

# Cardinal returns to Ukraine after long exile

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

LVOV, U.S.S.R. — Ukrainian Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky kissed the ground of his homeland March 30 after more than 50 years of exile.

On the plane from Rome, the temporary headquarters of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the 76-year-old cardinal told reporters he was too old to get emotional.

But when he stepped off the chartered Soviet Aeroflot plane, surrounded by hundreds of Ukrainian Catholic faithful, tears welled up in his eyes.

The cardinal, who has been the major archbishop of Lvov since 1984, was not the only one with tears.

Thousands of crying and singing Lvov citizens lined the road from the airport as the cardinal made his way to his cathedral

and the adjacent bishop's residence where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1938.

He left the Ukraine for studies, was prevented from returning because of World War II, and was denied re-entry after his church was outlawed in 1946.

Cardinal Lubachivsky, a naturalized U.S. citizen, said he had applied for a visa three times before, but "Moscow said 'nyet.'"

He became major archbishop of Lvov after the death of Cardinal Josyf Slipyj, who was exiled to Rome after almost two decades in Soviet prisons.

"Our hearts are filled with joy that God has prevailed and that truth, justice and love have been victorious," Cardinal Lubachivsky told the crowd at the Lvov airport.

"The page of history has turned, a new

era is beginning, the bitter years of our Golgotha — the martyrdom of blood — have passed," he said.

Now, he added, is the time for "life, rebirth and resurrection."

A breathing-room-only crowd overflowed St. George's Cathedral as the cardinal kissed the altar, the cross and the Gospel.

When Josef Stalin outlawed the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the cathedral was given to the Russian Orthodox Church. It was returned to the Eastern-rite Catholics in August.

"This is a miracle of God's greatness," the cardinal told more than 70,000 people gathered in and around the church and bishop's residence.

"God has liberated his people, God has shown and proves to us his special love for our Ukrainian people, for its loyalty, for its

love and for its faith," he said.

Archbishop Francesco Colasuonno, the Vatican's envoy to the Soviet Union, was among the religious and civic leaders greeting the cardinal at the airport and at the cathedral.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, president of the Lvov regional council, told the cardinal the church survived communist repression because of its strong ties to the Ukrainian culture and national identity.

Chornovil, who is not Catholic, said, "The church has been a refuge, at times the only refuge, for national spirituality, culture and ideology."

"In times of national rebirth, only churches with a national identity have the potential to flourish, (only) churches that respond to the fundamental idea of the epoch — the idea of national renaissance, the idea of national statehood."

The Ukrainian independence movement is strong in Lvov and other regions of western Ukraine, the same area where the majority of Ukrainian Catholics live.

Cardinal Lubachivsky told reporters earlier that he had no political message to give the people.

"I am bringing the cross of Jesus Christ," he said. "I am going to see my church, bless the people and give them the strength to remain faithful to their Catholic faith."

At his first liturgy the next day — Passion Sunday on the Julian calendar, followed by most Christians in the Ukraine — the cardinal said, "We wish to serve Christ in a free Ukraine and we desire that this, our natural right, which we shall never renounce as a church and a people, should be respected by all peoples of the world."

Three women who came to the cathedral March 31 couldn't get through the crowd to see the cardinal.

"We cried with happiness when we saw him on television," said Daria Bolanovskiy.

The past year has been one of "unbelievable" changes, she said.

Last Easter government authorities had locked the cathedral and services were held outside — Ukrainian Catholics using the landing and stairs, Orthodox using the courtyard.

## Papal message stresses need to end oppression

By Agostino Bono  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Christ's resurrection must inspire Christians to work harder to eliminate war, promote democracy, and grant justice to "oppressed peoples," said Pope John Paul II in his annual Easter message.

Among the oppressed peoples mentioned by the pope were the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Kurds.

The pope read his message March 31 from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica after celebrating morning Mass in St. Peter's Square. The annual message is called *Urbi et Orbi*, Latin for "to the city and to the world."

The message culminated the pope's Holy Week activities, a liturgically busy time when he washed the feet of 12 priests, heard confessions, led a revised version of the Way of the Cross, and baptized and confirmed 26 people ranging in age from 8 to 58.

The Easter message alluded to the Persian Gulf crisis "when a choice was made of aggression and the violation of international law; when it was presumed to solve the tensions between the peoples by war, the sower of death."

If you believe in the resurrected Christ "you will vigorously prevent the exploitation of the poor," the pope said.

"You will say no to the lucrative arms

trade," he added.

The pope supported "the long-ignored aspiration of oppressed peoples, such as the Palestinians, the Lebanese, the Kurds, who claim the right to exist with dignity, justice and freedom."

Also supported were the independence struggles of the Soviet Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

"From the Baltic to the Mediterranean, and in other areas of the world, there rose in vain the voice of the peoples, yearning for respect for their own identity and their own history," the pope said.

"Only upon an international order in which law and freedom are indivisible for all can the society we hope for be founded," he said.

The pope complained that "not everything was done to face the inexorable threat of famine which has afflicted whole peoples in Africa," especially Sudan and Ethiopia.

Little was done "to stop, in that same continent, particularly in Angola, Mozambique, Liberia and Somalia, wars and guerrilla actions which try peoples already in a precarious state," he added.

The pope also pleaded for greater religious freedom and praised the "dear Catholic community of Albania, who have remained faithful to the gospel of Christ" despite decades of harsh communist rule.



AP/Wide World Photos  
**NEW ARCHBISHOP — Dr. George Carey (left), the new archbishop of Canterbury, speaks with Lord Mayor of London Alexander Graham after a March 27 service confirming the new archbishop's election at the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow in London.**

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