



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

GOD'S GRACE ABOUNDS

Eighty years ago in September Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky was given a very special assignment and mission. This was the time of the Second World War in 1941. The Soviets had to retrieve from Western Ukraine as the Nazi army advanced. Under the Soviets (1939-1941), the Ukrainian Catholic Church was persecuted and many were arrested. When the Nazis arrived, the church again "enjoyed" a measure of freedom. Prior to the war, Ukraine was divided into two major parts: Western Ukraine, which was under Austrian rule from 1795 and then under Polish rule, and Central and Eastern Ukraine which was under Russia from 1795 first under the Czars and later part of the Soviet Union. The Ukrainian Catholic Church in Central Ukraine was either liquidated, closed or incorporated into the Russian Orthodox Church after 1795. The city of Kamianets-Podilskyi is located Central Ukraine and the Ukrainian Catholic Church in that city was also destroyed and closed.

With the Soviet Communists driven out of Central Ukraine by the Nazi, the people of that city wrote to Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky of Lviv to send them a priest. The Metropolitan asked Blessed Vasyl to go to Kamianets-Podilskyi and re-establish the Ukrainian Catholic Church.



The ancient fortress in Kamianets-Podilskyi

This short-lived mission was very memorable to Blessed Vasyl and he wrote extensively about it in his autobiography. When he arrived in Kudryntsi, a village in Western Ukraine on the former border with the Soviet Union, the people from across the Zbruch River heard there was a priest who was to pass through their village. They invited him to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in their newly renovated Orthodox church. There he stayed several days, celebrating the Liturgy, confessing the faithful, and baptizing several hundred children. He was overwhelmed with their openness and hunger for the faith. Kamianets-Podilskyi was only 22 kilometers away, but as he finished his mission in the first village, the next village was already waiting. The same happened there.

Finally, he arrived in the ancient city of Kamianets-Podilskyi. He was unaware that just before his arrival all the Jewish people of the city were executed by the Nazis. (During our 2018 pilgrimage to Ukraine, we came across the church where these people were executed and buried. The local people were just beginning to exhume the remains.) With the letter from the Metropolitan in hand, Blessed Vasyl went to the officials at city hall. They offered him a church of his choice. Blessed Vasyl chose the ancient church of St. Nicholas, built in 1398. The church had been abandoned and used as an automobile repair shop. When the people found out that a priest had arrived, they quickly cleaned the church and brought out the icons and the liturgical items that were



St Nicholas Church in Kamianets-Podilskyi

hidden from the Soviets. People began to gather. An orthodox choir master from a nearby church came to Blessed Vasyl to see if they could sing for his liturgical services. It was the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrated September 27 according to the Julian Calendar. After Blessed Vasyl celebrated Great Vespers in honour of the Feastday, he gave a short sermon on the opening of the Greek-Catholic-Orthodox parish: "... a parish as it was, once upon a time during the days of your grandparents and great-grandparents... Those who wish to become parishioners, may do so through Confession and Holy Communion. I will immediately hear confessions. If anything is unclear then come and see me at the residence.... Now you can



An aerial view of St. Nicholas Church together with the entrance and residence

tember 27 according to the Julian Calendar. After Blessed Vasyl celebrated Great Vespers in honour of the Feastday, he gave a short sermon on the opening of the Greek-Catholic-Orthodox parish: "... a parish as it was, once upon a time during the days of your grandparents and great-grandparents... Those who wish to become parishioners, may do so through Confession and Holy Communion. I will immediately hear confessions. If anything is unclear then come and see me at the residence.... Now you can

In This Issue:

- God's Grace Abounds - 1**
- Shrine Visitors - 2**
- Gratitude - 3**
- New Teaching Material - 3**
- Donors - 4**
- Ministry in Ukraine - 5**
- At-Risk Girls - 6**
- Online Ministry - 6**

go home." (Autobiography)

Nobody left. All stayed. He confessed late into the night and then began again early in the morning. "About one o'clock in the afternoon, I finish the solemn Liturgy. I am completely enraptured. Wonderful work! Very good people! All the intelligentia is here, as well as the youth! ...This is not the result of brief human words, no matter how good they might be. These are the results of the almighty power of God's grace, which illuminates, attracts. Obviously so!" (Autobiography)

This experience of the abundance of God's grace made a deep impression on Blessed Vasyl. He was always able to see the hand of God in the work he was performing. This insight would remain with him through his imprisonment

and his time during the underground church. He saw life and the events of life through the eyes of God. The persecution that came into his life did not discourage him or distract him from the truth that "all is in God's hands." Not only that all is in God's hands, but that God is generous and abounding in grace moving the hearts of those who believe and trust in Him.

The ministry in Kamianets-Podilskyi was short lived. The Nazis wanted Blessed Vasyl to co-operate with them in raising funds for the Nazi army. He was accused of being a Ukrainian Nationalist and they gave an order for his execution. He had to escape. That night, one of his church trustees helped him to escape back to Kudryntsi and to Western Ukraine.

VISITORS TO THE SHRINE



**Zoe Stradeski and Jared Graham,
Regina SK**



Ian, Mavis and Michael Marshall, Winnipeg

**Luba and Murray Beange,
Niagara Falls, Bob and
Iris Cesmystruk, Vita, MB
and Olga Katerynyuk,
Winnipeg**



**John Lamont, and
children Agatha,
Victoria, Samanta
and Lucy from
Winnipeg**



**Anna, Zachariy and Yulianna Matsko,
Winnipeg and Mariia Stetsyk from Stebnyk,
Ukraine**



**Ludmyla Fedynets, Oxana Kravtchouk and Rafaela
Foreman, Calgary AB**



**Walter and
Adele
Mychasiw,
Rossburn MB**

GRATITUDE FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE



After nineteen years of dedicated service as the Shrine Administrator, Mary Jane Kalenchuk has retired. Even before the transfer of the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl in 2002, Mary Jane helped to prepare the transfer and enshrinement of the holy relics. She helped to set up the museum which would house many artifacts from Blessed Vasyl's life. As the shrine ministry began after the enshrinement on September 22, 2002, it was obvious that the Shrine would need an employee who would organize the ministry and promote Blessed Vasyl. Mary Jane agreed to take on this holy work. Within weeks she had gathered approximately 65 volunteers to greet pilgrims. Some of them were trained to give tours. These volunteers made it possible to have the Shrine open to the public every day (except Mondays). She organized the Shrine office, coordinated the volunteers, welcomed and gave group tours. She visited parishes and schools and gave presentations to various groups on the life of Blessed Vasyl. Throughout the years she has touched thousands by her love of Blessed Vasyl.

Soon after the Shrine ministry began in 2004, she started to travel to Ukraine to collect interviews, artifacts and information about Blessed Vasyl's life. Her enthusiasm, determination and tireless dedicated work has given to the Shrine over 70 interviews with eye-witnesses of Blessed Vasyl's life and work in Ukraine. Numerous artifacts from Ukraine are now in the museum and archives. Through her effort and determination, we were able to obtain from the KGB archives over 2000 pages of Blessed Vasyl's case. In 2008, she organized a Velychkovsky Pilgrimage to Ukraine to places where Blessed Vasyl lived, worked and suffered. There have had a total of five Pilgrimages since that time. In Zarvanytsia, when Blessed Vasyl was proclaimed Patron of Prison Ministry in 2014, she participated in the weekend pilgrimage and spoke before thousand about Blessed Vasyl.



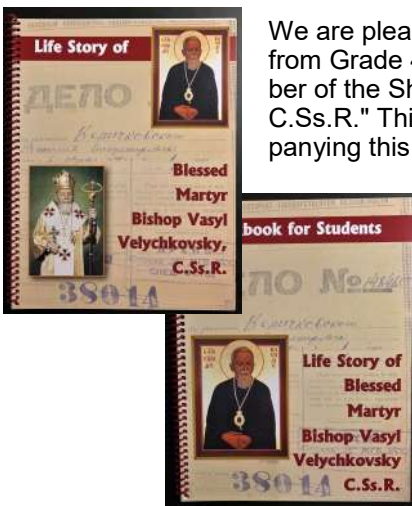
Mary Jane presenting before thousands in Zarvanytsia, Ukraine

It was through her that the Shrine orphan ministry in Ukraine began and continues to this day. Today it is more focused on helping orphan girls who are at risk of human trafficking. One can say that she was the heart and soul of the Shrine ministry. Her love of Blessed Vasyl permeated all she did and like a fire it spread to many others. We thank Mary Jane for her dedication, her tireless work and inspiration, her creative energy, her attention to details, and her love for this ministry. She will be sorely missed. May Blessed Vasyl reward her for all she has done to promote him and his holy life to the world.



Farewell gathering with staff and volunteers

NEW SHRINE TEACHING MATERIAL AVAILABLE NOW



We are pleased to introduce new colorful teaching materials on Blessed Vasyl's life for students from Grade 4 and higher. This Kit was produced by Kseniya Kravtchouk, a long time staff member of the Shrine. The Kit includes "The Life Story of Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R." This colorful 32 page booklet presents Blessed Vasyl's life through 28 lessons. Accompanying this booklet is a "Workbook for Students". This 40 page booklet has 25 exercises corresponding to the lessons for students - questions and answers, puzzles and games, including a scavenger hunt. The kit also includes a four page time line of Blessed Vasyl's life, a digital copy of all the material, an icon print and other materials.

This Kit is ideal for Grade 4 - 5 students who learn about saints as part of their religion curriculum. It can also be used in catechism classes and home school programs. The Kit can be purchased in the Shrine Gift Shop through our website. The booklet the "Life Story of..." is sold separately and is an easy read about the life of our Blessed Martyr. This booklet would make a wonderful Christmas gift.



THANK YOU!!!

Your generous donations make it possible to conduct the ministry of the Shrine and promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl throughout the world. Thank you. We are grateful to those who have named the Shrine as a beneficiary in memory of their loved ones. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you. Contributions listed below are from June 1st until September 15th, 2021

+1000

In memory of Anisia Dmytryshyn
Lida Dmytryshyn

+500

In memory of Steve Sianchuk
Phyllis Sianchuk

+100

Peter Adams
Fr. Shyshkovich K of C
Council #8925, Wpg, MB
Alexander & Gertrude Karapita
Kseniya Kravtchouk
Elizabeth Nguyen
Ariadna Ochrymovych
Walter & Pauline Prystai
Rayner Agencies LTD
Jimmy Sawchuk
James Simmins
Henry & Iris Spilchuk
St. Joseph's U.C.W.L.C., Wpg, MB

< 100

Maria Barcelon
Dr. Kenneth & Josie Bessant
Ken Dodd
Leslie & Caroline Dubowits
Pablo & Mila Enrile
W. Scott Jenken
Walter & Florence Lesiuk
John & Pat Lewak
Richard & Marietta Persian
Yvonne Petrinov
Arlene Pickel
Steven Schmalz
Christine Sikorsky
Iris Smellie
Zoe Stradeski
Princess Tagarda
William Vandervan
Fr. Stephen & Maria Wojcichowsky
Alex & Mary Zimrose

In Memory of...

Eunice and Gerald
Andrew Mathuik
Nick Banera
Nestor & Aka Papish
Harry and Iris Berezny
William Berezny
Archbishop Michael Bzdel, C.Ss.R.
Stanley & Patricia Clapa
Stanley and Anne Chaikowsky
Terry & Vicki Chaikowsky
Bill Chorney
Jane Chorney

William Domitruk

Sonia Domitruk

Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R.

Stanley & Patricia Clapa

Marcel and Ghislaine Guenette

Jean-Marc & Karol Guenette

Shirley Hall

Rev. Fr. Kolin & Elzbieta Berglund

Geraldine Koban

Paul Shumay

Ihor Kolisnyk

Halyna Kolisnyk

Fr. Josaphat Korchinski

Joan Korchinski

Lidia Kotowycz

Nestor & Aka Papish

Lidia & Alexander Kotowycz

Anna Banera

Jean and Danny Kowbel

Cathy Kowbel

Gregory Kozakewich

Lawrentia Kozakewich

Fr. Thaddeus Krawchuk, C.Ss.R.

Stanley & Patricia Clapa

Fr. Boris Kyba, C.Ss.R.

Stanley & Patricia Clapa

Mary Manyluk

Anna Banera

Nestor & Aka Papish

Michele Milian

Jan Rochelle

Naomi Musyj

Mary Glicaria Bilinsky

Helen & Jacob Nechwediuk

William J. Karlicki

Grace Prokop

Steve Prokop

Shirley Pryszlak

Marilyn Krawchuk

Fr. Len Ratuszniak, C.Ss.R.

Stanley & Patricia Clapa

Anne Romaniuk

Laura Forrest

Manuel Gomes

Greg Romaniuk

Ken Romaniuk

Janet Sirski

Frances & Andrew Sayko

Violet Kully

Mary Winchar

Mary Glicaria Bilinsky

Dolores Daniels

Edward & Yvonne Hillcuff

John & Mary Hykawy

Mary Jane Kalenchuk

Millie Lefko

Isabel Lukie

Allan & Joanne Malenko

Marian Moshansky

Darlene Sidak

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Lillian Skazyk

Iris Smellie

Vladimir & Marlene Solman

Helen Stockburn

Kathleen Warrenchuk

Kay Zawortny

Olga Yaremchuk

Marilyn Krawchuk

John G. Zatwarnitski Jr.

Adela Zatwarnitski

In Honor of...

Kristin & Chance

Mary Kokolski

In thanksgiving to Bl. Vasyl

Lise Anglin

Fr. Walter Dudych

Tetyana Pokeza

Marie Gwozd

Teresa Kuzyk

Peter Iwanuck

Vladimir & Marlene Solman

Spencer Katerynuk

Bill & Olga Katerynuk

Constantin, Sofia and Roman

Kravtchouk

Kseniya Kravtchouk

Nadia Pelechaty

Matthew & Florence & Michelle

Blanchard

Virginia Serelo

Virginia Serelo

For the Health of...

Pawelek Family

Anne Pawelek

Shymko Family

Anne Shymko

St. Joseph's Parishioners

Jim & Donna Keller

The Misbrener family

Fr. David Misbrener

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Buyachok

Tetyana Pokeza

Larry Chubaty

Anne Shymko

Dawson David

Rowena David

Edward Evancio

Terry & Vicki Chaikowsky

Haughton Family
Elizabeth Haughton
Theresa Hlus
Olga Hlus
Jessop family
Sophia Demjanew
Jessop family, Mary & Brian
Roberts, Pearl & Suknacki family
Sophia Demjanew
Katerynuk & Happychuk family
Bill & Olga Katerynuk
Dennis Kyrzyk
Chris Kyrzyk
Joe Lalach
Victor & Elsie Sorochuk

Ted & Amelia Malfair
Ted & Amelia Malfair
Rhonda & Allan Matters
Yvonne Sarzynski
Vera Matwichyna
Vera Matwichyna
Orest Pidwerbeski
Orest Pidwerbeski
Roman family
Ivan Roman & Nataliya Markevych
Emma and Noah Sharp
Terry & Vicki Chaikowsky
Sidak children & grandchildren
Darlene Sidak

Barry Sorochuk
Victor & Elsie Sorochuk
Rosalia Swiecicki
Wally and Betty Soloway
Fr. Frank Szadiak
Edward & Anne Faseruk
John & Sophia Fedorowich
Barbara Wilson
Anne Shymko

**Donations to the Shrine
can be made ONLINE
visit
www.bvmartyrshrine.com**

BLESSED VASYL MINISTRY IN UKRAINE



Holy Trinity Church, Nyzhbirok Novyi,
Ternopil oblast,



St. Demetrius Church, village of Myrtyuky,
Stryi district, Lviv oblast



Acathist during the Feastday celebrations in Blessed Vasyl's museum-apartment, Lviv



Ascension Parish, Chortkiv, Ternopil oblast



Kopychentsi, Chortkiv region,
Ternopil oblast



Pilgrimage group visiting the places
where Blessed Vasyl spent his life
In Ukraine

Sr. Julia's Work with At-Risk Orphan Girls

We continue to support Sr. Julia and her work with at-risk orphaned girls. The Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky Home is where Sr. Julia lives with these girls offering them a chance for a better life. Sr. Julia's skills as a psychologist has helped these girls who were all emotionally scared and often rejected by others. She has taken them in, giving them not just a safe home, but also a moral, social, and educational formation. She is particularly concerned that the girls receive a good education so that they could become mature, independent and successful in their future endeavors.

In September's newsletter 2020, we detailed her work with these girls. Last year four of them entered into higher studies either at the university or college level: Diana, Tanya, Svitlana and Victoria. Victoria has left Sr. Julia's Home but continues her studies and receives support from Sr. Julia. The other three girls have all done well in their studies. Diana after her first year achieved the Honour role list. After a hard year of studies under tutors, three more girls have been accepted into higher studies and have begun their courses: Andriana, Lylia, and Nastya. All three came from

horrific backgrounds and now their lives have changed completely. They now have a chance to achieve their dreams and hopes. It is amazing to hear them share with us how they are pursuing their careers in order to serve society, especially the underprivileged.

If you wish to donate to cover their tuitions, tutors, school supplies, and living expenses, cheques may be made to "Ukrainian Catholic Mission". Please indicate in the Memo "Orphan Fund". We are very grateful for your assistance in helping these girls achieve their goals.



Andriana was accepted to the Lviv National Stepan Gzhytsky University to the Faculty of Physical culture



Lylia entered the Lviv State University of Ivan Franko and will be studying Law



Nastya got admitted to the Ukrainian Catholic University to the Faculty of Social Work

Call in Prayer Requests

For a special intention or prayer request you may phone, email or submit on our website. Your prayer request will be placed in the Shrine and remembered in prayer every Wednesday evening after the service in honour of Blessed Vasyl and during the morning Divine Liturgy in the Shrine.

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.

ONLINE MINISTRY

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 opportunity, no matter where you are, to participate with us in these prayer services.

Pray the **Rosary** before the Holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl on our YouTube channel.

COVID-19 SHRINE SCHEDULE

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

The Shrine is open after weekend Liturgies. Because of the **Covid-19 pandemic**, group tours are not available at this time.

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING - 7:00 pm
Virtual Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasyl (Acafist or Moleben) is streamed on our YouTube Channel

For more information: **204-338-7321**
e-mail: info@bvmartyrshrine.com

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