



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 as a young Ukrainian Rifleman (Sichovy)



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

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

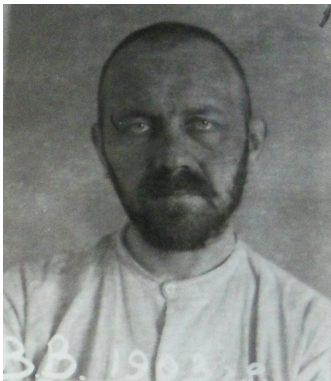


In 1940, Blessed Vasyl before the grotto in Stanislaviv about to begin a procession of 20,000 people through the streets of the city.

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of our Mother of Perpetual Help. It was his intimacy with the Blessed Mother and our Lord that helped him endure the abuse 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



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

Kamianetz Podilskiy, where he was doing pastoral and missionary work. He never waived in serving the Lord, no matter what the circumstances. In August 1945, 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



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

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 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



Blessed Vasyl with fellow Redemptorist Fr. Evhen Pelech in

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 Archdeacon 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 Chykharyvski travelled to Rome, Italy to introduce Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky to local Ukrainian Catholic communities. Our



Oleh & Tanya in St. Sophia's in Rome



Ukrainian missionaries visited two churches with their presentations: 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 Chykharyvski 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



Inside the ancient church of Sts. Ser-



MINISTRY IN UKRAINE



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



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 Kostluk
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 Szelemej
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 Storożuk
Les & Natalie Storożuk

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
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 Newsletter:

For the health of Ken Moroz
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Please consider Bishop Velychkovsky 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

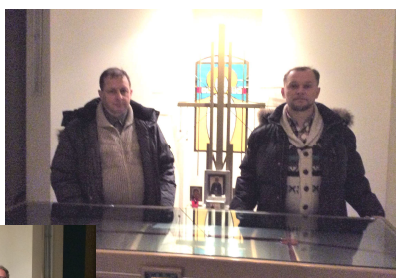


Sr. Michalina, Phyllis, Alex, Austin Kwiatkowski & little Psyche



Very Rev. Charles Duval, C.Ss.R., Redemptorist Provincial Superior for the Shrine

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:00 pm
 Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasyl
 (Acatnist 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.

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