



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

YEAR OF MERCY

JUBILEE YEAR

On December 8, 2015, Pope Francis declared an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. It will begin on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and last until the end of November, 2016, following the Roman Catholic liturgical year. This is meant to be an extraor-

inary year during which the people of God will experience the great MERCY of the Father. Jesus is the face of the Father's mercy. By his words, his actions, and his entire per-

son, Jesus reveals to us the mercy of God. As a symbol of God's abundant mercy, the Holy Father will open the Holy Door in St. Peter's in Rome and then "Holy Doors" will be opened throughout designated cathedrals and churches throughout the world. St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church which houses the Shrine of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky has been designated as one of these churches. The "Holy Doors" in St. Joseph's will be opened ceremoniously on December 20th. From that time on for the following year, pilgrims may come to the church, enter through these "holy doors", recite the necessary prayers and receive God's abundant blessings and mercy.



In our eastern church, we use this symbol of entering through doors on Easter morning, when the whole church, after processing outside the church, solemnly proclaims the hymn "Christ is risen" before the closed church doors. Then the church doors are flung open and the whole congregation enters. This movement symbolises our entering into the Kingdom of God, to live with the Resurrected Lord. It is an entering into the fullness of life, into the full proclamation of the Good News. Jesus speaks of himself "I am the Way". "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be safe (will find mercy)." We enter before the throne of mercy from which living healing waters flow.

Pope Francis encourages us to make a pilgrimage this year to those churches designated with "Holy Doors". By coming to St. Joseph's not only do you have the opportunity to go through the "holy doors" and receive the blessings and the grace which the Church bestows upon you, but you also can make a pilgrimage to Blessed Vasyl and plea before him to intercede for all your needs.



Blessed Vasyl preparing for confessions during a priest's retreat

Blessed Vasyl exercised mercy to those around him. We have received many witnessed accounts from those who celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) with him, how gentle and merciful he was towards them. Many called him "my spiritual father." They would say that he knew them and knew their souls, that he was able to direct them along the path of righteousness. From fellow prisoners, we heard of the great grace they received from God whenever they went to him for confession.

In the dark coal mine shafts, Blessed Vasyl was found praying for those who persecuted him. He prayed for those who abused him. When questioned why he was praying for their enemies, Blessed Vasyl stretched his hands in the form of a cross and said "Jesus, prayed from the Cross for those who crucified him." Through his love of his enemies, Blessed Vasyl revealed God's abundant mercy to all.



Blessed Vasyl shortly after his release from his 2nd imprisonment in 1972

When the Soviet Regime began to arrest the Ukrainian Catholic priests,

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many were asked to deny their Catholic faith and join the Russian Orthodox Church and they would be freed. Some 1,700 priests refused to make this concession. They would rather suffer and even die for their Catholic faith rather than in any way be unfaithful to their faith. Among these priests was Blessed Vasyl, who answered a very clear and loud "No! Never!" when confronted with this question. Many other priests for various reasons did give in and joined the Russian Orthodox Church. When Blessed Vasyl completed his first imprisonment in 1955 and returned to Lviv, he found the Ukrainian Catholic Church destroyed. All churches were closed. Some were converted to warehouses or other secular uses. The people were afraid to gather for any common prayer for fear of being arrested. Blessed Vasyl began to organize an underground church, himself taking the risk to practice the faith and he encouraged other priests to do the same. They began celebrating the Divine Liturgy secretly in homes. Slowly the church began to grow in a very secret fashion. Some of

the priests who had left to join the Russian Orthodox Church began coming to Blessed Vasyl to see if they could re-join.

A natural reaction to such a petition could have easily been to deny such a request. After all they did not undergo the harshness of prison life. In short, they "denied" their faith. They became apostate priests. In the church this is considered a serious sin, not easily forgiven. Bishop Julian Voronowsky in his interview with us mentioned that even before Blessed Vasyl became a bishop in 1963, he already began to receive these "apostate" priests back into the Catholic Church. Some came back outright. Other priests were allowed by Blessed Vasyl to practice their Catholic faith within the confines of the Russian Orthodox Church. However, these priests were to avoid concelebrating with Russian Orthodox clergy. Soon people became aware which priests had returned to the Catholic Church and they were able to thus attend the divine services in a church. By this generosity, Blessed Vasyl re-

vealed his great compassion and mercy. His readiness to accept and have mercy on the sinner inspires us to be more understanding and merciful to those who hurt us and have been unfaithful to us.



Blessed Vasyl blessing a mother and child after a baptism

As we make our pilgrimage this Jubilee Year of Mercy to the designated churches, may Blessed Vasyl continue to reveal to us, God's abundant mercy and compassion. May he call us to a deeper conversion of life and lead us to the Sacrament of Penance during this gracious time. Blessed Vasyl's greatest hope for us is that we too with him share in the fullness of God's glory.

SHRINE VISITORS



Fr. Jerry and his parishioners from Steinbach, MB



Pilgrims from Ukraine who now reside in Winnipeg



Newly ordained Bishop Jose Kalluvellil of the Syro-Malabar Church of Canada



CWL members from St. Alphonsus Church, Winnipeg



Deacon Cody Miller with friend from Luisianna, USA.



Fr. Gregory Hammond with students from the University of North Dakota, USA



Pilgrims from the Philippines

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 October 1st until November 15th, 2015

+1000

In memory of Olga Welichka Estate

+500

Sophia Pisiak

+ 100

**Maria Kchik
Bill & Lena Lapchuk
Elizabeth MacIsaac
Victoria McAuley
Sacred Heart Parish, Ituna SK
Helen Stockburn**

>100

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Roman & Stepaniya Bouina
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Sofia Hull
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John & Yvonne Sirdar
Andrew & Pat Sirski
Iris Smellie
Jan Walkow
Robert Wesley
Peter & Olga Zachary
Adela Zatwarnitski
Alex & Mary Zimrose**

In Memory Of...

Rose Baehnk
John and Mary Hykawy
Fr. Morris Dzurman, C.Ss.R.
Mary Patrick
Helen Ewanchyna
Joseph E. Ewanchyna
Kathleen Foster
Marven and Nell O'Neil
Yvonne Frank
Joseph and Susan Zeleny
Lauretta, Mom, Dad, Mike and Bill Gulenchin
Roy Gulenchin

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Mary Patrick
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Darlene Sidak
Stan and Luba Sirdar
Vladimir and Marlene Solman
Peter and Joan Washchysyn
Kay Zawortny

Stan Kyba

Redemptorists - Ituna

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Gary and Jan Lukie

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Grace Lashyn

Michael Matwichyna

Violet Matwichyna

Dr. John Melnyk

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Judy Odger

Fred Odger

Grace Prokop

Steve Prokop

Eric Richards

John Hreno

Myrna Richards

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Janice Klos

Stanislav, Ihor & Antonina

Shpytkovsky

Wsevolod Andrew Shpytkovsky

Mando and Elisea Tagarda

Marfe Prado

Edward Topornicki

Steven and Mary Gregorish

Steve Trach

Phyllis Trach

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Wayne and Pat Hawthorn
John and Mary Hykawy
Mary Jane Kalenchuk
Mathias and Krista Krohn
Millie Lefko

Walter and Isabel Lukie
Allan and Joanne Malenko
Emile and Sylvia Picklyk
Mary Anne Piercy
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Phyllis Shindak
Phyllis Sianchuk
Darlene Sidak
Stan and Luba Sirdar
Lillian Skazyk
Iris Smellie
Vladimir and Marlene Solman
Alexander and Marilyn Woloshyn
Kay Zawortny

In Honor Of...

Sandra Fedoruk

Patricia Lendzyk

Diane & Bob Gingera

Mary Kokolski

Fr. John Sianchuk

Stan and Luba Sirdar

Ukraine

Donna Krawchuk

For Health Of...

Veronica Dominco

Veronica Domingo

Ernest Fedorowich

John and Sophia Fedorowich

Jessap family

S. Demjanew

Gil Magsajo

Virgilio Magsajo

Mary Theresa Papinko

Greg and Mary Papinko

Hans Schmid

Dirk Schmid

Vicki Tycholis

Larry and Evelyn Tycholis

Anastasia Tymchuk

Oxana Tymchuk

OUR APOLOGIES

(Correction from June Newsletter)

For the health of Margaret Kuzminski

Mary Kuzminski

BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE

**A spiritual journey—
following a martyr's life
July 3– 25, 2016**

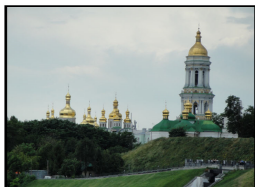


We will walk in the footsteps of Blessed Vasyl—visiting the sites where he lived, worked and suffered.



Pilgrimage includes:

Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kamianetz Podilsk, Kyiv, Zarvanytsia (participating in the weekend vidpust) and other points of interest such as the Carpathian Mountains, Kolomeya, villages & an orphanage



Cost: 4,500.00 CDN (includes airfare from Winnipeg, meals, accommodations and travel throughout Ukraine)

Deadline for registration: February 29, 2016 (limited to 20 pilgrims)

For more information & registration contact:

Mary Jane Kalenchuk or Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.
Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine 250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
Tel: 204-338-7321 email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com

VELYCHKOVSKY PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE 2016

July 3 to July 25, 2016 - The Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine is conducting a pilgrimage for 22 days to places in Ukraine where Blessed Martyr Vasyl lived, worked and suffered. Some of the places we will be visiting are: Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kovel, Kamianetz Podilsk, Kyiv, the Carpathian Mountains, Zarvanytsia, Pochaiv, etc. On this pilgrimage we will have prayer services and hear stories of Blessed Vasyl's life as well as sight-seeing throughout Ukraine.

Cost of the trip is \$4500 CDN which includes: flights from Winnipeg to Lviv/Kyiv to Winnipeg, travelling in air-conditioned bus throughout Ukraine, accommodations, meals and attractions. **Travel and medical insurance is not included.**

For more information contact by e-mail: bvshrine@mymts.net or phone 204-338-7321. Book as soon as possible as space is limited to 20 pilgrims. Deadline for reservations is February 29, 2016. Tour conducted by Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R. & Mary Jane Kalenchuk.

Come and experience Blessed Vasyl's homeland and the beauty and hospitality of Ukraine.

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

It is important to notify the Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Shrine if you have received a grace or a blessing through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl. Whether it be through prayer, a third class relic or through the anointing with holy oil, even if the grace seems minimal, please inform the Shrine office,
email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com
Tel: 204-338-7321

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

Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine
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