



# **FULLY ALIVE**

## *Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine*

### **A PRISONER'S RECOLLECTION**

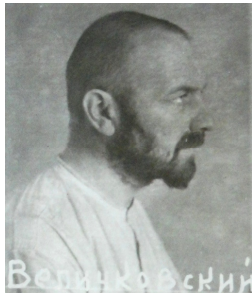
#### **Honoured In The Barracks**

In the fall of 2017, a presentation on Blessed Vasyl was given in the city of Kolomeya, Ukraine. An elderly gentleman Myroslav Romash, approached Oleh Cheharivsky, the presenter, and shared with him that he was a fellow-prisoner with Blessed Vasyl in Vorkuta. This news greatly excited Oleh. He asked Mr. Romash to write his memoirs on Blessed Vasyl. The following is a portion of what he wrote.

"In early spring of 1950, a small group of prisoners arrived at our penal camp near the mines # 9 & 10 from the camp called "Abez" which was near Vorkuta. In "Abez" were found those who were extremely fatigued, sick or invalids who needed medical attention. Among these prisoners from "Abez" was the superior (ihumen) of the Redemptorist monastery in Ternopil, Father Vasyl Velychkovsky.



"As was the customary, the prisoners from our camp wished to encounter these new prisoners. Perhaps they would meet someone they knew or someone from their region in Ukraine. They were especially interested in those who came from this famous prison "Abez". In this group of ordinary men were some "educated" people and priests. I saw a person whom I knew well – a fellow countryman, a doctor of philosophy Vasyl Petryshyn.



**Blessed Vasyl during his first arrest and imprisonment**

"Under the strict watchful eyes of the guards, these new prisoners were brought into our camp. Without stopping they went into a barrack where they were searched, registered and profiled. Our group escorted these prisoners with our eyes, but we saw no one we knew. Many of us did not disperse but remained waiting and talking.

"Then, these priests came to us and among them our philosopher, a walking encyclopedia, Vasyl Petryshyn. He told us that among those who just arrived was

the ihumen of the Redemptorist monastery in Ternopil, Fr. Vasyl Velychkovsky. He turned to us with a request that it was essential that we somehow assign Fr. Veychkovsky

to a job that would be suitable for a man like him, who was in such a poor state of health.

"The prisoners began to discuss among themselves what work would be good for this honoured ihumen. They finally agreed that the best job for him would be to work in the ventilator detail in the coal mines. This was even more possible, because many of our cellmates were already working in this detail, and among them was their supervisor, Volodymyr Kodzushko from Rava Ruskaya. Volodymyr had a good relationship with the head boss of the ventilator detail. They made the necessary preparations and contacts and waited for the registration to be completed.

"I remember, when to our barrack of mechanics (where also lived the workers of the ventilator detail)

came the philosopher Vasyl Petryshyn and with him came Fr. Vasyl Velychkovsky. Our attention was turned to our guests in our barrack. Next to Philosopher Vasyl Petryshyn, whom we already knew, stood a average man, whom we did not know but



whose stature and serious face inspired our respect. Our group came forward to meet our new guest. Vasyl Petryshyn introduced to us the ihumen of the Redemptorist monastery in Ternopil, Fr. Vasyl Velychkovsky – our new resident who was part of the ventilator detail in the mines.

"The conversation began. It was proposed that he should take the free bunk on the first level in the corner of the barrack next to mine. Father liked this bunk because it offered some silence and quiet. For the time being we were neighbors.

"Fr. Vasyl Velychkovsky was glad with our encounter and desired to engage in conversation. At first our conversation was on various topics. In order to avoid gathering in the middle of the barrack, the head of the ventilator detail, Volodymyr Kodzushko and Boris Mirus invited the guests to sit on their bunks which were across from each other. As result, the conversation became livelier. These kind of gatherings were forbidden by the administration, but we did-

#### **In This Issue:**

- Honoured in the Barracks - 1**
- Testimony - 3**
- Ministry in Ukraine - 3**
- Thanks to Contributors - 4**
- Shrine Visitors - 6**
- Shrine Information - 6**
- Prayer to Blessed Vasyl - 6**

n't pay attention to this. Time quickly passed. Then Petryshyn, who lived in the builder's barrack "Horstrola", wishing not to get caught and end up in solitary confinement, rose to go to his barrack, bid adieu to Father and promised us that he would return again.

"The time approached for the review from the prison guard. They came around daily before the barracks were locked down for the night. Everyone scattered. After the review, Father and I went to our dark corner. On the bunk there was a mattress, a pillow stuffed with wood shavings, two sheets and a cover stuffed with padding. I knelt down, said a short prayer and went to bed. Father prayed for a long time on his rosary. In the morning, I saw that his rosary was made from bread. The bread they gave us was so moist (damp) that one could even form crosses from it.



**A rosary made from bread similar to the one Blessed Vasyl used**

"In the morning, the guards opened the barrack. We all rushed for breakfast and got ready for our walk to the mines. Fr. Velychkovsky had already left with the workers of the ventilator detail. The new recruits, along with Father Vasyl, spent a few days of orientation and instruction about their work and the safety regulations. After this, the head of the ventilator detail, Kodzushko led Father to his place of work - "the door man" - where he had to open and close the door (ventilator) as the coal cars passed by.

"The work of the doorman was mostly on one's feet. When the doors were shut tight, Father had some possibility to do something else. From time to time someone would come and stop by him to have a short talk. It became known that a priest was the doorman. Some of the miners turned to Father with a request, that he write for them the daily prayers and the Ten Commandments. Father gladly obliged and gave them also short guidelines.

In one of our conversations, Father asked me if I knew a welder with access to the instruments, (he knew that I was working as a mechanic) who could make him a die (a stamp). Father thought that in order to make use of his spare time as a doorman, that he could form metal crosses. Soon a die was formed by an experienced Lithuanian welder. The material for making the crosses was taken from the inside of batteries. The inside of the battery was made from a special alloy that did not rust and was pliable.

"Soon Fr. Vasyl Velychkovsky opened a "factory" in the mine shaft for producing crosses. It must be said that Father took great care and precision in making these crosses, cleaning and polishing them. They were a beautiful silver color. To all those who wished to receive them, Father would give them a cross after he had blessed them. I had the privilege

of receiving a cross from Father. For many years, I wore it and guarded it. Unfortunately, through various circumstances of life, I lost it. It gives me great sorrow.

"I recall again from those first days, the impression Fr. Velychkovsky made on us. We experienced that he was no ordinary man. They began to approach him to seek counsel and direction. Father was glad to do this. He gave them guidelines and instructions often connecting them with the history of Ukraine and the church.

"He also conducted short Divine Services, confessed and gave Holy Communion to us. This occurred often in our free time from work. One must say that although not many were present, but for those who wanted to be there, it was very fulfilling. The strict regime always had a watchful eye upon us. We and the priests would come to him individually, so that it would be less obvious. In this way, we met with Father personally.



**A jam cover similar to the one used by Blessed Vasyl while in the barrack in Vorkuta**

"Fr. Velychkovsky celebrated the Liturgy in our barracks. The Liturgy itself was simple, without a cantor. The liturgical vessels were also simple, a small humble cross, a prayer book, a jar cover, and a spoon made from pieces of aluminum. Father kept his liturgical "inventory" safe. There was no need to announce when the liturgy would be. It spread quickly by word of mouth and the news spread to other barracks. Normally about twenty men participated in the Liturgy. Father was unable to plan the time of the Liturgies because of the work schedule. Sometimes he celebrated two Liturgies - one in the morning and the other in the evening.

"In the camp, despite the strict regime, there formed a tradition. On feast days such as Christmas and Easter there was a general celebration for all those in the barrack. It was prepared well in advance. On the day of the feast, a table was placed in the middle of the barrack. It was covered and we placed our belongings (food) upon it. Fr. Velychkovsky approached the table to celebrate the Liturgy. It happened that at times on the great feast days of Christmas and Easter, he would invite another priest to join him. On those occasions, even though the Liturgy was short, it became even more solemn. We even sang softly. After the Liturgy and the sermon, Father would bless our food and we would all approach the table. It happened that sometimes a guard showed up. Usually they tolerated this celebration. Father would preach a festive and informative sermon. Unfortunately I cannot remember its details. If guards came to us during the Divine Liturgy, they would scold us under the pretense of keeping order and discipline, but that was all. During the Liturgy, Father was dignified. He was not nervous. In fact, he was joyful and confident in his actions."



**Fellow prisoner Myroslav Romash**



## Graces and Blessings

*On February 12, 2016, I wrote a prayer request for my mom in the book, anointed her with Blessed Vasyl's oil and lit a vigil candle. She was very ill, not expected to live. She was paralyzed on one side from a previous stroke 35 years earlier, had bacterial pneumonia and congestive heart failure. She made a full recovery from pneumonia and left the hospital nine days later to return to her personal care home.*

*On August 25, 2016, I put a prayer request in the book for Helen, mother of one of my co-workers. Helen had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and was expected to live just a few weeks. She continued to live. A follow-up test occurred in November. When she met the doctor to review the brain scan, the doctor said the tumor was gone. He didn't know why. She still has some health issues which are being followed up, but the brain tumor that I had prayed healing for was gone.*

*Cathy Furkalo*

**Please inform us of any blessings or grace you received, no matter how small they are.**

## MINISTRY IN UKRAINE



**Venerating relics of Blessed Vasyl in Buchach**



**Blessed Vasyl Service in Zamulytsi, Kolomeya region**



**Presentation to the medical staff in a hospital in Chortkiv**



**At the Barvynskiy College of Arts and Education, Chortkiv**



**Prayers with seniors at Caritas in Chortkiv**



**Presentation at the Academy for Cantors in Chortkiv**



**Andriy, an orphan supported by Winnipeg individuals, visits the museum to give thanks.**



**Tania & Oleh during a radio interview with Radio Emmanuel**



**A Mother's Prayer Group at the Blessed Vasyl museum from the village of Borshchovytsi**



**Presentation in Ivano Frankivsk at the Church of the Nativity of Mary, built on the place where Blessed Vasyl was once superior**

# THANK YOU!!!

*Your generous donations make it possible for us to conduct our ministry at the Shrine and to promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl throughout the world. Thank you to all the contributors to the Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you.*

*Contributions listed below are from December 1, 2017 until February 28, 2018.*

## 500+

**In memory of Steve Sianchuk**  
Sianchuk family  
**In memory of Hlykeria, Wolodymyr, Olha, Stepha & Dionis Welyczkowsky**  
George & Christine Welleck  
**In memory of Sylvia Woroniak**  
Norman & Sandra Dobson

## 100+

**Harold Baehnk**  
**Canon Luhovy Assembly #374, Wpg**  
**Sofia Hull**  
**Ben & Violet Kluk**  
**Knights of Columbus, St. Anne's**  
**Council # 10551, Wpg**  
**Olga Livingston**  
**Walter & Isabel Lukie**  
**Ron & Carol Paley**  
**Walter Petryshyn**  
**Julia Saganski**  
**Joseph & Liz Senderewich**  
**Sisters of Instruction of the Child**  
**Jesus, Quebec**  
**Henry & Iris Spilchuk**

## <100

**Jim & Helen Adamko**  
**Nicholas & Hazel Borodey**  
**Ken Bosiak**  
**Dan & Lillian Burkart**  
**Marianne Derkach**  
**Maria Fil**  
**Larry & Sandra German**  
**Immaculate Heart of Mary School,**  
**Wpg**  
**Alexander & Gertrude Karapita**  
**Maria Kchuk**  
**Bordon & Marcie Kosman**  
**John & Pat Lewak**  
**Richard & Marietta Persian**  
**Doreen Procopchuk**  
**Raymond & Beverly Rawluk**  
**Wlodzimierz Sawka**  
**Iris Smellie**  
**Igor Snovid**  
**Gabriel & Alisha Sweeney-Muller**  
**John Tymkiw**  
**Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood**  
**of St. Michael's, Wpg**  
**Jan Walkow**

**Mark Watson**  
**John Wilczynski & Beatrice Papiz**  
**Michael & Verna Wozny**  
**William & Mary Zaporzan**

**In Memory Of...**  
**Sharon & Mickey**  
Thomas Bailey  
**Vasyl, Evstahy, Oleh, Andriy, Myron, Ivanna, Sofia, Zoriana Teresa**  
Ivan Roman & Nataliya Markevych  
**Ron Andrykow**  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
**Paraskevia & Wasyl Baluta**  
John & Martha Baluta  
**Sylvia Beck**  
Dennis & Patti LeBlanc  
**John Bereza**  
Nellie Bereza  
**John Bilowus**  
Robert & Leanna Obirek  
**John Bodnar**  
Ms. Frances Bodnar  
**Anne Boychuk**  
Marilyn Krawchuk  
**Paul Byblow**  
Ms. Gloria Byblow  
**Rose Chornoboy**  
Martin & Helen Fydirchuk  
**Anne Colgan**  
Florence Blanchard  
Maria Holinaty  
John & Mary Hykawy  
Rick & Jeannette Kendall  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
Vladimir & Marlene Solman  
Helen Stockburn  
**Judith Mae Cross**  
Dolores Daniels  
**Jack Daniels**  
Dolores Daniels  
**William & Carrie Drosdoski**  
Gordon & Joan Lasko  
**Jeffery Dunn**  
Sonia Yaskiw Dunn  
**Ed Dziedzic & Dziedzic family**  
Helen Dziedzic  
**Elsie Gillespie**  
Lillian Skazyk  
**Mary, Wasyl & Walter Goshulak**  
Sophie Manulak  
**Rev. Billy Graham**  
Walter Smadella

**Sarah Katherine Hasiak**  
Peter Adams  
**Florence Hayduk**  
Joe & Gail Kulyk  
**Elizabeth Hnatiuk**  
William Hnatiuk  
**John Homeniuk**  
Olga Homeniuk  
**Myron & Paul Hrankowski**  
Walter Smadella  
**Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn**  
Dolores Daniels  
**Dan & Bella Kalenchuk**  
Mary Jane Kalenchuk  
**William Kalyniuk**  
Helen Stockburn  
**Ann Karlicki**  
William J. Karlicki  
**Helen Kashton**  
Florence Blanchard  
**Maurice Kindrachuk**  
Elsie Kindrachuk  
**Richard Korban**  
Helen Dziedzic  
Shrine Staff  
Stan and Luba Sirdar  
**Fr. Josaphat Korchinski**  
Steven and Mary Gregorish  
Ms. Tanya Kraw  
**Lidia & Alexander Kotowycz**  
John and Martha Baluta  
**Leonard Kozak**  
Sophie Manulak  
**Ellen Kucey**  
Marilyn Krawchuk  
**Fr. Boris Kyba**  
Sacred Heart Altar Servers Ituna,  
SK  
Fr. Yurij & Dorothy Lazurko  
Adrian & Vera Olenick  
Amelia Ratuszniak  
Walter Smadella  
**Sharon**  
Joseph Labine  
**Doris "Dori" Lemke**  
Marilyn Krawchuk  
**Russ Luch**  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
Walter Smadella  
**Joe & Mary Malawski**  
Lawrence and Stella Malawski  
**Ivan and Anastasia Melnycky**  
Peter Melnycky  
**Anna & John Merczyk**  
Betty Schill

**Elaine Moroz**

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

**Michael Moroz**

Florence Blanchard

Eugene & Shirley Dupuis

Edward and Anne Faseruk

Father Shyshkowich Knights of

Columbus Council #8925, Wpg

Grant & Gloria Karsin

Mr. & Mrs. John Kravetz

Robert & Marjorie Moroz

Steve Prokop

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Evelyn Zaboroski

Kay Zawortny

**Annie Musyj**

Peter & Glikeria Iwanuck

**John & Anna Myrczyk**

Lawrence & Stella Malawski

**Peter Pawlyshyn**

Marcia Pawlyshyn

**Fr. Peter Pidskalny, C.Ss.R.**

Sacred Heart Altar Servers, Ituna, SK

Elsie Kindrachuk

Fr. Yuriy & Dorothy Lazurko

Leonard & Kasie Leschyshyn

Adrian & Vera Olenick

Amelia Ratushniak

Ms. Vi Zabinsky

**Grace Prokop**

Steve Prokop

**Steve Romanyk**

Stan & Luba Sirdar

**Jean Rubel**

Duane & Darlene Dahl

Dolores Daniels

Bert & Val Galay

Rick & Jeannette Kendall

Walter & Isabel Lukie

Allan & Joanne Malenko

Rose Podruski

Darlene Sidak

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Lillian Skazyk

Kaye Snatenchuk

Helen Stockburn

Kay Zawortny

**Fr. Eugene Rudachek**

Beverly Kyle & David Sokolowski

**Nick & Julia Sametz & Steve & Karen Sametz**

Elizabeth Paziuk

**Sass/Zabinsky families**

Ms. Vi Zabinsky

**Shpytkovsky & Kotowych families**

Anna Banera

**John & Anne Smotrycki and family**

Helen Dziedzic

**Lloyd Sulymka**

Irene Sulymka

**John Warrenchuk**

Ernie & Diane Mee

Kathleen Warrenchuk

**Steve Yarko**

Walter Smadella

**John Zatwarnitski & Mary Kerunsky**

Adela Zatwarnitski

**In Honor Of...****in thanksgiving to Bl. Vasyl**

Mr. Chris & Mary Winchar

**Boychuk Family & Friends**

Olga Boychuk

**Bill & Elizabeth, Dan & May Shumay**

Paul Shumay

**Frances Stelman**

Olga Boychuk

John & Mary Hykawy

Allen and Mary Marcinkow

Phyllis Shindak

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Iris Smellie

Vladimir and Marlene Solman

Kathleen Warrenchuk

Evelyn Zaboroski

**Peace in Ukraine**

Anonymous

**For the Health Of...****Nataliya, Ivan, Danylo, Stefan**

Ivan Roman & Nataliya Markevych

**Boychuk Family**

Olga Boychuk

**Marika Cholij**

Leo & Oksana Baluta

**Theresa Filipi**

Arnie & Theresa Filipi

**Jessop family**

Ms. Sophia Demjanew

**Fr. Vlad Kolpakov, C.Ss.R.**

Adrian & Vera Olenick

**Tamra Kostiuik**

Joan Kostiuik

**Walter Lukie**

Phyllis Shindak

**Rudy & Josie Macsymach & Family**

Florence Blanchard

**Vera Matwichyna**

Paul Thullner & Kristya Matwichyna

**Maria Miniano**

Romeo & Maria Miniano

**Romeo, Maria & Gabriel Miniano**

Romeo & Maria Miniano

**William & Mary Oleynik**

William & Mary Oleynik

**Hector Kirk Rana**

Josie Rana

**Hans Schmid**

Dirk Schmid

**Steve and Donna Sumka**

Olga Boychuk

**Carolyn & son Christan Taillon**

Daria Kyba

**Vicki & Ed Tycholis**

Janice Tycholis-Lloyd

**children & grandchildren**

Les & Natalie Storozuk

Please consider Bishop Vel-  
ychkovsky Martyr's Shrine  
when planning your estate.  
This will help to secure the  
future of this ministry.  
Thank you.

*Thanks be to Blessed Vasyl, for his great love and attentiveness to our prayers. I should like to add...the most recent issue of; Fully Alive, was absolutely BEAUTIFUL!!! Sooooo 'FULL OF HOPE' for our youth! It made me very happy to see these blessed youth enjoying a favor they will never forget. Blessed Vasyl has marked them for life, by his intercession and great gifts of blessing and grace. The lovely letters the children wrote, show how edified they were by the bounty of this day of pilgrimage. WHAT richness of Faith! God's blessing upon ALL the ones involved with the details of making this blessed event happen! Heaven is allowed something to smile upon! Denise*

You may now **DONATE ONLINE**.  
Our online donation portal is now  
available on our website for your  
convenience. If you wish to do-  
nate on our secure site, complete  
the form on our "Support Us"  
page.

Please check out our online **Gift  
Shop** for the latest items at  
[www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com).



# Shrine Ministry in Winnipeg

Pilgrims from  
Scarborough and  
Brampton, ON  
(org. from Kerala,  
India)



Canon Luhovy Assembly #374 ,  
Wpg and their families make a  
pilgrimage to the Shrine



Pilgrims from  
El Salvador



Gonzales family from Mexico



Confirmation Preparation Class and  
their families from St. Theresa's RC,  
Wpg

## SHRINE SCHEDULE

**Monday:** Closed  
**Tuesday to Friday:** 10 am to 5 pm  
**Saturday:** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Sunday:** opened until 1:00 pm

The 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: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:00 pm**  
**Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasyl**  
**(Acatist 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 National Martyr's Shrine**  
**250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2V 0M6**  
**Tel: 204-338-7321 Email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com) Website: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com)**