

Notre Dame Award

Ukrainian Catholic University

Saturday, June 29, 1 p.m.

L'viv, Ukraine

On behalf of the University of Notre Dame, it is my pleasure this afternoon to recognize Archbishop Borys Gudziak for his visionary leadership in higher education, for his pastoral care for Ukrainian Catholics around the world and for his witness to the Gospel. In the face of innumerable challenges, in a society traumatized by war, genocide and political oppression, he and his colleagues have made the Ukrainian Catholic University a center for cultural thought, Christian witness and the education of a generation who can bring healing and hope to Ukraine.

Last month, at a meeting at the United States Embassy in Kiev, an American diplomat described how in a short period, your university has grown in reputation as one of the best. You built a handsome campus, with excellent facilities and a beautiful church at its center. The education you offer your students is superb, and you are attracting some of the most talented young people in the country. Most significantly, you have put moral integrity at the institution's center: There is no corruption in admissions at UCU and, importantly, no corruption in testing. A UCU degree cannot be bought – it must be earned. It is not surprising, then, that employers are eager to hire your graduates.

Archbishop Borys, you built UCU on the pillars of the martyrs and the marginalized. You documented the underground Church in Ukraine, and Stalin's and the Soviet

Union's brutal attempts to destroy it. Hundreds of priests and nuns in L'viv alone were deported, imprisoned or murdered by the secret police. Seminaries were shuttered. Through your diligent, scholarly work, the world now has a permanent record of these outrages, and of how courageous Ukrainians kept their faith alive, even in the gulag. The story you have helped tell of the "underground paschal testimony of [the Church's] martyrs and confessors of faith" resonates through the halls of UCU, all of Ukrainian society and indeed through the whole Church.

On the pillar of the marginalized, you have built the Emmaus Center within the university, *not* apart from it. There have been 11 recipients of the Notre Dame Award. You are the 12th. Fittingly, Jean Vanier – founder of the

L'Arche movement and an inspiration for you personally and for UCU – was the third.

In nominating Vanier for the Nobel Prize, you recalled how he helped you to “radically rethink the ‘university in the 21st century.’” Thus you have put at the heart of UCU the Emmaus Center, a community of friends with special needs, whose spontaneous genuineness invites us to put away masks and live authentically. Their disarming openness is the antidote to the mistrust and fear wrought by this nation’s recent history of war, genocidal famine, purges and exterminations. In contrast to what Vaslav Havel has called the life “lived within a lie” in a Soviet system, the presence of these “professors of human relations,” as you call them, invites us to live in the simple, honest truth of human encounter. That truth reveals to us, as Jean Vanier would

say, “the mysteries of the hidden God,” perhaps better than even the greatest theologians.

Bishop Borys, you and your colleagues have in a short time built a still relatively small but nonetheless distinguished Ukrainian university. More importantly, you have put moral integrity at the core of UCU’s mission, and you have founded it on the courageous witness of martyrs and the honesty and trust of your friends at the Emmaus Center. In this you have shown that the aspiration of Catholic education is not simply the importing of knowledge and skills, as important as that is, but the transformation of lives and ultimately the healing of a broken world.

For building a superb university, for reminding us of the highest ideals of education, for inspiring us with the stories for martyrs for the faith, for encouraging us to listen to those

with special needs and special gifts, for helping heal a society and for your selfless dedication as a pastor to God's people, it is my honor to present the Notre Dame Award to His Grace, the Most Reverend Borys Gudziak, archbishop of Philadelphia, metropolitan for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States and president of the Ukrainian Catholic University.