



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

MERCY FOREVER

"For His Mercy Lasts Forever" Psalm 136

On November 20th, the Jubilee Year of Mercy came to an end. The Holy Doors, which were open to all pilgrims coming to the designated churches, were closed. This extraordinary year of grace ended. However, God's mercy endures forever, just as the psalmist wrote. It has been an extraordinary year at the Shrine. Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church was designated as one of the six churches in Winnipeg to have a Holy Door. Those who came to the Shrine were given guidance



Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of North America celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Shrine

on the Holy Door, the purpose of this door, the spirit of conversion, prayers to be said, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession.

Many also took the opportunity to make a full pilgrimage to the Shrine, that is, to participate in a spiritual tour of our museum and to spend some time at prayer before Blessed Vasyli's holy relics.



Parishioners from St. Anne's Ukr. Cath. Church, Winnipeg

Some came almost daily to walk through the Holy Door. Many came as families and as individuals. We also had parishes come and participate in these moments of grace. Some of the more notable parishes participating were St. Anne's Ukrainian Catholic Church; Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Churches from Winnipeg and Rosedale; Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church; St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church; Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church; St. John Cantius Roman Catholic Church; St. Anthony Roman Catholic Parish....

Various groups made a special visit in order to go through the Holy Door. The Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of North Ameri-



Parishioners from St. Anthony Roman Catholic Parish, Winnipeg

ca during their annual meeting in Winnipeg visited the Shrine and Holy Door. The clergy from the Archeparchy of Winnipeg held their "soborchyk" (meeting) at St. Joseph's and included the Holy Door as part of their noon day prayer. Some 100 members of the Legion of Mary choose



Family from India whose parents recently arrived in Canada

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Parishioners from 4 parishes near Thief River Falls, Minnesota USA

the Shrine to spend the morning at prayer. Prison ministers from Grand Forks, North Dakota came to pray before the "Patron of Prison Ministry" – Blessed Vasyl, and took the opportunity to experience the Holy Door. Four parishes with their pastors from Thief River Falls, Minnesota made a special trip to Winnipeg with the sole purpose of vis-



St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Parish, Winnipeg

iting and praying at the Shrine, going through the Holy Door and receiving the Sacrament of Confession. The Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church and his faithful celebrated the Divine Liturgy in their rite and concluded with special Holy Door prayers. Several individual families from the Syro-Malabar Church returned for the Sacrament of Confession and to pray at the Shrine. It has been an extraordinary year of grace and an experience of the Father's mercy. The Bishop Velychkovsky Shrine has been blessed to

have been an intimate part of this ministry. Blessed Vasyl during his life exemplified the Father's mercy in many ways. He understood that the Father's mercy extends to all people - that God desires to share

His Life with all. While in prison, he was heard praying for the prison guards, for those who tortured and abused him. When the Ukrainian Catholic priests were being arrested under the Soviet government, they were usually given the choice, to deny their Catholic faith and join the Russian Orthodox Church or go to prison. Some 1700 priests went to prison. Others, often reluctantly or out of fear, signed the papers and became Russian Orthodox priests. At that time Russian Orthodox priest were asked to spy for the Soviet authorities. After Blessed Vasyl returned from imprisonment in 1955 and especially after he was secretly consecrated a bishop in 1963, some of these priests were coming to him to be accepted again into the Catholic



Members of Holy Family Ukr. Cath. Parish, Winnipeg



Women from several Roman Catholic parishes organized by St. John Cantius parish, Winnipeg

Church. He welcomed them with open arms, without any sanctions or penances, just as the Heavenly Father welcomes sinners. On death row, he opened the door for many of the hardened criminals, to a sincere conversion of heart, and the receiving of the Sacraments. Before his first arrest, Blessed Vasyl saved



Member of the Legion of Mary and their families

and hid numerous Jewish children from the massacre of the Nazis. Blessed Vasyl revealed to us the Father's mercy by his actions and relations with people in need. He continues to be an arm of the Father's mercy as he now intercedes for all those who come to him with their needs and with faith.



Syro-Malabar family with their parish priest

A “Christmas” Gift

The Lord had blessed us with a beautiful baby girl, Sofia several years ago. Last September we found out that we were pregnant again. We were overjoyed that we would have a second child. We had all the ordinary appointments with the doctors and all was well. At the ninth week we had an ultra sound. All the images were fine. As we had done with our first child, we also tested our second child for Down syndrome. We got the result back in November 2015 telling us that our child tested positive for Down syndrome. We went to the hospital for a 2nd ultrasound. They prepped us for another ultrasound, but upon learning that we already had had one, they simply took the results of our first ultra sound and brought us to a meeting. They told us that the results were conclusive. They normally call people in for a consultation if there is a 1 in 400 chance of the child having this disease. In our case the odds were much higher. There was a 1 in 16 chance that our child has Down syndrome. The doctors began to give us various options, how we could proceed. There was one test that would give us 100 percent certainty, but with this procedure there was a 1 in 200 chance that the procedure could kill the child. This certainly raised our anxiety level. There was also a less evasive test that was only 90 percent accurate. There still was a 1-10,000 chance that our baby had Down syndrome even if this test said the unborn child didn't have it. We had to make a choice. We went with the non- evasive test. The test took place in the beginning of December. The package was sent to the States and we had to wait 14 days for the results. Needless to say we were very upset. We did not know what we would do? How could we handle this situation? This was completely unexpected and now our joy at having a second child was changed to anxiety, stress and worry and this was increasing every day. We were going out of our minds. To add to this whole situation. Kristya, my wife, was in a car accident prior to our first ultra sound. She had a concussion and was off work. It was a very bad time. Guilt and self-blame set in that perhaps this was all a result of the accident. All of my colleagues at school, our family and friends were sharing in our anxiety and worry.



**Kristya (Matwichyna), Paul,
Sofia and Evan Thullner**

Then on December 9, Kristya, who rarely does this, looked at the parish bulletin. That day there was to be an evening Divine Liturgy because of the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Kristya got this feeling and conviction that we had to go that evening. We went. That was unusual for us, as we only go on Saturday evenings to church. To our surprise that evening was a Wednesday and so together with the Liturgy there were devotional prayers in honour of Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky in the Shrine chapel and anointing with holy oil blessed with his 1st Class Relics. We stayed for this. We felt so helpless because of our situation. We could not do anything to change or help or fix it. All we could do is trust God. We went to the Shrine, wrote a prayer requesting healing for our unborn child. After the anointing, Kristya asked that the priest, Fr. John Sianchuk, bless the baby in her womb. At the end of the service, we shared our situation briefly with father. As we left the church, we experienced this great burden being lifted from us. We no longer were anxiously worrying about our situation. We just knew that God would give us the strength to handle whatever the results of the test would be. We came home at peace. When met by our mother at the door, we expressed the light feeling that we were experiencing. A burden was lifted.

On the last day of school before the Christmas break, I received a phone call from Kristya. I stopped by the side of the road and took the call. Kristya told me that the results have come back and everything is fine. We both started crying, knowing that all will be fine. My colleagues shared in my joy and relief. Christmas came early that year. It was that Divine Liturgy and anointing that made all the difference. On May 14, 2016 Kristya gave birth to healthy baby boy, Evan. We thank our Lord Who through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl has given us a healthy child.

Paul and Kristya Thullner

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 22nd, 2016

+1000
St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Church

+500
In memory of Bella Kalenchuk
Dmytro (Dan) Kalenchuk

+100
Fr. Ivan and Marion Barszczyk
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St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Church,
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Francesca Tabanera
Jeannine Tinguely
Jan Walkow
Sonia Yaskiw Dunn

In Memory Of...
Bill Andrusiak
Metro Lukie
Mary Boguski
Florence Blanchard
Mary Jane Kalenchuk
Rick & Jeannette Kendall
Darlene Sidak
Stan & Luba Sirdar
Iris Smellie
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Chan So
May Fuga
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Mary-Anne Skehar
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Paul and Eugene Szun
Dennis and Steffie Wawrykow
Kay Zawortny

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Dmytro (Dan) Kalenchuk
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Muran, Eustachewich & Murtagh
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Mary Winchar

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Ollie Babick
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Mary Kokolski

Amanda Johanson

Millie Lefko

Spencer Katerynuk

Bill & Olga Katerynuk

Fr. Boris Kyba

Les & Natalie Storozuk

Pilgrimage to Ukraine

Robert & Leanna Obirek

Redemptorist Fathers

Jean Rubel

Grace Wilgus

Dorothy Labay

For the Health of...

Chloe Miller Bakke

Ann Morrissey

Lionel Bjornson

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Raymond, Dan, Richard Carbotte &

Lyndon Michalchuk

Paul & Adeline Carbotte

Dmyterko Family

Jaroslav & Julia Dmyterko

Veronica Dominco

Veronica Domingo

Martin & Helen Fydirchuk

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Gulenchin Family

Roy Gulenchin

Holy Family parishioners: Calla

Komarnicki, Pat Kreklewitz, Ed

Belinsky, Brian Adams and

others

Holy Family Ukr. Cath. Church

UCWLC, Wpg

Charles Houston

Monica Houston

Jessap family

S. Demjanew

Koziak family

Julian & Barbara Koziak

Anna Labay

Marusia Labay

Nick Labay

Pat Lendzyk

Alexandra Fedoruk

Norman Lux

Jerry Pasternak

Louis Melosky

Louis & Helen Melosky

Romeo Miniano

Romeo & Maria Miniano

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Leslie & Darlene Nelson

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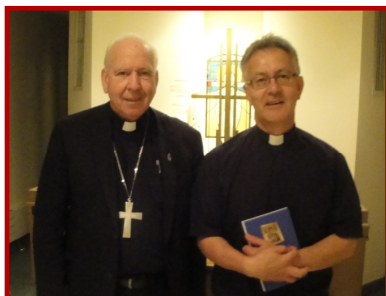
Anastasia Tymchuk

Oxana Tymchuk

Joseph Zeleny

Joseph & Susan Zeleny

SHRINE VISITORS



Archbishop Gerard Pettipas from
Grand Prairie, AB and Fr. Dominic
from St. Anthony's ,Wpg



Prison Ministers from
Grand Forks, ND



National Conference for Religious in Canada



Roman Catholic and Ukraini-
an Catholic Youth Leaders
from across Canada



Pilgrims from Sydney
Australia



Pilgrims from South Dakota
and Illinois



Pilgrims from Slovakia

MINISTRY IN UKRAINE



Altar servers from Lviv visiting Bl. Vasyl's apartment



Ivan Zaharuk and daughter Larissa from Winnipeg visiting Bl. Vasyl's museum/apartment in Lviv



Veneration of the Relics after Oleh & Tania's presentation in Shuparka, Bl. Vasyl's home village



The church of Vozneseniya in Lviv was full of people coming to venerate the holy relics of Bl. Vasyl. Veneration continued outside.



Tania giving their presentation at Vozneseniya parish in Lviv



Prison guards and workers at a women's jail after Tania & Oleh's presentation



Tania making a presentation in the village church in Perehinsk



Veneration of relics in Yavoriv

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
 (Acathist 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*

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