

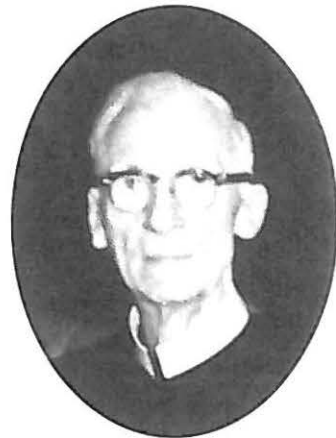
# CENTENNIAL SNAPSHOTS

## 17. Father Joseph Bala, CSSR

Joseph Bala was born December 17, 1885 in Svobodni Dvory of Dmytro Bala from Kotsyubintsi, now in Ukraine, and Julia Benesh from Josephstadt, now in the Czech Republic. After high school, Joseph studied geodesic engineering in Prague. After a year, however, he decided to go to Lviv where he worked in insurance. He was then hired as a tutor for Fr. Prokop Huka's children in Porokhiv, Buchach. In 1908, Joseph Bala entered the major seminary and was ordained in Lavra, western Ukraine, on April 1, 1912. After his ordination, Father Joseph first served as a student prefect at the Metropolitan's Institute in Lviv, then as assistant to Fr. Nicholas Teodorovych in Probizhnyi, Husiatyn.

In November 1912, Father Joseph Bala left for Canada to serve as secretary and chancellor to Bishop Nykyta Budka. In 1914, he entered the Redemptorist novitiate in Belgium where he professed his religious vows in September 1915. Unable to return to Canada because of the war, in March 1917, he returned to Halychyna to live with the Redemptorists in Univ. Together with the Belgian Redemptorists, Joseph Bala persuaded several young men, Stephen and Roman Bachtalowsky, Gregory Shyshkowich, and Nicholas Charnetsky, for example, to join the Redemptorists. He served as assistant to the novice master, Hector Kinzinger.

In March 1919, Joseph Bala was inducted into the Ukrainian Army which was soon decimated by disease and defeated by the Russian Army. For six months, Father Bala was forced to serve with the Russians until his escape. On foot, he made his way from Kiev to Stanislaviv and then Lviv. He left for Belgium in 1920. While waiting for a passport to Canada, he worked in the Redemptorist printing shop in Esschen. In April 1921, he arrived in Yorkton and became a prolific writer and editor in Redeemer's Voice Press from 1923 to 1926 while pastor in Ituna, Saskatchewan. After 1926, stationed in Yorkton, he also preached missions throughout Canada and the United States. In 1928, he left the Congregation and served as a secular priest in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, sending money to his orphaned brothers and sisters in Halychyna. He regretted his departure from the Redemptorist monastery and petitioned to return. After 1950 he lived and worked with the Redemptorists in Ituna, Yorkton, Winnipeg, and Toronto. In 1954, he became an Oblate of the Congregation. On April 26, 1965, while seriously ill in hospital, he was given permission to rejoin the Congregation. He recovered and then lived with the Redemptorists at Holy Eucharist in Toronto. He died in Winnipeg on November 2, 1974 and was buried there. The first Ukrainian Redemptorist of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, he was 89. 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)*