



# FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

## 55th ANNIVERSARY OF CONSECRATION

### AN INCREDIBLE EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION

Fifty-five years ago on February 4, 1963, a very important event for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church took place, especially in Ukraine. In March 1946, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was declared an illegal body in the Soviet Union by the Soviet Government. Prior to that, starting April 10, 1945, all the Ukrainian Greek Catholic bishops together with Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj, were arrested and imprisoned. Many of them died in prison. Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky returned "on his death-bed" to Lviv in 1956. He somewhat recovered but died April 2, 1959. Soon after, Rome appointed a new bishop, Father Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R.. Unfortunately, there were no bishops who could ordain him to the episcopacy. Almost all of the bishops arrested in 1945 had died in prison. Two bishops, who were secretly ordained in 1945 by Bishop Hryhori Khomishin - Bishop Simeon Lukach and Bishop Ivan Sleziuk, were now in prison.



Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj in the 1960's before his release from Soviet prison camps.

January 25, 1959, Saint Pope John XXIII announced a new ecumenical council - the Second Vatican Council. This Council began October 11,

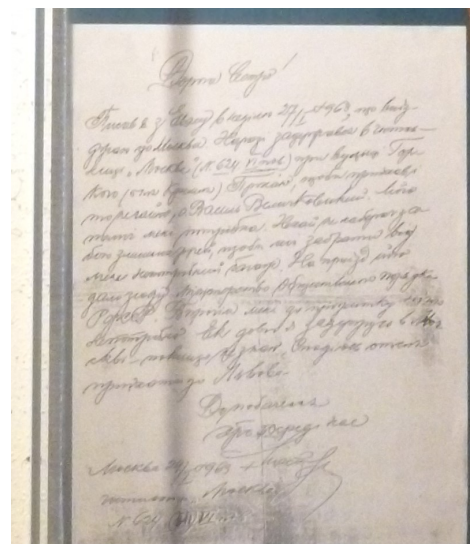
1962. Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was still living and imprisoned in laager camps in Siberia and Mordovia. On January 23, 1963, he was freed by Nikita Khrushchev's administration after political pressure from Pope John XXIII and United States President John F. Kennedy. Metropolitan Josyf spent 18 years imprisoned by the Soviet Un-



Hotel Moskva as it was in the 1960's where Blessed Vasyl was consecrated to the episcopacy. Recently renovated, it is now The Four Seasons Hotel

ion. While on his way to Rome, he spent a few days in Moscow at Hotel Moskva room 624. From there, he wrote a letter to a Sister of Mercy in Lviv to ask Father Vasyl Velychkovsky to come immediately to this Moscow hotel as he had something to pass on to him. This "something" was the episcopal consecration.

Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn, C.Ss.R. and Fr. Joseph Denischuk, C.Ss.R. both heard on two separate occasions, of the event that took place in this hotel room. Blessed Vasyl himself related this story to them in his last year of life in Canada. Upon receiving the letter from a Sister of Mercy, Blessed Vasyl immediately left for Moscow by train. Upon his arrival at Hotel Moskva, he entered the room and saw several men

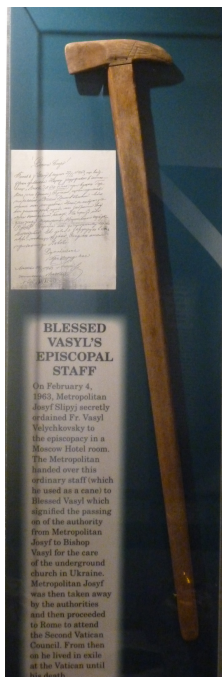


A copy of the letter sent from Metropolitan Josyf asking for Blessed Vasyl to come to Moscow.

with Metropolitan Josyf. The Metropolitan said: "Okay you can go now. My relative has arrived." When the others left the room, Metropolitan Josyf asked if Blessed Vasyl had any bread. The Metropolitan had refused to eat the food the Soviets were giving him for fear that it was poisoned. Blessed Vasyl was very sorry that he had none. Then Metropolitan Josyf asked Blessed Vasyl to kneel down. The Metropolitan placed one foot against the door, as someone had begun to knock. Refusing to open the door, Metropolitan Josyf began the rite of Consecration to the Episcopacy. He said the

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prayers by memory. He completed the ordination by passing on his own walking staff (taking the place of a Bishop's staff) to Blessed Vasyl as a sign of the passing on the authority to lead the church. Blessed Vasyl was made an archbishop in charge of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. The knocks and shouts outside the door continued. The voices

were that of government agents. The Metropolitan opened the door and the agents came in and took him to the



**Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj meeting with Pope John XXIII upon his arrival in Rome for the Second Vatican Council**

train station and onto Rome so that he could attend the Second Vatican Council. Metropolitan Josyf never returned to Ukraine.

This clandestine event in room 624 at the Hotel Moskva saved the life of the illegal Ukrainian Catholic Church. Without a bishop, the church could not have survived all those years of persecution. Blessed Vasyl then returned to Lviv. Now as the bishop responsible for the life of the underground church, he

began working as a secret bishop. He opened secret seminaries. He secretly ordained many priests. On July 2, 1964, Blessed Vasyl consecrated Fr. Volodymyr Sterniuk, C.Ss.R. to the episcopacy with the right of succession. Bishop Sterniuk was not to exercise his episcopacy, until the time that Blessed Vasyl was either dead, incapacitated or exiled. After Blessed Vasyl was exiled from Ukraine on January 27, 1972, Bishop Sterniuk took charge of the Church in Ukraine. He continued to ordain priests and consecrate bishops that would take his place when he was gone.

Blessed Vasyl's "yes" to Metropolitan Josyf in that hotel room was critical for the survival of the church. His work in the underground church prior to his consecration and the crucial years that he led the church as a bishop earned him the title of Father of the Underground Church. May his courage, trust and dedication inspire us in our Christian journey.

## INTERDIOCESAN PERMANENT DIACONAL FORMATION PROGRAM



On November 17, the members of the Interdiocesan Permanent Diaconal Formation Program spent the morning at the Shrine as part of their formation program. The Archdiocese of St. Boniface and the Archdiocese of Winnipeg have a two year permanent diaconal formation program that lasts two years and is conducted at St. Benedict's Renewal Centre. The morning began with an intensive tour of the museum. They learned about the life of Blessed Vasyl, his imprisonments and his ministry especially during the time of the underground church in Ukraine. They also



learned about the history and life of the Ukrainian Catholic persecuted church (1945-1991). This was followed by a brief explanation of some of the features of the Byzantine Rite. This included an explanation of the meaning of the byzantine

church structure and spirituality. The group then proceeded to the shrine chapel where a Roman Catholic Mass was celebrated by Fr. Mark Filip of Neepawa and Msgr. Ward Jamienson of Winnipeg. During his homily, Fr. Mark shared some personal blessings he and his family had received through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl and through the anointing with the holy oil blessed with his relics. The Mass was followed by a short Moleben Service in honour of Blessed Vasyl and concluded with each one being anointed with the Blessed Vasyl holy oil. It was a memorable morning for their future permanent deacons.





# GRACES AND BLESSINGS

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

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

*December 27, 2016*  
You asked about getting results for prayer requests and I have one to report. Although it is not a cure, it is tremendous improvement in my brother-in-law's health condition. Norman had a long needed kidney transplant but suffered many complications from the surgery. This included near rejection of his new kidney and some very serious viral infection which put him back to intensive treatments in which there was no guarantees of improvement. Last year at Christmas, he landed in emergency due to extremely painful complications. My wife, being his sister, is a retired R.N. who felt that he could have expired. This Christmas he visited us and looks and feels so much better. I don't know that my two prayer requests were answered but I certainly can't rule them out either. I just want you to be aware.  
- Jerry

*March 11, 2017*  
I am writing to you to let you know of an answer to our prayer from Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. My brother-in-law David had to have brain surgery to remove a tumour the size of a golf ball. We prayed for a successful surgery and were worried about possible paralysis or loss of memory. We used the oil from Bishop Vasyl to anoint David. His surgery was long but went well. After the surgery he was supposed to be in a special recovery room to be monitored for twenty-four hours. However, the hospital was in need of the special area bed and felt David was stable enough to be moved to a regular bed even though his surgery was only eight hours prior. His recovery was better than expected so far. He was supposed to be in the hospital for a week, but he was doing so well that they sent him home in four days. We felt that through the Bishop, our prayers were answered in an amazing way to see David improve so well and so quickly after such a serious surgery without any loss of memory of paralysis or any other complications.  
God Bless you for all your work in the shrine.  
- Rosann

# VISITORS AT THE SHRINE



**Resurrection Ukr. Cath. Parish Catechism Program, Dauphin MB**



**Lorne & Elsie Stechyshyn, Yorkton, SK**



**Visitors from Spruce Grove & Red Deer AB, & Winnipeg, MB**



**Fr. Gene & Bernadette Miki, Toronto, ON**



**Bro. Francois, Toronto & Br. Eduardo, Brazil – Heralds of the Gospel**



**Hugh Owen from Virginia, USA with Dr. Kevin & Silas Mark from Killarney, MB**



**Visitors from Regina, SK & Winnipeg, MB**



**Dr. Stella Hryniuk & brother Joe with family visiting from Florida**



**Abraham family Ashern, MB**



**Mary Anne & John James, Port St. Lucie, Florida**



**Beatrice Obiageli, Nigeria, West Africa**



# 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 Martyr's Shrine. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you.*

*Contributions listed below are from September 1st until November 20th, 2018*

## 1000+

**Dr. Kevin Mark Dental Corporation**

## 100+

**Catherine Holmes**  
**Bill & Lena Lapchuk**  
**Sophie Manulak**  
**Connie McCorrister-Moravek**  
**Tetyana Pokeza**  
**Redemptorist Formation**  
**Sacred Heart Parish, Ituna, SK**  
**Ukr. Cath. Church of Resurrection /**  
**Catechetical, Dauphin, MB**  
**Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood,**  
**Yorkton, SK**  
**Joseph & Susan Zeleny**

## <100

**Oksana Bachynsky**  
**Flora Beaulieu**  
**Nicholas & Hazel Borodey**  
**Diana Borys**  
**Robert & Debbie Braid**  
**Necitas Cruz**  
**Josie Ferniuk**  
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**John & Mary Anne James**  
**Knights of Columbus Fr. Filipow**  
**Council #89444, Wpg, MB**  
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**Julian & Barbara Koziak**  
**Chris Kyrzyk**  
**Richard & Marietta Persian**  
**Dirk Schmid**  
**Dmytro Sikora**  
**Iris Smellie**  
**Fred Stoyka**  
**Fr. Andrij & Lydia Wasylanko**

## In Memory Of...

**Genevieve Berezny**  
 William Berezny  
**Sandy Boychuk**  
 Olga Boychuk  
**Ollie & Paul Boyer**  
 Olga Homeniuk  
**Peter Chubaty**  
 Leonard & Sylvia Baron  
 Elsie Bially  
 Helen Chubaty  
 Dolores Daniels  
 Edward & Anne Faseruk  
 Frank & Kathy Hrechka  
 Stella Jaman  
 Mary Jane Kalenchuk  
 Katherine Kosowan

Isabel Lukie  
 Patti Pekarsky  
 Steve Prokop  
 Peter & Mary Samolodny  
 Stan & Luba Sirdar  
 Iris Smellie  
 Vladimir & Marlene Solman  
 Helen Stockburn  
 Larry & Doreen Trach  
 Chris & Mary Winchar  
 Glenn & Valerie Wowryk  
 Kay Zawortny

## Rubio Family members

Manuela Rubio

## Victor Fedorowich

Laurie Fedorowich

## Ollie Gurica

Gary & Jan Lukie

## John & Mary Homeniuk

Olga Homeniuk

## Andrew Hull

Isadore & Vivian Burdeniuk

Christine Warkentin

## Shirley Kalupar

Stan Kalupar

## John and Barabara Karlicki

William J. Karlicki

## Bishop Michael Kuchmiak

W. Allan Bailey

## Phyllis Petrick

William & Marika Chabluk

## Walter & Mary Prokipchuk

Olga Homeniuk

## Grace Prokop

Steve Prokop

## Paul & Emily Stechyshyn

Lorne & Elsie Stechyshyn

## Mike & Nellie Vinnick

Lorne & Elsie Stechyshyn

## Zdan, Zalluski, Zuke & Ryzner

families

Rick & Tara Ryzner

## In Honor Of...

## Ollie Babick

Violet Matwichyna

## Ron & Marlene Lukie

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

## Norm & Josie Shulhan

Bill & Sophie Senkowski

## In Health Of...

## John, Marion & Alex Barszczyk

Fr. Ivan & Mrs. Marion Barszczyk

## Ewhen Brenycz and Family

Ewhen & Stephanie Brenycz

## Orest Eveneshen

Orest & Evelyn Eveneshen

## Erin Faulkner

Jerry Pasternak

## Flynn family

Murray & Anne Flynn

## Gingera & Kokolski grandchildren

Mary Kokolski

## Bob and Diane, Emily & Claire Gingera

Mary Kokolski

## Fred Hobbs

Fred & Marianne Hobbs

## John Hykawy

Edward & Anne Faseruk

## Jean Karoly

Bill & Sophie Senkowski

## Fr. Taras Kchik, C.Ss.R.

Maria Kchik

## Danny Kowbel

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Gary & Jan Lukie

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Dr. Kevin Mark Dental Corporation

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Anne Shymko

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Wally & Betty Soloway

## Mary Melnyk

Walter & Mary Melnyk

## Nicholas family & friends

Neil Nicholas

## Ogidi family

Osita Ogidi

## Steve Prokop

Helen Stockburn

## Redemptorist Fathers

Helen Stockburn

## Yaroslav Schur

Rosemary Schur

## Kevin Syganiec

Karen Moroz

## Terry Titterton

Gary & Jan Lukie

## Barbara Wilson

Anne Shymko

## Chris Zorniak

Olga Hlus

## Corrections from September Newsletter

## In memory of Doug Mallet-Paret

Donna Krawchuk

# MINISTRY IN UKRAINE



Presentation at the Cathedral of St. Volodymyr, Paris, France



Presentation & anointing at the Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God, Lublin, Poland



Presentation at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Zaporizhzhya, Eastern Ukraine. Bishop Stepan Meniok is present.



The 1st Class Relics are brought to the Kyivian Theological Seminary of the Three Holy Bishops



Monthly Healing Services are celebrated in Blessed Vasyl's apartment in Lviv, Ukraine



Blessed Vasyl's Holy Relics are brought to the Blessed Mykolay Charnetsky Parish in Semakivtsi - the birth place of Blessed Mykolay

Participating in a Radio program about Blessed Vasyl in Lviv, Ukraine



## 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 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](mailto:bvshrine@mymts.net)  
**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.

It is important to notify the Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Shrine if you have received a grace or a blessing through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl. Whether it be through prayer, a third class relic or through the anointing with holy oil, even if the grace seems minimal, please inform the Shrine office,  
 email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)  
 Tel: 204-338-7321

*Wishing all of our supporters and their families  
 a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year*

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