

## 40<sup>th</sup> day memorial ceremony (March 3, 2014)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> of March will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> day since the death of the Kyiv's Maydan first martyrs – Serhiy Nihoyan, Mykhailo Zhyzniewski and Yuri Verbycky. Soon afterwards Roman Senyk died of wounds in hospital. In the tradition of Eastern Christianity such a period of 40 days is known as a time when the death slowly ceases to sting so sharply those who have remained alive, when mourning slowly dries the tears, and the loss, so painful because of its irreversibility, begins to give way to the duty of memory. On the 40<sup>th</sup> day we commemorate with a special liturgy in our words and thoughts those who have passed away.

In the Eastern tradition in the prayers for the dead we promise those, with whom we make ours farewells, Eternal Memory (“Vichnaya Pamiat”). We want to remember them and we do not want them to fall into oblivion. But most importantly, we want not to forget about their death, which is so vital to us all.

To the Lord, the Giver of Life and the Light of the Righteous we entrust in our prayers the souls of those who have passed. To the one who is the Lord of all mercy and the Victor of death we commit those who have died from bullets, beaten, frozen – in the struggle for a better future of their children, sisters and brothers, for a better future of their loved ones. An Armenian, a Belarusian and Ukrainians have died there. Poles, Russians and Jews were beaten and wounded. Not because of their nationality, but because of their position on the barricade – they stood on the other, weaker side of the barricade.

„There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends” – says Christ, encouraging us to love our neighbours and be ready to sacrifice our lives. They for sure did not want to die, but even more they did not want to live as slaves and among the slaves. And that is the most explicit testimony of their love – they put their lives on the line for others to be free!

On the 40<sup>th</sup> day after their passing, we want to commemorate them with gratitude and prayers among our friends of different nationalities and religions – Poles, Belarusians, Armenians, Russians, Jews, Ukrainians and others. We want, in accordance with the old custom, to bow deeply before them and sing with all the power of our souls: Eternal Memory to you!

We invite everyone to take part in commemoration of those who have died fighting for liberty. Soon there will be more information about events we plan to organise in different cities.