



# FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

## HONOURED IN UKRAINE

### SOLEMN OPENING IN LVIV

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the former apartment of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky in Lviv was solemnly blessed and officially opened to the public. Blessed Vasyl lived there from 1955 to 1969 with a Redemptorist confrere, Brother Ireney Manko. In those years it became the hub of the underground church. The apartment



Archbishop Ihor blessing Blessed Vasyl's apartment in Lviv

was taken away for a few years, but the Redemptorists were able to but it back. It has now been re-furnished with the original furniture and opened as a place of pilgrimage.

The Archbishop of Lviv, his Grace Ihor Wozniak, C.Ss.R. officiated at the blessing of the room. The Redemptorist seminary choir led the



Mr. Petryshyn reminiscences about his uncle, Blessed Vasyl

responses. Some forty people were present in this tiny two room apartment. Among them were Redemptorist confreres, Fr. Provincial Fr. Vasyl Iwaniv, Redemptorist priests and students from Lviv; Basilian Sisters, many of whom knew the Blessed personally; Redemptorist Sisters and Sisters of Mercy; several people of the laity including Blessed Vasyl's relatives, Cornelius Petryshyn and Irena Kolomyjec.

After the blessing ceremony, the Archbishop spoke of stories he heard about Blessed Vasyl. Invited guests



Redemptorists and Nuns gathered for the blessing

then had the opportunity to hear testimonies of eye-witness accounts of Sister Theophilia OSBM and Sister Cassian OSBM, both of whom shared personal stories of encountering Blessed Vasyl in this apartment. They shared their closeness to this man of God and of his firmness and gentleness as a confessor and spiritual director. Blessed Vasyl's relative, Mr. Cornelius Petryshyn, gave his impressions of his uncle and witnessed to the holiness of his life. Finally, Fr. Ivan Levytsky, C.Ss.R. explained the various precious artifacts (2<sup>nd</sup> class relics) in this apartment room.

The apartment room is now opened to pilgrims on Tuesdays and Fridays.



Fr. Ivan Levytsky explaining the artifacts in the room.

### In This Issue:

- Solemn Opening - 1
- A Room of Memories- 2
- Thanks to Contributors - 3
- Graces & Blessings - 4
- Velychkovsky Pilgrimage - 4
- Prayer to Blessed Vasyl - 4

# A Room of Memories

Number 3/11 Vozjednania Street in Lviv, Ukraine, the apartment room where Blessed Vasyl lived is now a museum in his honour. This room was restored to its original state as it was in 1968. Blessed Vasyl lived here for approximately 14 years from 1955 to 1969. In this room he said many Divine Liturgies, confessed nuns, priests and laity, ordained priests for the underground church. There were numerous conferences and gatherings here with priests whereby Blessed Vasyl instructed them to go to cities and villages to conduct in secret Church services and sacraments wherever they were needed.

This project began when Fr. John



**Mary Jane Kalenchuk in the apartment before it was refurbished**

Sianchuk discovered that Bishop Hrynchyshyn (Redemptorist Bishop of France) had managed to purchase back Blessed Vasyl's apartment room. Fr. John and Mary Jane (Shrine Administrator) journeyed to Ukraine in the summer of 2005 to see what could be done with the room. Having discovered his bed, dresser, table & chairs and his altar in the monastery and seminary in Holosko, we began to recreate the room as it was in the years of his dwelling there. Sister Theophilia, OSBM had known Blessed Vasyl for years and would come to his apartment for Divine Liturgies and confessions. She was able to give us an accurate description of the room. She told us exactly where the altar, bed, table and book



**Chalice, discos, cruets, tabernacles, candlestick holder, & Liturgical book all used by Blessed Vasyl**

shelves were situated. The renovations had begun. The walls were fixed and painted the green that once colored the room. The wooden floor was stripped, refinished and polished. Electrical wiring was upgraded and a ceramic heater was rebuilt.

With God's grace the word spread of our restoration of Blessed Vasyl's apartment room. Religious items that Blessed Vasyl used were given to us by Basilian Sisters and other devoted lay people who had kept them for safe keeping all these years in their homes. These included chalices, discoses, cruets (for wine and water), candle stick holders, altar linens and an epitrahil. The late Bishop Michael Sapryha of Ternopil gave us a vigil lamp that Blessed Vasyl kept over the altar as an "eternal light", as well as a framed picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that also hung over the altar in the room. Some of Blessed Vasyl's



**Blessed Vasyl's altar area, book shelf, clothes closet and table**

books we located in Ternopil and brought back to Lviv. The nuns donated Blessed Vasyl's bedding. A winter parka that Blessed Vasyl wore while he was in prison in Vorkuta was

given to us by Fr. Yakemetz, C.Ss.R.. The icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help with a bullet hole in it (which occurred during WWII) before which Blessed Vasyl prayed was again brought back to the apartment. It had recently been kept in the Redemptorist seminary in Holosko. A holy picture of the Passion of Christ hung over Blessed Vasyl's bed was also discovered in Holosko by Fr. Manko. It was told to us by Fr. Evhen



**Sister Theophilia, OSBM spends two days a week in the apartment welcoming pilgrims**

Pelech that Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky had passed away on that bed in Blessed Vasyl's apartment. On the back of the picture we found a detailed description of Blessed Nicholas's death, indicating that the author was present at the moment of death.

With God's help we finally completed his room in July 2007. To this room we have added a TV and a DVD player and a short film of Blessed Vasyl's life is shown to those who come. Brochures, holy cards, and 3<sup>rd</sup> class relics are given to pilgrims who come to pray. An explanation of the artifacts in the room are given by volunteers. Many are coming to ask for the intercession of a martyr who lived and worked among his Ukrainian people, the father of the underground church who was not afraid to follow Christ even when faced with death.

May this place of pilgrimage help us remember that this was the place where Blessed Vasyl was never afraid to follow the will of Christ even in the face of danger and suffering and that we too can follow his example.

# THANK YOU!!!

Your generous donations make it possible for us to conduct our ministry at the Shrine and to promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl throughout the world. Thank you to all the contributors to the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you.

Contributions listed below are from September 1st until November 30th, 2007

- 1000+**  
Helen Jakimeczko  
In memory of husband Stefan  
*Edith Kotyk*
- 500+**  
Fr. Theodore Harasymchuk  
In memory of our father Cecil  
*Mark & Diana Semchyshyn*
- 100+**  
In honour of Fr. Lukie, Fr. Ratushniak & Bs. Stasiuk on their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the priesthood  
*William Bailey*  
Blessed Virgin Mary Sports and Wildlife Club  
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For health of family members  
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For the health of Orest  
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For God's strength for Freda Buleziuk  
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- Adella Byblow  
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Veronica Domingo  
Adeline Dudar  
In memory of Fr. Morris Dzurman  
*Ange Gretchen*  
George & Anna Hnatiuk  
In honour of Olga Hnatiuk's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
*Louis & Elaine Bowman*  
Alice Hood  
In memory of Mike & Sharon  
*Alice & Diane Hood*  
In memory of Walter & Pearl Huchko & John & Anna Rogaski  
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In memory of Michael Kuzminski  
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Derek & Barbara Longfield  
In memory of grandson Michael  
*Dr. Joseph Lozinsky*  
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For health of Justyna  
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In memory of husband Stephen  
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In memory of husband Dan  
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In memory of Joanne & Pat  
*Iris Smellie*  
In honour of Walter & Marilyn Smelski  
*William Karlicki*  
In memory of Nick Sopiwnyck  
*Anna Banera*  
Marko Stefaniuk  
Rev. Georgess M. Svoboda  
In memory of husband Zenon  
*Jenny Swydneycky*  
Harry & Marika Szkwarek  
Danny & Gloria Szun  
In memory of Rose Tesarski  
*Stan & Luba Sirdar*  
In memory of Anne Tracz  
*J.P., Kutcher*  
Peter Wozey  
William & Mary Zaporzan  
Frank & Nellie Zeaton
- Corrections September/2007: We apologize for the inconvenience we may have caused.**
- In honour of parents Barbara & Bud  
Darlene Litchie-Brown  
In memory of husband Zenon  
Jenny Swydneycky  
Robert & Lydia Sliva

Please consider Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine when planning your estate. This will help to secure the future of this ministry. Thank you.

## GRACES AND BLESSINGS

November 24, 2007  
Drohobych, Ukraine

For the past several years, after having recommitted myself to Christianity, I began to serve the Church as a filmmaker. Recently I have done films on the Redemptorists and their martyrs. Just a few weeks ago I filmed the opening of the Blessed Vasyl's apartment in Lviv and on that occasion made a short film about him.

For the past three weeks, I have been waking up with severe nose bleeds. The nose bleeds would not stop but had to be plugged up with cotton batten. This was happening daily and I had lost a lot of blood. I could feel there was some blockage in my nose and this concerned me for it was some kind of growth within my nose.

Just this past week on Wednesday I was encouraged to pray to our Blesseds. I had Blessed Vasyl's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class relic and his holy Oil. I prayed with the relic and anointed myself with the oil, especially in the nose area. On Thursday, although the bleeding was not as profuse, I went to the doctor. Upon analysis, I was told by the doctor that I had micro fibromyoma and that although the growth was benign, I would have to have it surgically removed. Because I was leaving for Kyiv on Sunday, I postponed it until the first week of December. I received a prescription to help stop the bleeding and against any infections. However, I got busy with my work and never filled the prescription. On Friday evening I again prayed to the Blessed. The next morning after washing my face, I blew my nose and the micro fibromyoma flew out. No bleeding flowed.

I thank Blessed Vasyl for his intercession and the grace that he gave me to have this fibrous tissue removed without any surgical procedure.

Anatoli Tsymbol



Please notify the Shrine of any graces received through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl.

## VELYCHKOVSKY PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE

July 14 to August 1, 2008. Visit and pray at the sites in Ukraine where Blessed Vasyl lived, worked and suffered. Total cost: \$3100. For more information e-mail: [bvshrine@mts.net](mailto:bvshrine@mts.net)

### SHRINE SCHEDULE

**Monday:** Shrine is closed  
**Tuesday to Friday:** 10 am to 5 pm  
**Saturday:** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Sunday:** opened until 1:00 pm

Shrine is open to the faithful during the times of Liturgical Services. The Museum is opened on weekends after each Divine Liturgy.

Group tours are available.  
For pilgrimage group tours call for reservations  
**204-338-7321** or e-mail: [bvshrine@mts.net](mailto:bvshrine@mts.net)

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:00 pm**  
**Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasyl**  
**(Acathist or Moleben) followed by an anointing with Holy Oil blessed by his relics.**

### Prayer to Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasyl

O Lord God, You are praised by the whole world for the marvelous works in your saints. I thank you for the grace you gave to **Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky** to be a faithful witness to You unto the point of death. Through his intercession I ask for the following favour \_\_\_\_\_ for your Name is glorified forever. Amen.

Please inform the Shrine of any favors received:  
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Canada  
Tel: 204-338-7321 or e-mail: [bvshrine@mts.net](mailto:bvshrine@mts.net)

*Wishing all of our supporters and their families  
a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.*

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