

Husar, Lubomyr. Andrey Sheptytsky, Metropolitan of Halychyna (1901-1944) Apostle of Ecumenism / Lubomyr Husar. – Lviv: Lviv Ivan Franko National University, 2015. – 496 p.

The research of Lubomyr Husar is dedicated to one of the most important aspects of pastoral and social ministry of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, renowned hierarch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church – to determining the place of the Ukrainian spiritual tradition in the world's Christianity and defining the active role of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in search for a national consensus and understanding on the interfaith and international levels. The Author wrote this annotated work as a doctoral dissertation that was defended at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome in 1972. The monograph was written in English, but it was only in 2015 that it was published and reached wide circles of interested readers – scholars and theologians. The research topics of Lubomyr Husar are relevant due to complex processes that occurred in the Catholic Church during the twentieth century. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) laid down the foundation of the new ecclesiology of Sister Churches, marking a revolutionary change in the worldview of Catholicism compared to other ecclesiological structures. The decree "Unitatis redintegratio" outlined the principles of the Catholic understanding of ecumenism. Since 1962 the Catholic Church launched an ecumenical dialogue with the Orthodox Church, while in 1965 the Patriarch of Constantinople Athenagoras I and Pope Paul VI abolished the mutual anathemas of 1054. Thus, the steps towards the rapprochement of churches initiated by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky by his activities and preaching dozens of years before were acknowledged at the highest level as relevant and effective. "While the Latin Church at its discretion was keeping apart from the mainstream of the ecumenical movement until the Second Vatican Council ... the Ukrainian Catholic Church was conducting large-scale activities in this field which had been launched by Metropolitan Sheptytsky." It is this argument that was decisive for Lubomyr Husar himself, head of the UGCC at the turn of the twentieth and twenty-first century. He has consistently called for understanding between the Greek Catholics and the Orthodox on the basis of the common tradition of Volodymyr's baptism. In the opinion of Lubomyr Cardinal Husar, the Greek Catholic Church as a borderland where the East meets the West is the most valuable legacy of Metropolitan Andrey. The author traces the ecumenical initiatives of the renowned hierarch since 1907, i.e. since even earlier times than this movement began in Western Europe.

The first chapter of the research is devoted to the rising of Metropolitan Andrey as a hierarch – brought up in a multicultural environment, the young man has confidently chosen the path to the Order of St. Basil and voluntarily started serving the Ukrainian people. The author focused on the influence of family environment on Andrey's character formation and the role of self-education in the cognition of the spiritual traditions of the Eastern rite and theology of the Orthodox Church. The researcher mentions the episodes of personal communication between Metropolitan and the famous Russian philosopher Vladimir Solovyov, who was known for his pro-Western views and commitment to the idea of interfaith understanding. Lubomyr Husar mentions another two personalities that had a decisive influence on the formation of the hierarch's views on the early stage of his activity – Croatian Archbishop Josip Strossmayer and Pope Leo XIII.

The second chapter analyzes the pastoral activity of Metropolitan Andrey and his ecumenical works. The Author identifies three periods of this activity: the first from 1899 to the imprisonment by the Russian occupation authorities (the period of activities in the archdiocese and the convening of the Velehrad Congresses of 1907 and 1909, the organizational arrangements among

Russian Catholics); the second – up to 1930 (establishment of the Russian Greek Catholic Exarchate, communication with supporters of the ecumenical movement in the West); and the third – until 1944, which, the Author believes, is “a peak of theological and ecumenical maturity of Metropolitan.” The research studies a number of pastoral epistles and epistolary legacy of the hierarch and reproduces complex contexts of relations with the highest hierarchy of the Catholic Church and representatives of other churches and denominations. Special attention is given to the personal initiatives of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky as to the establishment of communication and opinion exchange with representatives of the Orthodox hierarchy and intellectuals. Lubomyr Husar has made fair observations regarding the difficulties that Metropolitan experienced due to the lack of proper ecumenical beliefs in the church community that was thinking within the categories of “conversion” and “combatting schism.”

In the third chapter “Uniate activities of Metropolitan A. Sheptytsky, ecumenical education”, the Author focused on the historical foundations of Uniate ideology formation in Ukraine, the origins of the organizational structure of the Uniate church of XVI-XVIII centuries, its legal status in various government systems – under the authority of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, under the Austrian rule, in the Russian Empire. Analyzing the attitude of the Vatican and various political regimes to the Uniate (Greek Catholic) Church and personally to Metropolitan Andrey, Lubomyr Husar came to the conclusion that in the early twentieth century “ecumenical situation ... might have seemed pessimistic.” The Greek Catholic hierarch critically studied historical experience, pointing to the flaws and mistakes of the implemented Uniate process, and expressed his readiness for cooperative search for a new model of unity.

Metropolitan Andrey considered important religious dates and anniversaries as opportunities for the call to prayer for unity. For example, Lubomyr Husar mentioned the initiatives of Metropolitan in 1907 (the 1500th anniversary of the death of St. John Chrysostom), 1913 (the 300th anniversary of the death of Metropolitan Ipatiy Potiy), 1937 (the 300th anniversary of the death of Metropolitan Joseph Veljamyn Rutskyi), 1938 (the 950th anniversary of baptism of Rus-Ukraine) and others. The main aspects of the theory of the nature of the Church, the primacy of the Bishop of Rome, etc are reflected in the pastoral epistles of Metropolitan “True Faith” (1900), “On the Church” (1901), “On Immaculate Conception” (1904), the epistle on the occasion of the nomination of Hryhory Khomyshyn as bishop (1904), “On the Church” (1936), “On the unity of the Church” (1938), etc. A special role among these documents belongs to pastoral epistle “How to build one’s own home” in which the idea of a national religious consensus is treated as the highest calling of conscious citizens.

The fourth chapter of the monograph reflects theological views of Metropolitan Andrey on the issue of unity of the Churches. The subject of the study were three works of Metropolitan – “Gift of Pentecost” (1937), a sermon on Trinity Sunday (1939) and “Work on the unity of the Churches” (1943). Lubomyr Husar traces the evolution of Metropolitan’s concept, highlighting the main criteria of ecclesiology of unity: the unity of humanity on the natural level, the unity of humanity in God’s Revelation, the unity of humanity in Christ, and the unity in the Holy Trinity. In this concept the Church itself is treated as a gradual realization of universal unity, while Metropolitan becomes an annunciator of modern ecumenism.

The fifth chapter of the monograph is devoted to the legal aspects of ecumenical activity of Metropolitan. Lubomyr Husar focused on the legal views and priorities of the hierarch as Doctor of Law, canonist, and defender of rights of the Ukrainians in the world. Formation of exarchates, creation of canonical and administrative grounds for the spread of the idea of church unity, declaration of readiness to make concessions for the sake of the truth served for the Author as a reason to distinguish law as "a proof of sincerity" and "an educational factor" of ecumenism. Decisions concerning administration of sacraments to the Orthodox during the war years, when the Orthodox immigrants were fleeing persecution in Halychyna, was an important canonical step of the hierarch.

The sixth chapter – "Metropolitan Andrey and the Orthodox" is an important historiographical record. It is known that during his many-year service as a pastor, the hierarch met personally and actively corresponded with many of the Orthodox clergy and secular people of different jurisdictions – the Russian Old Believers, members of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchal Church, activists of the Ukrainian autocephalous church movement. The sources of this chapter are pastoral epistles, letters, speeches of Metropolitan, as well as works of the Ukrainian bibliographer and literary critic Volodymyr Doroshenko and historian Oleksandr Ohloblyn who mentioned their conversations with Andrey about the potential unification of Churches in their memoirs and the records of their contemporaries. The Author has thoroughly analyzed the process of establishing dialogue between the Churches on the basis of correspondence between Metropolitan and the Orthodox hierarchs – Metropolitan Oleksiy (Hromadsky) – head of the Ukrainian Autonomous Orthodox Church, Archbishop Palladii (Vydybida-Rudenko) – of the Orthodox Church of the Governorate General, Archbishop Illarion (Ohiyenko) who Sheptytsky was hoping to see as an apostle of the united Ukrainian Orthodox Local Church.

The seventh chapter of the research of His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar is important and relevant in terms of contemporary church geopolitics. Taking as a basis the works of Metropolitan Andrey, the Author formulates the main objectives and priorities of the ecumenical strategy of Eastern and Western Catholics who should pool their efforts to ensure both mutual integration and a model of cooperation with other churches. Monasteries should play an important role in this process. The search of unity should be "collective", just as the dissents of old have been.

Thus, the monograph of His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar is an important contribution to the development of theological, philosophical, and historical concepts and reflects a wide range of topical problems of modernity reproduced through the prism of personal experience of pastoral ministry of our two great hierarchs of modern age – Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and the Author himself.

Review

on the monograph by His Beatitude Lubomyr Cardinal Husar:

Andrey Sheptytsky

Metropolitan of Halych 1901-1944

A Pioneer of Ecumenism.

In the year of 150th anniversary of the birth of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky (1865-2015), the monograph appeared about the ecumenical activities of the Metropolitan of Halych and Archbishop of Lviv Andrey Sheptytsky authored by His Beatitude Lubomyr Cardinal Husar. In this scholarly work the author researched the topic of ecclesial unity in the context of Ukrainian Christian communities and in the global context. It remains a topic of great interest. Variety of religious denominations within the divided Ukrainian Christian Church caused a number of fierce intra ecclesial conflicts resulting in great historical harm to the inner Ukrainian relations. These conflicts continue to be uncured wounds on the Church body till nowadays. Using as an example the activities of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in the first half of the 20th century, the author demonstrates and critically reinterprets the reunification processes on that territory of the Rus' Metropolia which in 1596 was reunited with the Apostolic See of Rome.

It is worth noticing that in his analysis of the efforts of Andrey Sheptytsky, in the seven sections of his monograph, His Beatitude Lubomyr Cardinal Husar tried to examine family, ecclesial and political situation in which Andrey Sheptytsky was growing up, received his training and later was serving. The author widely applied a method of contextualization and tried to take into account many dimensions of the religious, political, and social surroundings of that particular epoch. Lubomyr Cardinal Husar presented not only general ideas and visions of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky regarding Church unity but also he showed great difficulties in implementing ecclesial reforms which Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky had to face while working tirelessly for the unity of the Church.

Special attention should be paid to the comparative analysis of strives for the unity at that time and their reflection on the life of the Ukrainian Church. The author brought out and analyzed various crucial factors quite important for the objective coverage of this topic, such as a desire to renew and preserve the Eastern Christian liturgical identity of the united Church, influences of Roman (Latin) theological tradition in dogmatic theology and liturgy, as well as personal motifs of Metropolitan Sheptytsky which played a key role in making decisions regarding ecclesial reforms. The author brilliantly presented how Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky tried to place the Greek-Catholic Church on a qualitatively higher level with the help of these reforms and leave behind of the provincial attitudes of Halychyna as

obstacles towards thinking in universal categories and efficient acting beyond the Halychyna ecclesial province.

Defined in the study objectives are carried out in a scholarly analysis which provides a solid foundation for further study of the subject, using of source materials (primarily the works of Metropolitan A. Sheptytsky and documents of the Catholic Church) and literary works (Ukrainian and West-European) provided an analysis given in the introduction. This scholarly work is an important contribution into the study of the history of the Greek Catholic Church in the noted period.

Besides a great scholarly value of L. Husar's work with its significant contribution into the study of Metropolitan Sheptytsky heritage, this monograph brings out another important issue. One should bear in mind that L. Husar defended his thesis in 1972 at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome in English and due to various circumstances this monograph was not published. When Rev. Lubomyr Husar was writing his thesis, he could hardly imagine that in the proximate future he would become a successor of A. Sheptytsky in Kyiv-Halych Metropolia. Lubomyr Cardinal Husar had influenced uniquely the current developments within the Ukrainian Christianity starting from the beginning of the 21st century. While working on the Ukrainian edition, the editors took into account this aspect, realizing that this monograph simultaneously is "a book on Lubomyr Husar" that can assist readers in making a comparison between thoughts of Rev. Lubomyr Husar, and later His Beatitude, Most Rev. Major Archbishop of UGCC in 2001-2011, one of the greatest spiritual and moral authorities in modern Ukraine..." (see *Introduction* into the Ukrainian edition on p. 13). Therefore, the compilers of the Ukrainian edition chose the approach of minimal interference with the original text of the thesis in order to preserve its authenticity. This book is called to serve as a useful tool for future research on the great person of Lubomyr Cardinal Husar, his heritage and his unique way of thinking. If Lubomyr Cardinal Husar were able to return to his research and prepare this Ukrainian edition 43 years after the presentation of the original English thesis, certainly he would have introduced many changes due to current possibility to work in archives, supplementing his research with newly discovered sources. Since the author did not have such a possibility, those who prepared the Ukrainian edition, decided to add in certain places new references without changing the original conclusions and presuppositions.

In summary, one can safely assert that this book would be of interest not only to the wide Ukrainian reader but also a significant source of materials for any researcher of the legacy of the admired hierarchs of the UGCC: Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar.