



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

LEARNING TO LIVE

A Time for Sacrifice

As we prepare this newsletter, North America is experiencing the second wave of the pandemic. It has been a long haul. Our province of Manitoba has just entered the highest critical state, with a total shutdown of social gatherings, even in homes. All places of worship are closed, including Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Shrine and Museum. After all these months of various levels of the pandemic, the world has come to know how easily it spreads from person to person and how deadly it can be. As of now over a quarter of a million of people have died in the United States and over 13,000 in Canada. Daily the cases are rising with approximately 2,000 deaths a day in the U.S.A. The way to combat this virus is clear: wear a mask, practice social distancing, sanitize your hands and ultimately isolate oneself from others or at least minimum contact time. The path forward is clear, but it is difficult. It requires not only to think of one's own needs and desires, but to first have the safety of others in mind. This virus is invisible and in some cases have no symptoms, but even without symptoms one can be a carrier and spreader of this virus. This is a time for sacrifice, self denial, discipline and love and compassion for our neighbour.

Imagine what Blessed Vasyl must have experienced when he

returned from his imprisonment in Vorkuta. When he was arrested, others had already been arrested,



A church in Ukraine in ruins

ed, but the church was still functioning in a limited way. When he returned, all the churches had been confiscated. Some were passed over to the Russian Orthodox Church, but most of them were turned into other uses like an archives building, warehouses, restaurants, or simply abandoned and left in ruins. Some were simply demolished and destroyed altogether. When Blessed Vasyl saw this destruction of the Church he loved, he did not become despondent or just abandon this illegal church. Rather



A secret underground chapel

he knew that "the Church" was not to be found in the church buildings or in its elaborate rituals, but rather it is found in the hearts of men and women. Here the Church became very much alive, despite the outward destruction. Once he returned, he began to organize an underground secret church, offering the Holy Mysteries to those he could. To remain spiritually healthy Blessed Vasyl stressed that people

develop and live an interior life - an intimate relationship with our Lord and the Blessed Mother. This the communists could not take away from them. People made great sacrifices even to practice the faith in secret. If caught, it could mean the loss of their livelihood, or receiving a fine, or imprisonment. People looked after each other and protected each other. Their "virus" lasted 45 years - the persecution of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine.

During a retreat that Blessed Vasyl gave to priests in 1966 in the time of the persecution he said the following:



Blessed Vasyl giving a retreat during the underground church

"What an incredible honour it is to have a relationship and to talk with not simply with a great person, but with the Greatest of all, with the Creator, with infinite Existence, to participate in His life and greatness, to live in intimate unity with Jesus, Mary and God Himself. The inner life does not offer earthly glory, which disappears like smoke. It

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offers an eternal pervading glory, which lifts a person to the height of happiness. There is nothing better and more important in life than our relationship with God. Interior life is the highest treasure and we need to care for it.

"Divine light reveals to us everything: that which is good and what is bad, the past, the present and the future. Only divine light shows us the real value of everything: God's grace, friendship with Him, virtue, trust, love and holiness. These are all benefits, the treasures of an interior life, which needs daily care. These are the treasures for eternity. Is there something more valuable? Is there a greater treasure? Who can give this to us? God alone can, when we receive his Kingdom thanks to our interior life. Interior life is crucially important because there is nothing more glorious, more prosperous and more sweet. It is more pleasing than all riches. How pleasant it is to talk with a dear friend! Time passes, hours go by and we are not bored.

What a richness, what sweet happiness comes from a conversation with Jesus, with God through our interior life! Life with Jesus brings much sweetness and joy. On the contrary, how bitter and unbearable is life without Jesus. All earthly riches, in comparison with life with Jesus, are like poison. Thus, my dear brothers, we see the importance of the Kingdom of God within us and what is our interior life!"



Blessed Vasyl in prayer

Blessed Vasyl was able to endure the hardships of the persecution because he lived that interior life. That relationship gave him strength and perspective about the harsh reality of his external life. As we await the "miracle" of the vaccine,

which seems to be coming soon, we must continue to be vigilant and disciplined. If we cultivate the riches of the interior life through prayer, self-sacrifice, compassion and care for each other, we too will be able to bear the burden of the day. Let us also pray for all those who have been affected by this virus, those who have died and for their families and friends.

This year Christmas will be celebrated differently from other years. We are asked to limit our contacts and not have large family gatherings. Perhaps we will not have the ability to go shopping for gifts. Churches might still be closed. These are small short-time sacrifices that we are asked to make for the health and safety of each other. Blessed Vasyl's sacrifice was much greater and longer. May we learn from him how to self sacrifice for the sake of those around us. We ask that you follow all the required protocols. May we all have a blessed and safe Christmas.

NEW MINISTRIES

Covid 19 with all its restrictions and limitations have caused us to rethink our Shrine ministry. Presently we are in a total lockdown, that is, no pilgrims can visit the Shrine, no tours and no Liturgical Services. We continue to work in our office practicing all of the restrictions of social distancing. The new ministry that has developed is an online virtual ministry. Since early summer, we opened a YouTube channel and began to broadcast our Wednesday evening devotion services in honour of Blessed Vasyl live-streaming through our YouTube channel found on our website. This has allowed people to participate at home from across the globe. People from across Canada and the United States join us often on Wednesday evenings. Because it is on a YouTube Channel, you can go there anytime and view the whole service or listen to the homily. These services are marked by the date on which they occurred. The link to the YouTube channel is on the front page of our website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com.

During the month of October, we recorded the Rosary - the Mysteries in both English and Ukrainian in the Shrine Chapel. You can at anytime come virtually to our Shrine Chapel and pray the rosary before

the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl. This too is found on our YouTube Channel.

We were honoured to participate in a daily rosary that was broadcast on a Catholic TV Station in Kyiv Ukraine. The TV station is Called Zhyve TV (Живе Телебачення) YouTube. This Station has been praying the Holy Rosary every evening at 8 pm Kyiv Time from a different church and place from all over the world. We were asked to lead the Rosary in Ukrainian on October 30th from the Shrine Chapel. There were over 8,000 participants with us through social media. The link to this rosary can be found on our website on the front page.



Praying the rosary live with thousands on Zhyva TV

Ministry in Ukraine



Light to the World Youth Organization at the parish of the Nativity of the Mother of God, Chernihiv



Presentation of the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl to the pastor in Chernihiv



Presentation at the parish of the Nativity of the Mother of God, Chernihiv



Presentation at Caritas, Lviv



Filming of the Video Series on Blessed Vasyl's life



Moleben for teachers and student in Blessed Vasyl apartment/museum in Lviv



Filming of the Video Series on Blessed Vasyl's life done in Shuparka



Light to the World Youth Organization at the parish of the Nativity of the Mother of God, Chernihiv

PRIVATE PRAYER SERVICE IN HONOUR OF BLESSED VASYL

Our ministry in Ukraine has created a rosary prayer asking for Blessed Vasyl's intercession. The prayer is mostly sung. They have been doing this rosary in various churches and private homes. You can view it on our Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Facebook page.

The English text is offered below:

Opening:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3X)

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of truth, Who are everywhere present and fill all things, Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come and dwell within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and, O Good One, save our souls.

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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 20th, 2020

1000+

In memory of Michael Szadiak

Mary Hamm

In memory of Joseph Zeleny

Susan Zeleny

500+

In honour of Ukraine

Fr. Bohdan Borowec

100 +

Wendell & Sheila Kolsun

Julian & Barbara Koziak

Karen Mayer

Anne Obuck

James Simmons

Henry & Iris Spilchuk

Rev. Denis & Tina Vistin

100<

Jim & Helen Adamko

Peter Adams

Taras Berezny

Maureen Delorme

Pablo & Mila Enrile

Marianne Hobbs

Augustus & Catherine Korchinsky

Kseniya Kravtchouk

Richard & Marietta Persian

Myrna Preligera

Manuela Rubio

Iris Smellie

Fred Stoyka

William Vanderven

Ethel Welsh

Pamela Winkler

In Memory of ...

John & Andrew Alcludio

Henry & Evangeline Alcludia

Nellie Bereza

Carol Bereza-Asham

Dmetro & David Bodykevich

Bill & Olga Katerynuk

Pearl Bosiak

Ken & Irene Bosiak

Lou Bowman

Elaine Bowman

Tetyana Pokeza

William Domitruk

Sonia Domitruk

Wally Eschuk

Violet Matwichyna

Joe Ewonochko

Anna Banera

Zalluski, Zdan, Zuke & Ryzner Families

Rick & Tara Ryzner

Tom Haughton Sr.

Tom & Cheryl Haughton

Mike, Alice & Sharon Hood

Dianne Hood

John Hreno

Myrna Richards

John & Barabara Karlicki

William J. Karlicki

Gerald Kokolski

Mary Kokolski

Deb Kozakewich

Lawrentia Kozakewich

Bishop Michael Kuchmiak, C.Ss.R.

W. Allan Bailey

Sharon Labine

Joseph Labine

Anthony Leochko

Theresa Antoniuk

Anna Banera

Olga Boychuk

Rick & Cynthia Bryant

Dolores Daniels

Marie Gwozd

Garr & Helene Kukura

Allen & Mary Marcinkow

Vladimir & Marlene Solman

Olga Szutiak

Edward Lukie

Marian Moshansky

Mary Maclean

Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow

Michael Matwichyna

Violet Matwichyna

Kevin Mandziuk

James & Elaine Mandziuk

Vangie Stewart, Marcey McDougal & deceased family

Wendy Stewart

Marcile, Johnny, Robert, & Barb

Nestor Mykytyshyn

Eugenia Mydynski

John Okun

Ernie & Joan Shume

Patricia Ouellette (Leniuk)

William & Marika Chabluk

Gary & Jan Lukie

Jen Paul

Judith Rowluk

Peter Pozniak

Olga Pozniak

Grace Prokop

Steve Prokop

Brenda Prosen

Gordon & Joan Lasko

Fr. Len Ratushniak, C.Ss.R.

W. Allan Bailey

Michelle Blanchard

Leonard & Carol Bzdel

Grace Chorney & family

Margret Didenko

Bob & Darlene Famulak

Marie Gwozd

Helen Jakimeczko

Mary Jane Kalenchuk

Joan Korchinski

Fr. Methodius Kushko, C.Ss.R.

Sophie Manulak

Darlene Sidak

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Lillian Skazyk

Robert & Lydia Sliva

Iris Smellie

Vladimir & Marlene Solman

Olga Szutiak

Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow

Kay Zawortny

Olga Skehar

Boris Skehar

Mary-Anne Skehar

Wayne Skirzyk

Peter & Marlene Skrinski

Victor & Gloria Szadiak

Mary Hamm

William Tomchuk

Violet Matwichyna

Mary Wladyka

Tetyana Pokeza

Evelyn Zaboroski

Anna Banera

Florence Blanchard

Olga Boychuk

Raymond & Jane Honeybun

Mary Jane Kalenchuk

Garr & Helene Kukura

Sophie Manulak

Douglas & Cona Maughan

Steve Prokop

Peter & Mary Samorodny

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Helen Stockburn

Olga Szutiak

Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow

Kay Zawortny

George Zawortny

Kay Zawortny

Sopiwnyk family

Dick & Ruth Browton

Tkachyk family

Dick & Ruth Browton

In Honor of...

- Ollie Babick**
Violet Matwichyna
- Walter Dudych**
Lorraine Rumak
Stan & Luba Sirdar
Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow
- Fr. Isidore Dziadyk, OSBM**
Stan & Luba Sirdar
- Helen Stockburn**
Alicia Topor

For the Health of...

- Peter**
Stella Hryniuk
- Lenox York Abrenica**
Clarita Abrenica
- Thorkelson Family**
Ken & Evelyn Thorkelson
- Peter Galle**
Catherine Galle
- Cheryl Haughton**
Tom & Cheryl Haughton
- Brian Hnatiuk**
Sylvia Hnatiuk
- Jessop family**
Sophia Demjanew
- Harry & Evelyn Kardynal**
Harry & Evelyn Kardynal
- Jaqueline Kowpak**
Stephen & Donna Sumka

- Lorraine Kozakewich**
Thomas Bailey & Terri Scott
Bill & Sophie Senkowski
- Eileen Kuzenko**
Stephen & Donna Sumka
- Sr. Nestor Kyba, SSMI**
Mary Bialobzyski
- Dennis Kyrzyk**
Chris Kyrzyk
- Dr. Mark Lee**
Ms. Sophia Demjanew
- Fr. Bohdan Lukie**
Florence Blanchard
Ms. Michelle Blanchard
- Ted & Amelia Malfair**
Ted & Amelia Malfair
- Matsalla family**
Bernie & Delia Matsalla
- Paziuk Family**
Elizabeth Paziuk
- Steve Prokop**
Michelle Blanchard
- Marge Robinson**
Mary Bernatsky
- Maughan family**
Douglas & Cona Maughan
- Sarzynski family**
Yvonne Sarzynski
- Hans Schmid**
Dirk Schmid
- Josephine Sebulski**
Victor & Elsie Sorochuk

- Seifert family & Kate**
Bill & Sophie Senkowski
- Sidak children & grandchildren**
Darlene Sidak
- Helen Stockburn**
Michelle Blanchard
- Kolia Winchar**
Chris & Mary Winchar
- Bill & Mary Zaporzan**
William & Mary Zaporzan

Our apologies for the error made in the last newsletter.

Correction:

In memory of Bill & Mary Yakiwchuk
Robert & Shirley Erstelle

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



Roman Kuzyk with his mother from Ukraine



Cheng Li with her daughter and mother-in law from Winnipeg together with Shrine volunteer Marika Chabluk

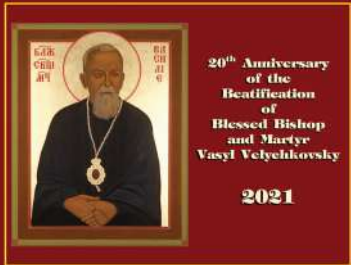


Halyna and her mother Mariya Deva from Ukraine



Caroline & Michelle from Winnipeg

CALENDAR 2021 AVAILABLE



The year 2021 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Beatification of Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky.

To commemorate this milestone, the Shrine has produced a colorful 2021 calendar. Each month features a different important event in Blessed Vasyl's life. It is also a church calendar following the Gregorian (New) calendar and includes the saint of the day and the readings. This calendar is available from the Shrine Office at a cost of \$20.00 which includes shipping and handling. Please call 204-338-7321 or email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com or order through the shrine website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com

(continued from page 3)

Opening Prayer:

O great and holy martyr, our blessed father Vasyl, you were on fire with God's Word and have followed His will even unto death. You were sanctified and purified by the cross and today you stand in God's

Presence wearing the martyr's crown. You, who have confidence before the Lord, pray for us who come to you with love and devotion. We come to you with all of our needs knowing that the Lord hears His faithful ones. Intercede for us before the Almighty God, that each one receives according to their needs.

Bring comfort to the sorrowful and hope to the lost; heal the sick; give courage to the young; bring a change of heart to all those who fall into sin; enlighten our minds with the truth of the Gospel; inspire us always to follow Christ; help us always to choose the good; give us courage in times of distress, faith in times of despair, hope in times of darkness; and strengthen our commitment to love our Lord. Grant that each one of us be saved through the grace and mercy of God, that together with you we may praise and glorify Him who is wondrous in His saints: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

On the larger bead:

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Vasyl, our Father, may your prayer envelop us. Pray for us who are weak and sinful, that we become saints having overcome sin. May your sufferings and struggles strengthen us on our road to God. Pray for our congregation and our people that we persevere amidst all our sorrows. You were faithful unto death as a child of Mary. We too wish to be the same. Amen.

On the smaller beads:

O Bishop and Martyr Vasyl, pray for us to Jesus and Mary! (10X)

Closing Prayer

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, o loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3X)

COVID SHRINE SCHEDULE

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

(Presently the Shrine is completely closed to visitation until further notice)

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 Tel: 204-338-7321

*Wishing all of our supporters and their families
a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year*

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine
250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2V 0M6
Tel/Fax: 204-338-7321 Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com