

FATHER
KOVCH'S
ARK

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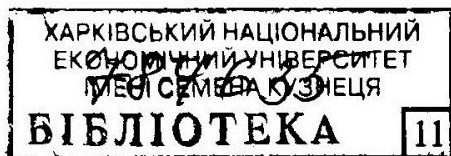
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The publication recounts the life and career of a Ukrainian Greek Catholic priest, Omelyan Kovch (1884–1944), who was a disciple and associate of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. Most of his life, Father Kovch served as a pastor in the provincial town of Peremyslyany. He always stood in defense of the oppressed and persecuted regardless of their ethnic background and religion – Ukrainians, Poles, Jews, for which he suffered from various authorities. Having miraculously escaped from the NKVD, Fr. Omelyan got into the hands of the Gestapo. He ended his life in the concentration camp of Majdanek, where he continued his pastoral mission. He could have get out from Majdanek should he refuse from saving the Jewsbut he chose martyrdom. In 2001, Pope John Paul II proclaimed Father Kovch a blessed martyr.

Stories about the life of the priest are interspersed with reports from the places where he lived and served. The publication features numerous archival and contemporary photographs.

The book is intended for all interested in the struggle of Ukrainians for freedom and human rights, the history of Ukraine, and moral and ethical problems of the present day.

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