



# **FULLY ALIVE**

*A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication*

## Compassionate One

### HOPE FOR THE DESPARATE

Over the past several years since 2004, together with Mary Jane Kalenchuk, I have been researching the holy life of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. We have been traveling to Ukraine seeking out people who knew him and could give us information about the type of person our blessed martyr was.



**Fr. Yaroslav Dybka and Mary Jane Kalenchuk with orphans from Syne-Vydno**

As we were doing this work another concern fell into our laps. Through the encouragement of the late Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R. we were introduced to a very needy orphanage. Most of the orphans in this secular institution could be categorized as special needs children. Many had very tragic stories. This orphanage itself was in shambles, but the plight of the orphans was even worse. Our hearts went out to these orphans. Ever since that time, our yearly trips to Ukraine doing research on Blessed Vasyl was coupled with a visit to the orphans. Over the years we have developed personal relationships with many of them and have followed their lives. Not only are they living in misery in the orphanage, but even worse is their situation when they are forced to leave the orphanage. It is so easy for the girls to be swallowed up in human trafficking of the global sex trade.

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An incident occurred recently, that five of the orphans were admitted to a mental institution (although they have no mental illnesses), because the state had nowhere to put them and they could no longer stay in the orphanage because of their age.

The more I reflected on the life of Blessed Vasyl, I came to realize that this involvement with the orphans is not just arbitrary or by chance. Blessed Vasyl himself had a heart for orphans and the young. Perhaps in some mystical way we are continuing the ministry that he would have been involved with if he were alive in Ukraine today.

As a young child he witnessed his mother looking after orphan children in their own home. He recalled his mother taking care of a poor blind orphan girl living with them, until she died at an early age. When he became the superior of the monastery in Stanislaviv (Ivano Frankivsk), he became aware of the plight of young village girls who would come to the city of Stanislaviv and would fall prey to the gentry, who would offer them menial jobs for sexual favors. Blessed Vasyl fought this practice. He organized these young girls into confraternities, where they could receive an education, find moral support and have their dignity restored. The young girls so loved Bl. Vasyl, that when he was arrested in 1940 for having a religious procession during the feast of our Mother of Perpetual Help, they protested to the authorities for his release. They were willing to shed their blood for him. When the authorities saw this type of dedication, they feared these young women and released Blessed Vasyl.

While he was superior in the monastery in Ternopil, 1942-45, during the War, he sheltered and saved some twenty Jewish children from the Nazis. He was



**An orphan cared for by Blessed Vasyl**

#### **Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine**

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also intimately involved with an orphanage that was managed by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate. He took interest in particular orphans. We met one such orphan. When she was 14 years old in 1944 and the Soviets were shelling the city, she recalls Blessed Vasyl walking with her hand in hand so that she would not be afraid. She said that he was like a father to her, always concerned about her welfare. Even after Blessed Vasyl returned in 1955 from his imprisonment, he sought her out to inquire how she was doing. She loved him very much and cherished the relics and the holy cards that we gave to her.

Blessed Vasyl's love for the orphans and the needy, especially the young, gives us inspiration to continue in these works of mercy. Today, the tragedy of human trafficking is very real throughout the world, and is prevalent in Ukraine. A group called "Nashi", with whom we have recently become involved, is trying to make a

difference. Their goal is to help at least some of the young girls from being swallowed up in this evil. They are in the process of building their first safe house in Stoyaniv, a village in Ukraine, where these girls will be able to obtain life skills and an education. May Blessed Vasyl be their patron and special protector so that this evil of human trafficking may be averted and destroyed.

By Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.



**Safe-house being built by NASHI in Stoyaniv Ukraine to combat human trafficking.**

## CELEBRATING 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD

This year is the year of the priesthood as declared by Pope Benedict XVI. We are celebrating Blessed Vasyl's 85th Anniversary of Priesthood. He was ordained on October 9, 1925 in Zboisk, the Redemptorist Seminary Chapel near Lviv. This chapel, although now in ruins, by God's grace, has still been saved from destruction. Apartment blocks have been built all around it. The contractors constructing these apartments did not destroy this chapel. We have heard recently that the Archbishop of Lviv is hoping to restore this chapel. We pray that this will become a reality.

Blessed Vasyl described his ordination in his autobiography: *"Another joyful day - October 9, 1925, the feast of the Translation of St. John the Theologian: at twenty-two years of age I received the great Mystery of Priesthood from the hands of Bishop Joseph Bocian, Bishop of Lutsk, a great pravednyk, who had been consecrated bishop by Metropolitan Andrew during the latter's exile, in Kyiv. Our Metropolitan Andrew was, at that time, resting in Pidliuty, and so the gracious Bishop Joseph came to us in Zboiska; and here, in the little monastery church, he carried out this great event - he conferred on me the Priesthood. Now, there is nothing more that my heart could desire, because I have everything in Jesus, whom I hold in my hands, offer in sacrifice, give to the people. Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord! My heart - though it is so small, so miserable - is full of joy!"*



**Church in Zboisk where Blessed Vasyl was ordained**

## PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE



**Students from Our Lady of Victory Catholic School come to learn about Blessed Vasyl**



**Holy Eucharist Men's, Women's and Knight's Organizations present donations to the Shrine**



**St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic catechism class visit the Shrine**

# 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. We are grateful to those who have named the Shrine as a beneficiary in memory of their loved ones. May Blessed Vasyi bless each one of you.*

*Contributions listed below are from February 1st 2010 until April 30th 2010.*

## 1000+

In memory of Walter Demyd  
*Olga Pozniak*

## 500+

In memory of Julia Kostiuk  
*Walter & Magdaline Skazyk*

In memory of Teodor Fred Tomczij  
*Katherine Tomczij*

In honour of Stanley Kostiuk  
*Walter & Magdaline Skazyk*

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## In Memory of

Paul Bzdel  
*Stan & Luba Sirdar*  
Chuckry parents & grandparents  
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Jack Daniels  
*Dolores Daniels*  
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Sacarlett & Goode families  
*Orest & Vi Zabinsky*  
John Zatwarnetski  
*Mary Glicaria Bilinsky*  
Yvonne Zeleny  
*Susan Zeleny*

## In Honor of

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John Hykawy  
*Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk*  
William & Anne Karlicki  
*William J. Karlicki*  
Perry Nakonechny  
*Ed & Nettie Nakonechny*  
Iris Smellie  
*Phyllis Sianchuk*

# COME & CELEBRATE

## the Feast Day of the Ukrainian Catholic Martyrs Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions

### 85th Anniversary of Blessed Vasyl's Priesthood

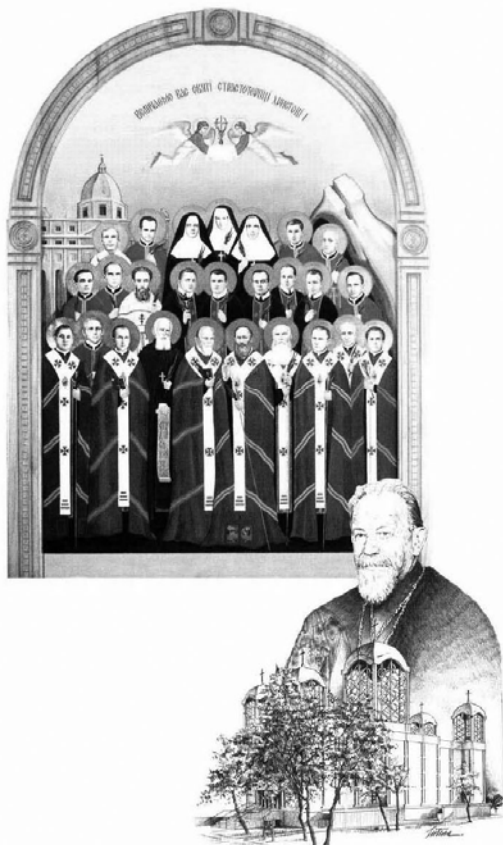
**JUNE 27, 2010**

**Saturday June 26th**

4:00 Vespers  
5:00 Divine Liturgy  
6:00 Meal & refreshments  
Bl. Vasyl Play

**Sunday June 27th**

10:00 Divine Liturgy  
11:15 Testimonies  
from Calgary  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Video Presentation  
1:45 Acafist Hymn  
in honor of Blessed  
Bishop and Martyr  
Vasyl Velychkovsky,  
C.Ss.R.  
2:30 Pilgrimage  
Procession  
3:00 Moleben  
Veneration of Relics  
Anointing for Healing



Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Parish making their  
8th annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine

## EWTN

Watch for the airing of "Steadfast and Faithful: a Martyr's Journey" on the life of Blessed Vasyl which is usually aired on June 30.

## Prayer Requests

For a special intention and prayer request you may call or e-mail us. Your prayer request will be placed in the Shrine and remembered in prayer every Wednesday evening after the Service in honour of Blessed Vasyl.

## LOCATION:

**ST JOSEPH'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY MARTYR'S SHRINE**  
250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB  
for more information call: 338-7321

## SHRINE SCHEDULE

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

Shrine is open to the faithful during the times of Liturgical Services. The Museum is open 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)  
Website: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com)

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING - 7:00 pm**  
Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasyl  
(Acafist 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 to:  
Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine  
250 Jefferson Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6  
Canada  
or E-mail: [bvshrine@mts.net](mailto:bvshrine@mts.net)