

**ORDER FOR VISITING THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY
MUŻYŁOWICE KOLONIA (MÜNCHENTHAL)
20.09.2018 11:00**

**GREETING
Brian J. Lenius (Canada)**

Good Morning!

On behalf of the Münchenthal German Colony Cemetery Committee, I would like to welcome everyone here to the blessing of this Roman Catholic colony cemetery.

My name is Brian Lenius. I was born and live near Winnipeg, Canada. I have come to Ukraine more than 20 times during the past 24 years and visited Muzhylovychi on more than 50 different days. I care very much about this village, the people who live here, and their history.

We wish to thank everyone for coming today including the Ukrainian people from Muzhylovychi and the German colony descendants from Canada, the USA, Germany, and Austria. We also wish to thank some special guests who came from L'viv.

When I asked Fr. Andriy in the L'viv Roman Catholic Curia about having this blessing ceremony he agreed and said I should give the opening greeting.

I have decided to ask the question, "Why are we here today?" We should all ask ourselves this question. Every person has their own personal reasons, so it is not necessary for me to give a long speech about it. However, I will give you my thoughts.

I believe that when every person passes to the next life they should also be remembered as much as possible on earth. This cemetery is the final resting place for German colonists who arrived here in 1783 and their family members who lived here for more than 150 years. For sure, more than 2,000 of our family members and friends are buried in this place. Even though we did not know them personally, without them we could not even exist today. For the Muzhylovychi Ukrainians, your ancestors were the good friends and neighbours of our families.

So now we should think about the people buried here and pray for them and also pray that their burial home here will be taken care of for all time. They deserve to lie in a peaceful and pleasant surrounding. In the future, if colony descendants cannot return here due to age or other reasons, it is our hope that the local Ukrainians in the village will remember and try to do what is possible to keep this ground holy and cared for.

I am now happy to introduce Fr. Oleksander Kusiya from the Roman Catholic Curia in L'viv who will conduct the service. Thank you!