



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

NEW DISCOVERIES

4th Pilgrimage to Ukraine

This past July we conducted our 4th Bishop Velychkovsky Pilgrimage to Ukraine. As with the past



2016 Bishop Velychkovsky Pilgrimage group in Lviv airport

Our pilgrimage began with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in Blessed Vasyl's apartment, where he lived in his later years during the time of the catacomb church (1955-1969). During these years, this apartment was the nerve center of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Priests and sisters would come there for guidance in their pastoral ministry in those trying times. After Blessed Vasyl was secretly consecrated a bishop in 1963, one can say that this was his cathedral and his chancery. The apartment



Celebrating the Divine Liturgy in Bl. Vasyl's apartment in Lviv

has been restored to its original form with many artifacts (altar, cupboards, table, bed coverings, altar vessels, icons, and books) that belonged to him. We visited his seminary in Lviv and saw the jail where he spent time before his trial in



Praying at Bl. Vasyl's mother's gravesite in Ternopil

1969. We toured the city of Ternopil- the place of his arrest in 1945 and the gravesite of his mother Anna (Sr. Emilia). We prayed at his father's gravesite in Yabluniv, in his grandfather's church in Probiznia, in the church of Blessed Vasyl's pastoral ministry in

1941 in Kami-anetz Podilsk. In Shuparka, the church of his childhood, we celebrated the Acatist hymn in his honour with the local Orthodox priest. We made our annual pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine in Zarvanytsia where we celebrated the Divine Liturgy with Patriarch Sviatoslav together with all the Ukrainian Bishops and some 200,000 faithful. We visited the Carpathian Mountains, the towns of Drohobych, Novoyavorisk, and an orphanage in Potelych. We were invited to celebrate the baptism of Andrijo's son, an orphan that we have been supporting for



At Bl. Vasyl's father's gravesite in Yabluniv



An orphan from the orphanage in Potelych



With Patriarch Sviatoslav at the Sobor of Resurrection in Kyiv

There were three new experiences during this pilgrimage which need to be highlighted. The first was in the city of Kovel in the Volyn region. Blessed Vasyl

years, in the mountain village of Lavochno. This was a truly unforgettable village experience. We concluded our pilgrimage toured in the capital city of Kyiv. These are just a few of the places we visited.

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served in Volyn from 1928 to 1935 where he had much success in forming many new parishes. The oblast (province) of Volynia, which is in the north



Fr. Evhen Zadorozhny being blessed by Fr. John in Kovel

western part of Ukraine and has its own unique history different from Western Ukraine (Lviv, Ternopil & Ivano Frankivsk). When Poland was divided in 1795, Volynia fell under Russian rule. The Ukrainian Catholic church was then persecuted and it was absorbed by the Russian

Orthodox Church. For a short time between the two World Wars, this area was under Polish rule. It was at this time that the Ukrainian Catholic Church was re-established under the direction of Blessed Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky, Blessed Vasyl and others. After 1945, the Ukrainian Catholic Church was again suppressed under the communist rule. When this area became part of independent Ukraine in 1991, the Redemptorists again returned under the enthusiastic



Archbishop Josaphat blessing the cornerstone of the new church dedicated to Bl. Vasyl

pastorship of Fr. Evhen Zadorozhny. He founded a parish in Kovel under the patronage of Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky. In recent years, he has established other smaller parishes outside of Kovel. After much work, Fr. Evhen received permission from the city government to build a second Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kovel. This church will be under the patronage of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. He coordinated our pilgrimage so that when we would be present and participate in a solemn blessing of the land, the cross and the cornerstone of this new church by Archbishop Josaphat Hovera of Lutz and the local neighbouring clergy. We were privileged to be at this new beginning of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's ministry in Kovel. They marked this occasion by permanently mentioning our presence engraved in the cornerstone. They will need

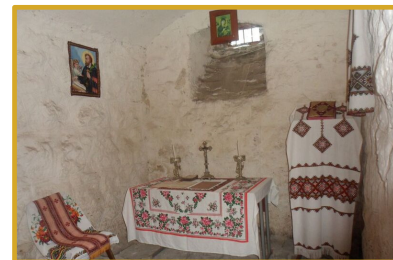


Parishioners, pilgrims and clergy present at this solemn blessing in Kovel

presence engraved in the cornerstone. They will need

financial support for this new upcoming church

The second new experience was visiting the prison where Blessed Vasyl was imprisoned in August 1945 in the city of Chortkiv. Tanya and Oleh Cheharivsky, our fellow-workers in Ukraine, earlier this year discovered the prison in which



Newly formed Chapel in Bl. Vasyl's prison cell in Chortkiv

Blessed Vasyl was placed after his arrest in Ternopil. This prison, located during and in the few years after the Second World War, was in the basement of a Carmelite monastery. It was a prison for many UPA (Ukrainian Partisan Army) members and also for some priests and religious. The building was returned to the church in the early 2000's and became the residence for the new bishop, Bishop Demetrius Hryhorak of Buchach-Chortkiv. In fact, the bishop's present chancery office was the former KGB office and the KGB sentencing room. We learnt the history of these basement rooms and of the tortures



Praying the Way of the Cross in underground prison cells in Chortkiv



Maria Stepa, who once was a prisoner in the same prison as Bl. Vasyl in Chortkiv

that occurred there from Maria Stepa whom we met and who herself was a prisoner there. After the bishop discovered that Blessed Vasyl spent some time in this prison, he began preparing this basement/prison for people to come and experience it.

As a pilgrim group, we came into this "holy" and terrible place where so many were tortured and killed and where Blessed Vasyl spent a few weeks before being taken to a Kyiv prison. Here we prayed the 7th Station from the Way of the Cross written in Blessed Vasyl's honour. In our encounter with Maria Stepa, who herself spent time in this prison and where her parents and family were killed, we received a firsthand account of Blessed Vasyl's tortures and abuse at the hands of the guards.



Lukianskaya prison in Kyiv, where Bl. Vasyl was on death row

Our third new discovery on this trip was the prison in Kyiv where Blessed Vasyl was on death row. We had several partial clues where this prison was in Kyiv, but it was always assumed that he was only in the prison on 33 Volodymyrska St., where

presently the Security Police (SBU) have their main headquarters. We know that in that building many of the priests and bishops were kept. However, as we studied the KGB documents, we discovered another address and name



Holodomor museum in Kyiv

of a prison, the Lukianskaya Prison. It is hidden from the main streets in central Kyiv. In

fact, we had a hard time finding it, even though we were only a few yards from it. But we did find it. It is still an active prison and we were being filmed for standing in front of it. We said a prayer for all the prisoners and for all those who were unjustly condemned

and executed there. While in Kyiv, we also visited the very moving Holodomor museum dedicated to the 7 million plus people killed by starvation during the Stalinist regime. We also visited Babyn Yar, where over 33,000 Jews were massacred by the Nazis on September 29-30, 1941. Both these sacred places made us more aware of the horrific things human beings can do to others and of our responsibility to give each person their due dignity.



Babyn Yar in Kyiv where Jews were massacred



Street honoring the "Heavenly Hundred" who lost their lives in the Euro Maidan in February 2014

Blessed Vasyl's journey of life inspires us to follow Christ more whole-heartedly and to be willing to pay the *price* in remaining faithful to the Gospel.

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



Legion of Mary group making a pilgrimage to the Shrine

was followed by a tour of the museum and shrine and a brief introduction to the spirituality of the Byzantine Church. The morning of prayer and renewal was very warmly received. For many of them this was their first visit to the Shrine. Since this experience, many of them have come for a return visit to pray at the Shrine and pray before the holy relics of Bl. Vasyl.

One of the consequences was that a group of 12 Filipino priests, "Peter's Chord", were invited for a morning tour at our Shrine. They were making a tour across Canada giving a thanksgiving concert to various Filipino communities in various cities. They came from the Archdiocese of Palo in the Philippines that experienced a devastating typhoon several years ago. This was also their first exposure to the Byzantine Church. They enthusiastically received their newly acquired knowledge and devotion to Blessed Vasyl. They took much material with themselves back to the Philippines.

REACHING THE PHILIPPINES

On August 27, we were pleased to welcome over 100 members of the Legion of Mary who came to the Shrine for a day of renewal. Most of the members were from the Filipino community. We began with the Divine Liturgy to which the whole community responded enthusiastically. For many this was their first experience of the Byzantine Liturgy. After the Liturgy, the rosary was recited. Then a 15 minute video presentation on the life of Blessed Vasyl was shown. This



"Peter's Chord" a group of singing Filipino priests

VISITORS TO THE SHRINE



Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of North America



Nataliya Markevych and family donating a rushnyk for the Bl. Vasyl icon, Calgary AB



Students and teachers from Ukrainian School of Ss. Vladimir & Olga Cathedral, Winnipeg



Ladies from Edmonton attending National UCConference



S.E.V.R.E. 2016



SSMI Sisters and delegates from the National UCConvention



Bro. Eumir, C.Ss.R. giving a tour in Tagalo to a Filipino family



Murdock family from Calgary, AB



Visitors from the Philippines

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 31, 2016.

+10,000
Estate of William & Kay Zambrick

+500
National Association of Vocation Directors
UCWLC St. Joseph's Branch

+100
Sylvia Bock
Orest & Evelyn Eveneshen
Holy Eucharist U.C.W.L.C., Wpg
Sofia Hull

Knights of Columbus- Holy Eucharist Council #11330
Geraldine Koban
Legion of Mary, Winnipeg
Ivan Roman & Nataliya Markevych
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 Fr. David Misbrenner
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Deacon Walter Bialobzyski
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 Peter & Glikeria Iwanuck
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 Stan & Luba Sirdar
 Lillian Skazyk
 Patricia Zborowsky & Olga
 Zborowsky

In Honor Of...
Teo Huynh
 Imelda Pang
Fr. Boris Kyba
 W. Allan Bailey
John & Adeline Pacholka
 W. Allan Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Shewchuk
 Stan & Luba Sirdar
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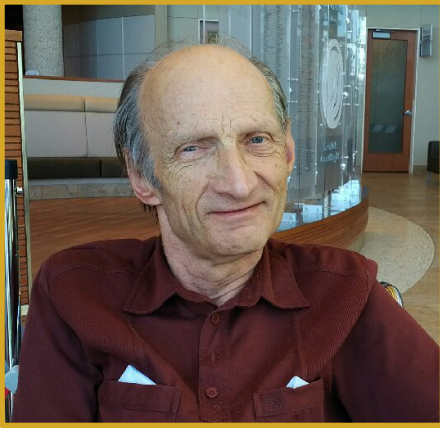
Ukraine
 Donna Krawchuk

For the Health of...
Brent & Kelly
 Pat Lucko
Kevin
 Lise Anglin
Olga
 Wlodzimierz Sawka
Anastasia Bakan
 Matthew & Anastasia Bakan
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 Ron & Angeline Gretchen
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk
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Flynn grandchildren
 Murray & Anne Flynn
Joe Gretchen
 Ron & Angeline Gretchen
Brian Hlus
 Olga Hlus
Vera Matwichyna
 Violet Matwichyna
Orest Pidwerbeski
 Orest Pidwerbeski
Sirdar children & grand-children
 Stan & Luba Sirdar
Juliana
 Boris & Olga Skehar
Martha Terlecky
 Slofko & Martha Terlecky
Trafananko family
 Nadia Trafananko
Anastasia Tymchuk
 Oxana Tymchuk
Norbert Wasylenko
 Norbert Wasylenko
Nicholas Zimrose
 Alex & Mary Zimrose
Family & friends
 Alexander & Olga Boychuk

In Thanksgiving...
 Tom Bailey & Terri Scott
 Glenn Marr & Yuet Ying

Donations to the Shrine
can be made ONLINE
visit
www.bvmartyrshrine.com

IN MEMORIAM



On July 7, 2016, our dear friend and long-time volunteer, **Myron Hrankowski**, passed away at Holy Family Nursing Home in Winnipeg. Myron was a very special person who spent time daily at the Shrine greeting visitors. He and his brother Paul (deceased 2006) were our first volunteers when the Shrine opened in 2002. They both dedicated many hours a week in the Shrine.

Myron had been challenged all his life. First, he was born as a "blue" baby. Due to heart problems, he was not able to receive enough oxygen and thus was unable to walk far. After numerous operations, this all improved only to suffer a stroke when he was 17. This left him impaired in his movements and his speech. De-

spite these challenges, Myron's heart was filled with love and compassion. He was a man of faith and of deep prayer. He was very grateful for all he received always saying "Thank you." One of the highlights in his later years was when he made a Bishop Velychkovsky Pilgrimage to Ukraine in 2008. He will be sadly missed.

Вічна йому пам'ять! Eternal Memory!

**Checkout our 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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Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
Canada

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Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com