

# FULLY ALIVE

*A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication*

## HOPE IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE

### PRESENT FATE OF THE CHURCH IN ZBOISK

The saga of the former Redemptorists church in Zboisk, Ukraine continues to unfold. This church/chapel is important for us, in particular because Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky was ordained to the priesthood in this church. It has been in the past a place of pilgrimage for us and hopefully will continue to be in the future.

This church together with property for a school and monastery was given to the Redemptorists in 1920 by Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky. Zboisk, a village near Lviv, became the place for the Redemptorist Juvenate where many young men were given an education. Blessed Vasyl began his priestly ministry by teaching at this Juvenate. The church, which became the place of prayer for the students, was also the place where the Redemptorist seminarians professed their vows. Many of the seminarians were ordained here to the priesthood, these included Blessed Martyr Vasyl (in 1925) and Blessed Martyr Zenon Kowalyk (1932). Blessed Martyr Nicholas Charnetsky celebrated many Liturgies in this church as a priest and later as a bishop.

During the Soviet occupation this property was confiscated in 1946. The church was transformed into a storage warehouse. In 1991 when the church was again granted freedom, this property was in the hands of the military and was impossible to return at that time. With the coming years the military left the property, and it fell into the hands of private owners. The Redemptor-



Fr. John speaking with a local priest and concerned neighbours about the newly-illegally-renovated church in Zboisk.

ists were unsuccessful in having this confiscated property returned to them. Developers constructed apartment blocks on the property, but this little church (warehouse) was left intact and untouched. For the past several years, we have been going to this property with pilgrims. We began to draw the attention of the Redemptorists and the Archeparch that they again seek the means to repossess at least this little church.

To our surprise this last spring we discovered that a group of "sisters" who belong to a sectarian church - Dohnalivtsi, (who have condemned the Catholic Church and its hierarchy), have purchased this



Faithful venerate the cross planted near the church in honour of 10th Anniversary Blessed Pope John Paul II's visit to Ukraine.

"sisters" leave the property. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has planted a wooden Cross on the property (with the authority of the civil government). Before this cross the faithful gather twice a week to pray that this his-



Neighbors praying twice a week for the return of this church to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

property. They began to renovate the church when the civil authorities stepped in and put a stop to the renovation because they had no permit. The people who lived in the vicinity of this church began to demand that these sectarian

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toric property be returned into the hands of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. While we (Mary Jane Kalenchuk and I) were in Ukraine this past August, we had the opportunity to pray with the people for this purpose.

Part of our mission in Ukraine is to do research concerning Blessed Vasyl. This year we were searching for people in a first communion picture found in Blessed Vasyl's KGB files. One of the children in the picture was a priest's son, who himself is now a priest, Fr. Ihor Horodetsky. When we found him and interviewed him, we discovered that he is prayerfully fighting to have the Zboisk church returned to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. He expressed great hope that God will make it so that this holy place can once again be a place of prayer.

I encourage all of you readers to join us in this petition: that the Redemptorist Church in Zboisk, where some of our Blessed Martyrs were ordained, be freed from the hands of the enemies and be re-established as a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.



Fr. Ihor Horodetsky, a priest from Zboisk whose father worked with Blessed Vasyl in the underground church

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

## WORK WITH THE MOST ABANDONED



Psyche Hospital in Zayava where our orphans live

we went there to visit them. The conditions under which these children live are deplorable. They are by far the youngest of all those who are in the hospital. Four of the five children (now young adults) could easily live in group homes, but no such homes exist in Ukraine. If no one intercedes for them, there is a

One of the consequences of our work in Ukraine concerning Blessed Vasyl is that we have become involved working with some orphans. Blessed Vasyl in his time also cared for orphans, especially when he was superior in Ternopil. We are involved with a very poor orphanage that is caring for children who are mentally challenged (although not all of them). There are many stories that could be shared, but I wish to share one about five particular orphans. Once these children turned 16 or 17 years of age, they were no longer able to stay at the orphanage. Since they had no one to claim them, they were placed into a psyche hospital. This summer

good chance that they will spend the rest of their lives in this institution. The financial help received from the many donors from Canada, will provide these young adults medical and dental care. We have been working with Sr. Julia, SSMI, of Ukraine who has great devotion caring for orphans. With our help she has contacted a lawyer to help formulate the paperwork that will release them from this psyche hospital. Hopefully, they can live in an institution where they will be able to have a better quality of life.

I believe that Blessed Vasyl has been guiding us to do this much needed work. He always had a heart for the most abandoned. **These children are surely among the most abandoned.**  
*Fr. John*



Vasyl Mykulchyn, Vasyl Oryshchak, Ivanna Oryshchak and Kateryna Bilenka enjoying an ice-cream after we bought some substantial food for them.



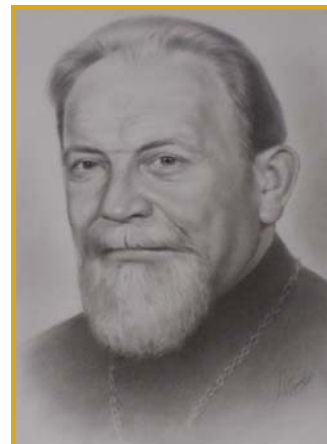
Mary Jane Kalenchuk, Ivanka, Katya, and Sr. Julia Flak SSMI enjoying the afternoon.

## Testimony of Grace

### ***On the intercession of Blessed Vasyl in the miraculous recovery of Joan Sikorsky***

*There are several ways to approach an account of Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011. The full story would require continual pauses for prayers of gratitude, moments of overwhelming joy, and scarcely approachable recollections of raw fear. Because this story, with all of its nuances remains so emotionally charged, and rests outside of the limitations of the written word, only the key facts are here documented.*

*My mother showed symptoms of gastric bleeding in the night prior to Resurrection Matins and Liturgy. She remained hopeful that she was just experiencing a passing problem and would attend St. Nicholas Church, her parish since childhood, in the morning. Recognizing that she still felt unwell, and fearing that she might fall further ill in church, she resigned herself to listening to a recorded liturgy while awaiting the arrival of the whole family for Sviachane.*



*When my own family arrived, my husband and I immediately set to decide which emergency room to visit, and to persuade her that she could not wait until we had all had Easter breakfast. We settled, with her consent, on going to St. Boniface General Hospital, where we arrived mid-morning. She was quickly attended to, monitored, and investigated fully. A waiting period for treatment followed. Fearing a serious illness, I simply kept her company and refrained from sharing my fears.*

*My sister arrived shortly before our mother underwent a repair procedure for a bleeding area. This was in the mid-afternoon. Again, we trusted in the medical expertise, and refused to entertain the possibility that anything serious was wrong. The attending physician told my sister and I that the procedure appeared to have been successful and that he thought he had averted the need for emergency surgery. He did warn that the coming hours were critical in terms of seeing if the repair was indeed successful.*

*Almost immediately upon leaving the room where the scope procedure was performed, Mama went into distress. Her blood pressure plummeted and her hemoglobin levels, already low since the onset of the illness, dropped further. A blur of medical intervention followed, with a surgical team rushing into the emergency department. My sister and I were rushed out of the area, but not before the doctor rather directly confirmed that the medical team might not be able to save our mother.*

*Frightened, as the tumult began, I suggested to my frightened sister, that we should call a priest for the Sacrament of Healing. With the kind assistance of some staff and that of a priest who walked by, we were able to call our father and brother to come quickly, all the way saying scattered and frantic prayers.*

*Father Bohdan Lukie arrived moments after our father and brother and prayed with us until we could go to her bedside for the giving of the Sacrament. At one point while waiting to go to her bedside, I reached my husband on the telephone at my parents' home, where he was waiting with my sister-in-law and all our young children. I asked him to please go pray with the children at the shrine to Blessed Vasyl. His best estimate is that he and our sister-in-law (also Joan Sikorsky), took the six children to the shrine at about 5:30 p.m., where they all prayed for Mama/Baba's recovery.*

*Time is all a blur during this period, but a review of the medical notes, which document events as soon as possible after they occur indicate this:*

*3:15 p.m. Mama returned to the department after the repair  
3:30 p.m. She went into distress and became agitated  
3:45 p.m. She was intubated ( to support her respiration) and received blood  
4:00 p.m. Intubation was complete  
5:15 p.m. Mama was taken to the operating room upstairs, ready for surgery*

*Sometime between 4:00 and 5:00, Father Lukie gave the Sacrament.*

*After an agonizing waiting period in the family waiting room outside of the surgical unit, the surgeon arrived to report to us all. This was sometime in the mid-evening, perhaps 7:30 p.m. The wait is also something of a blur, but included repeated prayers to Blessed Vasyl for his intercession, to the Virgin Mary, and to my deceased grandmother, who had a very close relationship to the Virgin Mary. In any case, the surgeon reported having done extensive exploration with a*



*gastro scope, but could find no evidence of continued bleeding. I recall him saying that he had fully expected to find a significant bleeding area, based upon the clinical picture. I also remember him clearly saying that he had no explanation for the discrepancy between the pre-surgical findings, and his investigations in the operating room. There was no need for surgery. The crisis had passed.*

*Mama spent the night in the intensive care unit. The kind nurse who was attending her, urged us to go home to rest, and to feel free to call or return if we wanted. I slept for a short while after returning home at about 10 p.m., but found I had to return to her. At about 1:30 a.m., I went to the intensive care unit with holy oil from the Shrine and a votive candle. I applied the oil and prayed as clearly as I could.*

*By the next day, her recovery process tumbled along faster than I could keep track. Medical staff removed the sedation which had allowed her to rest through the night, then the respirator. She was closely watched after being taken from intensive care, but her recovery proceeded, through God's grace, and no doubt through Blessed Vasyl's intercession, without difficulty.*

*This account has strayed beyond the key facts, but I do not have the strength or inclination to try to edit it. The short timeline and the shrine visit time seem essential details. Mama told me not long after the crisis that she prays to Sr. Josephata. She has given her thanks at the shrine, recognizing the role of prayer in her recovery. Her prayers of gratitude are constant, as are mine.*

*Mama's recovery is truly our Resurrection Day miracle. I give constant thanks to Blessed Vasyl and to the Virgin Mary. My gratitude for everyone's prayers and for Father Bohdan's visits, for Father John's support, is boundless.*

*Christina Sikorsky daughter of Joan*

## PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE



**Catholic Chinese  
Delegation from Winnipeg**



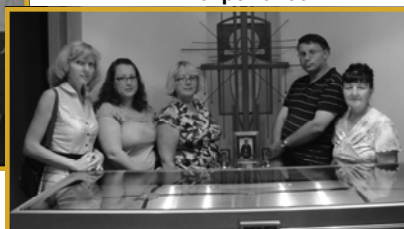
**Grade 5 class from Immaculate Heart  
of Mary School in Winnipeg are  
anointed with Blessed Vasyl Relic Oil.**



**50+ members of SUM (Ukrainian  
Youth) from across Canada include  
the Shrine in their summer  
experience.**



**Young girls from Wisconsin  
visit the Shrine to pray  
for the ill classmate.**



**Visitors from Poland and  
the United States**



**Retired School Teachers from South  
Dakota make a pilgrimage to the Shrine.**

# THANK YOU!!!

*Your generous donations make it possible to conduct the ministry of the Shrine and promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl throughout the world. Thank you. We are grateful to those who have named the Shrine as a beneficiary in memory of their loved ones. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you. Contributions listed below are from May 1st until August 30th 2011.*

## 500+

Estate of John Chomik  
Fr. Theodore Harasymchuk

## 100+

Vasilj & Eugenia Bartos  
William & Genevieve Berezny  
Dr. Peter Gnanapragasam  
Wirlana Holowka  
Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Parish  
Dan & Bella Kalenchuk  
K of C's Holy Eucharist Council #11330  
Geraldine Koban  
Walter & Isabel Lukie  
Emil M. Maybo  
Gerard & Regina Muench  
Fred & Judy Odger  
Jimmy Sawchuk  
St. Nicholas U.C.W.L.C.  
Casper & Violet Stoski  
Ukr. Cath. Church of Assumption  
Maria Vaz  
Helene Yuzwa

## <100

John & Alice Antoniuk  
M. Bakan  
Carolina Belen  
Mary Benson  
Dr. Kenneth & Josie Bessant  
Roman & Stepaniya Bouina  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Buyachok  
Christ the King School  
Sr. Chrysostom, OSBM  
Elenta Cruz  
Lillian Deptuch  
Maria Fil  
Anne Fontaine  
Genevieve Foster  
Bert & Val Galay  
Michael Heinlein  
Sofia Hull  
Harry & Evelyn Kardynal  
Stella Kieluk  
Krystyna Kloskowska  
K of C Fr. Filipow Council #89444  
Eileen Koberinski  
Joan Kostuk  
Iris Kozarchuk  
Mary Kurulok  
Mary Kuz  
Nick Labay  
Berte Liberty  
Marusia Lorenzo  
Dr. Joseph Lozinsky  
André & Juliette Mailoux  
Jean Maksymchuk  
James & Elaine Mandziuk  
Sophie Manulak  
Osita Ogidi  
Isabel Pagciio

Morris Paley  
S. Paley  
Michael Panchuk  
Marfe Prado  
Evilina Quinto  
Solito Roque  
Winnie Rumore  
Isidoro & June Santos  
Victoria Sarona  
Eileen Shewchuk  
Frank & Anne Shymko  
Dmytro Sikora  
John & Yvonne Sirdar  
Robert & Lydia Sliva  
Richard & Alice Small  
Iris Smellie  
Stanislawa Stasiewicz  
Freddie Ty  
Maria Verille  
Fr. Andrij & Lydia Wasylanko  
Peter Wozney  
Dan Yarko  
Alex & Mary Zimrose  
Ann Zulak

## In Memory Of...

Freedom Fighters for Ukraine  
*Russ Luch*  
Krushko Family  
*Fr. Methodius Kushko*  
Helen Bilawchuk  
*Orest and Margaret Fedorchuk*  
Borodey Parents  
*Hazel J. Borodey*  
Mary & Michael Chomyn  
*John M. Chomyn*  
Anne Cinch  
*Ron and Evelyn Cinch*  
James Derkach  
*Annie Derkach*  
William & Carrie Drosdoski  
*Darlene Sidak*  
Lina Hretzay  
*George and Linore Bodaglo Jones, Gladys*  
Chris Johanson  
*Millie Lefko*  
Mary Kochan  
*William and Marika Chabluk*  
Michael Kszyk  
*Erika Kszyk*  
John Kupskay  
*Stephanie Kupskay*  
Naomi LeVay  
*Lise Anglin*  
Anna Lytwyn  
*John and Martha Baluta*  
*Anna Banera*  
Helen & Jacob Nechwediuk  
*William J. Karlicki*

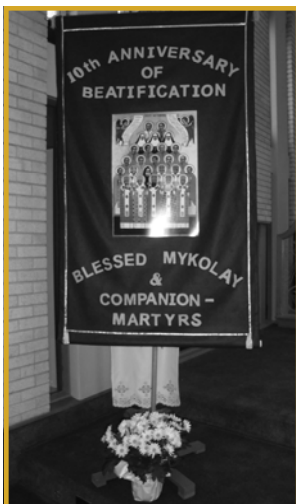
Frances & Anton Niedzielski  
*Florence Bayda*  
Onufrey Pekarsky  
*Rose-Marie Buskell*  
*Emiliano Galera*  
*Sam and Moira Malegus*  
*Onufrij Mandybur*  
*Barbara Pawlyshyn*  
*Marty Terry*  
*Arthur and Frances Winkler*  
*Kay Zawortny*  
John Pidskalny  
*Peter and Grace Chorney*  
*Mary Lazurko*  
Elizabeth Bea Popovich  
*Kay Zawortny*  
Patricia Puchniak  
*Stanley and Darlene Puchniak*  
Michael Robert Sidak  
*Darlene Sidak*  
Michael & Katherine Terlecky  
*Slofko Terlecky*  
Angie Wedge  
*Olynyk, Modiste and Rose*  
William Werbeniuk  
*Vera Werbeniuk*

## In Honor Of...

Robert Barr  
*Dr. Cliff Hrankowski*  
Our marriage blessing  
*Jeffrey and Sonia Dunn*  
Roy Gullenchin  
*Mary Anne Piercy*  
Mary Jane Kalenchuk  
*Phyllis Sianchuk*  
Vitaley, Ivan, Svitlana, Victoriya & Vasil Kitasz  
*Kitasz, Yaroslava*  
Emily Konopelny  
*Eileen Dudzic*  
Fr. Michael & Marilyn Krochak  
(50th Wedding Anniversary)  
*Stan and Luba Sirdar*  
Sofie Seniw  
*Eileen Dudzic*  
Shutiak, Kitz, Prima Families  
*Olga Shutiak*  
Fr. John Sianchuk  
*Julia Saganski*  
Joan Sikorsky  
*Christina Sikorsky*  
Cyril Sr. Sinclair  
*Mary Sinclair*  
Josie Ty  
*Normita Espiritu*  
Alex & Marilyn Woloshyn  
*Allen and Mary Marcinkow*

**For health**  
Mr. & Mrs. Sinclair  
*Mary Sinclair*

## 10th ANNIVERSARY of the BEATIFICATION FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS



Commemorative Banner honours the Feast Day



In the evening, after a full day pilgrimage participants processed from St. Joseph's Church to the Chancery where Blessed Vasyl lived while in Winnipeg. Upon arrival after a short prayer, Metropolitan Lawrence blessed the pilgrims with the holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl.

Searching for photos and videos of Blessed Vasyl between June 1972 and June 1973. If anyone has any information about who may have filmed his arrival or banquets and Liturgies he attended, please inform the shrine. (204)338-7321

### Call in Prayer Requests

For a special intention or prayer request you may phone or email 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.

### SHRINE SCHEDULE

<b>Monday:</b>	Shrine is closed
<b>Tuesday to Friday:</b>	10 am to 5 pm
<b>Saturday:</b>	10:00 am to 1:00 pm
<b>Sunday:</b>	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@mymts.net](mailto:bvshrine@mymts.net)

**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:  
Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine  
250 Jefferson Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6  
Canada

**Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine**  
250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2V 0M6  
Tel: 204-338-7321 Fax: 204 -338-7321 Email: [bvshrine@mymts.net](mailto:bvshrine@mymts.net)  
Website: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com)