



Archdiocese of Winnipeg  
*Office of the Archbishop*

1495 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2C6 • Tel: 204-452-2227 • Fax: 204-475-4409 • Web: [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)

February 13, 2014  
Memorial of Sts Cyril and Methodias

Most Reverend Lawrence Huculak, OSBM  
Archeparch of Winnipeg  
Archeparchy of Winnipeg  
233 Scotia Street  
Winnipeg, MB R2V 1V7

Your Grace, Archbishop Huculak,

I write to you on behalf of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg to express our solidarity in prayer with all Ukrainian Catholics in Canada at this time of social, religious and political unrest in the homeland of Ukraine. For many weeks now, this difficult situation has continued as numerous people in Ukraine have struggled to protect the erosion of fundamental human rights and to ensure that their country's sovereignty is not diminished. To date there has been violence, death and imprisonments and Ukrainian society has been deeply affected by this unstable situation as have the Ukrainian Canadian population. It is particularly sad for Christians to witness certain instances of discrimination against the Catholic population in Ukraine that have come to light over these past weeks.

I am asking the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg to offer prayers for all the people of Ukraine that through the efforts of men and women with hearts of justice, and the help of God's Grace, that human dignity, freedom of religion, speech and democratic rights will be safeguarded. We pray too, that both the protestors and the government authorities respect human rights and dignity and work diligently for a just resolution to the difficulties. Our prayers also go out to the many Ukrainian people in our country who are far from their homeland, that God's Grace and the many expressions of solidarity, will give them strength and hope during this difficult period.

We are very well aware of the many difficult struggles the people of Ukraine have endured, especially over the past century and how many have lost loved ones and property during long periods of war, persecution and violence. We wish to invoke the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, who is much loved by Ukrainian people, as well as the Canadian martyr, Blessed Nikita Budka, in praying for a just solution to the present crisis.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard Gagnon  
Archbishop of Winnipeg