News

Archbishop Broglio speaks with men dressed in green military attire as another archbishop lo

Jesuit Fr. Andriy Zelinskyy, coordinator of military chaplains for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, shows a camouflage mug to Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, during a meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, Dec. 29, 2022. Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, right, looks on. (CNS photo/Oleksandr Savransky, courtesy Ukrainian Catholic Church)



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Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, met with top Ukrainian military chaplains Dec. 29 in Kyiv.

The archbishop's meeting with the chaplains at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Resurrection took place the day after he participated in funeral services in Lviv for three Ukrainian soldiers killed in battle.

Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, welcomed the archbishop to the cathedral and gave him a tour, which included the basement where hundreds of civilians living nearby took refuge in the early days of Russia's war on the country.

According to the church, Broglio then met with Jesuit Fr. Andriy Zelinskyy, coordinator of chaplains for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and the leaders of

chaplaincy services for the Ukrainian army, national guard and border guard services -- both Catholic and those representing other churches and religions.

The Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, in western Ukraine, put a long article on its website about Broglio's visit to the campus and the city Dec. 27-28.

"Today Ukrainians bring great hope to the world! Your nation has united and stood up to this unjust Russian invasion. In your resistance, we see hope for the future," the archbishop was quoted as telling university officials.

Visiting the military's Garrison Church of Sts. Peter and Paul Dec. 28, the archbishop met with Ukrainian military chaplains, some of whom had just returned from the frontline, the university said.

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"We have to take care of the people who are currently fighting," he told them. "When I became a chaplain in 2008, I realized that my mission was to serve the men and women affected by war," but "there is a significant difference" between caring for those affected by a war far from home, like in Iraq or Afghanistan, and caring for those fighting a war at home.

"My visit is a visit of solidarity and support," the archbishop said.

"You and I, as ministers of the church who are called to support these people, must continue our work," he told the chaplains. "We have to be with those men and women who serve on the front lines, physically or morally."

"I want to assure you on behalf of all the U.S. bishops that we will continue to pray for all of you," he told them. "And we sincerely hope that soon peace will reign in Ukraine."

With Auxiliary Bishop Volodymyr Hrutsa of the Lviv Archeparchy, Broglio participated in the funeral of three Ukrainian soldiers killed in action: Borys Yakovlev, Serhii Fedorov and Roman Lehkyy, the article said.

Expressing his condolences to the soldiers' families and the entire nation, the archbishop said: "We are sincerely grateful to the defenders for the sacrifice they make for their country, and for all of us. We pray peace reigns in Ukraine and other

parts of the world."

"Once again, on behalf of all Catholics in the United States of America," he said, "I extend my sincere condolences. We must continue to live in hope."