

Cardinal Slipyi: We shall win universal recognition that our Church is a Patriarchate

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New York [RNS] — A patriarch "by acclamation" if not by official Vatican designation, Cardinal Josyf Slipyi of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, visited his people here and urged them to continue to strive for the preservation and unity of their Church.

Nearing the end of a series of canonical visits to Ukrainian Catholic communities around the world, the 81-year-old prelate, who spent 18 years in Soviet prisons, continued his running controversy with the Vatican which has thus far refused to recognize the Ukrainian Catholic Church as a patriarchate.

He was feted by more than 1,000 Ukrainian Catholics at a recent reception and banquet at the Americana Hotel. He had earlier told the press that the situation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church "is most unfortunate because of the policy of rapprochement with Moscow initiated with some groups with the Vatican Roman Curia."

Farewell Party Set for Sisters

Sunday, June 24 will mark the end of an era for St. Michael's parish. The School Sisters of Notre Dame will be leaving after almost a century of service.

There will be a farewell party in the convent garden at 4 p.m. In charge of activities is the Parish Life Committee headed by Mrs. Jack Hummel. The committee extends a special invitation to all School Sisters of Notre Dame in the Rochester area, to all former religious and lay staff of St. Michael's School, and to all St. Michael's alumni.

The closing of St. Michael's Convent is part of a reorganization plan affecting all of the innercity Catholic schools.

He said this policy "has caused the Vatican, which might be expected to offer a vigorous defense of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in its homeland, to remain silent. Appeasers seek to ease their consciences by arguing that Christ established one Church."

But, the cardinal added, "the Church is one in dogma but not in form. To put the record straight, the controversy between the Ukrainian Catholic bishops and the Vatican does not involve dogmatic differences in any way."

Declaring that the Ukrainian cause "is God's cause," he said that "with God's help we shall accomplish what we have undertaken. We shall win universal recognition that our Ukrainian Church is a Patriarchate."

Cardinal Slipyi, who has recently come under scathing attacks by the Communists in his native Ukraine and was charged with being a Nazi collaborator during World War II, said: "my people, my Church and I have experienced the bitter fruits of the negation of basic human rights."

"I take this opportunity to point out," he told the press, "a fact which is generally unknown or too frequently overlooked, and that is that while other religious groups in the Soviet Union, such as Baptists and Jews, suffer discrimination, the Ukrainian Catholics and Orthodox are the groups suffering the greatest injustices."

"Both these Churches," he charged, "have been denied the right to a legal existence. They do not have a single Church open to serve the pastoral needs of their faithful, either in the Soviet Union or in their own Ukrainian Republic."

(There are about 6 million Ukrainian Catholics in the Soviet Ukraine and more than 1 million

dispersed in other parts of the world. The Ukrainian rite is not recognized in the Ukraine and the Orthodox Church in the Ukraine has been assimilated into the Russian Orthodox Church.)

(Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S. and Canada have stressed that the Ukrainian Church is "one Church," and includes both the Catholics of the Ukraine and those "in diaspora." They challenge the Vatican's claim that Ukrainian Catholics have no "territorial" Church outside the Ukraine, stating that all Ukrainian Catholics are united through Cardinal Slipyi.)

Cardinal Slipyi, who has been visiting Ukrainian communities in Canada and the U.S., since he attended the Eucharistic Congress in Australia last February, was hailed by Ukrainian Catholics in New York as a national hero and acclaimed as "patriarch" of his Church.

Dr. Roman Osinchuk, a New York leader of the group supporting a Ukrainian patriarchal system who delivered the welcoming address at the testimonial banquet called on the Ukrainian hierarchy to "elect" Cardinal Slipyi the first Ukrainian Rite Patriarch, Joseph I, as the laity has already proclaimed.

"Long live Patriarch Joseph I, for many many years," he declared. The words were greeted with a standing ovation and prolonged clapping until Cardinal Slipyi rose to acknowledge the accolade.

Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn, OSBM, of the Philadelphia Ukrainian archeparchy offered the prayer at the banquet, and Bishop Jaroslav Garbro of the Chicago Ukrainian eparchy gave the thanksgiving. There were no representatives of the New York Roman Catholic archdiocese present — although Ukrainian officials said Cardinal Terence Cooke was personally invited.



Cardinal Slipyi celebrates Mass during New York visit.

One of the speakers, Bishop Joseph Schmondiuk of the Ukrainian eparchy of Stamford, Conn., termed the cardinal the "architect" of the new era in the Ukrainian Catholic Church and said that the "greatest task" in the Church's history is to establish a patriarchate.

The prelate called for a "patriarchal attitude" among Ukrainian Catholics who, he said, can "show the way" in spreading Christ's Gospel throughout the world.

Referring to the cardinal, Bishop Schmondiuk said, "let God grant that he be recognized as patriarch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church so that he can lead us in these endeavors . . ."

Bishop Isidore Borecky of the Toronto eparchy told the banquet audience that Cardinal Slipyi "not only has the legal right to be

patriarch but has the moral right because he is the true father of the Ukrainian people's souls . . ."

He said the cardinal is the "magnet" that draws all Ukrainian Catholics together, a "symbol of unity and a noble example of a teacher of Christ's Gospel."

The only non-Ukrainian to speak at the banquet was Rabbi Mikhail Wishograd of the City University of New York. He cited Cardinal Slipyi's role in aiding hundreds of Jews in the Ukraine during World War II.

"On behalf of the Jews of the Soviet Union who suffer with the Ukrainian Christians," said the Orthodox Jewish leader, "I welcome you to New York and repeat the gratitude and appreciation of the Jewish community for your efforts."



White Haven Chapel and Garden Mausoleum

Progress Report

The Lilac Court building shown above right is completed and in use as Rochester's only Garden Mausoleum.

The Chapel (center) and Dogwood Court buildings are now under construction. Barring any unforeseen delays these will both be finished and ready for use this year.

This Chapel will be available for services of all Faiths and can be used for committal services by anyone having property in White Haven.

The facilities will include a fully carpeted area complete with heating and air conditioning. Indirect lighting and appropriate background music will provide the setting for peaceful meditation. During the daylight hours anyone may stay, relax and reflect in the calm and quiet of this sanctuary.

There are many far-sighted families who already have taken advantage of our pre-construction pricing together with our "no interest or finance charge payment plan." As a result the choice of location is fast dwindling to just a few areas in the buildings now under construction.

Therefore in order to provide a wider selection for those who prefer the Garden Mausoleum, we are pleased to announce the opening of reservations in the Azalea Court Building.

The lower pre-construction prices will be in effect immediately and crypts may be reserved for later construction.

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