



# **FULLY ALIVE**

**A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication**

## **IN COMMEMORATION**

### **Metropolitan Andrey's 75th Anniversary**

November 1, 2019, marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of the Servant of God Metropolitan



**Metropolitan Andrey  
Sheptytsky 1865-1944**

Andrey Sheptytsky. Without doubt Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky was the most important figure in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Metropolitan

Andrey was the Metropolitan of Lviv from 1900 until his death November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1944.

He was a great leader of the church, a visionary, a compassionate and deeply spiritual pastor of his people. To strengthen the faith of his people, he introduced several religious orders and congregations into the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, among whom were the Redemptorists in 1913. Metropolitan Andrey visited Canada on two occasions, in 1910 and in 1922. During World War I, he was arrested and was imprisoned in Suzdal, Russia. He was accused of being an Austrian spy. He returned after the war and shared in the suffering of his people. With the rise of Nazism and the beginning of the World War II, Metropolitan Andrey saved many Jewish young people by harbouring them in his Ukrainian monasteries. He lived to see the Soviets occupy Western Ukraine.

Metropolitan Andrey was

born in 1865 into an aristocratic family, which at that time belonged to the Polish Roman Catholic Church. At a young age, Andrey heard the call to return to the church of his ancestors, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. He joined the Reformed Basilian Order. After being their Novice Master and later Rector, he was called to become the Bishop of Stanislaviv on September 17, 1899. While he was the bishop of the city, Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky's father was a priest catechist at the Cathedral. Bishop Andrey would become the Metropolitan of Lviv a year later. Three years later, Blessed Vasyl would be baptised in the Cathedral where Bishop Andrey served.



**Father Andrey as a  
Basilian monk**

There are many intersections in Blessed Vasyl's life with that of the Metropolitan. Blessed Vasyl, at the tender age of 15, joined the Ukrainian Riflemen to fight off the Poles and the Russians. When he was 17, he was captured and told to dig his own grave. However, before he finished digging, the order was changed and he was taken to prison and labor camps. By God's grace, he es-



**Blessed Vasyl as a  
young soldier**

caped from this prison. Several days later, he came to Lviv to Metropolitan Andrey. The Metropolitan hid him for a few days in a dormitory for theological students. Here, he first experienced the mercy and kindness of the Metropolitan.

A year later, Vasyl entered the

Lviv Theological Institute to study for the priesthood. He chose the Lviv Seminary, because this seminary allowed married priests. He would not have considered himself a stellar student. He had trouble with Latin and spent considerable time downtown with his friends. When it came to his annual exams, he did poorly. They were oral exams taken before a group of professors at the Metropolitan's apartment with the Metropolitan himself the chairman. Young Professor Josyf Slipyj asked three questions and to each of Vasyl's responses, the professor said "Wrong". At the third response, the Metropolitan 'woke up' and asked for the questions and the responses to be repeated. This time after each response the Metropolitan said "Good". Thus Blessed Vasyl passed his exams. In his autobiography, Blessed Vasyl describes this event as such: "I don't remember, now, the questions and answers; but I am convinced that Father Professor was right, because I had not adequately mastered the subject. On the other hand, the Metropolitan had, in this case, acted gently, paternally, closing his eyes to the justice of the matter."



**Metropolitan Andrey  
became Metropolitan  
at the age of 36.**

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And here I had, again, another proof that Metropolitan Andrey loved me. “

After a retreat during his third year of theology, Vasyl made the decision to accept the



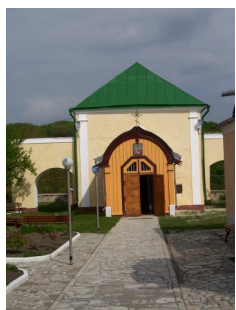
**St. George's Cathedral in Lviv where Blessed Vasyl was ordained to the diaconate**

tion to accept the priesthood in the celibate state. “This decision was not the result of some unexpected shock, some inconsiderate, insensi-

tive strength, but the fruit of the imperceptible, sweet, powerful, indomitable influence of divine grace, of God's love.” After the decision, he went to the Metropolitan to announce this decision and seek ordination to the diaconate. The Metropolitan “smiled and said: ‘Good, good, but think about it some more.’” This happened again the following week with the same response from the Metropolitan. On the third try on the following week, the Metropolitan answered: “Good, good. Come on Sunday.” And so it is that Blessed Vasyl received his diaconal ordination at the hand of this holy Metropolitan. When it

came time for the priesthood, the Metropolitan was unable to be present and so his assistant Bishop Josyf Botsian ordained him in Zboisk.

Metropolitan Andrey closely followed the missionary work of Blessed Vasyl. During World War II, when the Soviets were retreating and the Nazis advancing, the Metropolitan sent Blessed Vasyl as his special envoy to do missionary work in Kamianets-



**St. Nicholas Church in Kamianets-Podilskyi where Blessed Vasyl served**

Podilskyi in Greater Ukraine. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church had been liquidated from this city 150 years earlier. Blessed Vasyl had great success although this was short lived because of his refusal to co-operate with the Nazis. Presently,

the Redemptorists have returned to Kamianets-Podilskyi.

It is unknown whether Blessed Vasyl was at the funeral of Metropolitan Andrey. Blessed Vasyl had entered

the Soviet shelled city of Ternopil in March of 1944. Because of the political situation, it was not easy to travel, so it is possible that he was not present.

Metropolitan Andrey was considered even in his life-time to be a holy spiritual man of God. The Metropolitan is buried in the crypt of St. George's Cathedral in Lviv. His cause was opened in



**Venerable Andrey Sheptytsky in the latter years of his life**

1958, thus becoming a Servant of God. On July 16, 2015, Pope Francis approved his life of heroic virtue and proclaimed him a Venerable. We pray that soon Venerable Andrey Sheptytsky will be proclaimed a Blessed and then a Saint.

## GRACES AND BLESSINGS

October 30, 2019

Dear Mary, Thank you for the Blessed Vasyl Oil and for the newsletter with the story of Andriy, a wonderful story of healing thanks to Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky. I am applying the oil to my right eyelid. They are going to remove a tumour (skin cancer) from the lower eyelid on November 6th. If it has spread, they will have to do skin grafts and then my eye will be kept shut for 4 to 6 weeks. No driving. And it makes it difficult to do many other things also, so I am asking that it has not spread beyond the visible tumour.

November 14, 2019

The surgery on the 6th of November went just fine, tumour all out in one piece and no skin grafting needed. The stitches come out on the 19th and things are healing well, even if I did come down with a cold 2 days after the surgery. I never even needed to take a single Tylenol. Thanks to Bishop Velychkovsky for that. It all went as smoothly as possible....

Karen M. Mayer

I have been using your Holy Oil for quite sometime on my knee, bunions of both feet and swelling on the tops of my feet caused by the varicose veins around my ankles, according to the doctor. The oil seems to have shrunk the bunions and the tops of my feet do not swell as much. These seemingly unimportant or minor discomforts are quelled when I use this Holy Oil. I use it daily and also soak my feet in some good warm water in the evening. This attempt to relieve the discomfort, and possibly eliminate it, may not be possible but the relief it provides from using the Holy Oil contributes to the attempt to sustain my well-being.

My daughter in Medicine Hat, AB has been living with eczema breakouts since her 20's. She is now 68 years old.

I wondered if the Holy Oil would be of some help to her. Therefore, please send me 3 bottles of Holy Oil.

Beverley



# Ministry in Ukraine



Grades 2 & 3's from a school in Lviv together with Fr. Yuri, C.Ss.R.



The relics of Blessed Vasyl brought and installed in Protection of the Mother of God Church in Zalishchyke



Monthly devotional service in Blessed Vasyl's apartment in Lviv



Presentation in the Dormition Church in the village of Seredniy Bereziv, Kosiv area



The Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple Parish, Lyucky, Kosiv district



A family praying the Moleben Hymn in the Apartment/Museum of Blessed Vasyl in Lviv



Grade 7 student from a Middle School in Lviv



Parishioners venerating the relics of Blessed Vasyl in Holy Trinity Parish, Solone, Zalishchyke district

# 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 22nd, 2019*

## **+25,000**

**Estate of Fr. Edward Evanko**

## **+ 500**

**In memory of Nadia & Olexa Melnyk**

Melnyk, Kramarczuk, Stefaniuk,  
Wasiunec & Ramos families

**In memory of Fr. Boris Kyba, C.Ss.R.**

Paul and Lynne Kyba

## **+100**

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**In Memory Of...**

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**In Honor Of...**

**Boychuk Family & Friends**

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Karen Mayer

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**Marlene & Vlad Solman**

Peter & Glikeria Iwanuck

**Vlad Solman**

Edward & Anne Faseruk

**Thanksgiving for a healing**

Virginia Serelo

**Winchar Family**

Chris & Mary Winchar



**Bishop Michael Wiwchar, C.Ss.R.**  
Bob & Darlene Famulak

**For the Health of...**  
**Janina & Don Barrett**  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk  
**John, Marion & Alex Barszczyk**  
Fr. Ivan & Marion Barszczyk  
**Bachynsky & Keis**  
Oksana Bachynsky  
**Mary Chuckry**  
Frank & Elaine Grzenda  
**Zenon & Bobbie Derkatch**  
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Vera Matwichyna  
**Hans Schmid**  
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**Barbara Schrouz**  
Theodore Reznowski  
**Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R.**  
Bob & Darlene Famulak  
**Vladimir and Marlene Solman**  
Yvonne Mudlo

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

## SHRINE VISITORS



Catechism class from St. Mary's Cathedral, Winnipeg



Kloskowski family from Wpg. & Smerdely family from Calgary



Fr. Elias Escanilla from Hawaii, USA



Sr. Emilie, Sr. Genevieve & Bro. Marcos, from Regina



Fr. Evhen Zadorozney from Kovel, Ukraine who donated Blessed Vasyli's vestments to the Shrine



Fr. Joseph from Dallas Texas with Anne Stephan from Winnipeg

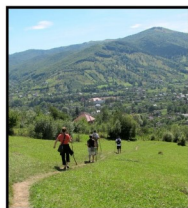


John & Mary Kwoilton from California, Fr. Michael Kwiatkowski with family and friends from Winnipeg

## BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY PILGRIMAGE TO UKRAINE

**A spiritual journey—  
following a martyr's life**

**July 5 – 26, 2020**



We will walk in the  
footsteps of Blessed  
Vasyl—visiting the  
sites where he lived,  
worked and suffered.



### **Pilgrimage includes:**

Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk,  
Kamianetz Podilsk, Kyiv,  
Zarvanytsia (participating in the  
weekend vidpust)  
and other points of interest such as the  
Carpathian Mountains,  
Kolomeya, villages & an orphanage



**Cost:** 4800.00 CDN (includes airfare from  
Winnipeg, meals, accommodations and  
travel throughout Ukraine)

**Deadline for registration:** February 29, 2020  
(limited to 20 pilgrims)

### **For more information & registration contact:**

Mary Jane Kalenchuk or Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.  
Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine 250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6  
Tel: 204-338-7321 email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)

## FORMER VOLUNTEER NOW SUBDEACON



Jay Korban, a long-time Shrine vol-  
unteer, was ordained to the Sub-  
diaconate by Metropolitan Lawrence  
on November 10, 2019 at St.  
Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church  
in Transcona, MB. In the picture is  
seen Jay, Sophia and their children  
together with Metropolitan Law-  
rence and Archbishop Stefan. May  
God bless you in your future minis-  
try.

**Congratulations and Mnohaya Lita!**

## 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***

**Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine**  
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