

**IMPORTANT NEWS OF GREAT INTEREST TO OUR CHURCH:** *Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky (1865-1944) who was head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church from 1901 to 1944, was honoured in our Canadian parliament this week! Please read the following from the Debates of the Senate (Hansard).*

**1st Session, 41st Parliament, Volume 148, Issue 70, Tuesday, April 24, 2012 ,  
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker**

**The Legacy of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky**

**Hon. A. Raynell Andreychuk:** Honourable senators, today I join with colleagues here and in the other place, friends in the Jewish and Ukrainian communities in Canada, representatives of the **Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative** and delegates of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, in celebrating the legacy of the late Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky.

Metropolitan Archbishop Sheptytsky, of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, is being honoured in Canada this week for his extraordinary acts of courage, principle and compassion, particularly towards Ukrainian Jews during the German National Socialist occupation in World War II.

A unifier of Ukrainians of all denominations and ethnicities, Metropolitan Sheptytsky is remembered for having risked his own life to shelter and ultimately save the lives of scores of Ukrainian Jews. The philosophy that guided his actions is perhaps best surmised from his 1942 pastoral letter titled "Thou shalt not kill," which urged the Nazis to recognize the sanctity of human life and to stop murdering Jews.

The scholar Timothy Snyder credits Metropolitan Sheptytsky with having, and I quote, "saved more Jews than almost anyone in occupied Europe."

Representatives of Ukrainian Christianity, Judaism and Islam are in Canada this week to celebrate this legacy, along with Canada's important Ukrainian and Jewish communities, several living members of which credit Metropolitan Sheptytsky with having saved their lives.

I applaud the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative and visiting delegates of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations for this initiative. I look forward to joining Canadian community leaders and parliamentarians in welcoming to Canada the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, which includes senior Jewish, Catholic, Muslim and evangelical spiritual leaders.

The dialogue evoked through this and other events honouring Metropolitan Sheptytsky represents a timely contribution to the ongoing pursuit of human rights that is entrenched in the values of pluralism, religious and political freedom, and inter-ethnic and inter-denominational harmony.

[http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/411/Debates/070db\\_2012-04-24-e.htm#9](http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/411/Debates/070db_2012-04-24-e.htm#9)