

CENTENNIAL SNAPSHOTS

1. Father Achiel Delaere, CSSR

Born 17 April 1868 into a Catholic farming family in Lendeledé, Belgium, the young Achiel (often spelled in the French manner as "Achilles") Delaere made his religious profession of the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and perseverance with the Redemptorists in Belgium on 6 October 1889 and was ordained on 4 October 1896. He volunteered for missions anywhere in the world. Impressed with his religious spirit of self-sacrifice, his superiors chose Father Delaere for a new mission. He was first sent to Galicia to learn Slavic languages. Father Delaere then came to Canada on 28 September 1899, surviving a stormy Atlantic boat crossing which sank the ship off northern Newfoundland. He and other survivors of the shipwreck were picked up off the rocks by another passing ship and brought to land. He then made his way to the new Redemptorist mission field of Brandon, Manitoba to work with the Galicians in the area. While travelling by foot, horse, and buggy through the immense Canadian prairies in every kind of weather to meet his parishioners, he realized that most of the Galicians were not Polish but Ukrainians and he successfully petitioned to change from the Latin rite to the Ruthenian rite so that he may better serve these people. He moved to Yorkton, Saskatchewan in 1904 and dedicated himself solely to the Ukrainians. After intense study with the Basilians, he celebrated his first Divine Liturgy in his new rite on 26 September 1906 in St Boniface, near Winnipeg, Manitoba. From this day the Redemptorists celebrate the beginnings of the first Eastern Rite branch of the large Redemptorist Congregation of Priests and Brothers. Delaere became the founder of several mission chapels, churches and parishes in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, of Yorkton's monastery and church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sacred Heart High School, St. Joseph's College, Redeemer's Voice Press and in Ituna of St. Ann's Orphanage. He was also instrumental in the appointment of the first eastern-rite Catholic Bishop in Canada—Blessed Martyr Nicetas Budka. He was the first Redemptorist of any eastern rite (there are now several rites in the Congregation), the first to dedicate himself entirely to the Ukrainian people, the rector-ihumen of the Yorkton monastery for many years, and the first Vice-Provincial of the Redemptorist Yorkton Province. He died in Yorkton on 12 July 1939 and is buried there. VICHNA PAMIAT'.



Ukrainian Redemptorists 100 years

The year 2006 marks 100 years since the Redemptorists began formally working with eastern European immigrants in North America and eventually around the world in their own rite. This series of 'Bulletin Inserts' is dedicated to the pioneer Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers of the Yorkton Province. For more information about the Redemptorists, contact: the Redemptorist Vocation Office: 250 Jefferson Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R2V 0M6, Canada or visit our website: www.yorktonredemptorists.com