



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of a Great Bishop

On November 12, 2012, on the feast day of the Ukrainian Catholic Martyr - St. Josaphat, Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn, C.Ss.R., Apostolic Exarch of the Ukrainian Catholics in France, Benelux and Switzerland, fell asleep in the Lord. Bishop Michael was intimately involved with our Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine from its beginning until his death.

Throughout his life, Bishop Michael was engaged in the causes for sainthood. In 1957, he was named as postulator for Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky's cause for beatification, Bishop Michael sought to make know the holy life of this modern Ukrainian Catholic hierarch. In 1994, Bishop Michael was appointed by blessed Pope John Paul II to head the Commission for New Martyrs in preparation for the Year 2000 Jubilee. When the Holy Father planned his visit to Ukraine in 2001, Bishop Michael was given the task of preparing the documentation for 27 martyrs that were to be beatified during the papal visit. Among those martyrs was Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky.

Bishop Michael came to St. Joseph's Church in early January

2001 and announced to us that probably Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky would be beatified later that summer. He informed us that if that happened, then his holy body would no longer remain in All Saints Cemetery but should be brought into a church. He suggested that the church be the Redemptorist parish of St. Joseph in Winnipeg. From that moment plans began: preparing appropriate literature on the life of Blessed Vasyl, and finding a suitable place for a shrine chapel and a museum.

The transfer of the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl occurred the week of September 16 - 22, 2002. Bishop Michael actively participated in the whole process of exhumation, recognition, preparation and transfer. On Sunday, September 22, 2002, the day of the enshrinement, during the Pontifical Divine Liturgy, Bishop Michael delivered a moving homily.

"What happened in Jerusalem many hundreds of years ago, is being repeated in some fashion here in Winnipeg, Canada. Karl Woytyla, the successor of Peter who was involved in the Jerusalem event, has defined and proclaimed that Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky is alive and well, not only alive and well but exalted and glorified.... Hence emotions of joy and radiance that exploded in hearts of the women and apostles, these same feelings fill our hearts today, the feelings of Easter, the feelings of



Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn preaching at the Enshrinement, September 2002

the friends of Jesus, when the angel told them 'He has risen. He is not here.'"

Bishop Michael's tireless heart always wanted us to be inspired by the holiness of the saints. He often quoted the famous saying that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christianity". Martyrdom crystallized the Christian's response to the Gospel - death to self and life in Christ. Now Bishop Michael has entered that eternal life. We pray that he is fully alive with all the saints. May God grant him Eternal Memory, Вічна Пам'ять.

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DEVOTION TO OUR BLESSED SPREADS THROUGHOUT UKRAINE

Nestled in the forest in northwestern Halychyna, Ukraine, near the Polish border, is an unknown shrine to our Mother of God, known popularly as "Marusia". The Mother of God first appeared in Zahlyna in the 17th century to some children. From the place where she stood, a spring of healing water began to flow. Throughout the centuries the local people from the area have been coming to this shrine of our Mother of God of Zahlyna, praying for healing and various needs. Many graces and healings have occurred



The Shrine to the Mother of God in Zahlyna,

through the healing water, which continues to flow abundantly to this day.

During the Soviet period the Shrine chapel was destroyed, but people continued to come and several dramatic healings occurred during that time.



Temporary outdoor chapel in Zahlyna featuring the icon of The Mother of God of Zahlyna

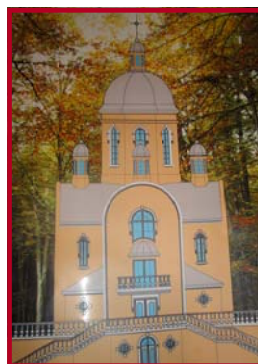
Since 1991, the people and the local government have begun to renew this shrine to the Mother of God. Several years ago, a Redemptorist priest, Fr. Petro Salo, C.Ss.R. has been assigned



Fr. Petro Salo, a Redemptorist, who is constructing a church dedicated to Blessed Vasyl at the Marian Shrine in Zahlyna

to develop the shrine. Much has been done in the past years to build an outdoor chapel, a healing pool, a patio and statue of our Lady, a Cross and the Way of the Cross. He is now beginning to construct a church on this site which will be dedicated to Blessed Vasyl Velychkowsky.

As Mary Jane and I were travelling to this shrine down pot-hole filled roads and then through the forest, we felt that we were going to some abandoned place. But when we arrived, we saw a bus and numerous cars at the shrine with scores of people praying and singing hymns. We brought the 1st Class relics of Blessed Vasyl to Fr. Petro. He was very grateful. Fr. Petro is of course looking for some financial help to complete the church dedicated to Blessed Vasyl.



Proposed church dedicated to Blessed Vasyl in Zahlyna



1st Class relics of Blessed Vasyl

Back in Lviv in the Church of the Holy Resurrection, Fr. Serhij solemnly enshrined the 1st Class relics of Blessed Vasyl which he had received from us this past summer. People of this

church have a weekly devotional service in honour of Blessed Vasyl. Devotion to him is growing among the faithful in this parish.



Parishioners of the Holy Resurrection parish in Lviv venerating Blessed Vasyl's relics

Near Drohobych the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has begun a ministry to alcoholics and drug addicts. It is called Nazareth, situated in a forest which once housed army barracks. When we arrived at this rehab centre, the Divine Liturgy was just being celebrated and participated by all those who were workers or patients at this place. Again we were able to bring a 1st Class relic to them. They were very grateful and promised that they would have a solemn enthronement of these relics and encourage prayers and devotion to Blessed Vasyl. Blessed Vasyl suffered when drugs were forced upon him in prison and I believe he had a special place for those who are addicted. Blessed Vasyl's life was first introduced to them when one of our Shrine employees Kseniya gave them a presentation last April.



Participants in the rehab program in Nazareth who received a 1st class relic of Blessed Vasyl

The importance and holiness of Blessed Vasyl is starting to grow in his home country of Ukraine. We know that he will greatly intercede for them so that they would remain faithful to the Gospel.

Submitted by Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.

THANK YOU!!!

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

Contributions listed below are from September 1st until November 30th, 2012

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 Mary Kokolski
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 Metro Lukie
Obuch family
 Anne Obuck
Mary Sinclair
 Mary Sinclair

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

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.



Вічна її Пам'ять

Maria Matwichuk,
passed away peacefully November 12,
2012

Maria was Blessed Vasyl's 1st cousin - her father Fr. Paul and Blessed Vasyl's mother Anna were siblings. It was partly because of her that Blessed Vasyl made his home in Winnipeg. It was with her permission that Blessed Vasyl's holy relics were transferred from All-Saints cemetery to St. Joseph's church. She shared with us many personal memories of her cousin. **May God grant her eternal rest.**

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

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