

CENTENNIAL SNAPSHOTS

13. Father Charles Têcheur, CSSR

Charles Têcheur was born September 27, 1885 in Les Walleffes, in the Diocese of Liege, a French-speaking part of Belgium. He entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, the Redemptorists, in 1903 and was professed in Saint-Trond on September 29, 1904, at the age of 19. He studied at Beauplateau in Belgium and had Albert Delforge and Louis Van den Bossche as schoolmates in the seminary. Father Joseph Schrijvers was his prefect of students; Hector Kinzinger and Jacob Janssens were his teachers. Together, they were inspired by the new Ukrainian missions. Charles was ordained to the holy priesthood on September 29, 1909 in Beauplateau. Because of his youth, zeal, and gift for languages, he was sent to the monastery of the Basilian Fathers in Krechiv, western Ukraine, to study Ukrainian and the Byzantine-Slavonic rite. After a brief stay in Brussels to visit his family, he left for North America. On October 2, 1911, he arrived in St. Gerard's parish, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, where he served the Ukrainian settlers in the Yorkton area until April 1914. He became one of the founding members of the separate Ukrainian language Redemptorist monastery and church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. He was also one of the Belgians who insisted on establishing a Redemptorist house in Ukraine in order to train Ukrainian Redemptorists for the Ukrainian emigrants flowing to North America. His noticeable ability in languages brought him to be recalled to Belgium to serve as a university professor of biblical studies, specializing in Hebrew and, later, all semitic languages in the Redemptorist Seminary of Beauplateau. He returned to North America briefly from June to October 1927 as a consultor to the Vice-provincial, Achiel Delaere, and was instrumental in sending Ukrainian missionaries into the United States and in transferring the Ukrainian missions from Belgium to the care of the English Canadians. Although he was greatly appreciated because of his mastery of the Ukrainian language, ill-health and his belief that the Belgians should withdraw from the Ukrainian missions brought Father Têcheur to return to Belgium, where he again served as a professor of semitic languages in the major seminary, educating future Ukrainian Redemptorist missionaries for the Ukrainian diaspora. He then served as master of novices for eight years in Liege and also served in parish ministry in Liege and Mons. After the Second World War, he served as a prison chaplain for 2 years, rector for six years, and then retired to Namur, Belgium where he served as a confessor until his death on February 23, 1965. Father Charles Têcheur was 79. 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