

# Candidacy Application

Orthodox Order of Saint Anna, 154 Depue Circle, Bushkill, PA 18324

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14 May, 2022

*My dear Brothers and Sisters,*

A recent petition to grant knighthoods to the fighters of Ukraine, along with their president and his wife, being made and endorsed by several members has come to my attention. All of you know I try to please you and support your good efforts. Having reviewed this request in all of its aspects and warrants, I must conclude that:

- 1) Orthodox Order of St. Anna being an Order grounded and blessed by Orthodox Church hierarchy must always deplore war in its most base forms, as we are created in the image of God, and therefore to destroy that image is a self-denial of both doctrine and peace within our Father's House.
- 2) Though we may find blessings by church officials, these very same officials are asking God's grace and protection upon our heads while simultaneously praying for peace and return to brotherly communion.
- 3) As both peoples are Orthodox by great extent, nothing short of a return to a state of peace should be desired by the Church.
- 4) Military awards are designed for conflicts, while our Order remains blind to politics and sensitive to the suffering of all mankind, specifically the young and helpless.

For these reasons I cannot agree to this petition for knighthoods. This said, should the Commanders still desire this action then I will accept a majority vote. I would personally add that I cannot in good faith award any honors to those persons who carry Nazi symbols and ideals who are now so integrated with regular Ukrainian fighting soldiers that our Order could suffer irreversible damage should any of those undesirable persons be seen representing us.

However, we will continue to consider for honours those non-combatants making significant contributions to the relief of the victims of this war.

*Amantibus Justitiam, Pietatem, Fidem.*

Prince Andrew R. Mospak, Grand Master  
Prince Brian Wilkes, Acting Grand Master

