

To the Ukrainian People A Pastoral Letter from His Excellency Metropolitan Andrei Sheptyts'kyi

By will of Almighty and Merciful God United in Trinity a New Epoch in the life of Sovereign, United, Independent Ukraine has begun.

The National Assembly that took place yesterday confirmed and proclaimed this historical Event.

Informing you, the Ukrainian People, about this response to our suppliant prayers, I call on you to show your gratitude to the Almighty, fidelity to His Church and obedience to the Authorities.

The war will still demand many sacrifices, but the cause undertaken in the name of God will be brought through God's Grace to a successful conclusion.

The sacrifices that are necessary for the accomplishment of our goal will consist primarily of obedient submission to God's just laws that do not contradict the orders of the Authorities.

The Ukrainian People must show at this Historical Moment that it has enough sense of authority, solidarity and vital strength to earn a position among the peoples of Europe in which it can develop all its God-given forces.

With discipline, solidarity and conscientious fulfillment of your duties show that you are mature enough for statehood.

We welcome the victorious German Army as a liberator from the enemy. We give

the appropriate obedience to the established authorities, We recognize Mr Yaroslav STETS'KO as the head of the regional administration of the western provinces of Ukraine.

We expect from the government that he has called to life wise and just leadership and policies that will take into account the needs and welfare of all the citizens who reside in our region regardless of the faith, nationality or social class that they belong to. May God bless all your labours, Ukrainian People, and may he give all our Leaders Holy wisdom from Heaven.

Andrei

Given at the Archbishopric Cathedral of Saint George July 1, 1941

Translated by Marco Carynnyk