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## To Ukraine, With Love

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TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2022

## To Ukraine, With Love

By Melanie Fields

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[Pope Francis has invited](#) everyone to make this Ash Wednesday a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace. As humanity reels at the senseless violence and suffering Russia has inflicted upon the Ukrainian people over the past week, Catholics and all people of goodwill have been called to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and to implore God for an end to the war.

The 1987-88 Marian Year declared by Pope John Paul II marked an important anniversary for the nation of Ukraine: a full millennium of Marian devotion. As one of the first countries to ever be consecrated to the Mother of God, this nation converted to Christianity in 988 under its prince, St. Volodymyr the Great (d. 1015) with its first consecration to Mary taking place in 1037 by Volodymyr's son, Yaroslav the Wise. In 1985, church leaders consecrated Ukraine to Mary a second time, pleading for her protection in the wake of the atrocities committed by the Soviet Union throughout the 20th century. Ukraine received its freedom and declared independence in 1991.

## A LENTEN JOURNEY OF MARIAN DEVOTION AND PROTECTION

Now, as Ukraine faces a new wave of violence and suffering, the Marian Library hopes to give tribute to Ukraine's deeply rooted devotion, love and confidence toward the Mother of God. Decades ago, through the efforts of cataloger Helen Nykolyshyn, the Marian Library acquired a beautiful collection of works by contemporary Ukrainian artists and writers that testify to how vibrant and alive this love for the Blessed Mother remains. We will be sharing these artworks and other items in our Ukrainian Marian Collection throughout the season of Lent. Contemplating the many images and representations of the Ukrainian Madonna, we invite you to pray for peace and the Holy Mother's continued protection of Ukraine and its people.

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#### A Brief History of Holy Cards

Inspired by holy cards from the Marian Library's collection, UD student Maddie O'Mahoney talks about their medieval beginnings.

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### NEXT POST

#### Many Faces of the Ukrainian Madonna

The Marian Library shares paintings by the late Ukrainian

The images below can also be found in our [Ukrainian Marian Collection](#) on Pinterest. More images will be uploaded each Sunday during Lent

— *Melanie Fields is a library specialist in the Marian Library, working with artwork and special collections, writing informative articles and communicating about the Marian Library through a variety of media.*



## 'Rejoice, O Mother of God'

1/5

By Mykola Butovych.  
Printed in Germany, ca. 1947. From the Marian Library's Ukrainian Marian Collection, University of Dayton. Also called "The Holy Pokrov."

artist Maria Harasowska-Daczyszyn, who frequently depicted the Virgin Mary and the Christ child in traditional Ukrainian attire.

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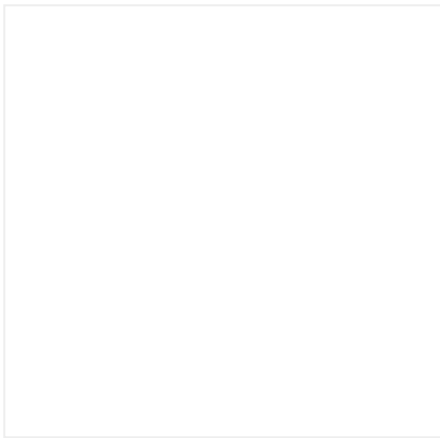
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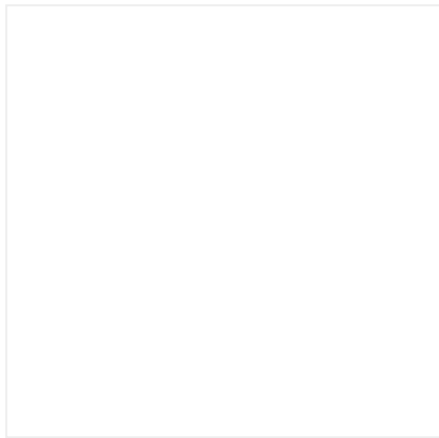


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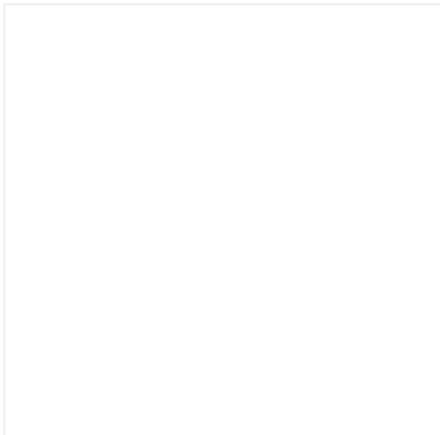
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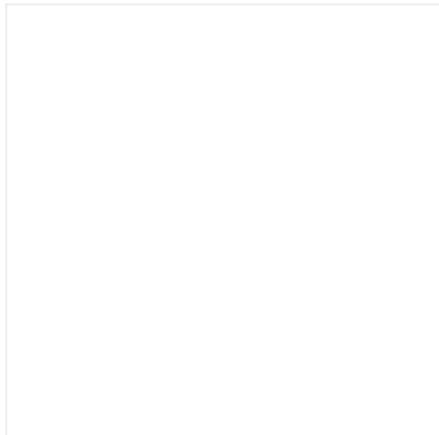
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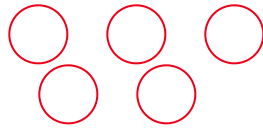
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