

6. Sheptyts'kyi's Theological Thought.



Originally published in *Morality and Reality. The Life and Times of Andrei Sheptyts'kyi*, Paul Robert Magocsi, ed., Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, 1989, pp. 165-183.

Sheptyts'kyi's Theological Thought

Petro B. T. Bilaniuk

On 23 December 1945, Pope Pius XII (1939-1958) published his encyclical *Orientalis omnes*. In this important document the pope mentioned Metropolitan Andrei Sheptyts'kyi and the Greek Catholic (Ruthenian) Church of which he was the head:

While we briefly and concisely mention and touch upon the happy state of the Ruthenian Church, we may not pass in silence over that outstanding Metropolitan, Andrei Sheptyts'kyi, who worked with untiring zeal through almost nine lustres [forty-five years], and stood approved before the flock assigned to him with not only one credential, nor by what pertains to spiritual labor only. During the term of his episcopal office, a Theological Society was established which strongly encouraged the clergy toward the study and progress of sacred doctrine. In L'viv, an Ecclesiastical Academy was established in which the more gifted Ruthenian youths could conveniently study philosophical, theological, and other higher disciplines according to the manner customarily used by universities. Writings of all kinds published as books, newspapers, and commentaries increased greatly and were also highly praised by other nations. Besides this, the sacred arts developed according to the ancient traditions of this people and the talents particular to it. A museum and other art galleries with remarkable monuments of antiquity were established. Finally, not a few institutions were set up and subsidized, by which the needs of the citizens of the lower classes and the helpless poor were served.¹

