

Pius, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God, to our beloved son, Basil Takach, chosen Titular Bishop of Zela, Greetings and Apostolic Blessings.

Whereas, through the death of His Excellency, Soter Ortinsky, Titular Bishop of Daulia, the faithful of the Ruthenian Rite in the United States of America have remained without their proper pastor for a long time because of various circumstances of times and things, in order that this condition of things be not protracted any longer, our beloved sons, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, attached to the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church, in a meeting held on February 25, last, in order that the spiritual welfare of the Ruthenians in the United States of America be taken care of, because of the diversity of their origin and the contentions that divide them, recommended the appointment of two bishops: One namely for the Ruthenians who originally came from *Podkarpatska Rus*<sup>1</sup> and the other for the Ruthenians from Galicia. Moreover, the same Cardinals have decided that the Bishop who will exercise ordinary jurisdiction over the Ruthenian faithful originally from Galicia would have his See in the city of Philadelphia and that all the parishes founded by the Ruthenians from Galicia as well as mixed parishes in which these Ruthenians outnumber the others, be under his obedience. That the Bishop who will exercise ordinary jurisdiction over the Ruthenian Faithful from *Podkarpatska Rus* have his habitual residence in the city of New York and that all the parishes founded by the Sub Carpathian Ruthenians as well as the mixed ones in which these are more in number according to a list to be composed later, be under his obedience. We have approved and confirmed this suggestion and since the Episcopal title of the Church of Zela, under the Archbishop of Amas, whose title was borne by His Excellency, Bishop Maria Felix Choulet, through his death became vacant, upon the advice of our Venerable brethren, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, by our Apostolic authority, we elect you, the former rector of the seminary of Munkacs, to the vacant Episcopal Church of Zela and confer upon you its title with all the rights, privileges and burdens and obligations attached to such sublime dignity, so that you may exercise ordinary jurisdiction over the Ruthenian Rite Faithful from Sub Carpathia. We want that the clergy and faithful subject to your care, would consider you as the Father of their souls and would accept you with devotion and respect as well as they would display obedience and reverence to your salutary admonitions and precepts and would joyfully consider you as their benevolent father. Furthermore, we want and command, having fulfilled all that is necessary by the Law before you receive Episcopal

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<sup>1</sup> Lawyers at the Ambridge PA church court case pointed out that the papal bull was altered to read *Podkarpataska Rus*. Bishop Takach explained that the bull had read Czechoslovakia and that Bishop-elect Takach objected that his jurisdiction included Faithful from Hungary also. Rather than scribing a new bull, Podkarpatska Rus was overwritten on the existing bull.

consecration, you be obliged to make a Profession of the Catholic Faith together with the traditional oaths according to the formula attached to this letter in the hands of any Catholic Bishop in communion with the Apostolic See, and that you return these formulas to the Holy See, signed by you and the respective Bishop bearing his official seal to the Holy See within six months. We hereby authorize the Bishop, chosen by you, to accept the Profession of Faith and the oaths mentioned in our own name and in the name of the Roman Church. And moreover, with the intention of being helpful to you, we allow you to choose any Catholic Bishop of your Rite in Communion with the Apostolic See for your consecration; this Bishop is to be assisted by two priests of your Rite in higher office or Ecclesiastical dignity provided two Catholic Bishops in Communion with the Holy See could not easily be contacted to attend the Consecration; to this Bishop chosen by you we give full and absolute faculty to perform the ceremony of Consecration. Moreover, we strictly command that unless you first make the Profession of Faith and take the required oaths according to the usual forms of the Apostolic See, you will be forbidden to receive the above-mentioned consecration and the Bishop chosen by you is also forbidden to perform this consecration. We want that in case you or the Bishop chosen by you would oppose this, our precept, that God forbid, you will incur immediately the penalty of suspension from exercising acts of Episcopal power and from both spiritual and temporal administration of the churches entrusted to your care. We are confident and foster hope that God Almighty will assist you in faithfully discharging the duties and obligations hereby imposed upon you so that through your pastoral endeavor and studious diligence, the Christian Faith will increase from day to day.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, in the year of our Lord 1924, May 8, in the third year of our Pontificate P. P.

/s/ Octavius Card. Cagiano Chancellor for the Holy Roman Church

/s/ Julius Campori, Apostolic Protonotary

/s/ Raphael Vivili, Apostolic Protonotary

/s/ Paul Pericoli, Consultor of the Apostolic Chancery

expedited on May 20, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of Pontificate  
for the sealer /s/ Alfred Liberati

translation from Walter C Warzeski. *Byzantine Rite Rusins in Carpatho-Ruthenia and America*. Pittsburgh: Byzantine Seminary Press, 1971, pp. 273-275.

[Dr. Warzeski, professor of History at Kutztown and at de Sales, was son-in-law of Father Andrew Dzmura, a priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh.]