will of the people and with the permission of the German administration, these martyrs’ remains were transferred to honorary graves and buried in accordance with Christian rites, in the presence of a large number of clerics and laymen, and still thousands of our dear brothers and sisters lie dead in those bloody pits, who shall also be removed and buried with full Christian deference. Yet Vinnytsia is but a drop of Ukrainian blood compared to the blood spilled in all of Ukraine’s towns.

All this was done in the “classless state of laborers”, based on “Stalin’s lustrous constitution”, whose author was Stalin himself, the butcher of all laborers. Not only people were destroyed on the basis of this nightmarish constitution, but also holy shrines and monuments of culture, our land was completely devastated.

When I look at everything the Bolsheviks left us, when I think of what we had to suffer from them, what comes to my mind – only in miniature – is the situation of the

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<sup>1</sup> Actually Romans 13:12 – translator’s note.

Ukrainian people during the Tatar slavery, as depicted by a protagonist of the 13<sup>th</sup> century: “Then the Lord God brought upon us a pitiless people, a raging people, who has no mercy for the beauty of youth, nor for the frailty of the elderly, nor for the childhood of children. We brought upon ourselves our God’s wrath... God’s churches were ruined, holy relics defiled, shrines laid waste, holy men fell prey to the sword, the bodies of venerable monks were offered to the birds to feast on, the blood of our fathers soaked the earth like water. The power of our princes and voivodes faded, our ailing fled, overcome with fear; many brethren and children were taken captive, our villages became deserted and overgrown with weed.”

The same things, but then on a far larger scale, the Ukrainian people has had to suffer from the communist, Jewish Mongols.

The heroic German army has driven away the terrible enemy of humankind and in particular of the Ukrainian people, godless Judeo-Bolshevism, beyond the borders of Ukraine, and only in some places is it still abiding on its territories; but in the memory of some of us, the horrors of what we have been through have already faded; some are forgetting about the blood of their fathers, brothers and sisters, which has soaked our native land, they are forgetting about the ordeals of their dear ones in faraway exile, forgetting about the desolation of our native land.

It is a grave sin before God and our people to forget about everything those antichrists have done to us. One only has to look at the dreadful pits of Vinnytsia, in which our tortured brothers and sisters lie dead, to pay attention to the tears and weeping of the relatives and dear ones, who stand over those graves every day, crying in despair, - and the hatred of those butchers will increase not two- but tenfold. We must make all efforts to obliterate godless communism once and for all. It has not demised yet, it is fighting, supported by the military resources of world Jewry.

One of the ways it fights the German military is the disorganization of economic and social life in the liberated lands through the underground. Communists have been left behind for this purpose, who create gangs that re-enforce and support elements hostile to the German and Ukrainian peoples. These elements would like the Bolsheviks to return for the complete annihilation of the Ukrainian people.

Before fleeing Ukraine in 1941, Stalin the butcher gave the order to destroy the harvest, to destroy agricultural machines and equipment of various kinds, to destroy plants and factories. By doing so he wanted to starve the Ukrainian people, which he did not manage to annihilate during his 23-year reign. But, thanks to our Merciful Lord, the Ukrainian people has collected and consumed two full harvests and is nearly done gathering the third harvest for its own use and for the benefit of its liberators. Everyone, young or old, must work on the gathering and threshing of the harvest as best as they can. Judeo-Bolshevism is once again organizing gangs and tells them to destroy agricultural machines and crops, because it cannot bear to see the reconstruction work that is being conducted in our lands, it cannot bear to see we are not hungry, that we have already revived from that accursed life and are content with what our liberators have brought us. They employ all the vilest of measures in order to rope us and our children into those gangs... “For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.” (Titus 1:10-11).

So let us not heed the instigations of the enemies of the Ukrainian people, let us be guided by the voice of higher reason, the voice of God’s truth, which was trodden down

during the years our people was ruled by the bloody godless reign. Let us gather the blessed harvest from the fields as best as we can, let us protect it from losses, especially from fires, let us remember that it will benefit us, our children and our friends – the German warriors, who honorably defend the borders from the savage red barbarians.

The struggle against red banditism, against various sorts of saboteurs, is the holy duty of our people, on its fulfilment depends the future of our people and a swift conclusion of the world war.

Let us not forget that if we forsake to actively assist in the destruction of red banditism in our lands, or if, God forbid, some of us lend their support to the insurgents, to the benefit of the reds, then the maleficent behavior of irresponsible individuals will cause many, often innocent, victims.

Let us be prudent, let us keep watch over our labor front and over an orderly public life behind the military front, let us not forget the horrors of recent past under the Judeo-communists. “For the blood of sons, brothers and sisters, who were shot, tortured and starved in the red dungeons, is crying to God from the ground.” (Genesis 4:10)<sup>2</sup>

Our duty, therefore, is not to behave passively, nor to spread anarchy in public and economic life, but rather to fully and actively support the German people on all fronts, for the sake of both the self-preservation of the people and a better future for our and all other civilized nations.

I call on You, fathers and mothers, I call on the young folk to wage a merciless struggle against the red butchers, who drank our blood for a quarter of a century and want yet more.

I call on the most honorable clergy to fearlessly explain their congregation about this extraordinary time and the task it poses, and to influence them with their pastoral authority.

Lord Save your people and bless your legacy!

***The God-kept town of Vinnytsia,  
AD 1943, August 3***

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*Translated by Tobias Wals*

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<sup>2</sup> A rather creative re-interpretation of the original verse: “And the Lord said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground.’” – translator’s note.