



*УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ*  
*UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA*  
*L'ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA*

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November 20, 2014

**Statement**  
**Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada**  
**on the First Anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

*To the clergy, monastics and faithful of the UOCC,*

On November 21, 2014 our brothers and sisters in Ukraine mark the Day of Dignity and Freedom to remember the one year anniversary of the beginning of what has come to be known as the Revolution of Dignity as well as the tenth anniversary of the Orange Revolution. Both of these mass public actions demonstrated the desire of the Ukrainian people to build an equitable and just society based on respect for human life and the rule of law.

The Revolution of Dignity took place over the winter of 2013-2014, beginning November 21<sup>st</sup> with the Euromaidan political rally and leading to a spiritual renewal in the wake of horrific tragedy. These heroic and tragic 94 days changed the course of history for Ukrainian society. Ordinary citizens, united around the most fundamental of human rights and Christian values, ousted one of the most corrupt and brutal governments in the twentieth century. The enormity of their crimes against humanity are only beginning to become known. During this period, we witnessed the reawakening of the social conscience of Ukrainian society and its spiritual and moral rebirth after so many years of being downtrodden.

It is also one of the Lord's mysterious works that this revolution should begin on the same day that the Orthodox Church commemorates the feast day of the Synaxis of Archangel Michael and the Bodiless Powers. Archangel Michael, defeated satan and the fallen angels, banishing them from the Kingdom. Notably, he is the patron saint of Kyiv city and serves as the ultimate example of the defender of Truth.

The Church played a defining role in the revolutionary events, serving as a moral compass and trusted authority among the populace. In practical terms, Church leaders helped to negotiate an end to violent attacks in January, clergy provided counselling and monasteries provided refuge. This was the first time in a century that the Church has made such a major contribution to Ukraine's political, socio-cultural and spiritual development. It is notable that international political leaders publicly recognized the humanitarian and peacemaking roles of the Church during this period. The Church continues its efforts. As Ukraine

battles Russian-supported terrorists and Russian incursion in the Eastern oblasts, the Church provides spiritual care, military chaplaincy, humanitarian aid and a moral voice in public discussions.

The 128 fallen patriots on the Maidan in Kyiv, along with the fallen soldiers defending our spiritual homeland, have become the contemporary heroes of Ukraine. They are so honoured because they have selflessly followed our Lord's teachings about love for others by laying down their lives for their fellow citizens and future generations (Jn 15:13). And for our faith community in Canada, in shaking off three centuries of colonial fetters, they have accomplished what our ancestors had only begun. Many of our forefathers fled to Canada to escape comparable tyrannical regimes. As we enter the Nativity Fast period, the actions of these very ordinary women and men willing to sacrifice their lives should inspire and challenge us to re-examine our own devotion to our Church, to our community and to our country of which we are stewards. Our comfortable Canadian lives have made it easy for us to become immune to the suffering of others in the world. Through the country of our heritage, we witness a living example of what it means to love others. We also witness how God's Truth is mightier than any human authority. Ukraine's repressive government with the full strength of its security forces could not overcome the will of the unarmed populace. Nothing is impossible for God.

Thus, on this first anniversary of the beginning of the Revolution of Dignity, we fervently pray that this social and spiritual phenomenon becomes the first step in nation-building based on traditional Christian values. We encourage democratic governments and international aid organizations to continue to work with Ukraine's government to help restore economic and political stability and to provide humanitarian aid. Given that we have been blessed by the Lord with tremendous bounties, we may consider sharing our heavenly gifts with those in our spiritual homeland who have much greater need. We call upon the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada to continue to pray for the Ukrainian people and for the eternal memory of those who have perished defending their homeland and brothers and sisters in Christ.

We thank our All-merciful God for hearing our prayers for our Motherland in its great time of need. Let us ask the Lord for protection and peace for the Ukrainian people and for the wisdom and guidance of its newly-elected leadership at this decisive time in the country's history. We magnify you, Holy Archangel of God, Michael, and you, the Holy Archangels, Angels, Principalities, Dominions, Thrones, Virtues, Powers, Cherubim and Fearsome Seraphim who glorify God. Supreme Commanders of the Heavenly Hosts, we, the unworthy, ever entreat that through your prayers you surround us with protection of the wings of your immaterial glory. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit both now and ever unto ages of ages. Amen.

*With Hierarchical Blessing,*

† **YURIJ**, Metropolitan  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
† **ILARION**, Bishop  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
† **ANDRIY**, Bishop  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada