



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine
Publication

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEATIFICATION

On June 27, 2021, we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Vsevolod Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R. The beatification took place in Lviv during the first pastoral visit to Ukraine of Saint John Paul II, Pope of Rome. I was fortunate to be present in Ukraine for that glorious event.

First, I attended the Byzantine Liturgy at Chayka airfield near Kyiv on June 25, 2001. A few hundred thousand faithful attended this Divine Liturgy celebrated by the Pope and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar. At that time the



Pope John Paul II with Cardinal Lubomyr Husar at the Divine Liturgy on June 27 in Lviv Ukraine

Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was just beginning to establish itself in Kyiv. Today Patriarch Sviatoslav lives in Kyiv next to the beautiful large Patriarchal Sobor of the Resurrection. The Pope's presence in Kyiv gave hope and joy even to Christians of various faith, such as the Ortho-

dox and the Protestants.

The following evening, June 26, the Pope met with the youth before the Nativity of the Mother of God Church in Sykhiv, Lviv. The youth performed before the Pope and thousands of people. Rain fell throughout the event. As the Pope addressed the crowd with his prepared text, the rain began to fall heavier, he spontaneously sang a children's song for the rain to stop and prayed a prayer and immediately the rain stopped and the evening sun broke through the clouds. The whole crowd cheered with approval and joy.

Early the next morning, June 27th, we gathered at the Hippodrome in Lviv for the Divine Liturgy and the Beatification. Millions of people gathered for this celebration. Because of the rain the day before,



Millions gather for the Divine Liturgy of Beatification in Lviv

the grounds were wet, but this did not stop the crowd from gathering and standing in the mud for several hours. The Pope arrived to the sound of the Choir chanting "Vitayemo" -Welcome. Hundreds of priests were present as were the UGC bishops from around the world. During the Liturgy the proclamation took place. The Pope had four beatifications: Blessed Sister Josaphat Hor-dashevskia SSMI; Blessed Bishop and Martyr Teodor



Romzha; Blessed Priest-Martyr Omilian Kouch; Blessed Martyrs Mykolay Charnetsky and 24 Companions. One of these companions is our Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky. As the proclamation was occurring, I understood the power of the "Seat of Peter" - what is proclaimed on earth is proclaimed in heaven.

Here are a few excerpts from Saint John Paul II's homily from that eventful Liturgy.

"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (Jn 15:13).

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"This solemn statement of Christ echoes among us today with particular eloquence, as we proclaim Blessed a *group of sons and daughters of this glorious Church of Lviv of the Ukrainians*. Most of them were killed in hatred of the Christian faith. Some underwent martyrdom in times close to us, and among those present at today's Divine Liturgy there are some who knew them personally. This land of

Halychyna, which in the course of history has witnessed the growth of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, has been covered with mountains of corpses and rivers of blood...

"Yours is a *living and fruitful community*. The example of the martyrs from different periods of history, but especially from the past century, testifies to the fact that *martyrdom is the highest measure of service of God and of the Church*. With this celebration we wish to pay homage to the martyrs and to thank the Lord for their fidelity...

"The Servants of God who are today inscribed in the Book of the Blessed represent *all categories of the ecclesial community*: among them are Bishops and priests, monks, nuns, and lay people. They were tested in many ways by the followers of the infamous Nazi and Communist ideologies...

"Strengthened by God's grace they travelled the

path of victory to the end. This is the path of forgiveness and reconciliation, the path that leads to the brilliant light of Easter, after the sacrifice of Calvary. These brothers and sisters of ours are the representatives that are *known* out of a multitude of *anonymous* heroes – men and women, husbands and wives, priests and consecrated men and women, young people and old – who in the course of the twentieth century, the "century of martyrdom", underwent persecution, violence and death rather than renounce their faith...

"Their memory must not be lost, for it is a blessing. *We admire them and we are grateful to them*: like an icon of the Gospel of the Beatitudes which they lived even to the shedding of blood, they are a *sign of hope* for our times and for the times to come. They have shown that love is stronger than death...

"The Saints and Blesseds, who gained the crown of justice in this land of Ukraine, and the Blesseds whom we celebrate in a particular way today, all intercede for you. May their example and protection help you to follow Christ and faithfully serve his Mystical Body, the Church. Through their intercession, may God pour upon your wounds the oil of mercy and consolation, that you may be able to look with confidence to what awaits you, knowing in your hearts that you are the children of a Father who loves you tenderly."

Truly it is a great gift that we have received from the Church. In particular, we have the holy relics, "a fully intact body" of Blessed Vasyl here in Winnipeg. He has become and will continue to be a source of hope, healing and blessings for the pilgrims who come before him and ask him for his intercession.

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

THE PROCLAMATION

Pope John Paul II : "Having heard the desires of our brothers Lubomyr Cardinal Husar, Major Archbishop of Lviv for the Ukrainians; Ivan Semedi, Bishop of Mukacheve of the Byzantine Rite; Stefan Mudry, Bishop of Ivano-Frankivsk for the Ukrainians; Mychajlo Koltun, Bishop of Sokakl for the Ukrainians and many other brothers of the episcopacy and from many faithful; after hearing the opinion of the Congregation of the Cause of Saints, by our Apostolic Authority, we **DECLARE** that from now on and for ever the Venerable Servants of God: **Mykola Charnetsky and 24 Companions**, Theodor Romzha, Omelian Kovch and Josaphata Hordashevaska to be glorified as **BLESSEDS** and that their feastdays are to be celebrated every year in places and in a manner according to the proper rites, namely: Mykola Charnetsky and 24 Companions on June 27th, Theodor Romzha on November 1st, Omelian Kovch on June 27th and Josaphata Hordashevaska on November 20th. **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

Faithful: Amen. Amen. Amen. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

We extol you, **O holy Martyrs** and we glorify your sufferings which you bore for the sake of Christ!

We extol you, **O Priest-Martyr Theodor** and we glorify your sufferings which you bore for the sake of Christ!

We extol you, **O Priest Martyr Omelian** and we glorify your sufferings which you bore for the sake of Christ!

We extol you, **O Blessed Mother Josaphata** and we glorify your holy memory, for you pray to Christ, our God for us.

Patron of Prison Ministry Celebrations in Zarvanytsia, Ukraine

The Marian Shrine in Zarvanytsia, Ukraine has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries. It was destroyed and closed by the Soviets in 1946 but it began its revival in 1988. Now this place of pilgrimage includes several churches, a Way of the Cross and special sites for prayer and penance. In Zarvanytsia on June 20th 2014, Patriarch Sviatoslav proclaimed Blessed Vasyl as Patron of Prison Ministry. His holy relics were brought to the Shrine and have remained there for the veneration of the faithful until this day.



On May 27, a pilgrimage was organized for all the Prison Wardens and Chaplains from all of Ukraine. Over a hundred wardens came for this day of prayer together with over 50 clergy. Oleh and Tanya, our shrine ambassadors in Ukraine, prepared a beautiful display of Blessed Vasyl as Patron of Prison Ministry before the outdoor altar. After the Divine Liturgy and lunch, Tanya had the opportunity to give a short presentation to all the wardens and chaplains about the life and role of Blessed Vasyl.

At the same time the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishops of Ukraine were beginning their Synod in Zarvanytsia. Patriarch Sviatoslav had the opportunity to address the wardens and chaplains. When this was completed, Patriarch Sviatoslav personally met with Oleh and Tanya. They shared with us the following: " We met with Patriarch Sviatoslav who told us that our work was very important. He said that it is essential that we gather testimonies of graces and healings occurring through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl, so that his cause towards Sainthood could proceed forward. Also, Patriarch Sviatoslav said that Blessed Vasyl is an important personage for our Church."



TESTIMONY

My friendship with Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky started in Ukraine around 10 years ago, when Ksenya Kravtchouk, a staff member of Blessed Velychkovsky's Shrine came to Drohobych with a presentation about his life. His life full of sufferings as a faithful servant of God until his death in Canada touched me and inspired me to pray Akathist or Moleben services to Blessed Vasyl from time-to-time. At that time I already had some health issues connected to my lungs, starting from summer 2007. I had a strong chronic cough several times per day to clear my lungs. I was often on antibiotics as I got infected very easily. It was obvious my health situation was not getting better, but worse.



Lesia Uhryn

In 2016, we accepted the invitation to come to Canada to serve the Ukrainian Catholic Church. We as a family started a process of collecting documents for visas and entrusted our decision to God. I prayed to Blessed Velychkovsky to intercede for us at this process since he was in Canada for the last year of his life and knows the Church needs there. I knew my health condition could be an obstacle for getting a visa since we had to go through a medical examination. Right before my visa medical examination, I was coughing up blood a few times, so I wondered if I should go for this emigration health examination since I was obviously not healthy. After the first examination, I was sent three months later for an X-ray and for a sputum examination. I was worried about my health. I did more examinations and prayed to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky to intercede for me before God. I was diagnosed with bronchiectasis. My second X-ray showed no changes, so we finally received our visas and left Ukraine for Winnipeg.

We arrived in Winnipeg and visited the Shrine of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. It was a very special moment to be so close to Blessed Vasyl's holy relics, after all the difficulties we went through together with him. I can see that his leading hands brought us here. After a few months in Winnipeg, I started my work in the Shrine and I believe it was again with a help of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. I felt now I had to help him and to continue his work serving the Church. Meanwhile, I continued to cough for two years in Canada. It had been already 12 years since I started to cough. I continued to pray to Blessed Vasyl for my health and healing at the sarcophagus with the relics of Blessed Velychkovsky. In November 2019, I noticed that I am not coughing any more, but I was afraid to share this since I was not sure if it was something temporary or not. Now I have not coughed for over a year and a half. For me this is a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. I stopped coughing before the COVID-19 pandemic started. I am lucky that I don't cough as I did before in these times, when people are afraid of other people having symptoms of this illness.

I am grateful to God and to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky for this miracle and friendship!

Olesksandra Uhryn

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 21st 2021 until May 31st, 2021.

1000+

**In memory of Metropolitan Maxym
Hermaniuk, C.Ss.R.**

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Christianity**

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In Honor of...

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Boychuk Easter blessings

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Jordan

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Sofia Werezak

Michael & Zenya Werezak

Mary Winchar

Chris and Mary Winchar

Shane Yellowbird

Fred Stoyka

THE BLESSED VELYCHKOVSKY NATIONAL MARTYR'S SHRINE

FEASTDAY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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 the Shrine YouTube Channel

Saturday June 26, 2021

7:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday June 27, 2021

10:00 am Divine Liturgy (St. Joseph's
You Tube Channel)
Followed by Rosary in the Shrine
Video Presentation I
Prayers of Intercession

6:00 pm Acathist Hymn
Sermon
Video Presentation II
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

**DUE TO THE PANDEMIC THE SHRINE IS
CLOSED. VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR UPDATES**

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
(Acafist or Moleben) followed by an anointing with Holy
Oil blessed by his relics.

ONLINE SERVICES



We are presently **LIVE STREAM-
ING** from the Shrine chapel our
Wednesday evening devotional
services at 7 pm CST. Through
this ministry we give you the op-
portunity, no matter where you
are, to participate with us in these
prayer services. It is an opportu-
nity for all of us to pray for
Blessed Vasyl's intercession.
Through our website, you can
contact us with your **prayer re-
quests** and they will be included
in our service. Also you can
"Light a Candle" in the Shrine
for your intentions.

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