

JUNE 28

Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions

The Redemptorist Martyrs of the Ukraine

Memorial

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, Pidlissia, 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 labor 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.

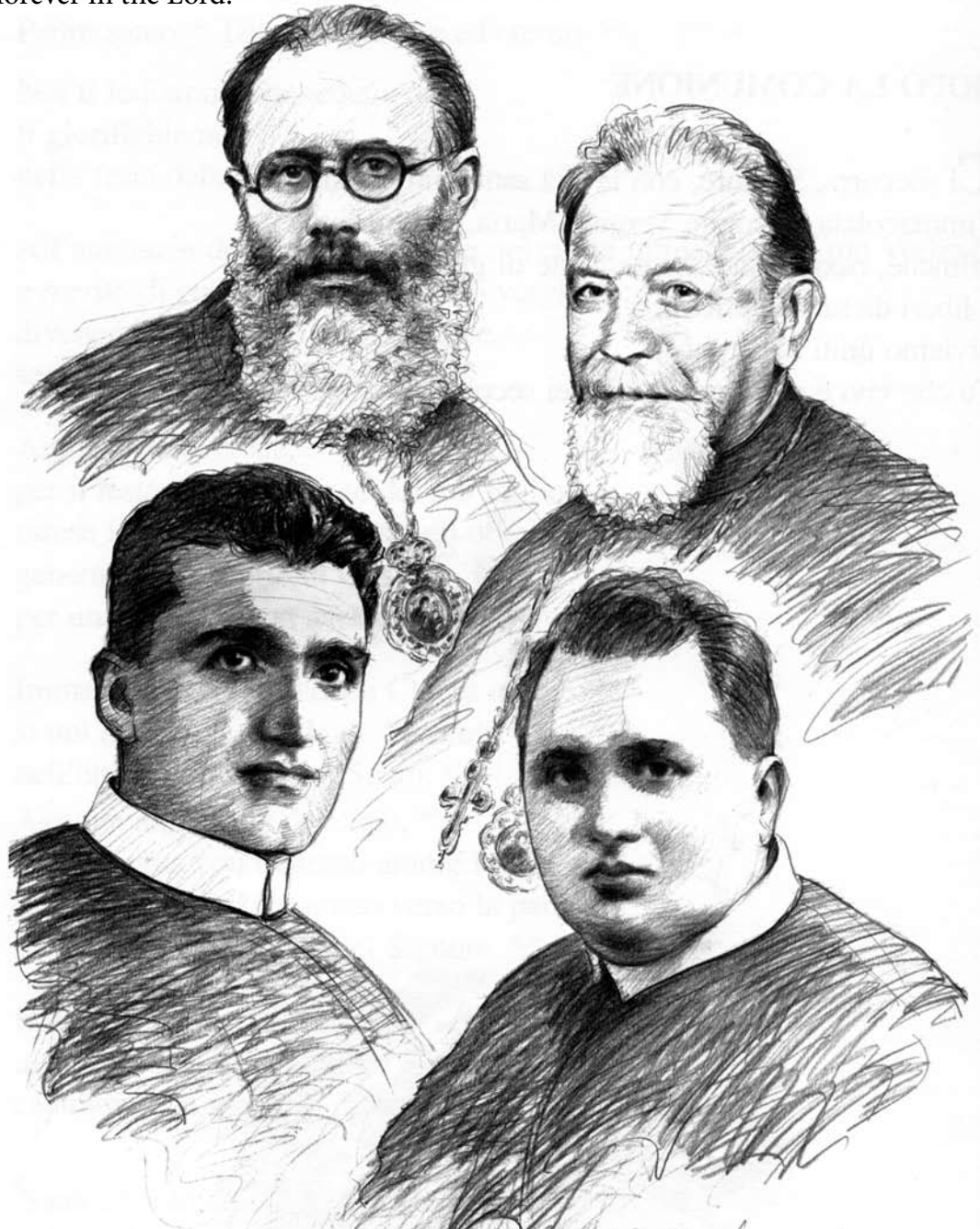
Zenon Kovalyk was born in 1903 in Ivachiv Horishniy near Ternopil in 1903. He joined the Redemptorists and professed vows in 1926. He studied philosophy and theology in Belgium and was ordained in 1932. He went with Bishop Charnetsky to Volyn as a parish missionary and subsequently to Stanislaviv where 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). Sub-

sequent 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.

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.



OPENING PRAYER

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 Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

The Word of the Lord.

ANTIPHONAL RESPONSE

(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 councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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 also with you.

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 to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

**Your holy martyrs, Nicholas, Vasyl, Zenon and Ivan,
followed the example of Christ,
and gave their lives for the glory of your name.
Their death reveals your power
shining through our human weakness.
You choose the weak to make them strong in bearing witness to you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
In our unending joy we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory for ever:**

Communion Antiphon “Those who lose their life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it”, says the Lord (Mk 8:35).

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.**