



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

HONoured IN UKRAINE

PATRON OF PRISON MINISTRY

On June 6, 2014, we received news from Ukraine that Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky would be proclaimed Patron of Prison Ministry during the "All-Ukraine" Pilgrimage in Zarvanytsia, Ukraine at the Marian Shrine on the weekend of July 19th and 20th. Immediately, it became clear that we (Mary Jane Kalenchuk and Fr.



The Marian Shrine of our Lady of Zarvanytsia, Ukraine

John Sianchuk) should be there. Within a few days we actually received an invitation or rather a directive from the Patriarchal office that we come and participate in this historic event. They required assistance and advice from us. We were in contact with the chief chaplain of prison ministry, Fr. Constantin Panteley from Kyiv, who co-ordinates all the prison chaplains in Ukraine. We placed this on high priority since we only had five weeks before the event.

We were asked to send them a copy of the icon of Blessed Vasyl that is located in our Shrine. They were to use this to make several copies: one to carry in procession from Ternopil to Zarvanytsia (65 km) and another large one to hang from the bell-tower of the Marian Shrine. They also used our icon as a model for a larger one which was written in Ukraine entitled "**Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky – Patron of Prison Ministry**" and to be displayed and processed that

weekend. Presently, this icon hangs in the Patriarchal Sobor of the Resurrection in Kyiv. Embedded in the icon is a 1st Class Relic of Blessed Vasyl. We were requested to bring with us a number of 1st Class Relics as well as 3rd Class Relics for

distribution. They were expecting between 150,000 to 200,000 pilgrims for this event. Since we had only a few hundred at hand, we began to organize workshops. For the next few weeks with the help of many volunteers and several workshops, we were able to make and send to Ukraine 43,000 3rd Class Relics. These relics were to be distributed among the faithful. In the Holy Eucharist chapel, pilgrims venerated the 1st Class Relics (which we brought from Canada), were anointed with Blessed Vasyl holy oil and received a 3rd Class Relic. Throughout those two days, some 30,000 pilgrims personally venerated Blessed Vasyl's holy relics. The remainder of these relics were distributed to various prison chaplains for use in their prison ministry.

Upon arriving in Ukraine, a week before the event, we began to prepare vials of Blessed Vasyl holy oil, for those who wished to obtain it for their personal use. Within two days with the help of some sisters and Sviatoslav (who



Patriarch Sviatoslav blessing the pilgrims with the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl

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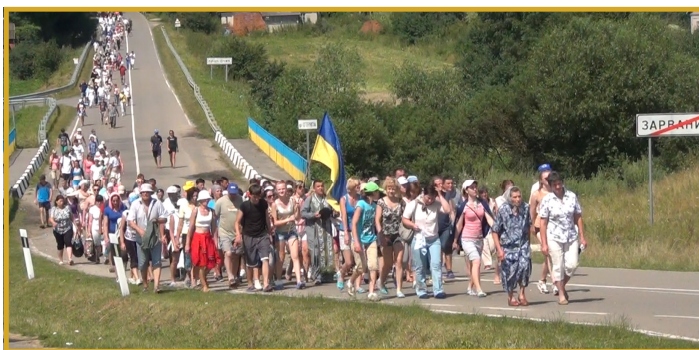
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came with us from Canada), we prepared 2,000 vials of Blessed Vasyl holy oil. We printed 120,000 holy cards and icons for distribution. Material, including a number of books and icons, etc. were transported by a large van from Lviv to Zarvanytsia. We were able to set up two small kiosks to make available these religious items for the public.



Icon of Blessed Vasyl specially written for this occasion. Before it are his holy relics that were brought from Ternopil.

We arrived in Zarvanytsia on Friday, July 18th to make final preparations. As we were travelling towards the Shrine, we passed pilgrims who were walking to the Shrine. Many of the pilgrims (mostly youth) walked from all parts of Ukraine. Some walked for several days while others, from as far as Odessa, walked for nine days. Even with the fighting occurring in Eastern Ukraine, people came from Donetsk and Luhansk. This witnessed to the great faith of our people in Ukraine. They came to pray for peace. By Saturday morning July 19th, pilgrims began arriving in great numbers. Scores of priests began confessing the pilgrims throughout the church and Shrine area. The lines of penitents kept growing and lasted throughout the night.



Pilgrims arriving on Saturday in Zarvanytsia

The Saturday program began at the old parish church in the village. Patriarch Sviatoslav, Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, arrived at 4:00 p.m. at the parish church. He was greeted by the youth to whom he gave an exhortation. It was especially poignant because of the political unrest and war in Ukraine. When his presentation ended, the "Velychkovsky Program" began. Fr. Constantin was the Master of Ceremonies. Bishop Michael Koltun, under whose patronage is the military and prison chaplaincy, had opening remarks about the role of the underground church in the present faith experience of the church. Then the newly-written icon of Blessed Vasyl was blessed. Iryna Kolomeyets (a relative of

Blessed Vasyl, and whose husband, Cornelius Petryshyn, is a nephew to Blessed Vasyl) presented the life story of Blessed Vasyl.

This was followed by a short clip of Blessed Vasyl's recorded voice. People were moved to hear him. Fr. John and Mary Jane then presented the story of the transfer of Holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl and the work that is being done at the Shrine in Winnipeg. We also shared stories of



Iryna Kolomeyets shares Blessed Vasyl's life story

various blessings and graces that have been experienced through Blessed Vasyl's intercession. This was followed by a play on Blessed Vasyl's prison ministry, written and presented by the Redemptorist Sisters in Ukraine. It was performed by



Fr. John and Mary Jane presenting before thousands the work of our Shrine in Winnipeg

Redemptorist seminarians and youth. It was very inspiring, creative and moving. Following the play, the prison chaplains led the Acatnist service in honour of Blessed Vasyl. The responses were sung by Redemptorist priests and sisters. The program was very well received by over 20,000 people. After this presentation, our humble sales table became very busy, selling books, trip-ticks and holy oil.



Prison Chaplains leading the Acatnist Service

The Saturday evening began with Solemn Great Vespers followed by a Pontifical Divine Liturgy and a candle light procession (1 km) from the parish church to the main Shrine church. The procession was led by Redemptorists carrying the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl, while other Redemptorists carried the holy newly blessed icon. This was followed by tens of thousands of faithful holding candles and singing the hymn of our Lady of Zarvanytsia. A sight to behold and experience! The icon and the relics were taken to Holy Eucharist chapel for continued veneration. The procession took over two hours to complete. At the huge central statute of Mary, the Patriarch and the bishops



Celebrating Moleben by candlelight at midnight before a crowd of tens of thousands.

celebrated a Moleben to the Mother of God and then proceeded after midnight to celebrate a Panahyda Service for all those who had given their lives recently for Ukraine, whether on the Euro-Maidan or in the ongoing war. At 1:00 am on two large jumbotrons in the main square of the Shrine grounds, a film on the life of Blessed Vasyl was shown. It was watched by tens of thousands. This was the first time that many ever heard of Blessed Vasyl. The film was shown three times throughout the night and just before the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. People remained in the square all night, praying, sleeping, or in fellowship until dawn until the morning services.

At 9:00 am the Pontifical Divine Liturgy was celebrated outdoors by Patriarch Sviatoslav and all the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Ukraine. Present were hundreds of priests and approximately 200,000 faithful. During the Little Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, the



Bishop Bohdan Dzyurakh, C.Ss.R. reading the Patriarchal Decree.

holy relics of Blessed Vasyl carried by Fr. John, were solemnly processed from the sanctuary to the Patriarch. Here, Bishop Bohdan Dzyurakh, C.Ss.R. the patriarchal secretary, read the Decree which promulgated Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky as the Patron of Prison Ministry for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. The Patriarch then received the relics from Fr. John and solemnly blessed the faithful and sang the Exaltation: "We extol you, O holy Bishop and Martyr Vasyl, and we venerate your precious sufferings which you bore for the sake of Christ." The relics were then returned to the altar and the Divine Liturgy continued. In his homily

Patriarch Sviatoslav presented the new Patron as a fitting example to be followed, citing Blessed Vasyl's faithfulness and courage in the face of tremendous suffering as very appropriate for the present time of Ukraine's struggle for freedom and a just society. The Divine Liturgy was also attended by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, and other dignitaries. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, each bishop received a 1st Class Relic of Blessed Vasyl to be given and used by the prison chaplains in their respective eparchies.

The whole weekend was truly historical and a highlight of our Shrine ministry. Next to the beatification and the enshrinement, this event marked a chapter in the life of our Blessed. Being proclaimed a Patron, Blessed Vasyl now receives from the Church a special ministry to those who are imprisoned, without



Divine Liturgy being celebrated by the Patriarch, Metropolitans and Bishops before 200,000 faithful on Sunday, July 20th

hope, and are often abandoned. In a particular way, he will be called upon by those who minister to the imprisoned, to give them courage, to bring about conversion, to bring hope to the hopeless, and to bring the Lord's glorious salvation to those who find themselves outside of society and locked behind bars. Through this proclamation, the Church encourages all those who feel themselves enslaved in any way - be it by relationships, by addictions, by immoral habits, by any oppression - to turn to Blessed Vasyl for guidance and strength.

This particular event was very special, for it was Blessed Vasyl's formal return to his homeland of Ukraine. Through this event, his fellow countrymen have met him and have come to know him. Through this event he is beginning his mission again in Ukraine. Since this event on the weekend of July 19th and 20th, people have been coming to our museum/apartment/chapel in Lviv in greater numbers than ever before. May the veneration of Blessed Vasyl continue to grow in Ukraine and throughout the world.

Zarvanytsia Photo Gallery



A bird's eye view of the Marian Shrine



Pilgrim procession from Ternopil to Zarvanytsia (65 km walk)



Patriarch Sviatoslav addressing pilgrims from the outdoor Chapel



Bishop Michael Koltun, Fr. Constantin Panteley and Fr. John Sianchuk introducing the "Velychkovsky Program"



Pilgrims present at the "Velychkovsky Program" by the parish village church

Patriarch Sviatoslav arriving Saturday afternoon



Play presentation on the prison life of Blessed Vasyl



Purchasing religious items at the Velychkovsky kiosk



Outdoor anointing of pilgrims with Blessed Vasyl Holy Oil



Banner depicting the life of Blessed Vasyi

Outdoor confessions throughout the Shrine area



Redemptorists carry the relics and icon in the candlelight procession



Patriarch and bishops celebrating the Moleben Service before the statue of the Mother of God



Bishop Bohdan Dzyurakh, C.Ss.R. with Fr. John & Mary Jane



Youth greeting the Patriarch at the beginning of the Sunday Pontifical Divine Liturgy



Bishops of Ukraine at the Pontifical Divine Liturgy



1st Class Relics, embedded in a wooden cross, were presented to Eparchial prison chaplains



Fr. John & Mary Jane with the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk and his wife Tereziya

VELYCHKOVSKY MINISTRY IN UKRAINE

EXPANDING OUR MINISTRY



Oleh and Tanya Chekharivsky and little Daryna and Mykolka(missing)

With the announcement proclaiming Blessed Vasyl as the Patron of Prison Ministry, our work in Ukraine is expanding. People in Ukraine had little knowledge of our Blessed, because most of his work in his latter years were in the underground church and was done very clandestinely. With the thousands who have heard of Blessed Vasyl during the All-Ukraine Pilgrimage in Zarvanytsia this summer, there is an increased demand for presentations to the public and to minister to those who come to our Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Apartment/Museum in Lviv.

Since this announcement, we have increased the hours and days when our museum is open (Tuesday to Saturday -10 am to 4 pm). Sister Teophila, OSBM and Taras Hull continue to lead those who come to the museum for a pilgrimage tour. Since Zarvanytsia, there has been a steady flow of people coming to visit Blessed Vasyl's apartment.

To respond to the need for public presentations, we have hired a young couple from Lviv, Oleh & Tanya Chekharivsky. Their work will be to promote Blessed Vasyl through video and verbal presentations in parishes, schools, youth groups, and other organizations throughout Ukraine. They enthusiastically have already given several presentations and have been well received. They chose for their first presentation to

visit the prison in Chortkiv where Blessed Vasyl spent some time after his arrest in 1945. A very fitting beginning since our Blessed is now the Patron of Prison Ministry. They have continued their presentations in several parishes and youth gatherings. Their devotion to this work is very inspiring. We welcome them to our team.

We turn to you, our readers, to help us in this ministry in Ukraine. Even though, we are assisting Oleh and Tanya in these hard times, we are also seeking sponsors who would be able to financially support this young family and their good work in promoting Blessed Vasyl.

Visitors to Blessed Vasyl's Museum in Lviv



Youth Group called "I am Christian"



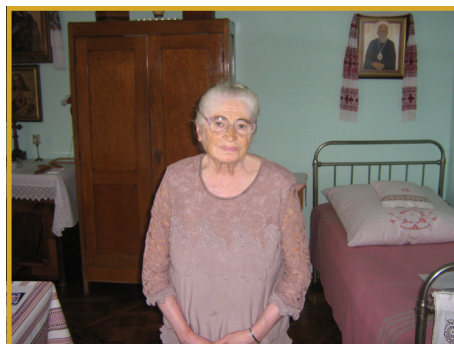
Presentation to the Basilian Sisters in Lviv



Children of Mary – from Parish of the Mother of God



Mother & daughter from Chernivtsi



Daria who was married by Blessed Vasyl in this apartment, August 6, 1963



Mother & daughter from Lviv

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 16th until August 15th 2014.

1000+
Stepan, Natalia and Irena Bilynskyy

500+
St. Joseph's U.C.W.L.C., Wpg MB

100+
Vasilj and Eugenia Bartos
Blessed Bishop Velychkovsky Prayer
Group, Brandon MB
Maria Fil
Dianne Hood
Sofia Hul
Dan & Bella Kalenchuk
Kseniya Kavats
Knights of Columbus Fr. Hendrick
Boels Council #5320, Ituna SK
Bill & Lena Lapchuk
Regina Muench
Greg and Mary Papinko
Jimmy Sawchuk
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St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Church Men's
Club, Wpg MB
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In Memory Of...
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In Honor Of...
Boychuk Family & Friends
Alexander and Olga Boychuk
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Natalia Bilynskyy
Bert Galay
Bert and Val Galay
Doreen Mendis
Tyrrell and Doreen Mendis
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Graces & Blessings
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For the Health Of...
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Anthony Conte
Elaine Grzenda
Frank and Elaine Grzenda
Mary Kindred
Mary Kindred
Peter & Minnie Koropatwa
Peter & Minnie Koropatwa
Albert Kosowan
Albert Kosowan
Metro Lukie & family
Metro Lukie
Yvonne Mason
Yvonne Mason
Orest Pidwerbeski
Orest Pidwerbeski
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Elizabeth Paziuk
Shutiak family
Olga Shutiak
Lori & Andrea Simon
Evelyn Melnyk
Sveta, Vita, Vitalik, Nastya, Bogdan
Yaroslava Kitaz
Boris Yakimishyn
Victor and Elsie Sorochnik
Velda Yakimishyn

FEASTDAY CELEBRATIONS JUNE 27TH



Brother Dan Korn, C.Ss.R. preached throughout the feast day on our Mother of Perpetual Help

Throughout the Redemptorists world they are preparing for the 150 anniversary since the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help was entrusted to them. This past feast day, we invited Brother Dan Korn, C.Ss.R. of the Denver Province of Redemptorists, who presented us the depth and mystical meaning of this icon. As we contemplate this icon, we enter into the very mystery of the Gospel and the Mother of God. We all came to see this precious icon in a new light. This icon was very dear to Blessed Vasyl and in honor of the 100th anniversary, he wrote his book on "The History of the Miraculous Icon of our Mother of Perpetual

Help. Because of this book, he was arrested for the second time in 1969.

The feast day was attended by pilgrims from across Canada and the United States. Because of inclement weather the evening procession was changed to a candlelight living rosary in the church. The faithful received many graces and blessing that day.



Faithful venerate the Relics and are anointed with Blessed Vasyl Holy Oil

**Checkout our new website
at www.bvmartyrshrine.com**

Call in Prayer Requests

For a special intention or prayer request you may phone, email us or request through our website. 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

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:
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Canada

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