



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

BLESSED VASYL IN UKRAINE

SHRINE MINISTRY GROWS

Since Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky was proclaimed the Patron of Prison Ministry for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Zarvanytsia last summer, 2014, knowledge of who he was and who he is, is quickly growing throughout Ukraine. Our yearly trip to Ukraine bore witness to this fact. We spent



Parishioners in Chernytsiv attending the feastday of the church during the mission

three weeks in Ukraine this past August-September. Before arriving in Ukraine, we were informed by email, that a parish in Chernytsiv, (Bukhovyna region) was already awaiting our arrival to conduct a mission whose theme would be the

life of Blessed Vasyl. Fr. John Sianchuk, together with the assistance of Oleh and Tania Chekharivsky, shared the life of Blessed Vasyl each morning and evening, through a sermon and audio visual presentations. As many as 12 priests participated throughout the three day mission which concluded on August 28th, the feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, with a solemn Divine Liturgy before a crowd of a thousand people. During the Liturgy the people heard of the many graces and blessings that have been received through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl. His relics were solemnly enthroned in this church. After the Divine Liturgy, the people approached and venerated the holy Relics. They were



Fr. Valenti, the pastor of the parish in Chernytsiv, receives a 1st Class Relic of Blessed Vasyl

also anointed with his blessed oil, and received a holy card and a 3rd Class Relic. As a result a number of the priests invited Oleh and Tania to come to their parishes.



Parishioners venerating the Relics and being anointed



Blessed Vasyl's high school in Horodenka

a young man. After hearing Oleh and Tania's presentation several weeks earlier, the parish priest, Fr. Levytsky, invited us to bring a 1st Class Relic to be permanently installed in his church. Fr. John had the opportunity to share with the congregation about Blessed Vasyl and the blessing that he is to this parish. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, after venerating the holy Relics, people were anointed and received a 3rd Class Relic.

On Sunday, August 30th, we were at the parish of the Dormition of the Mother of God in the city of Horodenko, Ivano-Frankivsk region. Blessed Vasyl had attended the 'gymnasium' (high school) in this city and frequented this parish as



Fr. Levytsky receiving the 1st Class Relics of Blessed Vasyl

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Parishioners in Horodenko venerating the Relics, being anointed and receiving a 3rd Class Relic.

The following weekend, we journeyed to the Volyn region to the city of Kovel. Fr. Evhen Zadorozny has been ministering here for many years. Kovel was the place where Blessed Vasyl served as a priest from 1928 to 1935. Fr. Evhen started the 1st Ukrainian Greek Catholic parish in this city in 2004. The Soviet Union had destroyed the Ukrainian



Fr. Evhen Zadorozny pointing to the site of the new church to be built in honour of Blessed Vasyl

Greek Catholic church in 1945. This first parish was dedicated to Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky, who was the Bishop of this region before his arrest. Fr. Evhen built a church and a monastery. Since then, he began to expand his work travelling every weekend to outlying missions. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic community has grown and expanded in this predominantly Russian Orthodox region. Just recently, he received permission from the city government to build a second Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Kovel. This church will be dedicated to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. Knowing Fr. Evhen's enthusiasm, the construction of a new church in that city should begin very soon. Fr. Evhen surprised us by gifting the shrine with a very precious 2nd Class relic of Blessed Vasyl – a vestment worn by him in the 1930's in Kovel and the Volyn region. This vestment (a felon



A small cross was blessed with Blessed Vasyl holy oil at the site of the new church

and an epithrahil) was saved by the people and hidden during the time of the underground church.

Oleh and Tania continue to give power-point presentations in various parishes, schools, institutions and to various groups throughout Ukraine (over 100 presentations have been given since last summer). Taras Hull and Sr. Theofilia offer tours of the apartment/museum in Lviv where Blessed Vasyl lived during the underground church. Slowly this sacred place is becoming known by the people of Lviv and



Vestments worn by Blessed Vasyl during his time in Volyn in the 1930's



Oleh, Taras, Tania, and Sr. Theofilia OSBM together with Fr. John in Blessed Vasyl's apartment/museum in Lviv

Ukraine. They are beginning to make pilgrimages to this holy 'church'. More and more parishes are asking to have Blessed Vasyl's Relics enthroned in their churches. Blessed Vasyl is becoming known for the important role he played in the history of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. It was through him that the church hierarchy and leadership was maintained and renewed during the time of persecution.

We pray that as the people of Ukraine continue to come to know him and appreciate him as a great intercessor, that we too in North America come to see the great 'saint' we have in our midst.

**BLESSED VASYL,
PRAY FOR US.**



UNDER GOD'S PROVIDENCE

This summer we spent three weeks in Western Ukraine and noticed a radical change. It was evident in the mood of the people, in the sight of recent graves of young men killed, of the loomed uncertainty of the future, and of the numerous refugees from Eastern Ukraine. The armed struggle in the Donetsk and Luhansk region continues to this day. Every-



Two families from Luhansk and Donetsk taking refuge in Lviv with the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate

where we went, the conversation turned to politics, to the war, the victims of war and the continued struggle to bring peace and stability to Ukraine. We kept hearing of the "new poor" in Ukraine. These are the families that have been displaced by the war. These are the families that have lost a husband, son or a father in battle, (over 6,000 have been killed since the war

began) and families whose 'heroes' have returned from the front line maimed, missing an arm or a leg, or severely traumatized by what they saw and experienced. There are so many of them and until now little is being done for them. We heard of various groups, such as priests, nuns, and laity, who are beginning to organize themselves to provide some relief to these victims. We ourselves met some of these distraught and destitute families. They desperately need our financial help to be able to provide the necessary assistance for these families.



Recent grave of a fallen soldier



Fr. Yaroslav, C.Ss.R. and Fr. Myhaylo, C.SsR. In a camp on the front line near Luhansk and the birch tree cross they planted there.

Our Redemptorist priests have not been idle in this military struggle. Many of them volunteered as chaplains for the front lines. They go there to be with our 'boys' who are militarily ill-equipped and face death daily. One day, while on the front lines, our Redemptorist priests, Frs. Yaroslav and Myhaylo, made a rustic two meter cross from two birch tree trunks. They planted it in the middle of the campsite. That night the campsite was heavily shelled. Our priests took shelter behind piles of rubble and in 'fox holes', not knowing if the next shell would explode near or upon them. They endured the night. At sunrise they saw the whole campsite completely destroyed, only the cross they had planted stood un-



harmd. They took this as a sign of God's protection for them and that the Lord was present with them throughout this battle.

Blessed Vasyl had similar experiences during the 2nd World War in Ternopil. One morning after celebrating the Divine Liturgy for the Sisters, he joined them for breakfast. During this, the morning shelling of the city by the Soviets began. They just had time to escape into the basement, when a shell hit the orphanage, creating a gaping hole in the wall. No one was hurt. When he returned to his monastery, he found that his room had also been shelled. Where his desk stood, there was now only a large pile of rubble. Had he not stayed with the nuns that morning, he would have surely been at his desk when the shell hit his room. Blessed Vasyl knows what it means to be protected by the Providence of God.

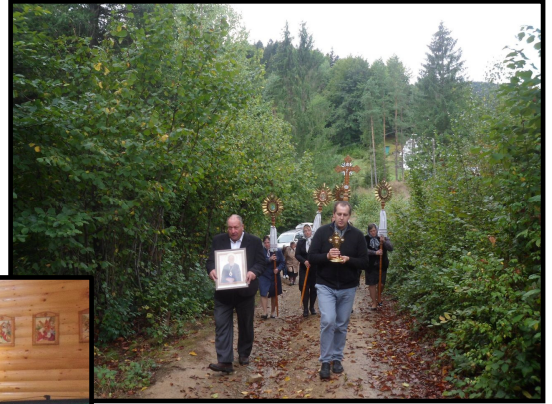
We pray that Blessed Vasyl intercede for all the victims of the war in Ukraine, those who have fallen, those who are wounded, and the families displaced or destitute. Blessed Vasyl knew the dangers of war. May he intercede before the Lord for lasting peace in Ukraine and a restoration of stable order in the country's government. Please continue to pray for peace and stability in Ukraine.

If you wish to help financially, please contact the shrine office.

MINISTRY CONTINUES IN UKRAINE



Grade 11 students in Krasna, Ivano-Frankivsk



Procession with Relics and presentation in Bahrivets, Carpathian Mts



Students and staff of a grade school in Tomachyk, Ivano-Frankivsk



Parishioners from All-Saints Parish in Lviv, where the 1st Class Relics were enshrined



High school students venerating the Relics in Vorokhta, Carpathian Mts



Members of a L'arche community in Lviv



Parishioners at a presentation from Yarma, Carpathian Mts and their parish church



VISITORS TO THE SHRINE



**Dr. Joe Jose & family with parents
Mr. & Mrs. Jose from Kerala, India**



Holy Cross CWL Ladies, Winnipeg, MB



Visitors from Calgary, AB



**Diocese of Churchill/Hudson Bay
Inuit together with Bishop Anthony
Krotki OM**



**Dr. Kelly from Winnipeg with Sisters
Grace & Marina, Servant Sisters of the
Home of the Mother, Jacksonville,
Florida**



**Murdoch family attending the
Marian Conference
from Calgary, AB**



**Pallickaparambil family
from East India**



**Fr. John Tino from Brooklyn, New York
speaker at the Marian Conference**



Feast Day Celebration 2015

With Blessed Vasyl's feast day this year on June 27, we inaugurated the 150th Anniversary since the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help was entrusted to the Redemptorists with the commission to make her known throughout the world. We blessed a particular icon, a copy of the one that adorned Blessed Vasyl's apartment and before which he prayed during the time of the underground church in Ukraine. Throughout the day, it was venerated by the pilgrims.



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 30, 2015.

+ 500

St. Joseph's U.C.W.L.C., Wpg.

+100

Vasilij & Eugenia Bartos

William & Genevieve Berezny

Natalie Derkacz

Dr. Peter Gnanapragasam

Holy Eucharist U.C.W.L.C., Wpg.

Sofia Hull

K of C's Holy Eucharist Council
#11330, Wpg.

Sophie Manulak

Regina Muench

Jimmy Sawchuk

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Iris Smellie

St. Paul's High School, Wpg.

Helen Stockburn

U.C.B.C. Holy Eucharist Branch, Wpg.

U.C.W.L.C. of Sacred Heart Parish,
Ituna, SK

Norbert Wasylenko

Most Rev. Bishop Michael Wiwchar

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Holy Eucharist Seniors, Wpg.

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Gabriel Sweeney-Muller

Rev. Deacon Stefan & Maria
Tyrawski
Benedict-Ao Wong
Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of
St. Michael's, Wpg.
Fr. Andrij & Lydia Wasylanko
Peter Wozney

In Memory Of...

Sarah Catherine Adams
 Peter Adams
Albin Anderson
 Lorraine Anderson
Darlene Anderson
 Lorraine Anderson
Rose Baehnk
 Iris Smellie
Wolodymyr & Wolodymyra
Baluta
 Leo and Oksana Baluta
Elizabeth Banera
 Mary Jane Kalenchuk
 Gordon and Gerri Kilcup
 Andrew and Pat Sirski
Donald Boguski
 Mary Jane Kalenchuk
 Stan and Luba Sirdar
Elsie Borecky
 Joanne Alyluia
 Mary Bernatsky
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 Kay Zawortny
William Boyko
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 Stan and Luba Sirdar
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 Sonia Domitruk
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 Leslie and Caroline Dubowits
Jeffery Dunn
 Sonia Yaskiw
Stan Evanyshyn
 Vladimir and Marlene Solman
Domingo & Belen Galvan
 Fredesvindo Galvan
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 Peter and Sonia Prociuk
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John and Barabara Karlicki
 William J. Karlicki

Bishop Michael Kuchmiak
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chanski Family, and Mary Lemchuk
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 Darlene Sidak
Olga Skura
 Stan and Luba Sirdar
 Kay Zawortny
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 Terry and Gladys Sloboda
Sr. Theodosia
 Jane Chorney
Josie Warga
 Fred Odger
Jake Warkentin
 Victor and Elsie Sorochnik
Agnes Wodzicki
 Rose Kozak
 Sophie Manulak
 Helen Schentag
Fr. Nestor Yakiwchuk
 Stella Yakiwchuk

In Honor Of...

Emma & Noah Sharp
 Terry and Vicki Chaikowsky
Bennett Family
 Joan Bennett
Dc. Stepan, Natalia & Irena Bilynskyy
 Deacon Stepan and Natalia Bilynskyy
Helen Luciak (80th Birthday)
 Peter and Glikeria Iwanuck

Fr. Bohdan Lukie
 Marcia Pawlyshyn
St. Joseph's Seniors
 St. Joseph's Seniors, Wpg.

For the Health of...

Boss Family
 Michael Boss
Marlene Bennett-Stanley
 Marlene Bennett-Stanley
Boychuk Family
 Alexander and Olga Boychuk
Colette, Raymond, Meagan, Rich-
ard Carbotte & Lyndon Michalchuk
 Paul and Adeline Carbotte
Paul Chrunk & family
 Paul and Waltraud Chrunk
Elenita Cruz
 Elenita Cruz
Veronica Dominco
 Veronica Domingo
Derek & David Feeney
 Frank and Agnes Feeney
Flynn children & grandchildren
 Murray and Anne Flynn
Imelda Galsim
 Maria Miniano
Elaine Grzenda
 Frank and Elaine Grzenda
Charity Happpychuk
 Peter and Sonia Prociuk
Neal Happpychuk
 Peter and Sonia Prociuk
Maria Louisa Iniguez
 Jenny Francisan
William & Phyllis Kobitowich
 William and Phyllis Kobitowich
Paulette, Deborah & John Kully & Family
 Violet Kully
Matsalla family
 Bernie and Delia Matsalla
Matwischyna Family
 Vera Matwischyna
Liuda Mikolayenko
 Stella Mikolayanko
Alex Petric
 Maria Fil
Orest Pidwerbeski
 Orest Pidwerbeski
Mary-Ann Prociuk
 Peter and Sonia Prociuk
Isidoro & June Santos
 Isidoro and June Santos
Syl Shumka & Natalie Mac Gilliray
 Syl Shumka
William Tkachuk
 Starr Tkachuk
Welsh Family
 Ethel Welsh
Nick and Mary Winchar & family
 Nick and Mary Winchar
Loretta Wood
 Francis Wood

Jay and Sophia Korban visited the Shrine on their wedding day, May 16th, 2015. They prayed before the holy relics of Blessed Vasy! Velychkovsky before being united in holy matrimony. Jay has been a long time dedicated volunteer of the Shrine and his bride Sophia spent some time doing Redemptorist ministry as a young adult co-ordinator and volunteering at the Welcome Home in the inner-city area of Winnipeg. They currently reside in Ottawa, where Jay is studying to become a priest.



GRACES & BLESSINGS

Twelve years ago I was diagnosed with heel spur on my right heel. It was very painful. Many times I had trouble walking and was unable to complete normal household chores. My job of cleaning homes for the elderly would prevent me from working because of the severe pain. Some days were good but many not so good. I prayed that the pain would go away. One day, in January 2015, I was cleaning a gentlemen's house and he shared with me how Blessed Vasy! helped him. He told me about the holy oil that he used to help him. I asked him if he could get some for me. I started to rub my heel with the holy oil of Blessed Vasy!. My heel began to heal. By June I was able to walk without pain and even dance, which I enjoy very much. I wanted to know more about Blessed Vasy! and come to the Shrine. Thank you Blessed Vasy! for your intercession in healing me.

Margret

**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 Vasy!.

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 Vasy!
(Acafist or Moleben) followed
by an anointing with Holy Oil blessed by his relics.

Prayer to Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasy!

*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 Vasy! 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
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Canada

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