



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

WONDERS OF GOD'S GRACE

As we have done over the past decade and more, we would plan our yearly journey to Ukraine to continue our work regarding Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. Over the years, we have met and interviewed over seventy people who worked with the Blessed, or received the Holy Sacraments from him (especially confessions), or who simply knew him. With this work, we have obtained many precious artifacts that belonged to Blessed Vasyl, some of which are displayed in our museum. We have developed a ministry in Ukraine by creating a museum / shrine in the apartment where he lived and employing staff to do presentations throughout Ukraine sharing Blessed Vasyl's life. Throughout the years, we have also been involved with Sister Julia and her work with orphan children and orphan youth. This summer we had planned to continue our shrine ministry with our employees. However, God had other plans.

On May 16th, we received a phone call from Andriy, an orphan whom we have supported in various ways since 2009. Andriy comes from a background of absolute poverty and destitution. He is now married with two children, working hard to make ends meet. Andriy told us that he had been coughing intensely for months and needed to see a doctor. In Ukraine, medications and any medical procedures are not covered by the state. The doctors in the city of Stryj needed to do numerous tests, including a MRI. This would cost approximately \$200. He asked if we could financially assist him? We wired the

funds. On June 20th, we received a phone call from Andriy that he had been to two hospitals, one in Stryj and a very reputable hospital in Lviv (Onkolohichny Likarnya) for further tests. The MRI showed that he had two tumors on his bronchial tubes near his pancreas. Since he had no means to pay for the "expensive" treatment, the doctor told him to return home and live normally. He was told to reduce any stress in his life, to drink warm liquids and to boil his food. He was asked to return to see the doctor in a few months as to whether the tumors had spread.

When we heard this, we were greatly distressed that this young man would have to wait several months before he could get any treatment. With cancer, this could be deadly. We contacted Fr. Andriy Lohin, the administrator of Shyptytsky Catholic Hospital in Lviv, for help. He immediately said yes. We left for Ukraine on June 30th.

Upon arrival, we contacted Fr. Lohin who told us that Andriy needed to come the next day to the well-known tuberculosis



The main tuberculous and lung hospital

hospital in the Lviv area. Fr. Lohin arranged for an appointment with the chief medical doctor of this hospital. Since it was late in the evening and Andriy lived at least four hours from Lviv, the appointment was moved to the following day, Wednesday July 3rd. We arrived with Andriy to meet the chief medical doctor, who examined the MRI results and the diagnosis from the previous doctors



Andriy celebrating his son, Ivan's, birthday together with his wife, Luba, and their daughter Victoria and with his invalid mother

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that Andriy saw. The doctor confirmed that this was serious and since there was no bed available that day, he asked Andriy to come the next day and stay for several days for tests, analysis and medical intervention. Because of circumstances at home, Andriy could not arrive until the following Monday, July 8th. Before he entered the hospital, we anointed him with Blessed Vasyl Oil, gave him a third class relic and prayed for his healing. Andriy prayed with the relic and anointed himself from that day forward. He is a young man with deep faith.

We thought that the analysis, blood work, biopsy would take only a few days. It did not. The blood work revealed that the spleen was enlarged and not functioning. He was given antibiotics and various intravenous medications to heal this condition. This took several days. Thanks to the generosity of people from Canada, we had the funds to pay for the medications and all the procedures necessary. Since we had a vehicle, we were able to visit him nearly every day in the hospital which was in a forested area outside of Lviv.



Andriy receiving the results of the MRI's

would have to deal with the tumors. The doctor also wanted to do more intense testing to obtain greater details regarding the tumors. Surgery, tests - this would all require funds. We hoped that we had enough. Wednesday evening, we received a phone call from Andriy that on Thursday morning, he was scheduled for another MRI. This would be done at another hospital in Lviv. He asked us if we could drive him there. Fortunately, we still had the rental vehicle. We drove him the next morning, hoping and praying that we would have some concrete results, because the next day we were leaving for Canada. The question was: how much would this all cost? Would there

be enough funds for the medical expenses? We began making plans to obtain more funds if necessary. Would anyone here in Lviv look after Andriy or would he have to fend for himself? In Ukraine, the examination results are usually given on the same day. All medical records are in the patient's possession.

Andriy received two MRI tests, one for his chest and lungs and one for his brain and sinus cavities. The vehicle we rented was due back by 3:00 pm that day. Time was running out. After the tests were completed, we left the clinic at 1:30 pm. We needed to have lunch, and return Andriy back to the clinic to receive his test results and then back to the tuberculosis hospital. All before 3:00 pm. We were having lunch at our Redemptorist monastery when the phone rang. It was the doctor from the clinic who did the lung examination. He asked Andriy if he had the original MRI test results because he was having some difficulty recognizing the tumors. He wanted

Andriy to bring back the original tests. What to do? The rental car was due back in an hour. Would we have time? The



Mary Jane Kalenchuk & Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R. saying good-bye to Andriy

phone rang again. It was the rental company asking if we could bring the vehicle back around 4:00 pm instead because no one would be at the office before then. Now we had time. We drove back to the clinic. The doctor took the original files. We waited with anticipation. A short time later, the doctor approached us with a big smile on his face and told us that the tumors were gone. They no longer existed. We are overwhelmed by this news and by God's grace and the intercession of Blessed Vasyl. We went down the hospital corridor to receive the results of the brain scan. Those results were totally clear. We were speechless.

On Friday, as we prepared to return to Canada, Andriy was discharged from the hospital and travelled home. Although we had time in between to do the Shrine work, this unexpected event governed our days in Ukraine. We are so grateful for the manifestation of God's power and the intercession of Blessed Vasyl that brought great healing to this young man.

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

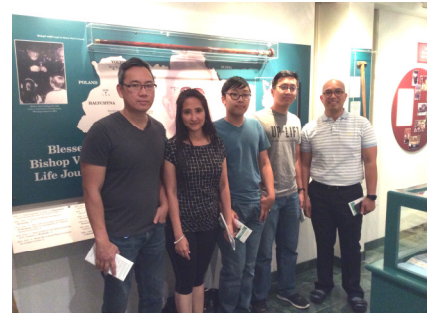
VISITORS TO THE SHRINE



**Visitors from Yorkton, SK
attending the Blessed Vasyi feast day**



**Fr. Joseph Sauriamakel, Miami, FL with
Annie from Winnipeg, MB**



**Fr. Cerlouie from Kelowna, BC with
young adults**



**Vladimir Solman a long time shrine volun-
teer giving a tour to visitors from Toender,
Demark**



**Celebrating the Divine Liturgy with
Mary Melnyk Stefaniuk, Winnipeg with
family Kalyna & John from the USA**



**Fr. Bill Halbing, from New Jersey, USA with
visitors from Edmonton, AB, Marlboro, AB &
Vancouver, BC**



**Fr. Jose from Jacksonville, FL
with Dr. Joe from Winnipeg**



**Mark & Lesia Levytsky from
Edmonton, AB**



Fr. Elias from Hawaii, USA



Wityk family from Hamilton, ON



**Theodosia & Christina Hewko from
Philadelphia, PA with Archbishop
Stefan Soroka**



**Mary Jo & Scott Dickson from
Boise, Idaho**

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 31st, 2019

+1000

In memory of Helen Fydirchuk

Martin Fydirchuk

+500

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

+100

Lise Anglin

Sonia Domitruk

Father Shyshkowich K of C's #8925

**Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic
Parish, Wpg**

William & Phyllis Kobitowich

Anna-Marie Konopelny &

Jerry Semerak

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de Saint-Boniface**

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St. Joseph's Seniors, Winnipeg, MB

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Ituna Sk**

**U.C.W.L.C. of Holy Ghost Parish,
Beausejour, MB**

Miroslaw & Irena Wasylanko

Roman & Cindy Welyczkowsky

<100

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Tina Beaulieu

Lorraine Campbell

Quennie Fernandez

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Fred & Marianne Hobbs

Stella Kieluk

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Fr. Methodius Kushko, C.Ss.R.

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Dmytro Sikora

Iris Smellie

Fred Soyka

U.C.B.C. Holy Eucharist Branch

Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of

St. Michael's, Wpg, MB

Pamela Winkler

In Memory of ...

Genevieve Berezny

William Berezny

Jenett Boyko

Dennis & Patricia Beyak

Kaye Snatenchuk

John & Leona Solomon

Catherine Buyachok

Walter & Olga Eschuk

Vladimir & Marlene Solman

Antin Dmytryk

Dolly Dmytryk

Helen Fydirchuk

Leonard & Sylvia Baron

Connie Berezowski

Dennis & Patricia Beyak

Mary Glicaria Bilinsky

Olga Boychuk

Rick & Cynthia Bryant

Duane & Darlene Dahl

Dolores Daniels

Myroslawa Diakiw

Edward & Anne Faseruk

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

John & Mary Hykawy

Garr & Helene Kukura

Eileen Kuzenko

Isabel Lukie

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Lillian Skazyk

Audrey Smith

Kaye Snatenchuk

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Christa Varkerti

Kathleen Warrenchuk

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Kay Zawortny

Joseph & Katherine Happychuk

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Peter & Paul Huska

Murray & Anne Flynn

Gerald Kokolski

Mary Kokolski

Martin Koroscil

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Bishop Michael Kuchmiak

W. Allan Bailey

Michael Matwihyna

Violet Matwihyna

Sandy McFadden

Dolly Dmytryk

Jean Mills

Dianne Hood

Helen Musyj-Chupik-Luciak

Peter & Glikeria Iwanuck

Ms. Eugenia Mydyski

Helen & Jacob Nechwediuk

William J. Karlicki

Anna Novak Kozakewich

Mary Glicaria Bilinsky

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Nell O'Neil

Judy Odger

Fred Odger

Panagabko family

Rose Mydyski

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Grace Prokop

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Donna Krawchuk

Marilyn Krawchuk

Sofia Sawycky

Anna Banera

Mary Tuchak

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Herb Weinmeyer

Iris Smolinski

James Zaboroski

Evelyn Zaboroski

George Zawortny

Kay Zawortny

Joseph Zeleny

Donna Krawchuk

Marilyn Krawchuk

In Honour of ...

Fr. Greg Faryna

Daria Kyba

Jill Galay & Ernie Matwychuk

Bert & Val Galay

Spencer Katerynuk

Bill & Olga Katerynuk

Dmytro Koval

Julia Koval

Fr. Methodius Kushko C.Ss.R.

Grace Chorney

Fr. Raymond Lukie, C.Ss.R.

Grace Chorney

Fr. Bohdon Lukie, C.Ss.R.

Grace Chorney

Sidak children & grandchildren

Darlene Sidak

Fr. Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R.

Iris Smolinski

Archbishop Stefan Soroka

Frances Bodnar

Thinh Tran

Thinh Tran

Bishop Michael Wiwchar, C.Ss.R.

Grace Chorney

John & Mary Hykawy

Mike & Geraldine Woitas

Peter & Glikeria Iwanuck

Children & grandchildren

Dr. Wayne Middelkamp

For the Health of ...

Nick & Hazel Borodey & Family

Nicholas & Hazel Borodey

Brenycz Family & Friends

Ewhen & Stephanie Brenycz

Czemenynski & Staskiwicz families

Krystyna Czemenynski

David Darren

Maureen Lawrence

Zenon Derkach

Zenon Derkach

Andrea & Liz Dodd

Don & Liz Dodd

Linda Dudar

Daria Kyba

Orest Eveneshen

Orest & Evelyn Eveneshen

Judy Green

Merv & Rosann Lastiwka

Fred Hobbs

Fred & Marianne Hobbs

Markevych/Roman Family

Ivan Roman & Nataliya Markevych

Delmarie McMillian

Katherine Papp

Nicholas family & friends

Neil Nicholas

Steve Pasternak

Rick & Cynthia Bryant

Adrian Sakundiak

Daria Kyba

Vladimir & Marlene Solman

Peter & Glikeria Iwanuck

Sophia, Becki, & Olga

Douglas & Cona Maughan

Fr. Frank Szadiak

Florence Blanchard

Rick & Cynthia Bryant

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Darlene Sidak

Iris Smellie

**Donations to the Shrine
can be made ONLINE
visit**

www.bvmartyrshrine.com

BLESSED VASYL MINISTRY IN UKRAINE AND BEYOND



Near the war zone in Eastern Ukraine



Presentation in Zurich, Switzerland



St. John the Baptist Parish
in Lviv



Venerating relics at Transfiguration Parish in
Zboriv, Ukraine



Lesia's (staff) presentation at Derezhitsky Monastery
near Drohobych, Ukraine



At the Kolomeya correctional
institution



Dormition Parish, Rzeszow,
Poland



Holy Trinity Parish in Bern
Switzerland



Children's presentation at Rozdolivka,
Donetsk region

Summer Student

We were pleased to have a student, **Eric Kolsun**, come back to work for the Shrine. Eric has been a long-time volunteer with the Shrine, especially on weekends. He brought his expertise in computer skills and with that helped to organize shrine files and update the website. His extensive volunteer experience enabled him to conduct pilgrimage tours for the pilgrims who came to visit the shrine May God bless Eric as he continues his university studies.



Don and Charlise Bisson from Killarney, MB and Bohdona Kornelyuk a student from Ukraine

BISHOP VELYCHOVSKY PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE JULY 2020

Plans are being made for our 6th pilgrimage to Ukraine to walk in the footsteps of Blessed Vasyl - visiting the sites where he lived, worked and suffered. It is a spiritual and prayerful journey. The planned dates are from **July 5th to July 25th**. The cost is will be under \$5,000.00. Space is limited. If you are interested please call our Shrine office (204-338-7321) or email us at infobvmartyrshrine.com More information will be available in our December newsletter.

50th ANNIVERSARY

This year, we remember the 50th Anniversary of Blessed Vasyl's trial in Lviv on September 22nd and 23rd, 1969. He was arrested on January 27, 1969 and had spent 8 months in prison before his trial. For his crimes: - of writing a ss the Miraculous Icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help"; listening to Vatican Radio; making photo reproductions of Holy Cards; for organizing a seminary in Ternopil; for catechizing a young girl; - he received a 3 year prison term of a strict regime in Eastern Ukraine. Shortly after his sentencing on September 23, he wrote a long complaint letter to the government. "On September 23 I received an unjust and severe sentence...and the confiscation of all my material possessions- money, tape recorder and vestments. Considering my age (67) and my poor health, I have already served my sentence. These past 8 months, I was in a closed cell with other prisoners. I was allowed outside only one hour a day for the fresh air and sunlight. I frequently had angina attacks and became unconscious, so that other prisoners carried me, like a dead man, back to the prison cell...."

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 and during the morning Divine

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*

SHRINE SCHEDULE

Monday:	Shrine is closed
Tuesday to Friday:	10:00 am to 5:00 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

Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine
250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2V 0M6
Tel: 204-338-7321 Email: bvshrine@mymts.net
Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com