



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

Adventures in Ukraine

HIDDEN TREASURES

The adventure began when two young Basilian sisters came to the Shrine in the summer of 2003. Among other things they informed us of a house that the Basilians owned in Lviv, one that they were soon to sell. They were worried about it because Blessed Vasyl had hidden some documents in the garden of that place. The nuns had been digging but they could not find them. If those documents weren't found soon, they could be lost forever.

This past spring, May 2004, Mary Jane Kalenchuk and Fr. John Sianchuk went to Ukraine to do research on Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, especially to interview those who knew him personally. In the back of their minds was this hidden treasure. Was it still there? Would they be able to find it? On their second day of interviews they spoke to the Basilian sisters from that very house. The sisters remembered preparing a flask for some special documents Blessed Vasyl had had

with him. But where they were buried, they could not say. The sister that did the actually digging and burying was out of town. No sooner was this conversation finishing when who walks in, Sr. Theophilia, the one who buried them. She took Fr. John outside and showed him the approximate area where it was buried, about a meter square between a pear tree and a walnut tree. But that was almost 40 years ago. The pear tree had grown to become a huge tree, while the walnut tree had died and was only a stump.



Sr. Teophilia who buried the Blessed Vasyl's documents in a garden in 1967.

The following week Mary Jane and Fr. John returned with some Redemptorist seminarians to do a dig. The digging began well but soon the roots appeared. Of course the roots weren't there forty years ago. With much difficulty a meter square hole about 80 cm deep was dug,

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