



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

FAITHFUL TO THE END

Tribute to Sr. Justyna OSBM

Sister Justyna OSBM, known as Julia Tverdohlib, fell asleep in the Lord, April 7, 2013. She was a very close fellow-worker of Blessed Vasyl during the underground church in Ukraine. Fr. John first heard about Sr. Justyna when I was perusing the 3rd Volume of the KGB files on Blessed Vasyl's second arrest. He saw the name Julia Tverdohlib mentioned a lot. Not only that, but her KGB interrogation documents were part of the volume. She was interrogated several times and asked about her relationship with Blessed Vasyl. She was able to answer in such a way that she did not incriminate him. During the house-search of her apartment, the KGB found many holy cards, antimensions (altar cloths used in the Byzantine Divine Liturgy) and rosaries. For this she was arrested in 1963 and spent 6 months in jail. In her own words she told us: "In all that, I never betrayed him once."

Over the past several years, we have had the opportunity to visit her in her apartment many times. She gave us one of the most precious interviews. In 1955, after Blessed Vasyl was released from the Soviet laager camp in Vorkuta, he held his first retreat for girls in her apartment. After that retreat, she clandestinely joined the Basilian Sisters. Being a seamstress, she began to provide Blessed Vasyl with vestments (samples of which we have in our museum in Winnipeg.) She also was given a stamp, a large metal plate, used to make antimensions. These antimensions were then blessed by Bishop Vasyl and given to priests, so that they could celebrate the Holy Mysteries. All Divine Liturgies should be celebrated over the antimension. (We have one such antimension in our



Sr. Justyna Tverdohlib, OSBM

museum.) Sr. Justyna had stored many of the holy cards and rosaries that Blessed Vasyl had made, and which would have been secretly distributed among the faithful. Such objects were forbidden by the Soviet government to be distributed. Among other things that she had stored in her apartment was the "Episcopal staff" which he had received from Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj when the latter consecrated Blessed Vasyl a bishop in a Moscow hotel room. The staff was a homemade simple walking cane which Metropolitan Josyf used in his 18 year imprisonment in Siberia. She worked with Blessed Vasyl on a daily or at least weekly basis.

She was one of two nuns that journeyed to Kyiv to visit Blessed Vasyl when he was released from his 2nd imprisonment January 27, 1972 and was being exiled from Ukraine. She gave us an image of a "broken" man. She could hardly recognize him after his three years of torture, electrically and chemically. Yet she shared their conversation they had in a park (so that they would not be overheard) about Blessed Vasyl's desire to complete and "publish" the book he wrote on "The History of the Miraculous Icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help". We have since then published this book in Ukrainian (2nd edition) and in English.

Sr. Justyna was a very joyful sister, a woman of deep prayer. The prayerbook she received from Bl. Vasyl is all tattered from constant use. Her vivid memory of Blessed Vasyl was a true gift to us. He remained close to her heart until her death a few months ago. May God grant her Eternal Rest –

ВІЧНА ПАМ'ЯТЬ.



Vestments sown by Sr. Justyna for Blessed Vasyl

In This Issue:

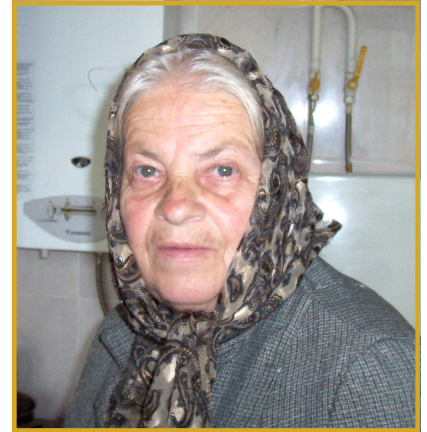
- Tribute to Sr. Justyna - 1
- Home of Hope - 2
- Visitors to the Shrine - 3
- Graces & Blessings - 4
- Thanks to Contributors - 4
- Pilgrimage 2014 - 6
- Prayer to Blessed Vasyl - 6

NEWS BULLETIN

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Synod held August 2013 in Ukraine announced that they plan to name Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky as the **PATRON** of Prison Chaplains.

HOME OF HOPE

During the Second World War, as a superior of the monastery in Ternopil, Blessed Vasyl had a special ministry to the poor and the orphans. They were victims of war having no place to escape. The Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate had a convent near the Redemptorist monastery in Ternopil. In their convent was an orphanage which Blessed Vasyl visited each day. One of the orphans, Anna, described to us in an interview how she felt about Blessed Vasyl's fatherly care. She said that when they walked together down the war torn streets, he would take her hand, walk along beside her and comfort her. She was fourteen years old. His fatherly concern gave her much consolation and courage in that time of danger. Blessed Vasyl revealed his on-going concern for the orphans when he returned from imprisonment in 1955. He sought out Anna to see how she was doing. His concern was that she would not fall through the cracks and become lost as a person. The orphans and their future has also become our interest.



Anna, an orphan from Ternopil, who was cared for by Blessed Vasyl



Home of Hope in Lviv

Since Mary Jane and I have been travelling to Ukraine, not only has our work been to promote Blessed Vasyl, but also for the orphans and the victims of human trafficking. This has been part of our ministry in Ukraine for several years now. We are continuing to do the ministry that was so close to Blessed Vasyl's heart.

This past summer under the patronage of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, a new ministry was started in Lviv. With the help of donations from Canada, especially the Eparchy of Edmonton, and others, they have been able to build a safe house, called the Home of Hope. This house will provide shelter to some 23 young girls, coming from orphanages. The home will provide shelter, education and life opportunities for girls 16+. Two or three sisters will reside in the home, ministering to these girls. This project was started because of the growing danger of human trafficking of girls leaving the orphanages. Human trafficking in Ukraine is at a crisis level. There are hundreds of thousands of children who are homeless. They become prime candidates for human exploitation. They are either bought from the orphanages or simply taken. Often being offered a "good life" in some foreign country, they find themselves enslaved in human trafficking. They are bought and sold like objects, devoid of human dignity and forced into prostitution. The Home of Hope is an attempt to save at least some of these girls.



Interior of the Home of Hope in Lviv



Blessing of the Home of Hope with Metropolitan Ihor Vozniak and Bishop David Motiuk celebrating

We were present at the blessing of this home and official opening which took place on August 10th, 2013. It is a beautiful structure with all the modern facilities. It still needs to be furnished. The sisters plan to open this facility this fall. There is still a great financial deficit for this particular project. The need of this type of ministry in Ukraine is large. Many more such homes are needed. For more information visit: www.ourbridgeofhope.com. Donations to pay the deficit can be made through the Eparchy of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Tax receipts available.

This ministry was close to Blessed Vasyl's heart and we pray that it becomes part of your lives too. Together we can make a difference.

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

VISITORS TO THE SHRINE



**Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate
from Stoney Creek, ON**



**Young adults from Wisconsin
and Texas, USA**



**Our Lady of the Rosary, Roman
Catholic Parish, Winnipeg, MB**



**St. Charles Catholic School Staff,
Winnipeg, MB**



**Fr. Johan Meijer, C.Ss.R. and Lidy
Schuh from Holland, Netherlands**



**Josyf family from St. Timothy
Roman Catholic Parish,
Winnipeg, MB**



**Welcome Home 25th Anniversary
Reunion of former Volunteers**



**IHMS Catholic School Staff,
Winnipeg, MB**



**Visitors from the Marian
Conference held in Winnipeg**



Darianna Blachyn from Germany



**FOCUS, The Fellowship of Catholic University Stu-
dents from Unniversity of North Dakota in Fargo, ND**

GRACES AND BLESSINGS

To whom it may concern:

Regarding graces received through Blessed Vasyl's intercession.

Last Aug (2012), I was experiencing pain around my right jaw and under my ear. After a few tests I was referred to a throat and neck specialist in Victoria, BC. He scheduled me for a fine needle ultra-sound at the hospital. They located some abnormal cells which could have developed into a tumor. On returning home I prayed through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl and applied the holy oil from his Shrine every night before I went to sleep. This past week I went in for my six month ultra sound check-up. Yesterday the specialist called to let me know that all those cells were normal again. I gave thanks to Jesus for the healing I received through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl.

In Sept. 2006, I visited the Shrine after I had come back for my Dad's funeral. On my return, I distributed many of the brochures to my friends.

I thank God daily for His love and mercy that follow me everyday of my life.

Praise God for the marvellous works through His saints.

Yours in Jesus and Mary,

Helene Carey

NEW CHURCH DEDICATED TO BLESSED VASYL



Foundation of a church dedicated to Blessed Vasyl

Fr. Petro Salo, C.Ss.R. a Redemptorist priest, has received the blessed from Metropolitan Ihor Vozniak of Lviv, to build a church dedicated to Blessed Vasyl at the site of a Marian Shrine in Zahlyna in Western Ukraine. The Blessed Mother had appeared in this place several centuries ago and the local people have been coming here to pray ever since. He has already laid the foundation of this new church, and is seeking funds to complete this project. If anyone is able to help and fund the building this church, donations can

be made to the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr Shrine to the attention of Fr. John Sianchuk, Director.



Shrine of the Mother of God of Zahlyna where holy healing waters flow.

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 September 15th 2013.

1000+

In memory of Stoski & Wielgoz Family
Casper and Violet Stoski

500+

Fr. Theodore Harasymchuk
St. Michael's Ukr. Cath. Church, Wpg
George & Christine Welleck

100+

Tom & Julie Abrametz
Vasilj & Eugenia Bartos
Christ the King Ukr. Cath. Church, Wpg
Luz Cruz
Sofia Hull
Regina Muench

Fr. Andrew Muzyka

Carmen Rodriguez
Jimmy Sawchuk
St. Charles Catholic School, Wpg
St. Joseph's Seniors, Wpg
St. Raphael's Priory, Wpg
UCWL of Sacred Heart Parish, Ituna SK
Nick & Mary Winchar
Arthur & Frances Winkler
Walter Wowczuk

<100

Lise Anglin
Carmelita Audrada & Marina Aguilar
Mathew & Anastasia Bakan
Dr. Kenneth & Josie Bessant

Gene & Sylvia Bodnar

Fr. Mario Boies, C.Ss.R
Nicholas & Hazel Borodey
Ewen & Stephanie Brenycz
Christ the King School, Wpg
Gertrude Danko
Veronica Domingo
Stephen & Maria Duncan
Andrew & Adeline Dziadyk
Lionel & Eleanor Fedorowich
Maria Fil
Bert & Val Galay
Wirlana Holowka
Dan & Bella Kalenchuk
Mary Kindred
Cathy Kowbel

Jean Kowbel
John & Frances Kravetz
Dr. Joseph Lozinsky
Elizabeth Luzige
James & Elaine Mandziuk
Yvonne Mason
Denise McAvoy
Deanna Nichols
Mary Peake
John Poulin
Emil & Janina Rekrut
Jean Rubel
Lalit & Darshan Saini
Jean Saranchuk
Frank & Anne Shymko
Dmytro Sikora
Mary Sinclair
John & Yvonne Sirdar
Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate
Iris Smellie
SSMI Associates, Wpg
Ukr. Cath. Brotherhood of St. Michael's,
Wpg
Cathy Welyczkowsky

In Memory Of...
Bilynsky, Zawada, Kosoris family

Stepan Bilynsky
Frank Blackhall
 Lorraine Blackhall

Alberta Bomak
 Mary Anne Piercy

Maria Borowec
 Fr. Bohdan Borowec

Boychuk & Solotki family
 Alexander and Olga Boychuk
Fr. Demetrius Byblow, C.Ss.R.
 Emil M. Maybo

Len Cropley
 Frances Cropley

Wolodymyra Cybusznyk
 John and Martha Baluta
 Leo and Oksana Baluta
 Anna Banera
 Ihor and Christine Kotowycz
Fr. Joseph Denischuk, C.Ss.R.
 Anonymous
 W. Allan Bailey
 Mervin and Gwen Bilyk
 Rick and Cynthia Bryant
 Peter and Grace Chorney
 Ted and Emily Deneschuk
 Walter and Theresa Deneschuk
 Art and Sylvia Gazdewich
 Theresa Genik,
 Larry and Sandra German
 Terry Glowa
 Alice Hood
 John and Mary Hykawy
 Helen Jakimeczko
 William and Sylvia Krywulak
 Mary Lazurko
 Walter and Isabel Lukie
 Allan and Joanne Malenko
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Mathuik
 William and Mary Oleynik
 Albert and Margaret Otchenash
 Sonya Pawliw
 Edna Perepeluk

Sophia Pisiak
 Roger and Doreen Rathgeber
 St. Mary's U.C.W.L.C. , Yorkton SK
 Phyllis Sianchuk
 Stan and Luba Sirdar
 Lillian Skazyk
 Robert and Lydia Sliva
 Gerald Smysnuik
 Vladimir and Marlene Solman
 Ernie and Marian Spilchuk
 Michael and Kris Spilchuk
 Lorne and Elsie Stechyshyn
 Larry and Doreen Trach
 John Uhryn
 Orest and Elizabeth Zahayko
 Kay Zawortny
William & Carrie Drosdoski
 Darlene Sidak
Rose Fedorchuk
 Theresa Antoniuk
Yvonne Frank
 Joseph and Susan Zeleny
Mychajlo Gembarsky
 Anna Gembarsky
John Gryba
 Edward and Emily Lukie
 Walter and Isabel Lukie
Bishop Michael Hrynchysyn, C.Ss.R.
 Emil M. Maybo
William Kondra
 Olga Kondra
Kushko, Zubyk, Skakun families
 Fr. Methodius Kushko, C.Ss.R.
Michael Lefko
 Millie Lefko
Leschysyn & Keyowski families
 Leonard and Kasie Leschysyn
Josephine & Steve Luckiw
 Doreen Baddon
Fr. Ron Martyniuk
 Gertrude Danko
 Roman and Anne Indzeoski
James & Tina Matieshen
 Roman and Anne Indzeoski
Leo & Harold Matieshen
 Roman and Anne Indzeoski
Max & Jean Melnyk
 Iris Smellie
Joseph Nechwediuk
 William J. Karlicki
Judy Odger
 Dolores Daniels
 Mary Jane Kalenchuk
 Israel and Blanca Montufar
 Fred Odger
 Phyllis Sianchuk
 Stan and Luba Sirdar
 Iris Smellie
 Kay Zawortny
Brother Basil Pylypa, C.Ss.R.
 W. Allan Bailey
Redemptorist Fathers
 Bernadette Sorochuk
John Romance
 Marissa Lorenzo
Michael Robert Sidak
 Darlene Sidak
Sloboda & Chelack families
 Terry and Gladys Sloboda

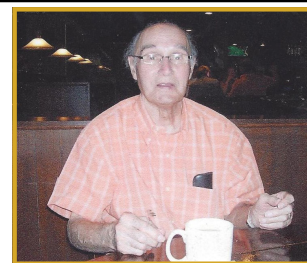
Harry Spitula
 Marian Moshansky
Linda Thompson
 Barb Boguski
Tom Walker
 Elsie Kindrachuk

In Honor Of...
Simon & Andrea
 Evelyn Melnyk
Chad & Joshua
 Lena Sarada
Chrnyk children & grandchildren
 Paul and Waltraud Chrnyk
Kathleen Coutts
 Jeffrey and Sonia Dunn
Daniel, Richard, Meagan, Gerald, Lena
 Paul and Adeline Carbotte
Magdalena Diaz
 Manuela Rubio
Diane & Bob Gingera
 Mary Kokolski
Sofia Kravtchouk
 Kseniya Kavats
Abigail Lefebvre
 Gilles and Vicky Lefebvre
Fr. Raymond Lukie, C.Ss.R.
 Peter and Grace Chorney
 Morris and Iris Smolinski
Steve Pasternak
 Orest and Margaret Fedorchuk
James Rubio
 Manuela Rubio
Shutiak family
 Olga Shutiak
Bill Stepianiuk
 Louis and Elaine Bowman
Fr. Frank Szadiak
 Peter and Grace Chorney
 Morris and Iris Smolinski

For health of...
Lorretta & Darcy's new baby
 Nestor Mykytyshyn

Correction from June Newsletter:
In memory of Alex & Lily Dubowits, & Bill & Eva Dubowitz
 Leslie & Caroline Dubowits

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Frances Cropley and her daughter Patricia on the passing of her husband and father. Len Cropley passed away February 21, 2013. He and his wife were long-time volunteers at the Blessed Vasyl Shrine. They began this ministry at the time the Shrine opened in 2002.



God grant him Eternal Memory.

BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE

**A spiritual journey—
following a martyr's life**
July 7– 28, 2014



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: 4,000.00 (includes airfare from Winnipeg,
meals, accommodations and travel
throughout Ukraine)

Deadline for registration: December 31, 2013
(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

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 ban-
quets 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.

**Checkout our website
gift shop items at
www.bvmartyrshrine.com**

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@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
Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com