

Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton Українська Католицька Едмонтонська Єпархія

March 1, 2018

Glory be to Jesus Christ!
Слава Ісусу Христу!

Dear Faithful:

Catholic Missions in Canada was founded in 1908 as *The Catholic Church Extension Society*. From the very beginning, Catholic Missions in Canada went to great lengths to provide financial assistance for Ukrainian Catholics when, 125 years ago, they began immigrating from Ukraine to Canada by the tens of thousands.

Father Alfred Burke and Archbishop Fergus McEvay – co-founders of *The Catholic Church Extension Society* in Canada – knew that something had to be done to meet the pastoral needs of these newcomers to Canada, who lacked their own pastors, or risk losing their Catholic faith altogether.

Father Burke and Archbishop McEvay helped raise awareness of the “Ukrainian Cause” within the Roman Catholic Church in Canada. Through their efforts, substantial donations poured in, providing much needed financial support in the establishment of Ukrainian Catholic parishes, schools, orphanages, hospitals, etc., laying the foundation for Ukrainian Catholic life in Canada.

Following the pastoral visit of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky to Canada in 1910, a bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada was appointed in the person of Bishop-martyr Nykyta Budka.

In 1918, Bishop Budka wrote a pastoral letter to *The Catholic Church Extension Society* to express his gratitude for the significant support offered the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada:

“What does your help mean for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada? You have supported the main factor in my exceptionally hard mission work with

money, [and] by encouraging and creating interest and sympathy in the Catholic world. I thank you for all your help offered to our priests through Divine Liturgy intentions, and to the needy parish colonies by way of chapel funds and priestly vestments. May the Giver of all bless you.”

Support for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada continues today. In 2018, Catholic Missions in Canada will provide \$225,000 to assist the Eparchy of New Westminster and the Eparchy of Saskatoon.

And Catholic Missions in Canada does so much more, supporting missions in Canada’s North, Indigenous Peoples, Roman Catholic missions, seminarians, religious, etc.

If you wish to learn more about Catholic Missions in Canada, request a free magazine and 2018 calendar, featuring Ukrainian saint days, liturgical feasts and daily Gospel readings, by calling toll-free 1-866-937-2642 or visit cmic.info.

Having recently completed some 10 years as Vice-Chancellor of Catholic Missions in Canada – at the request of Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto – I am pleased to support Catholic Missions in Canada.

As we journey through Great Lent this year, I pray you do the same!

Wishing you God’s blessings of faith, health, and love.

Sincerely in Christ,



Bishop David Motiuk
Eparchial Bishop