

# BISHOP BUDKA SENDS PASTORAL LETTER ON WAR

**Asks Ukrainians to Return to  
Motherland to Fight for  
Country.**

**All Austrians Should Be at Home  
in Order to Defend the  
Colors.**

Bishop N. Budka, the Ruthenian bishop in western Canada, addresses a pastoral letter in connection with the war to his clergy and all the faithful, as follows:

"To all the clergy and all the faithful of the Canadian Ukraine:

"Since a number of years great calamities are befalling our old motherland. It is not only the wants which in the past years caused a common famine which is responsible for thousands of our brothers being scattered the world over, but also a moral necessity, i.e., the demoralization of our brothers in Galicia and Hungary by a crowd of spies, agents, pamphlets and papers paid for by the monies of our neighbor, Russia, either directly from that country or via Servia, America or Canada.

"For quite a number of years the war-cloud has hung over our country which, however, did not realize it and it was held off by the efforts of the peace-loving Emperor Franz Joseph I. Then happened an incident which would exhaust the patience of the most patient. On June 28 there was assassinated in Sarajevo by the bullet of a Servian student, together with his wife, Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne, a man of great hopes in the present difficult situation of Austria. This loss was greatly felt by the old monarch and all nationalities of Austria, and especially by Ruthenians, who held great and deserved hopes in him. The enemies of Austria, and especially the enemies of the Ruthenian Ukrainians, do not conceal their satisfaction on account of this tragic loss. The Canadian Ruthenian Ukrainians sympathize with the sorrow of our old motherland and gave proof of it by special services in the churches for those assassinated and in prayers for the welfare of the maternal country.

### Situation Bad.

"At the present time the situation is very bad. To all the calamities there is added one more—a war with Servia at the present moment and possibly in a short time with Russia also. A war of incalculable consequences which can change not only the structure of Austria but also of the whole of Europe. A war which may affect especially us Ruthenians.

"The old emperor could not pass his life peacefully. He commenced to rule in 1848 and at the end of his long life the Almighty has not spared him from this tremendous calamity now befalling his subjects, and he plunges into war. An official announcement reached Canada calling the Austrian subjects to return home and to be ready for the defence of the empire. God knows what may happen. It is possible that Galicia will have to be defended from the greed of Russia. It is possible that it will be necessary to defend our parents, wives, children, brothers and our country from the never-satisfied enemy.

### All Deserters Pardoned.

"It is possible that after the war we shall remain in Austria just as we are now, or maybe we will be reinforced by the millions of our brothers, who are now under Russian government, but it is also possible that we may find ourselves under the iron hand of the Muscovite despot. All this is in the hands of the Lord, we cannot foresee what the result will be. Anyhow all the Austrian subjects ought to be at home in a position to defend our native country, our dear brothers and sisters, our nation. Whoever will get a call to join the colors ought to immediately go to defend the endangered fatherland. All the deserters and those who did not show up for conscription are being pardoned by the emperor and will be free from any penalties providing they will immediately call on the Austrian consul and will go to defend the fatherland. Those who have decided to spend the rest of their lives in their adopted land, however, and are partly bound to their old country, ought to as well take part in the present situation of Austria and our brothers. Our sympathy should not finish with the reading of papers to know the war situation, but we ought to help our old motherland."

The letter ends with an appeal to the clergy and the faithful for their prayers to Almighty God to bring the war to a speedy end and with as little bloodshed as possible.