

Kurt Lewin, saved by Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky, dies

Culture

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NEW YORK, June 20, 2014 (UBO) - Kurt Lewin, a son of a rabbi from Lviv died the evening on June 17 at a hospital in New York. During the German occupation Metropolitan Sheptytsky rescued Kurt Lewin and his brother Nathan from the Nazis. In appreciation of this, Kurt Lewin devoted his entire life to the matter of beatification of Metropolitan Andriy, reports Radio Liberty. Kurt Lewin testified twice in the case of Metropolitan Sheptytsky. In 1959, based on his testimony the case for beatification was reopened. "I did what I actually wanted to; I knew that this was my duty. I went to Rome and gave my testimony as proof that I and my brother were rescued by Metropolitan Andriy. At that time they took no interest in Rome in the procedure of Metropolitan's beatification, as they did not understand Ukrainian-Polish relations. On my own example I proved the righteousness of Metropolitan's life, and Pope John XXIII renewed the beatification procedure. To my mind, the Metropolitan is a saint; I believe that the beatification procedure will end soon", said Lewin in an interview to Radio Liberty in 2008. Kurt Lewin was born in 1925 in Poland. His father Ezekiel was a rabbi in the Polish city of Katowice. In the 1930s he and his family moved to Lviv. Kurt Lewin's mother died, his father married for the second time and Rachel replaced his mother. The Lviv rabbi made friends with UGCC Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky. When the Second World War burst out, Metropolitan Sheptytsky offered his protection to the rabbi and his family, but the latter refused, saying that a rabbi should stay with his community. Ezekiel was shot dead in front of his son Kurt. Rachel was left with three sons. She and eldest son died in the ghetto. Kurt Lewin described his life and the memories about the Sheptytsky brothers in his book "A Journey Through Illusion", which was translated into Ukrainian. Through the efforts of Lewin a separate department was created, dedicated to the figure of Metropolitan Sheptytsky in the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Along with other Jews in 1981 Kurt Lewin sought from the Holocaust Memorial Yad Vashem in Israel to grant Metropolitan Andriy title Righteous among the Nations, which was awarded to Metropolitan's brother Clement Sheptytsky. However, he pointed out that justice and not politics shall govern on this issue. Lewin's biggest dream was glorification of Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky as a new martyr and saint.

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