

Memorial JUNE 28

Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions

(The Redemptorist Martyrs of the Ukraine)

THE FOUR REDEMPTORIST MARTYRS OF THE UKRAINE are Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky (1884-1959), Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky (1903-1973), Father Zenon Kovalyk (1903-1941) and Father Ivan Ziatyk (1899-1952).

Nicholas Charnetsky was- born in Semakivci in Halychyna, Western Ukraine in 1884. He did his theological studies in Rome and was ordained as a diocesan priest in 1909. After obtaining his doctorate in theology he was spiritual director and professor of theology at the major seminary in Stanislaviv. He entered the Redemptorist novitiate in Zboisk in 1919 and was professed in 1920. During his early years he was assigned to teach in the minor seminary and subsequently to the giving of popular missions. He was ordained bishop in 1931 and appointed the Apostolic Visitor to the Ukrainian Catholics of Volyn. From 1931

to 1939 he ministered to the people of Volyn, Polisia, Pidlisia, and Belorussia. During World War II he was in Lviv, ministering pastorally and teaching at the theological academy. From 1945 to 1956, he was imprisoned in about thirty Soviet labour camps and prisons. Following his release in 1956, he returned to Lviv and acted as bishop of the suppressed Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. He died in 1959.

Vasyl (Basil) Velychkovsky was born in Stanislaviv, Western Ukraine in 1903. He studied at the Major Seminary in Lviv and was ordained a deacon in 1923. He entered the Redemptorists as a deacon, professed vows in 1925, and was ordained a priest shortly after. After teaching at the minor seminary in Zboisk, Vasyl worked as a missionary for the next twenty years in rural Ukraine. He was arrested in 1945 and was condemned to death, but the death sentence was commuted to ten year's imprisonment. He was released in 1955. He was consecrated bishop by Metropolitan Slipyj in a hotel room in Moscow in 1963. He became the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine. Arrested once

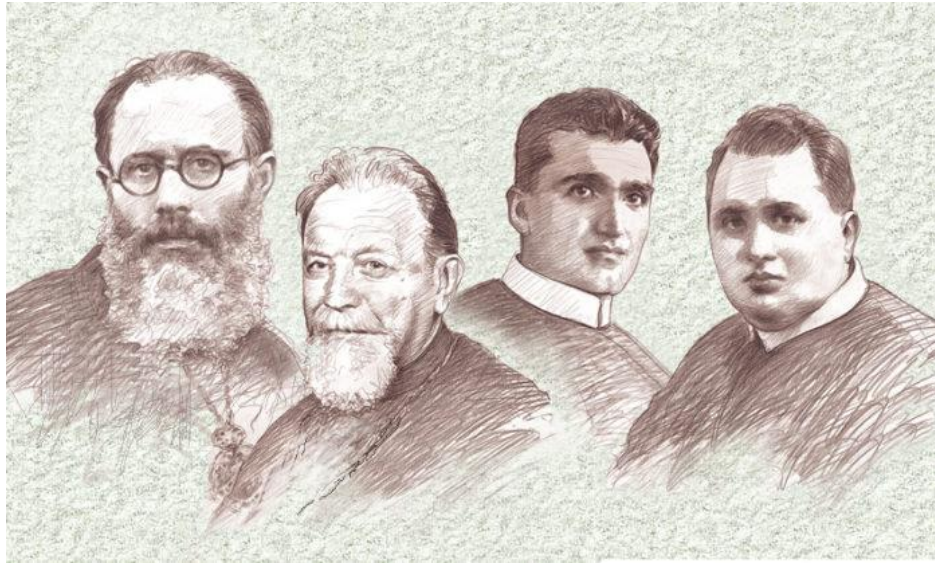
more in 1969, he spent three years in prison. In the Spring of 1972, near death, he was exiled from Ukraine. He died in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1973. It is believed that his death was caused by a slow-acting poison administered prior to his release from prison.

Zenon Kovalyk was born in 1903 in Ivachiv Horishniy near Ternopil in 1903. He joined the Redemptorists and professed vows in 1926. He studied philosophy and theology in Belgium and was ordained in 1932. He went with Bishop Charnetsky to Volyn as a parish missionary and subsequently to Stanislaviv where he also conducted missions. Zenon was a fearless preacher of God's Word and love of the Mother of God. He was arrested by the Soviets in 1940. While in prison he continued his pastoral ministry among the prisoners. When the Soviet prisons were opened on the arrival of the invading German army, Father Zenon's body was found crucified to a wall of the prison of Zamartynivska in 1941.

Ivan Ziatyk was born in 1899 in Odrekhova, southwest of Sanok (now part of Poland). He

entered the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Peremyshl in 1919 and was ordained in 1923. He became prefect of the seminarians and taught theology and catechetics at the seminary. He joined the Redemptorists in 1935, professing vows in 1936. He taught Scripture and dogmatic theology at the Redemptorist seminary in Holosko (near Lviv). Subsequent assignments were to the monastery in Ternopil as well as to the minor seminary in Zboisk (near Lviv) where he was superior of the community. The difficult situation in which the Ukrainian Catholic Church found itself (with all its bishops arrested and with the Belgian Provincial expelled), resulted in Father Ivan holding the posts of the Provincial of the Redemptorists and the Vicar General of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was arrested in 1950, condemned to ten years imprisonment but died of a savage beating in 1952.

The four Redemptorists were among twenty-five Ukrainian martyrs beatified during the papal visit to Lviv in 2001.



The 4 Ukranian Redemptorist Martyrs. (*Left to Right*): Bl, Nicholas Charnetsky , Bl, Vasyl (Basil) Velychkovsky , Bl. Ivan Ziatyk, and Bl. Zenon Kovalyk.

Entrance Antiphon

The holy martyrs rejoice in the kingdom of heaven because they followed in the footsteps of Christ. They shed their blood for His name and they rejoice forever in the Lord.

COLLECT

Glorious and ever living God, you brought salvation to humanity through the Cross of Christ. By the merits and intercession of the blessed bishop Nicholas, and his companion martyrs, Vasyl, Zenon, and Ivan, grant that, in difficult times we may be steadfast in the faith and enjoy eternal happiness in their company. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING 2 Timothy 2:8-13; 3:10-12

All who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal - but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on: If we have died with him, then we shall live with him. If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him. If we disown him, then he will disown us. We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

You know, though, what I have taught, how I have lived, what I have aimed at; you know my faith, my patience and my love; my constancy and the persecutions and hardships that came to me in places like Antioch, Iconium and Lystra – all the persecutions I have endured; and the Lord has rescued me from every one of them. You are well aware, then, that anybody who tries

to live in devotion to Christ is certain to be attacked.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 124

R. Those who lay down their life for the Lord's sake, will rise with the Lord.

“If the Lord had not been on our side,”
this is Israel's song. **R.**

“If the Lord had not been on our side
when men rose against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive
when their anger was kindled.” **R.**

“Then would the waters have engulfed us,
the torrent gone over us;
over our head would have swept
the raging waters.”. **R.**

Blessed be the Lord who did not give us
as prey to their teeth!
Our life, like a bird, has escaped
from the snare of the fowler. **R.**

Indeed the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We praise you, O Lord, and we bless Your
Name. The mighty army of martyrs praises
you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:17-22

*They will hand you over to councils as a
testimony to them.*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Beware of them,
for they will hand you over to sanhedrins and
scourge you in their synagogues. You will be
dragged before governors and kings for my
sake, to bear witness before them and the
pagans. But when they hand you over, do not
worry about how to speak or what to say;

what you are to say will be given to you when the time comes; because it is not you who will be speaking; the Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you. Brother will betray brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all on account of my name; but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider :

We come together to pray in faith for these intentions of our brothers and sisters and that of our Church.

Response : *Lord, strengthen our faith.*

1. For all our Redemptorists, that inspired by the martyrs Nicholas, Vasyl, Ivan and Zenon, they will continue to give of themselves fully as they serve your people. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

2. For the leaders of all nations, that they may continue to support people's right to freedom of religion and faith. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

3. For all who are persecuted, that they may be consoled in the knowledge that you are always present with them in their suffering. We pray to the Lord.. **R.**

4. For all Christians, that like the Redemptorist martyrs of Ukraine, we may have a steadfast faith even in times of difficulty. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

5. For the dying, that they may face death with peace and hope that eternal life awaits them. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Presider :

Heavenly Father, through your servants Nicholas, Vasyl, Ivan and Zenon, you showed us the value of perseverance and faithfulness. Help us to go forward to do your good works, and to never lose faith in God. We make this prayer through Jesus, your Son.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive the gifts of your people, Lord,
in memory of Blessed Nicholas and his
companions. May the Eucharist which
sustained them in their martyrdom obtain for
us dignity and patience when our faith is
tested. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE

Priest : The Lord be with you.

People : And with your spirit.

Priest : Lift up your hearts.

People : We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest : Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God.

People : It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our
salvation, always and everywhere to give you
thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and
eternal God. For the blood of your blessed
Martyrs of Ukraine, poured out like Christ's to
glorify your name, shows forth marvellous
works, by which in our weakness you perfect

your power and on the feeble bestow strength to bear you witness, through Christ our Lord. And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

Communion Antiphon

Mk 8:35

“Those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it,” says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you have welcomed us at your table on this Memorial Day of your martyrs, Nicholas, Vasyl, Zenon and Ivan. Grant us the manifold riches of your grace so that from their glorious witness we may learn to be strong in the hour of testing and to rejoice in the hope of victory. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.