



Most Reverend Bishop Robert Moskal
1937 - 2022



Our clergy and faithful of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral express heartfelt condolences to the family, caregivers, clergy and faithful of the St. Josaphat Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church on the death of their first bishop, the Most Rev. Robert Moskal, who entered eternity on Sunday, August 7, 2022, following a lengthy and difficult illness. His entire obituary can be read on the Kolodiy Lazuta Funeral Home website.

Bishop Robert was no stranger to our St. Vladimir Cathedral Family. Because of his deep respect for the Orthodox Church we often made world history when our two Churches prayed together – both at his Cathedral and ours. The most memorable was the commemoration of the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine in 1988.

Since both our Metropolitan Constantine and Bishop Robert were from Western Pennsylvania and had a close friendship, when Western and Eastern Christians celebrated Easter / Pascha together, both hierarchs served Good Friday services together at St. Josaphat's at 3:00 p.m. and our Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. One year, when our churches celebrated Easter 5 weeks apart, Bishop Robert invited our Ukrainian choir to sing the responses to their Holy Thursday evening services and reading of the 12 Gospels.

How was it possible to serve these services together when that had never been done before? ... Because both Metropolitan Constantine and Bishop Robert understood Christ's commandment to love one another and that love overcame any obstacles that divides us. Let us always remember that there is more that unites Orthodox and Eastern Catholics than divides us.

On a personal note, with the passing of Bishop Robert, my wife and I lost a dear friend. Shortly after we arrived in Parma in 1987, he invited our whole family to his residence for a home-cooked dinner. Our children, who were 6 and 9 at the time, still remember playing on his player piano. That was the beginning of many social events we shared together, until his illness. I spoke with him a few days before he died and it was obvious that he was getting weaker. On Sunday, after I learned of his death, I spoke with his sister, Betty, and caregiver, Vlad. We shared beautiful memories of our relationship together – memories that do not die in the hearts and memories of friends.

May Our Loving Lord grant rest to Bishop Robert in His Heavenly Kingdom and may his memory be eternal.

Vichnaya Pamyat!

In Christ's Love

Fr. John