

# CENTENNIAL SNAPSHOTS

## 4. Father Louis Van den Bossche, CSSR

Born 10 February 1887 in Zele, Diocese of Gand, Belgium of Flemish Roman Catholic parents, Louis Van den Bossche made his religious profession of vows with the Redemptorists 29 September 1906 in St. Trond and was ordained 29 September 1911 in Beauplateau. A brilliant student, he won several prizes while at the minor seminary, Collège Saint-Louis, Menin, and wrote 24 articles in Flemish on different aspects of history, biblical studies, and political economics, all published before his ordination. He was soon named professor of history in the major seminary of Beauplateau, but was shortly afterwards appointed one of the first Belgian Redemptorists to begin the Redemptorist mission in Ukraine, at the request of Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky. He arrived on 21 August 1913 in Univ, district of Peremyshliany, Halychyna. Here, he rapidly learned the Ukrainian language and transferred to the Ukrainian rite. With the change, he simplified his name to Father Bosky. On 11 July 1914, Father Bosky arrived in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, where he served in the Yorkton and Ituna pastoral districts. From 1916 to 1922, with Father Delaere, he established a monastery in Komarno and built an orphanage and several churches in Komarno, Fisher Branch, and Gimli in Manitoba. He was the organizer and first manager (1922-24) of Redeemer's Voice Press, wrote, translated from different languages into Ukrainian, and published several articles, booklets, and longer works in Ukrainian, English, French, and Flemish, at Redeemer's Voice Press, the Basilian Press, the *NorthWest Review* (Winnipeg), *Gerardusbode*, *Voix du Rédempteur*, and elsewhere. He also wrote several articles to newspapers around the world and regularly in the Yorkton Redemptorists' monthly magazine, *The Redeemer's Voice*, which he also founded and whose circulation he increased to over a thousand subscribers within a year. Some of his longer works were booklets in Ukrainian about Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Martin Luther, and Sister Theresa of the Child Jesus, while his translation in Ukrainian of *Faith of Our Fathers* by Cardinal Gibbons became a standard catechetical work for Ukrainians in North America. Besides his pastoral work, he was a diocesan consultor to the first eastern rite Bishop for Canada, Nykyta Budka, and gave several week-long missions in the Ukrainian parishes of Canada and the United States. In frustration with Budka's ambivalent attitude towards the Belgian Redemptorists, on 17 February 1924 he returned to Belgium, where he served as a pastor and a missionary to Ukrainian immigrants to Belgium, England, France, and Luxembourg. He was the founder and first rector of the Church of St. Volodymyr for Ukrainians in Brussels. In 1936, he was named the director of the retreat house in Roulers, Belgium, and dedicated himself to the Ukrainian immigrants who found themselves unemployed during the general strikes in Europe. He died of exhaustion in Liege, Belgium on 18 April 1938, shortly after publishing *The Holy Liturgy of St. John Chrysostome*, according to the *Byzantine Slav-Rite* in English and while in the midst of pastoral work. 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](http://www.yorktonredemptorists.com)*