



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
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November 11, 2014

**Statement
of the Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
on Remembrance Day**



*Reverend clergy, venerable monastics and faithful brothers
and sisters,*

Glory to Jesus Christ!

*“You are my protector and my refuge, my God; I will hope
in Him; For He shall free me from the snare of the hunters,
And from every troubling word. He shall overshadow you
with His shoulders, and under his wings you shall hope; His
truth shall encircle you with a shield. You shall not be
frightened by fear at night, nor from an arrow that flies by
day, Nor by a thing moving in darkness, Nor by mishap and
a demon of noonday.”*

-Psalm 90, The Soldier's Prayer in Battle

In this year marking the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War, the Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada call on the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada to remember on November 11 the more than one hundred thousand Canadian Armed Forces service personnel in the past and present who perished in wartime. The soldiers, known and unknown, have served our country with honour and gave their lives for the freedom and democracy that we take for granted today in Canada.

We particularly remember the many soldiers from among our Ukrainian Orthodox faithful who served so courageously in the First and Second World Wars, as well as those engaged in the 30 deployments around the world today.

We also remember our Ukrainian Orthodox chaplains, particularly Fr. Semen Sawchuk, who played a leading role in establishing Ukrainian Orthodox chaplaincy in the Canadian Armed Forces during WWII. Second World War veterans in the UOCC today can still remember the efforts of Fr. Sawchuk as their chaplain while stationed in Europe.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ left this earth with the commandment to “love one another” (Jn 13:34). He teaches us that the greatest type of love for others is self-sacrifice for one’s homeland and for its people: “Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn 15:13) During peace-time, Christian self-sacrifice takes the form of charitable works, which are our selfless efforts to help our fellow Canadians and the flourishing of our country. During times of war, this love for others takes the form of a willingness to sacrifice one’s life to protect the homeland and to preserve its people, integrity and independence.

Although a young nation, Canada continues to take a strong stand in the world to protect human rights and rule of law that are founded on the fundamental Christian values of respect for life and peace. During our memorial services on November 11, let us recognize this love that our fellow Canadians have shown to us and pray for their eternal memory.

O Lord, give rest to the soul of your departed servants in a place of light, a place of refreshment and a place of repose, where there is no sickness, sighing nor sorrow.

Memory Eternal! Вічна Пам'ять!

With Hierarchical Blessing,

† *YURIJ, Metropolitan*

† *ILARION, Bishop*

† *ANDRIY, Bishop*