

## **The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in the Face of the Challenges Posed by the Russian-Ukrainian War**

*Mariya Horyacha*

### *Summary*

The article considers the reaction of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church [UGCC] to Russian aggression against Ukraine and its responses to the challenges of war. It presents the position of the Church leaders in the initial latent period of the war (2014–2022) and the activity of the UGCC after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The author traces the evolution of the Vatican's position on war as one aspect of the information war on the international level and explores the different initiatives taken by the Church in face of internal challenges: the development of chaplaincy in the Ukrainian armed forces, various rehabilitation programmes and other programmes of support for victims of the war as well as the 2023 reform to the liturgical calendar. The UGCC's quick reaction to the needs of Ukrainian society demonstrate the UGCC's active engagement in the life of Ukrainian society and its important role in addressing the problems caused by the war.

### *Zusammenfassung*

Dieser Beitrag behandelt die Reaktion der ukrainisch griechisch-katholischen Kirche (UGCC) auf den russischen Angriffskrieg gegen die Ukraine und ihren Umgang mit den Herausforderungen des Kriegs. Es wird aufgezeigt, wie die Kirchenführer während der latenten Phase des Kriegs (2014-2022) bereits eine bestimmte Position bezogen hatten und wie sich die UGCC nach der russischen Invasion in die Ukraine ab Februar 2022 verhalten hat. Die Autorin verfolgt ausserdem die Entwicklung der Haltung des Vatikans in Bezug auf den internationalen Informationskrieg und verschiedene Initiativen, welche die inneren Herausforderungen der Kirche betreffen. Dazu gehören der Aufbau einer Militärseelsorge für die ukrainischen Streitkräfte und verschiedener Programme zur Rehabilitation und zur Unterstützung von Kriegsoptionen sowie die im Jahr 2023 durchgeführte Reform des liturgischen Kalenders. Die schnelle Reaktion der UGCC auf die Bedürfnisse der ukrainischen Gesellschaft belegt das Engagement dieser Kirche für die Bevölkerung sowie ihre wichtige Rolle bei der Bewältigung der durch den Krieg verursachten Probleme.

### *Schlüsselwörter – Keywords*

Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church – Pope Francis – war – chaplaincy – liturgical reform

## **Kindsein und Gotteskindschaft. Zur Spannung zwischen Fragilität und Vollkommenheit**

*Georgiana Huian*

### *Summary*

This essay explores possible connections between the child's person, presence, and experience as well as the theological concept of «children of God». New impulses from child theology challenge various models of relating to God that express the «accomplished» humanity. Starting with early Christianity, passing through Nicolaus Cusanus, and reaching 19th-century understandings, such as the view of Wilhelmine Ritter, those models put forward an ideal of perfection or completeness. On the other hand, 20th-century theologians such as Hans Urs von Balthasar or Maria Skobtsova admit fragility in the very condition of being a child of God, arguing on a christological, mariological or eschatological basis. Still,

the question of reconciling vulnerability with a perfect human state remains open, and the task of bridging the real child with the ideal «child of God» is as urgent as ever. Finally, the cultural concept of homo ludens, coined by Johan Huizinga, and the phenomenological idea of gift, shaped by Jean-Luc Marion, are called to build this bridge. Becoming the child of God, as participation in God's own life, is like an antagonistic play between the human person and God: it incorporates fragility, as it escapes human control. The same process is like a perfect gift, exceeding human comprehension: God gives without measure a gift that is not to be possessed, but endlessly lived.

*Schlüsselwörter – Keywords*

Kind (Gottes) – Fragilität – Vollkommenheit – Spiel – Gabe