

# CENTENNIAL SNAPSHOTS

## 9. Father Hector Kinzinger, CSSR

Hector was born 10 September 1876 in Nieuwpoort, western Flanders, Belgium. He heard the Redemptorist missionaries during the retreats given at his high school college and he resolved to enter the monastery in 1895. He made his vows 4 October 1896 in St. Trond, and was ordained a priest exactly five years later, 1901, in Beaulieu. After further studies, Father Kinzinger began pastoral work in Tournai and Liege (1903-05). He made a second novitiate for advanced mission training in 1905 and was named a missionary for the next two years. He was named socius (chaplain) to the novices in St. Trond and Roulers until 1909 and then briefly returned to the missions until he was named a teacher of philosophy in the new major seminary at Gars-am-Inn in Bavaria (1909-13). He was appointed one of the first Belgians to the Galician missions and was stationed in Univ, Halychyna. During the First World War, relying on his Belgian passport for protection, he served as a pastor in places abandoned by the secular clergy, but he finally had to take refuge in Univ where he lived as a recluse (1917-18) and learned the language and the rite in depth. He was appointed novice master in Univ (December 1917), rector in Zboiska (1918-21), superior in Stanislaviv (1921-24) and preached missions with Fathers S. Bachtalowsky and G. Shyshkovich on the first Redemptorist mission team in Halychyna. He was named to Canada as rector in Yorkton (1924-27), vice-provincial (1927-28), missionary in the United States and Canada (1928-30), and superior and pastor in Ituna (1930-33). His clear, incisive analysis of the gradual assimilation of the Ukrainian people in Canada into the English-speaking population was instrumental in the decision to transfer the Canadian Ukrainian missions to the English Canadian Redemptorists. When the Ukrainian Redemptorists in Canada protested, he was named superior of Holosko, but the Polish authorities refused him permission to enter the country, because Father Kinzinger, while in Zboiska, had given assistance to the Galician Army during the Polish-Ukrainian War of 1918-19. He was named missionary in Tournai and returned to the Latin Rite. He was named Extraordinary Visitor to the Congo (1934-35), Vice-Provincial of the Redemptorists there (1935-39), then rector and director of the minor seminary in Tournai, only to supervise the evacuation of the students during the bombardment by the Germans. He lived in Liege until 1951 when he was named rector in Namur at the age of 75, when most Redemptorists at that age had already retired. He then lived in Tournai (1953) and was appointed confessor to the students in Leuven. He died in Leuven, Belgium, on 13 October 1957. The fact that he worked on three continents in important positions of trust and responsibility showed the deep respect and confidence his superiors had in him. He was a passionate, logical, deeply religious man devoted to duty. He was 81. 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)*