



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine Publication

A NEW WORLD

THE PANDEMIC

Since our last newsletter in early March, our world has changed. As the newsletter was being prepared there were already signs of a possible new disease that was spreading throughout the world. It would soon be called a global pandemic. Beyond the situation in China, Europe was quickly becoming the epicenter of the virus and the virus was already beginning to spread in North America. From the time that the newsletter was completed to the time it was printed and became ready for distribution, the churches were being closed. In fact, we were unable to complete the distribution because the church offices were closed and the following Sunday, there would be no more public church services. We found ourselves in shock that we could no longer go to church and attend services. We could no longer receive the Eucharist and only with difficulty go to confession. Our Shrine had to close its doors. Some thought this would only last a few weeks, however it continued from the latter part of Great Lent, all of Holy Week and throughout the Easter Season. We still are not certain when our church will reopen. It has been painful for many not to be able to gather physically as a church.

When this new reality first set in, I was immediately reminded of Blessed Vasyl and the circumstances of his life. He was denied from having normal church services for 32 years. The Ukrainian Catholic Church experienced this phenomenon for 44 years. The reasons were very different. For us, it is because of a dangerous virus and out of love for each other that we do not infect others with this disease, that the government and the bishops have stopped all public gatherings. For Blessed Vasyl, it was the Soviet government with their atheistic agenda and their anti-western policies, that they declared the Ukrainian Catholic Church as an illegal body. This made it a criminal act to publicly have any activity in its name. The bishops and many of the priests were arrested, among them was Blessed Vasyl.

Throughout his imprisonment, Blessed Vasyl celebrated the Holy Mysteries very clandestinely on his prison bunk bed, or in the mine shaft, or quietly with others in the bar-

racks. He returned from imprisonment and found his Church was declared illegal. All the churches were closed or converted for other government purposes. People were afraid to have any religious activities. Blessed Vasyl knowing the value and the necessity of celebrating the Holy Mysteries, created the secret hidden clandestine underground church, celebrating in private homes at all hours of the day or night. Like many of us, Blessed Vasyl suffered from being unable to openly celebrate the Divine Liturgy. He suffered from not being able to openly preach the word of God. He suffered from not being able to conduct parish missions. Yet, he found a way to be and live Church. He knew that Christ was not found in buildings but rather in human hearts. Wherever two or three were gathered, there Christ was in their midst. He lived being Church by his kindness and compassion towards others. He lived being Church by his constant prayer for the faithful, especially his countless daily rosaries. He was opened to the movement of the Holy Spirit to find ways of "safely" confessing the faithful, be it in a park while walking with them or any other encounter he had with them. Although the Soviet government attempted to destroy the Church by its laws and closures of buildings, they were unsuccessful for the Kingdom of God is in human hearts. Blessed Vasyl knew this and lived this truth.



Blessed Vasyl conducting a funeral of a fellow priest dressed as a layman

As we go through this time of the pandemic, we too must remember that the Kingdom of

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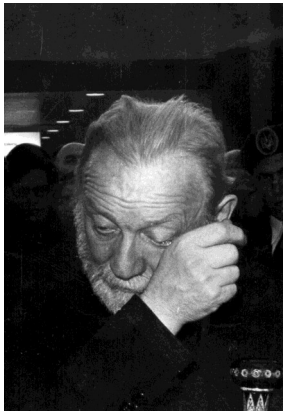
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Blessed Vasyl crying

God is within us and wherever we are. During the time of Blessed Vasyl, he encouraged the people to listen to the Divine Liturgy on Vatican radio. People would place the radio on a table as if it were an altar and gather around it, respond to the service in hushed voices and participate in the rituals of crossing, standing and kneeling. We now live in a time of more developed technology. Through social media we can now visually participate more fully in the Divine Services. Just as Blessed Vasyl longed

to be at public Divine Liturgies and would often be brought to tears when he celebrated the Liturgy in Canada after his exile, so too we should look forward to the day when we can again express our faith through public worship together in churches. This pandemic, however, should cause us to become more aware of each other's needs and to be more attentive to those around by physical distancing and wearing face coverings.

We pray and asked for the intercession of Blessed Vasyl that this pandemic soon be brought under control. We also pray for all the hundreds of thousands who have lost their lives to this pandemic and for all those suffering hardships because of it. We also hail our front-line workers who risk their lives to save others and all the essential workers who are providing for our needs.

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

TESTIMONY

At the end of September, I noticed there was something different about my breast. I went to a walk-in clinic where a doctor guided me through the system to get a mammogram and bloodwork. At the end of October, I had a mammogram and within hours I was called about getting a biopsy done to see what was going on. Throughout the month of October, we were at the shrine regularly. After appointments we went to pray to Blessed Vasyl for healing, good results, guidance and strength for the journey ahead.

In November I was diagnosed with Stage 3 inflammatory breast cancer. I had two large tumors in the breast, calcifications, lymph node involvement and my breast was very inflamed and swollen. The doctor soon after informed me, because of the spread of this cancer which was now a Stage 4, I was not a candidate for surgery. In fact aggressive treatment was not recommended and palliative care was suggested. We decided to fight and asked for treatment. Again, as we did daily, we turned to Blessed Vasyl for help. Chemo began and the changes from this was immediate. The inflammation started to decrease and with each treatment the tumors began to shrink. Tom and I spent much time praying at the shrine after treatments and appointments, talking with Father David our pastor at St Theresa's Parish and accepting the fact that this cancer became my cross to bear.

December took us to Houston, Texas, where we spoke with doctors who deal with inflammatory breast cancer on a daily basis. They see over 100 cases a year of this aggressive cancer (inflammatory breast cancer is about 3% of all breast cancers). Here we found out that I was on the right track with my chemo and we decided to the surgical part of my treatment in Texas.

January through March saw the end of my chemo treatments in Winnipeg and reduction of the tumors to the point that they were hard to find. Our faith through the months had continuously grown. We had a healing mass at the shrine with Father John (this brought us peace and strength), we made intentions for others and ourselves to Blessed Vasyl and prayer intentions were made by others for us at many churches. The outpouring of prayers and love was very uplifting.

We made our way to Texas in mid-March just before the closure of the borders. Here we began to attend church from home via Facebook, such a blessing to participate so far from home as churches in Texas were not holding regular mass either. In Texas we met (with social distancing) so many people of faith. Each one saying prayers for us and for my healing.

April and my surgery finally arrived. As the surgery day approached I felt some nervousness, praying helped me through. A week after surgery my surgeon called to let us know the results on the pathology report. Tears of joy began as he told us the cancer was gone from the lymph nodes, the breast tissue and that all margins were clear! I could not have asked for a better response. Our prayers and all of the prayers for us by others were being answered.

We are now back in Winnipeg for the completion of my treatment, radiation and more chemo to ensure the cancer is gone and will stay away. I continue to pray for healing, strength and guidance.

This journey of cancer has brought my faith to a whole new place. Along the way we have had many small miracles. Appointments made on short notice, great test results, family moving home when they said they never would, connections made with new friends and faith experiences bringing our family closer together and closer to God

Thank you for all of your care, prayers and support.

Love Tom and Cheryl

BIDDING FAREWELL AND WELCOME



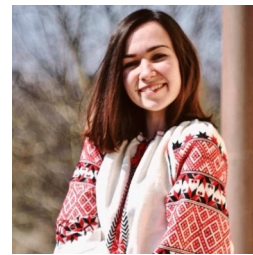
Our long-time employee for 12 years, **Iris Smellie** has retired from her ministry at the Bishop

Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine. Iris has been a dedicated and diligent worker, especially in the little details that need to be done to have the Shrine ministry run smoothly. Her love of Blessed Vasyl shone through her work. We wish her much health as she begins her retirement. May Bless Vasyl bless her and reward her for all the precious years she has given to the Shrine ministry. God Bless! She will be greatly missed.



Kseniya Kravtchouk (Kavats) has received a full time-position as a teacher in Oakbank, MB. Kseniya began working with

us 12 years ago as a young student. Falling in love with Blessed Vasyl, she has dedicated many hours to research, transcribing of KGB documents, and archival work over these years. Her masters thesis was on Blessed Vasyl's 1st Arrest. She is very reluctant to leave this ministry and we hope that in the future the doors open so that she can continue her work. Presently she is completing an educational unit for students on Blessed Vasyl's life. All the best!



We welcome **Bohdana Kornelyuk** who is joining our Shrine Ministry as Shrine and Museum Co

-ordinator. Bohdana came to Canada from Ukraine August 2018. She graduated from the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv with a Bachelor degree in Theology and Philosophy. In June of this year, she will graduate from the University of Manitoba with a Masters in Religious Studies. She has extensive knowledge of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. We welcome her and wish her God's Blessings in this new ministry at the Shrine.

MINISTRY IN THE MUSEUM/APARTMENT IN UKRAINE

COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted all spheres of our usual lives. The Velychkovsky ministry in Ukraine was not an exception. The museum/apartment had to be closed down to the public. At this difficult time our missionaries in Ukraine, the Chykharyvski family, could no longer have public presentations in churches, schools, hospitals nor prisons. They adapted to the new social distancing limits and continued their ministry online. April 1, Oleh Chykharyvski started live-streaming a 9-day novena and a moleben in honour of Blessed Bishop Vasyl from the museum/apartment.

This was Blessed Vasyl's former underground Cathedral which is now a museum in downtown Lviv. During Lent, an online mission with Father Mykhailo Ivaniak, C.Ss.R., was organized for April 14th & 15th before the Blessed Vasyl Altar in St. Clement's monastery church. Since the month of May is dedicated to the Mother of God, during this month to honour the Virgin Mary, they held live-stream services.

The Moleben and rosary to the Mother of God of Perpetual Help was celebrated in the museum every Wednesday and Friday. On May 26, an online tour was given from

the Lviv museum/apartment, which was live-streamed from the Facebook page of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky's apartment. The Facebook account is named: "Квартира-музей бл. Василя Величковського."



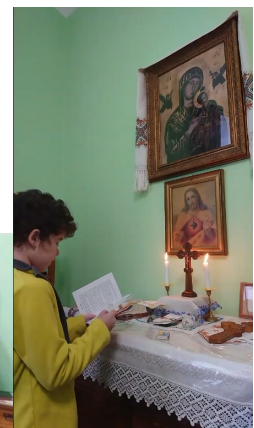
Fr. Andriy Rak, C.Ss.R. celebrating a Moleben



Fr. Mykhailo conducting the mission



Sr. Epiphania giving an online tour of the Blessed Vasyl museum



Mykola, Oleh's son, praying before the Blessed Mother

THE POWER OF LOVE

We would like to give you an update about our ministry with orphaned and abandoned girls in Ukraine. Sr. Julia, under the patronage of the Archeparchy of Lviv and the leadership of Archbishop and Metropolitan Ihor Vozniak, C.Ss.R., is the one who cares for these girls. She has now named this home where the ministry takes place - "Home for Girls in honour of Blessed Bishop Velychkovsky." She chose this name because of Blessed Vasyl's work with orphaned teenaged girls in Ternopil in the 1940's.

She now has a full house (10 girls). All of the girls were chosen by Social Services, most of them were on the streets abandoned and having no family connections. Because of the difficult circumstances of these girls, Sr. Julia was asked to open her home and receive them. Two of the girls (sisters 17 & 13 years old) that arrived this year, had spent their life begging on the streets of Petrograd with their mother. When their mother died, the Russian government sent them back to Ukraine. They had received no education in their childhood. Now after 8 months and with much tutoring and love they are making great progress.



Sr. Julia's girls: Diana, Svitlana, Andriana , Nastya, Liliya, Tanya, Anya, Nastya and Zheniya



Left to right: Diana, Victoria

One of the new girls she received is a champion wrestler at the age of 14. No place could keep her because of her difficult character. Sister, through her motherly love, has been able get through to this young orphaned abused girl. She is now back in school and is growing in community skills. Two of her girls, Diana, who was orphaned, and Victoria, coming from a background of drug and alcohol abuse, are writing their university entrance examines in July. In some of the preliminary exams, Diana scored 3rd from the several hundred students applying. It is your generous donations that have provided tutors for all the girls and their tuitions so that they can achieve their dreams.

Because of the covid 19 pandemic, the "internats" - the government orphanages - have been closed and the children from these orphanages were sent to live with families. Just recently, Sister Julia went to some of the covid infected villages to visit the children scattered through various homes. She encountered destitution and utter poverty. One home had nothing but one room. In the middle was a pot used for a latrine. In one corner was a pile of rags that was the bed upon which two young (6 and 9 years) girls slept. Sister said that is all they had. They were totally unkept and dirty. Sister brought them some food. Their eyes became as big as saucers. The experience she had that day she shared with her girls so that they too would learn to appreciate what they have and that it would evoke compassion in them for others.



Sr. Julia (extreme left) bringing goods to orphaned children

Sister provides for these girls not only an opportunity to make a life for themselves, but by her example, her words and her faith, she is forming them to become responsible young girls that will give back to society. Her home is making a great difference in the lives of these girls. The needs are great and can only be accomplished through your prayers and generous support. Donations can be made to this project payable to "Ukrainian Catholic Mission" and sent to the Shrine address. Please write in the memo "orphan fund". Your support of this project is greatly appreciated. Please pray for Sr. Julia so that her strength and health continues as she prepares these young ladies to become well educated and skilled in their chosen careers.

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 March 1st 2020 until May 15th, 2020.

**1000+
U.C.W.L.C. –Winnipeg Archeparchy**

**500+
In memory of Marven O'Neil
Nell O'Neil**

**100+
Sofia Hull
William & Phyllis Kobitowich
Pierre Lemoine
Karen Mayer
Fr. David Misbrener
Anne Shymko
James Simmons
Larry & Doreen Trach
Gary & Eleanor Winch**

**100<
Peter Adams
John & Sharon Bredemeier
Jeffery Chmarney
Ronald Cinch
Clarence & Helena Demchuk
Laurie Fedorowich
Ivan & Maria Fil
Arnie & Theresa Filipi
Catherine Holmes
Ted & Amelia Malfair
Neil Nicholas
Richard & Marietta Persian
Archbishop Gerard Pettipas
Maureen Polischuk
Manuela Rubio
Russell & Christina Sawchuk
Iris Smellie**

**In memory of...
Michael Krywulak
Marilyn Krawchuk
Genevieve Berezny
William Berezny
John Bodnar
Frances Bodnar
Frank Boychuk
Marilyn Krawchuk
Buddy
Larry & Evelyn Tycholis
Bill Chorney
Jane Chorney
Wm (Bill) Chorney
Paul & Mary Anne Kralka
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Adeline Mandziuk
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Laurie Fedorowich
Domingo & Belen Galvan
Fredesvindo Galvan
Iwan, Yaroslawa & Chrys Iwanchuk
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Mary & Vasyl, Walter & Leonard,
Edward & Mathew
Sophie Manulak
Joe & Mary Malawski
Lawrence & Stella Malawski
Kevin Mandziuk
James & Elaine Mandziuk
Olga Maughan
Douglas & Cona Maughan
Anna & John Merczyk
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Moskal & Spicer Families
Robert J. Moskal
Lavinia Novak
Julian & Barbara Koziak
Marven O'Neil
Michael & Heather Ryczak
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Michael Dudar & Joanne Peters
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Vladimir & Marlene Solman
Anne Portree
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Peter Pozniak
Olga Pozniak
Peter Rybuck
Phyllis Shindak
Sharon & Micky
Thomas Bailey & Terri Scott
Sorochnik/Martyniuk
Bernadette Sorochnik
Mary Sumka
Helen Stockburn
Ann Colgen & Michael Szadiak
Georgina Civka
Michael Szadiak
Beverly Kyle & David Sokolowski
Allen & Mary Marcinkow
Marian Moshansky
James Zaboroski
Evelyn Zaboroski
Joseph Zeleny
Susan Zeleny**

**In honor of...
Baluta family
Leo & Oksana Baluta
Walter Pollock
Marie Gwozd
Redemptorist seminarians Ivan
Dzhur, Noel Bustillos, & Gabriel
Ciang
Leslie & Caroline Dubowits**

**Sanctity of Life
Theresa Zolner**

**For the health of...
Madison Abrenica
Clarita Abrenica
Mary Chuckry
Frank & Elaine Grzenda
Orest Eveneshen
Orest & Evelyn Eveneshen
Kenneth Fedorchuk
Theresa Antoniuk
Curtis Gazdewich
Anthen & Emily Gazdewich
Happychuk family
Gene and Elizabeth Happychuk
Cheryl Houghton
Elizabeth Houghton
Mary Kokolski
Robert & Diane Gingera
Ann Kostiuk
Daria Kyba
Margaret Kuzminski
Mary Kuzminski
Dennis Kyrzyk
Chris Kyrzyk
Fr. Bohdan Lukie, C.Ss.R.
Grace Chorney
Metro Lukie
Matsalla family
Bernie & Delia Matsalla
Beckki Maughan
Douglas & Cona Maughan
Bella, Halle, Samuel, & Nate
Mykytyshyn
Nestor Mykytyshyn
Fr. Ivan Nykyforuk
Rev. Fr. Ivan & Lidia Nykyforuk
Orest Pidwerbeski
Orest Pidwerbeski
Cres & Riley Rozdeba
Anthen & Emily Gazdewich
Adrian Sakundiak
Daria Kyba
Teresa Senderewich
Joseph & Elizabeth Senderewich
Sidak children & grandchildren
Darlene Sidak
Barbara Wilson
Anne Shymko
John Zatwarnitski Jr.
Cecil & Leona Krywulak
Austin Zatwarnitski
Adela Zatwarnitski
Grandchildren
Mary Kokolski
Victims of Covid 19
Nicholas & Hazel Borodey**

THE BLESSED VELYCHKOVSKY NATIONAL MARTYR'S SHRINE

Because of the restrictions of the Pandemic,
there will be NO PUBLIC gathering.

However, we invite you to celebrate our Feastday
ON-LINE live on our YouTube Channel

Saturday
June 27, 2020

Day Online Program

9:00 Divine Liturgy
Testimony
Moleben to Blessed Vasyl
Prayers of intercession

Evening Online Program

7:00 Acatist Hymn
Living Rosary
Prayers of Intercession



ST JOSEPH'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY NATIONAL MARTYR'S SHRINE
250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB
for more information call: 204-338-7321

**Visit our
Online Gift Shop
for our latest gift shop items.**

www.bvmartyrshrine.com

SHRINE SCHEDULE

Monday: Shrine is closed
Tuesday to Friday: 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Sunday: Open until 1:00 pm

Shrine is open to the faithful during the times
of Liturgical Services. The Museum is open 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
Website: www.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.

ONLINE SERVICES



We are presently **LIVE STREAMING**
from the Shrine chapel our
Wednesday evening devotional
services at 7 pm CST. Through this
new ministry we give you the oppor-
tunity, no matter where you are, to
participate with us in these prayer
services. It is an opportunity for all of
us to prayer for Blessed Vasyl's in-
tercession. Through our website,
you can contact us with your **prayer**
requests and they will be includ-
ed in our service. Also you can
"**Light a Candle**" for your intentions
and our staff will light the candle
when you request it.

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 favours received to:
Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine
250 Jefferson Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
Canada
or E-mail: info@bvmartyrshrine.com