



JOSEPH CARDINAL SLIPYJ,

SAINTLY FREEDOM FIGHTER OF UKRAINE



MARTYR OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Cleveland, Ohio

1965

UKRAINIAN-AMERICANS OF OHIO HONOR JOSEPH CARDINAL SLIPYJ

CLEVELAND, Ohio. (smb) - Ukrainian-American Catholics of Ohio have honored the Metropolitan of Kiev and Halych, Archbishop Major of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Joseph Cardinal Slipyj with a solemn program on Sunday May 30, 1965 at the Parma Senior High School Auditorium.



HOLY FATHER, POPE PAUL VI, GIVES HIS BLESSINGS TO EMINENCE JOSEPH, CARDINAL SLIPYJ OF UKRAINE AND TO THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE.

This event was sponsored by the Joseph Cardinal Slipyj Committee of Cleveland, Ohio headed by Dr. Zenon R. Wynnysky. The Very Rev. Msgr. D. Gresko, dean of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ohio, was the chairman of the honorary sponsoring committee which included all the pastors of Ukrainian Catholic parishes in Greater Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Lorain, Toledo and Youngstown, as well as several notable Ukrainian-American civic leaders of this city.

The gathering was addressed by Dr. Gregory Lushnytsky of the University of Pennsylvania, and by Miss M. V. Beck, first councilwoman of the City of Detroit, Mich. Miss M. V. Beck presented an

allocution in English, one of the best ever heard and appreciated by the Ukrainian Ohio community.

Two renowned Ukrainian guest artists, Martha Kokolsky of the New York City Center Opera Company, and William Melnychyn of the Chicago Civic Opera performed in the musical portion of the program. A rant of the prologue to Ivan Franko's Ukrainian poem "Moses" was gracefully delivered by Irene Dubas. The Shevchenko Ukrainian Chorus of Cleveland and the Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir, united for this event under the direction of Professor Jaroslaw Barnych, presented several works of outstanding Ukrainian composers.

His Eminence Joseph Slipyj, proclaimed Cardinal February 22, 1965, was admired throughout the world for his courage during 18 years of confinement in Communist concentration camps of USSR. His arrival in the Vatican City on February 10, 1963 was hailed by all Ukrainians in the free world. Accordingly, festivities are currently being held in all Ukrainian dioceses throughout the United States, Canada, Western Europe, Latin America and Australia. A fund drive for the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome, initiated by the Cardinal, has been started here in May of this year.

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JOSEPH CARDINAL SLIPYJ
SAINTLY FREEDOM FIGHTER OF UKRAINE.

Remarks of the HON. MARY V. BECK, first councilwoman of the City of Detroit, Mich., at the Solemn Program honoring His Eminence Cardinal Slipyj of Ukraine, on May 30, 1965 in Cleveland, Ohio.

“Very Reverend Fathers and Sisters, distinguished guests, my fellow-Ukrainians, ladies and gentlemen:

It is an undeniable pleasure for me to have been afforded the opportunity, at the invitation of your program chairman, to meet you, the Ukrainian-American community of Metropolitan Cleveland and it is a special privilege to be able to join with you in paying my honor and tribute to His Eminence, our beloved and esteemed Cardinal Slipyj whom I have very reverently labelled as the Saintly Freedom Fighter of Ukraine.

To every Ukrainian by birth, the mere mention of the - Ukraine - conjures up a beautiful vision, a vision comprised of many dear and familiar scenes, dimmed perhaps by the separation of long years from the native land but never completely erased and on occasions like this emerging very vivid and almost real. A village nestling in the valley beneath the hills. Cherry blossoms flooding the orchard with a riot of color and scenting the air with the aroma of sweet perfume. Meadows, wide and expansive. Gurgling brooks sparkling clear. Fields heavy and burdened in the summer and changing into an ocean of golden wheat in the fall, a fitting reward for peasant toil. And in the blue and heavenly skies, the golden sun sending its rays to warm not only the hearts, but the bones of both beast and man. And at night the radiant moon shining down from its lofty throne of velvety clouds on the sweethearts in the fields. But above all, the lilting song of the nightingale awakening in maiden hearts fond dreams of hopes. All about-serenity, peace and repose. It is in the midst of this kind of natural beauty, that His Eminence was born, in a peasant hut in the village of Zazdryst, in the county of Terebowla, in the Western Ukraine.

His insatiable curiosity and capability for learning sped him through the early years of school and the equivalent of what we know as high school and college he completed with very high honors. Then he went on to the University of Lviv where theology claimed almost all of his attention. While there his diligence, his academic bent and his academic achievement attracted the attention of another famous Ukrainian Metropolitan, Andrew Count Sheptytsky. It was under his sponsorship, that Joseph Slipyj was sent to the University of Innsbruck in Austria where he completed his studies, was ordained a priest and attained a degree of doctorate in theo-

logy. Further studies in Rome where his research and writings attained additional academic degrees and a proficient knowledge of at least four foreign languages. In 1921 he returned to Lviv at the behest of Metropolitan Sheptytsky to teach and later to assume duties as a Rector of the Ukrainian Theological Seminary. For 20 long years he taught and lectured and wrote, re-organized the Seminary into a College and because of his intense activity earned for himself a great respect and reknown as a serious scholar, as a devout churchman, as a prolific author and a noble human being.

Despite the vicissitudes of the Second World War which then enveloped the continent of Europe, he pursued his duties and under the further encouraging guidance of Metropolitan Sheptytsky, he achieved ever higher rank in the Catholic Church. In 1939 he became an Archbishop of Lviv and was designated as the successor to Metropolitan Sheptytsky. Those were precarious years because the country was occupied first by the Bolsheviks, later by the Hitlerites, and then again by the Bolsheviks. Persecutions, oppressions and danger every moment of the day. In 1941 Metropolitan Sheptytsky was failing fast in his health. It was during that time that His Eminence was almost executed by the Bolsheviks but the Good Lord saved him. For the failing health of Metropolitan Sheptytsky brought on his death in November of 1944. Since the Metropolitan Andrew Count Sheptytsky, the highest hierarch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was very beloved and respected among all the Ukrainians, his funeral was attended even by an official delegation of the Government of USSR, headed by Nikita Khrushchev. The leadership of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was then transferred into the hands of His Eminence. It was only for six short months that he held the reigns of the leadership because the persecution of the Ukrainian Catholic Church by the Bolsheviks was started in earnest and they would not settle for anything less but the total capitulation of the Church and degradation of it to the subservient role of a tool for communism.

But His Eminence, the unbending ruler of the Church, would not yield and therefore on April 11, 1945 he was arrested with other Ukrainian Catholic bishops. For almost a whole year neither their whereabouts nor their fate was known to anyone. It was only in March of the following year that a Communist paper reported that His Eminence and the bishops had all been tried and convicted for anti-soviet activity and alleged collaboration with the Germans while they had occupied the Western Ukraine. Of course there had been no public trial, there had been no opportunity to offer a defense for these unfounded charges. The Metropolitan Slipyj was sentenced to eight years of hard labor and transferred from

prison to prison, from Ukraine to Russia and then out into Siberia. Even though there was a slight thaw after the death of Stalin and His Eminence was completing his sentence, he did not find release. Apparently the demands made upon him and the conditions placed upon his release were the sort that he would not accept. He was tried for the second time and sentenced for another five year term at hard labor. After the end of that sentence he was again tried and sentenced for an additional seven year term. And it was not until February 9, 1963 when he was released and permitted to go to Rome. Eighteen years of his life in prisons and concentration camps. A life of untold suffering, indignities, inhumanities, physical torment and yet miraculously by the will of God he survived and emerged a seventy-one year old patrician. A patrician in mind, in body and in spirit.

When his crown of thorns was replaced by the crown placed on his head by His Holiness the Pope when he was made Cardinal, it was an event on February 22, 1965, an event that was hailed by the Ukrainians all over the free world and we suspect even by many of those who have not forgotten God behind the Iron Curtain and to whom this news must also have infiltrated. This event was hailed not only as a deserving tribute and glory to His Eminence himself, but a deserving recognition to the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the entire Ukrainian nation which could not celebrate this event in its homeland. But what is even more important, a very wonderful and real symbol of hope, that just as His Eminence emerged after so many years of exile into freedom, the real hope that the Ukrainian people will likewise emerge from their bondage into freedom hopefully in the not too distant future.

Today, as we honor His Eminence, our hearts are filled with joy and gladness because he was spared and permitted to return to do his noble work among the free. But simultaneously, our lips are offering a silent prayer of thanksgiving because the Almighty had endowed us with such a rare, benevolent and undaunted spiritual leader. When we speak of his martyrdom, it is not uncommon of us to realize that his suffering had a goal and when he fought against the Communist regime, it was the finest example he could set for us. We, Ukrainians, know that freedom will not come of itself. We know that we must dedicate ourselves to a persistent effort to fight that Communism. To those of you, Ukrainians, who have experienced yourselves the unspeakable horror of the Communist regime or those of you who still have loved ones living in that human hell, it is not necessary for you to be enlightened. But alas, so many of our fellow-Americans are still not so enlightened, are so ignorant and naive and indifferent to the nature and threat of

Communism. For Communism, be it Russian or Chinese, has only one goal and that is world domination. And though in modern days their methods might have become a little more sophisticated and subtle, nevertheless they will still work and fight and lie and cheat and exploit and yes even murder. They will do anything and sacrifice anyone, not only millions of innocent victims, but even their own dedicated disciples and former leaders for whom they have no further use.

They will invite you to a feast while they are preparing you a bloody bath. They will offer you the dove of peace only to convert it into a preying vulture. They will assume the halo of an angel while they do a devil's work. Since the end of that godless ideology is not yet in sight, it is necessary for those who do not know what danger threatens us, and even if are not interested in freeing the many Captive Nations that are behind the Iron Curtain today, to learn that our own security as Americans, our own way of life here is also threatened by that same danger.

So, my friends, as today we pay tribute to His Eminence, let this tribute be not just a token expression of our love and admiration and esteem and reverence, but let it convert itself into a resolution of determination, the kind of determination that will match his and countless others avowed and relentless foes of Communism. For it is only the hope, that hope that will eventually bring the dawn of a new day not only for the Ukrainians but all other Captive Nations, the day of freedom. Perhaps then the noble and pure goodness which he so well symbolizes may thrive on this earth.

Because as one wise man once said, where there is goodness in the heart, there is beauty in the character and when there is beauty in the character there is harmony in the home and where there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation and when there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world. Under his guidance may we hopefully expect that he will forge us and unite us into the same kind of unbreakable strength that he possessed and weld us into the same kind of an impregnable fortress that he has proven to be.

Thank you”.

*(Reproduced and compiled from a tape-recorder
by Miss Olha D. Wynytsky,
student of the Saint Josaphat Ukrainian
Catholic School in Parma, Ohio.)*

THE WHITE HOUSE

CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK, 1965

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the joint resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), authorizes and requests the President of the United States of America to issue a proclamation each year designating the third week in July as "Captive Nations Week" until such time as freedom and independence shall have been achieved for all the captive nations of the world; and

WHEREAS all peoples yearn for freedom and justice; and

WHEREAS these basic rights unfortunately are circumscribed or unrealized in many areas in the world; and

WHEREAS the United States of America has an abiding commitment to the principles of independence, personal liberty, and human dignity; and

WHEREAS it remains a fundamental purpose and intention of the Government and people of the United States of America to recognize and encourage constructive actions which foster the growth and development of national independence and human freedom:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning July 18, 1965, as Captive Nations Week.

I invite the people of the United States of America to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and I urge them to give renewed devotion to the just aspirations of all people for national independence and human liberty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this second day of July in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-ninth.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

By the President:

DEAN RUSK, Secretary of State

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