



# FULLY ALIVE

## Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

### BEING TRUE & FAITHFUL

#### Being Tested by Life

Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky lived mostly in the time of totalitarian regimes. He was born in Ukraine under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This freedom, quickly came to an end when Blessed Vasyl found himself in World War I and the subsequent Polish-Ukrainian conflict. It is during this time that he joined the Ukrainian Riflemen to fight for the freedom of Ukraine against Polish aggression. Eastern and Central Ukraine at the same time fell to the Soviet Union. Under Polish rule, the Polish language and culture were forced upon the Ukrainians. Blessed Vasyl at that time studied theology at the Ukrainian Lviv seminary, one of the few schools of higher learning that was allowed to be in the Ukrainian language. He experienced this cultural and nationalistic persecution especially when he did pastoral and missionary work in Volyn. For this, he was chased out of Volyn and had to return to Halychyna (Western Ukraine), where he continued his missionary work.



Blessed Vasyl (sitting far right) with Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and Redemptorist confreres in Kovel in the Volyn region



Blessed Vasyl as a young Ukrainian Rifleman (Sichov Striltsi)

As a young man, Blessed Vasyl made a choice while sitting in a Polish prison after he was captured as a Ukrainian Rifleman. He came to realize that the best way he could serve his beloved country was to become a soldier for Christ. Speaking in the third person he writes: "Many a young man, who was unwillingly enlisted

into the aggressor's army, underwent a hard school of life. Those who volunteered for the Ukrainian army, hoping that they could bring their motherland liberation from the chains of slavery, underwent a similar school. The Holy Spirit can direct these noble aspirations, dedications and devotions to a higher vocation. That is what happened to a young man who, while fighting for his motherland in 1918, heard an inner voice from God who said to him, 'Work and suffer for your motherland, as a good soldier for Christ.' " (pg. 130 *A History of the Miraculous Icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help*) It is this commitment to work and suffer for Christ that caused Blessed Vasyl to become a faithful priest until the end of his life, despite the harsh and terrible fate that awaited him.

Once World War II broke out in 1939, the Soviets in 1939, the Nazis in 1941 and then again the Soviets in 1944 occupied Western Ukraine,

Blessed Vasyl's resolve began to be tested. In 1940, he was detained by the NKVD (Soviet secret police force) for a

great procession through the city of Stanislaviv (now Ivano Frankivsk) in honour of our Mother of Perpetual Help. It was his intimacy with the Blessed Mother and our Lord that helped him endure the abuse

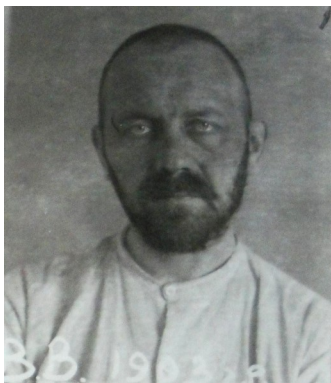


In 1940, Blessed Vasyl before the grotto in Stanislaviv about to begin a procession of 20,000 people through the streets of the city.

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and torture he received at the hands of the NKVD. He kept his eyes and mind fixed on this relationship ready to receive whatever abuse came his way. In 1941, he narrowly escaped death from the Nazis in Kamianetz Podilskiy, where he was doing pastoral and missionary work. He never wavered in serving the Lord, no matter what the circumstances. In August 1945,



**In 1945, Blessed Vasyl after his arrest and after 5 months of torture**

when faced with arrest by the Soviets for being a priest of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, instead of trying to escape from their hands, after praying to the Mother of God, he freely approached the NKVD and succumbed to their arrest. His relationship with the Mother of God and with her Son Jesus gave him clarity of vision and

courage to seek the greater prize - *life forever in their presence*. He did not compromise his faith in the face of persecution or its consequences - *arrest and possible death*.

While in prison, he continued to secretly celebrate the Divine Mysteries, comfort his fellow-prisoners, offer them the Mystery of Confession and be a beacon of hope for them. Boris Mirus, a fellow prisoner said, "I do not know how we would have survived if it wasn't for the example and words of Father Vasyl Velychkovsky." The fear of his leadership among the prisoners caused the Soviet guards to punish him and throw him into solitary confinement especially during the Soviet commemorative days. Blessed Vasyl did not waiver in his commitment.

When he returned from prison and saw the devastation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, its illegalization, the closure and desecration of the churches, he did not shy away nor compromise with the authorities. He



**As a bishop, he led this funeral for a fellow Redemptorist, but being Ukrainian Catholic he could not wear priestly vestments.**

began to lead the people and encourage them to practice their faith secretly. He did this even though he knew that it would infuriate the authorities and lead to a second arrest. He became known as the Father of the Underground Church. What gave Blessed Vasyl such courage and steadfastness in his faith? It was first his intimate and daily relationship with the Lord and the Mother of God. He was constantly seen praying the rosary. His focus was on this all important relationship and all else faded into the background. The totalitarian regimes with all its persecutions could not cause him to falter nor compromise his faith and convictions.

In today's world in North America, where we value freedom, we do not live in a totalitarian regime and we perhaps do not have such clear actions of persecution and arrest for our beliefs. However, our battle is much more subtle. Slowly laws are being passed by our governments that cause us to compromise our faith values. Under the guise of freedom and free choice, our religious

principles of the dignity of each human being from conception to natural death are being eroded. During Blessed Vasyl's time he was forbidden to wear any religious symbols or vestments. We are seeing the same spirit enter into our laws freely. Through the help of the news media, our minds are slowly being changed and being duped by

these false and ant-Christian values. Like Blessed Vasyl, we need to have that intimate relationship with our Lord and the Blessed Mother so that our minds always see clearly and that we unwilling do not compromise our convictions and faith values. May Blessed Vasyl help us to stand firm, to have a clear vision and a clear mind, always "keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus." (Hebrews 12:2)

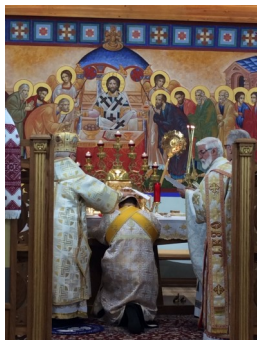
*Submitted by Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.*



**Blessed Vasyl with fellow Redemptorist Fr. Evhen Pelech in the streets of Lviv.**



## Ordination to the Diaconate



**On February 15, 2020 a long-time Shrine volunteer, Subdeacon Jay Korban was ordained to the Diaconate by Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak, OSBM. Fr. John Sianchuk, C. Ss.R., the Shrine Director was asked to be the Arch-deacon who led Deacon Jay through the rite of ordination.**

**Congratulations Deacon Jay on your new ministry! May Blessed Vasyl help you to serve the Church well. AXIOS!**



Deacon Jay Korban with his family and concelebration clergy

## SHRINE MINISTRY IN ROME

At the end of December 2019, during the Christmas and New Year season, Oleh and Tanya Chykharyivski travelled to Rome, Italy to introduce Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky to local Ukrainian Catholic communities. Our Ukrainian missionaries visited two churches with their presentations:



Oleh & Tanya in St. Sophia's in Rome



St. Sophia Sobor, Patriarch Yosyf Slipyi's Cathedral during the time of the underground church and Sts. Sergius & Bacchus Parish. This ancient church was built a couple of centuries ago and it is located in the central part of the city. The parishes welcomed the Chykharyivski family with opened hearts. Both churches were crowded with parishioners, who came enthusiastically to learn about our Martyr. The parishes were grateful to have a 1st Class Relic of Blessed Vasyl in Italy.



Inside the ancient church of Sts. Sergius and Bacchus



## MINISTRY IN UKRAINE



Nativity of the Mother of God Parish in Bilyi Oslavy, Nadhirna district, Province of Ivano Frankisk

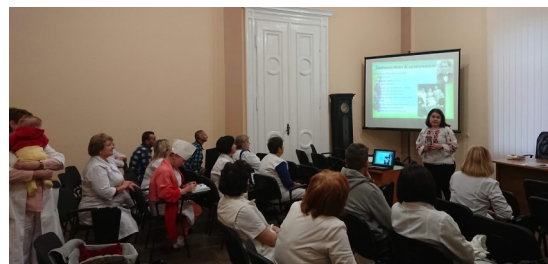


Grade 6 students from the Catechetical School of Blessed Ivan Ischyk from the Descent of the Holy Spirit Parish in Lviv



Grade 11 students from School #73 in Lviv

Grade 7 students from School #73 in Lviv



Medical staff from Zalisnychny Hospital in Lviv

# 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 November 23, 2019 until February 29, 2020*

## 1000+

In memory of Tanya Gulchak  
Don and Brenda Gulchak  
**Blessings for the Korban Family**  
Donna Korban  
**Don & Karen Solman**

## 500+

In memory of Fr. Josaphat Korchinski  
Joan Korchinski  
**Adrian & Vera Olenick**  
**George & Christine Welleck**

## 100+

Louis Balcean  
Norman & Sandra Dobson  
Fr. Elias Escanilla  
Christina Hewko  
Sofia Hull  
Knight of Columbus,  
St. Anne Council #10551  
Phyllis Kwiatkowski  
Joanna Kyba  
William & Mary Oleynik  
Ron & Carol Paley  
Walter Petryshyn  
Steve Prokop  
Raymond & Beverly Rawluk  
Ken Romaniuk  
Julia Saganski  
Wlodzimierz Sawka  
Anne Shymko  
Lillian Sianchuk  
James Simmons  
Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus  
Henry & Iris Spilchuk  
Katherine Suri  
Walter & Joanne Wandzura

## <100

Peter Adams  
Joseph Asuncion  
Mary Bernatsky  
Nicholas & Hazel Borodey  
Ken & Irene Bosiak  
Ron & Evelyn Cinch  
Olga Hlus  
Marianne Hobbs  
Joan Kostuk  
Fr. Methodius Kushko, C.Ss.R.  
Nick Labay  
Adeline Mandziak  
Allen & Mary Marcinkow  
Isabel Paguio  
Richard & Marietta Persian  
Walter & Florence Shwaluk  
Iris Smellie  
St. Nicholas Ukr. Cath. Church Men's Club  
Fred Stoyko  
Ihor & Jo-Ann Szelemiej  
Peter & Joan Waschyshyn  
John Wilczynski & Beatrice Papiz

## Alex & Mary Zimrose

### In Memory of...

**Martha (Yurkevych) Ruday**  
Peter & Nadia Melnycky  
**Virgilio & Kenneth Abrenica**  
Clarita Abrenica

**Anne & Joseph Bobinski**  
Robert & Christine Patrie  
**Andrew & Katherine Boss**  
Michael Boss

**Lou Bowman**  
Wally & Betty Soloway

**Peter Boychuk**  
William & Doris Boychuk  
Evelyn Melnyk

**Alma Carrabre**  
Thomas Carrabre

**Mary Chaba**  
Donna Krawchuk

**Evelyn Cinch**  
Dennis & Patricia Beyak  
Florence Blanchard  
Olga Boychuk  
Edward & Anne Faseruk  
Marie Gwozd  
Deacon Victor & Mary Humniski  
Nicolette Jaman  
John & Adeline Natyna  
Steve Prokop  
Peter & Mary Samorodny  
Phyllis Shindak  
Darlene Sidak  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
Sam & Guyla Smilski  
Kaye Snatenchuk  
Vladimir & Marlene Solman  
Helen Stockburn  
Olga Szutiak  
Alicia Topor  
Ted & Vicki Tycholis  
Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow  
Chris & Mary Winchar  
Kay Zawortny

**Judith Mae Cross**  
Dolores Daniels

**Jack Daniels**  
Dolores Daniels

**Rose Danyluk**  
Joan Matlock

**Mary Dembicki**  
Donna Krawchuk  
Marilyn Krawchuk

**Michael & Natalia Diakiw**  
Myroslawa Diakiw

**Olga Dilay**  
Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow

**Edward Dutka**  
Marilyn Krawchuk

**Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R.**  
Augustus & Catherine Korchinsky

## Fallen Soldiers in Ukraine

Anonymous  
**Anna Gembarsky**  
Myron Pawlowsky & Susan Boulter  
**Steve Gregorish**  
Mary Gregorish  
**Leona Hogue**  
Florence Blanchard  
**Hominiuk/Diehl/Eaton/Maughan family**  
Douglas & Cona Maughan  
**Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn**  
Dolores Daniels

**Fred Humeniuk**  
William & Linda Skromeda

**Rt. Rev. William Hupalo**  
Donna Krawchuk  
Marilyn Krawchuk

**Glikeria Iwanuck**  
Rick & Cynthia Bryant  
Mark & Sonya Galarnyk  
Michael & Mary Gnutel  
Marie Gwozd  
Orysia Hull  
John & Mary Hykawy  
Jean Klimchak  
Stephen & Martha Korbutiak  
Trevor & Paula McGinn  
Donna Nowosad & family  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
Lillian Skazyk  
Gladys Smysniuk  
Don & Karen Solman  
Vladimir & Marlene Solman  
Olga Szutiak  
Kathleen Warrenchuk

**Stella & Nick Jaman**  
Nicolette Jaman

**Shirley Kalupar**  
Stan Kalupar

**Phyllis Kalynchuk**  
Donna Krawchuk  
Marilyn Krawchuk

**Ann Karlicki**  
William J. Karlicki  
**Maurice Kindrachuk**  
Elsie Kindrachuk

**Gerald Kokolski**  
Mary Kokolski

**Jarvis Korchuk**  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

**Lidia & Alexander Kotowycz**  
John & Martha Baluta  
Anna Banera

**Leonard Kozak**  
Rose Kozak

**Harry Lalach**  
Victor & Elsie Sorochuk

**Adam & Julia Lega**  
Les & Natalie Storozuk

**Leschyshyn & Keyowski families**  
Leonard & Kasie Leschyshyn

**Walter Lukie**  
Isabel Lukie



**Annie Lysak**  
Donna Krawchuk  
Marilyn Krawchuk  
**Eunice & Jerry Mathuik**  
Andrew Mathuik  
**Gene Matlock**  
Joan Matlock  
**Michael Matwichyna**  
Violet Matwichyna  
**Edward & Rosalie Mazur**  
Rick & Jeannette Kendall  
**Anna & John Merczyk**  
Betty Schill  
**Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gregory Oucharyk**  
Robert & Leanna Obirek  
**Robert & Agnes Patrie**  
Robert & Christine Patrie  
**Peter Pawlyshyn**  
Marcia Pawlyshyn  
**George & Mary Pidwerbeski**  
Chris Pidwerbeski  
**Terri Pitura**  
Olga Homeniuk  
**Grace Prokop**  
Steve Prokop  
**Effie Puchailo**  
Elizabeth Paziuk  
**Natalie Safranovich**  
Donna Krawchuk  
Marilyn Krawchuk  
**Ignazio Scaletta**  
Sally Scaletta  
**Sannie & John Schurko**  
Paul & Mary Anne Kralka  
**Sharon & Mickey**  
Thomas Bailey & Terri Scott  
**Frank Shymko**  
Anne Shymko  
**Steve Sianchuk**  
Marian Moshansky  
Lesia Sianchuk  
Phyllis Sianchuk  
**Joe Sirdar**  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
**Soltys Family**  
Olga Livingston  
**Matt Stebeleski**  
Rick & Jeannette Kendall  
**Samuel & Julie Storozuk**  
Les & Natalie Storozuk  
**Larry Sych**  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
**Michael Szadiak**  
Edward & Anne Faseruk  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk  
Marie Gwozd  
Helen Jakimeczko  
Rick & Jeannette Kendall  
Steve Prokop  
Darlene Sidak  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
Iris Smellie  
Kaye Snatenchuk  
Helen Stockburn  
Olga Szutiak  
Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow  
Chris & Mary Winchar  
**Nick Timchishen**  
Florence Blanchard  
Edward and Anne Faseruk  
Jim and Donna Keller  
Darlene Sidak

Stan and Luba Sirdar  
Olga Szutiak  
Alicia Topor  
Kay Zawortny  
**Lena Tymiak**  
Glen Tymiak  
**Russell Unilowsky**  
Stan & Luba Sirdar  
**John Warrenchuk**  
Ernie & Diane Mee  
Kathleen Warrenchuk  
**Frances Winkler**  
Pamela Winkler  
  
**In Honor of...**  
**Fr. Isidore Dziadyk**  
Casper & Violet Stoski  
**Sophia Hull**  
Evelyn Zaboroski  
**Obirek Family**  
Anne Obuck  
**Sidak children & grandchildren**  
Darlene Sidak

**For the Health of...**  
**John & Elsie Baryluk**  
John & Elsie Baryluk  
**Michelle Blanchard**  
Phyllis Shindak  
**Sr. Frances Byblow SSMI**  
Paul Shumay  
**Mary Chuckry**  
Frank & Elaine Grzenda  
**David Feeney**  
Frank & Agnes Feeney  
**Mary Glowa**  
Michelle Blanchard  
**Cheryl Haughton & Elly Thorkelson**  
Tom Haughton  
**Cheryl Haughton**  
Tom Haughton  
**Hazel and Olivia**  
Nicholas & Hazel Borodey  
**John & Bonnie Higgins**  
Frank & Agnes Feeney  
**John & Mary Hykawy**  
Edward & Anne Faseruk  
**Jessop family**  
Sophia Demjanew  
**For your sisters**  
Anne Kalyniuk  
**Fr. Larry Kondra**  
Florence Blanchard  
**Dennis Kyrzyk**  
Chris Kyrzyk  
**Anton Kuchinski**  
Anton & Florence Kuchinski  
**Fr. Bohdan Lukie**  
Florence Blanchard  
Edward & Anne Faseruk  
**Elizabeth MacIsaac**  
Elizabeth MacIsaac  
**Mary MacLean**  
Florence Blanchard  
**Kevin Mandziuk**  
James & Elaine Mandziuk  
**Matwichyna Family**  
Vera Matwichyna  
**Karen Mayer**  
Karen Mayer

**Sherry McDonell**  
Mary Sobkow  
**Mary McLean**  
Edward & Anne Faseruk  
**Cathie McMullin**  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk  
**Don & Brent Melnyk**  
Iris Smellie  
**Michaluk family**  
Nadia Michaluk  
**Mykytyshyn**  
Nestor Mykytyshyn  
**Sophie Nimchuk**  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk  
**Brian Ostafichuk**  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk  
**Mary Theresa Papinko**  
Greg & Mary Papinko  
**Orest Pidwerbeski**  
Orest Pidwerbeski  
**Fr. Len Ratushniak**  
Florence Blanchard  
**Redemptorist Fathers**  
Rick & Jeannette Kendall  
**Richard, Meagan, Dan, Wanda & Helen**  
Paul & Adeline Carbotte  
**Anne Romaniuk**  
Elizabeth Paziuk  
**Romanow family**  
Myron & Janet Romanow  
**Fr. John Sianchuk**  
Florence Blanchard  
Lesia Sianchuk  
**Albert Slobodian**  
Jean Uchach  
**Francis Steman**  
Edward & Anne Faseruk  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk  
**Sulymka Family**  
Irene Sulymka  
**Fr. Frank Szadiak**  
Edward & Anne Faseruk  
**Olga Szutiak**  
Phyllis Shindak  
**Olive Thorkelson & family**  
Ken & Evelyn Thorkelson  
**Elly Thorkelson**  
Tom Haughton  
**Evan & Sofia Thullner**  
Paul Thullner & Kristya Matwichyna  
**Sofia Werezak**  
Michael & Zenya Werezak  
**Kolia Winchar**  
Chris & Mary Winchar  
**John Zatwarnitski Jr.**  
Adela Zatwarnitski  
  
**Correction from December 2019 News-  
letter:**  
**For the health of Ken Moroz**  
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

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

## Shrine Ministry in Winnipeg



Teresa Ascensero and Jose Oliveira, Redemptorist Lay Missionaries from Portugal

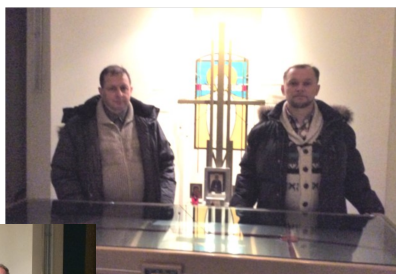


Sr. Michalina, Phyllis, Alex, Austin Kwiatkowski & little Psyche



Very Rev. Charles Duval, C.Ss.R., Redemptorist Provincial Superior for the newly formed Province of Canada

Fr. Ihor Shved and Fr. Yaroslav from Drohobych, Ukraine



Fr. Lionel Thieballt who met Blessed Vasyl in 1972, Brother Albert, & Fr. Rheal Forest, St. Boniface Archdiocese

### NEW TEACHING MATERIALS FOR GRADES 4 - 6



Our staff member, Kseniya Kravtchouk has produced colorful teaching materials on Blessed Vasyl's life for Grades 4 to 6. The packet includes: The Life of Blessed Vasyl; a

Student's Workbook filled with exercises, puzzles and games; a four page time line of Blessed Vasyl's life; digital copy of the material, an icon print and other materials. This full color teaching aid will be available from our gift shop in the near future.

### 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)**