



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine Publication

WHAT IS NEEDED IS LOVE

BLESSED VASYL'S WAR MINISTRY

Blessed Vasylychko experienced the First World War as a young soldier as part of the Ukrainian Rifle-men (Sichovi Striltsi). He was arrested, escaped, recaptured and escaped again and then entered the seminary.

During the Second World War Blessed Vasylychko was a priest. As a priest, he continued to do his priestly ministry despite the fact that the Soviets began to occupy Ukraine in late September 1939. With the Soviet occupation, began the persecution of the Church. Although the safer action would have been to cancel all public

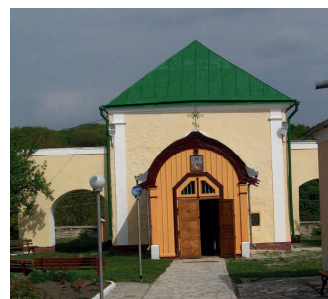


Religious Procession in 1940

display of the faith, Blessed Vasylychko chose to have a huge procession through the streets of Ivano Frankivsk in June 1940 in honour of our Mother of Perpetual Help. For this he was detained by the NKVD (KGB) and interrogated and tortured but remained faithful and was later released.

While under Nazi occupation, he began an extraordinary mission in Kamianets Podilskiy among the Orthodox. Because of his refusal to cooperate with the Nazi authorities, his life was threatened and he narrowly escaped being shot. Earlier that year still under the Soviets, one of Blessed Vasylychko's confreres, Blessed Zenon Ko-

valyk was arrested and died a martyr's death being crucified to the prison wall in Lviv. This event did not make Blessed Vasylychko timid, but rather encouraged him to continue in his pastoral ministry. After Kamianets Podilskiy, Blessed Vasylychko became the superior of the monastery in Ternopil. Since the war was not present in that city and was far away, Blessed Vasylychko gave many missions and retreats in and around Ternopil. We met several nuns who remembered him and his inspiring and dedicated ministry. Many of them owed their vocations to his encouragement even at that uncertain and dangerous time.



Church of St. Nicholas in Kamianets Podilskiy where Blessed Vasylychko served.

In 1944, the Nazi army was retreating and the Soviets advancing. In the early spring of that year they were at the doorstep of Ternopil. Blessed Vasylychko was in Lviv at that time. With the advancing Soviet threat and danger, the Redemptorist superior was concerned what would happen to the church and monastery. It was too dangerous to go there since the city was being evacuated but Blessed Vasylychko volunteered to go back. He was

In This Issue:

War Ministry 1

Report from Sr. Julia - 3

A Blessed Encounter - 3

Visitors - 4

Donors - 6

Feast Day Celebrations - 6

Fr. Yvehen - 6

allowed after he was able to obtain train tickets. He entered the city when the shelling had already begun. He went back because there were people who could not leave; the elderly, the sick and the orphans. He went there to be with them, to suffer with



Redemptorist parish in Ternopil where Blessed Vasyl was superior



Iryna, an orphan, cared for by Blessed Vasyl

them and to bring the mercy of God to them. One orphan relayed to us how as a 14 year old girl, Blessed Vasyl would take her by the hand as they went through Ternopil to buy food and other supplies. "He was like a father to me. I was so frightened and he took care of me," said

the woman/orphan. He remained in the city under Soviet occupation until he was arrested a month before the end of the war. By now the Soviets firmly occupied Ukraine.

Even while in prison - on death row and later in Soviet laager camps - he continued to minister to the prisoners bringing them God's Word, the holy Sacraments, God's mercy and compassion and unceasing prayer. Even after imprisonment, he intensified his ministry to the people knowing he was always under the watchful and threatening eye of the Soviets. Blessed Vasyl was fearless in the face of evil, danger and threats to his own life. Following the will of God was more important to him than anything else.



Blessed Vasyl leading a funeral, dressed in civilian clothes

Today our Redemptorist confreres today in Ukraine during this time of the Russian war of aggression, continue to minister fearlessly to the victims of this unjust war. Two of our Redemptorist bishops, Bishop Stepan Meniok in Zaporizhia and Bishop Michael Bubniy in Odes-

sa continue to be at their posts serving their flock under the shelling and attacks of the Russians. Our confreres in Berdiansk find themselves in



Redemptorists in Chernihiv, a city that was heavily shelled and destroyed, praying in the streets before the icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help.

"Rain and mosquitoes do not scare our faithful in Bobrovitsi. Although our parishioners from Bobrovitsi have suffered and their homes destroyed, their faith and spirit has only strengthened." Fr. Taras



a Russian controlled city where they serve the people through prayer and spiritual care. Our confreres in Chernihiv endured the shelling and the destruction of the city continuously serving the wounded, the displaced, burying those killed, feeding the hungry, providing clothes and medicines to those in need, offering the church and monastery as a place of prayer, comfort and safety to the people who have remained in that city. The other Redemptorist monasteries and churches, besides offering all the spiritual ministry, have become centers of humanitarian aid to all the victims of this unjust war of aggression. They imitate Blessed Vasyl's spirit and obtain inspiration from his example and his courage.



Redemptorists from Chernihiv providing humanitarian aid to the victims of the unjust war in Ukraine



REPORT FROM SR. JULIA

May 4, 2022

Dear Father John,

Taking this opportunity, I express my respect and esteem for you.

The community centre -"Social Support for children and family 'Ridni'" -belonging to the City Council of Lviv express their sincere thanks for your unlimited support from the very beginning of the war February 24, 2022.

The total amount of hryvia we have received from you was 100,937 plus \$1280 USD.

You have given the workers of our institution the ability to deliver humanitarian aid to the front lines in the regions of Odessa and Mykolayiv, and to the city of Kropyvnytsky and especially Mariupol and other smaller towns.

This was aid to orphanages who remained at the front line. Also to the civilian population who are in the war zone who lost homes and were left without food and clothing.

Thanks to your funds, we delivered over 80 tons of medical, clothing, baby food, diapers, bandages, comforters, sleeping bags and underlay foam and some clothing and underwear.

Beginning from the first days of March 2022, thanks to your funds we began to help our soldiers on the front lines: in Kharkiv, Zhytomyr, and the front lines in the region of Donetsk. With your funds we were able to deliver to the soldiers: food, bandages, medicine, painkillers, blood coagulators. We made individual First Aid kits for the soldiers. Also we bought body armour, helmets and tourniquets.

Dear Fr. John and all those generous benefactors who have helped us in such difficult times. Thank you in the name of all of our soldiers, the Ukrainian nation for your participation in our victory.



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Ukraine! Sr. Julia (Natalia Flak)

Donations to Sr. Julia's ministry with the orphans in war-torn Ukraine can be made to Ukrainian Catholic Mission. Address: Orphan Relief Fund 250 Jefferson Ave. Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6

A BLESSED ENCOUNTER



To her great surprise, Sister Julia was called to Rome to meet with the Pope concerning her ministry with orphans in war-torn Ukraine. On June 1st she had this audience with Pope Francis. The Pope received the Ukrainian flag from her group and heard from them about their concern for their close friends fighting on the front lines in the Donbas region. The Pope assured them of his prayers and concern. Later that day Sr. Julia was part of a news conference before government officials. It was a conference on humanitarian help for Ukraine. Sister was asked to speak about the concrete situation. Among other things Sister told them about her experience when a busload of orphans arrived from Zhytomyr after a 26 hour trip. As they disembarked the bus, they

were all exhausted. She noticed that the older ones were carrying the younger ones. That struck her. They spent the whole night feeding and washing these children. The very young one (3-5 years old) were totally traumatized by what they had experienced. They were unable to take in the present reality rather they had blank stares. She then looked at the audience and said although we can all be tired and broken ourselves you can be that person who carries these children in your arms. They need not only food, shelter and clothing, they need your love. The government officials were filled with tears.

VISITORS TO THE SHRINE



On May 3 & 4, the miraculous statute of Our Lady of the Cape, from Cape de Madeline, Quebec was present in our Shrine. Prayers were offered throughout both days for peace in Ukraine.



The Confirmation class (22) from Christ Our Saviour Catholic Parish in Steinbach spent a morning at the Shrine/Museum in preparation for their upcoming Sacrament of Confirmation.



Henri and Miriam Ragetli, their son and grandchildren from Winnipeg



Visitors our Blessed Vasyl's Museum/Apartment in Lviv together with our staff, Taras Hull & Lida Hryvna



IN MEMORIAM

We express our deepest condolences to his wife Iryna and family of **Cornelius Petryshyn** who passed away

last fall, October 16, 2021. Mr. Petryshyn, who lived in Lviv, was Blessed Vasyl's last living nephew. He shared many precious memories with us about his uncle.

ВІЧНА ЙОМУ ПАМ'ЯТЬ!

The Blessed Vasyl Teaching Kit Support



The generous financial assistance of the Canon Luhovy Assembly #374 and the Regional U.C.W.L.C. enabled us to print and compile 300 kits containing teaching material for grade school students, teachers, catechists and even adult education. The colourful booklet and material introduces us to Blessed Vasyl's life and holiness. Thank you for your generous contribution.



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 19th 2022 until May 31st, 2022.

+1000

**In Honour of Blessed Vasyl
Velychkovsky**
Anonymous
Canon Luhovy Assembly #374
In memory of Frances Chikowski
Michael Chikowski

+100

Luba Gery
Ivan Roman & Nataliya Markevych
Margaret Saray
Jimmy Sawchuk
James Simmons
Henry & Iris Spilchuk
Larry & Doreen Trach

<100

Peter Adams
Maria Barcelon
Mariette Bayer
Cynthia Cease
Marianne Derkach
Jeffrey & Marietta Di Nella
Dolly Dmytryk
Barbara Gardner
W. Scott Jenken
Richard & Marietta Persian
Elaine & Ulysse Porier
Theodore Reznowski
Iris Smellie

In Memory Of...

Olga Skehar
Mary-Anne Skehar
Petro & Olena Berezny
William Berezny
Florence Blanchard
Edward & Anne Faseruk
Mark & Sonya Galarnyk
Evelyn Zwarych
Frances Chikowski
Michael Chikowski
John Cortens
Henri & Miriam Ragetli
Jeroslawa Dobush
Mark & Sonya Galarnyk
Jean Klimchak
Jerry Dobush
Michael & Mary Gnutel
Myroslav Horunjak
Wlodzimierz & Marta Sawka
Sofia Hull
Jim & Donna Keller

John William Karlicki
William J. Karlicki
Markian Kohut
Wlodzimierz & Marta Sawka
Fr. Josaphat Korchinski
Patrick Artymko
Henrik & Anastasia Kostecki
Donna Seredycz & children
Nadia Kozoris
Margaret Didenko
Dennis Kyrzyk
Mary Jane Kalenchuk
Chris Kyrzyk
Emile & Sylvia Picklyk
Adeline Lasiuk
Ron & Angeline Gretchen
Don Melnyk
Leslie & Caroline Dubowits
Chris Winchar
Peter Melnyk
Christina Sikorsky
Joan Sikorsky
Dan Myk
Elaine & David Derksen
Ann Panko
Robert & Elizabeth Panko
John Pawlychyn
Donna Seredycz & children
Matt, Nellie, Paul, Morris, Shirley & Mary Ann Prociuk
Donna Seredycz & children
Anne Romaniuk
Elizabeth Paziuk
Ken Romaniuk
Michael Rowley
Charles Knockaert
Hans Schmid
Dirk Schmid
Boris Seredycz
Donna Seredycz & children
Morris Smolinski
Iris Smolinski
Lawrence Stopera
Joyce Stopera
Victims of abortion
Robert & Christine Patrie
Anne Zahara
John & Mary Hykawy
Allen & Mary Marcinkow
Kathleen Warrenchuk
Fallen soldiers in Ukraine
Ron & Angeline Gretchen

In Honor Of

The Robesons
Walter & Florence Lesiuk

Emily Gingera and Layne Stokotelny
Mary Kokolski
Natalia & Mary
Patricia Lendzyk
Peace in Ukraine
Olga Hlus

For the Health Of

Karla
Nicholas & Hazel Borodey
Kelly, Jeannine, Toby, Andy, Justin, Cass, Violet & Nathan
Gene & Elizabeth Happpychuk
Michael, Larissa, Daniel & spouses & children
Donna Seredycz & children
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Buyachok
Douglas & Cona Maughan
Daniel Carbotte
Paul & Adeline Carbotte
Angelo da Costa
Violette da Costa
Fr. Isidore Dziadyk
Douglas & Cona Maughan
Zorian and Leona Hudyma
Edward & Anne Faseruk
Spencer Katerynuk
Bill & Olga Katerynuk
Florence & Tony Kuchinski
Douglas & Cona Maughan
Oristeen Kulyk
Oristeen Kulyk
Fr. Bohdan Lukie
Douglas & Cona Maughan
Karla McMullen
Bordon & Marcie Kosman
Mary Melnyk
Walter & Mary Melnyk
Norris & Jennie Pawlychka
Edward & Anne Faseruk
Violet Stoski
Casper & Violet Stoski
Fr. Frank Szadiak
Edward & Anne Faseruk

Correction from March Newsletter:
+ 100
Henry & Iris Spilchuk

THE BLESSED VELYCHKOVSKY NATIONAL MARTYR'S SHRINE—FEASTDAY



PRAYING FOR UKRAINE

Sunday, June 26, 2022

6:30 pm Moleben in Honour of Blessed Velychkovsky
With guest Homilist—Fr. Mykhaylo Khomitsky
Followed by a Rosary Procession—Praying for Ukraine

Monday, June 27, 2022

9:00 am Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian)
10:30 Rosary Meditation—Anointing
Panahyda (Service for the Deceased)
Lunch
1:00 pm Presentation-Blessed Vasyl's Mission Continues
2:00 Acatist in Honour of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky
7:00 Divine Liturgy and Anointing

Guest Homilist throughout the day—Fr. Yevhen Zadorozhnyi, C.Ss.R.



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

Check out all the Liturgical Services and Prayer opportunities that are present on the Shrine's YouTube Channel, found on our website. You can pray the rosary in the Shrine or participate in the Blessed Vasyl Chaplet.

GUEST PREACHER FOR THE FEASTDAY



Fr. Yevhen Zadorozhnyi, C.Ss.R. is presently the assistant pastor at St. Mary's in Yorkton, SK. Fr. Yevhen comes from Ukraine. All his adult life he

has been associated with Blessed Vasyl. As a seminarian he lived with Brother Irene in Blessed Vasyl's apartment in Lviv. As a priest he became a promoter of our martyrs, in particular Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and Blessed Vasyl. In Kovel he built a church and monastery in honour of the martyrs and is presently building a second church in Kovel dedicated to Blessed Vasyl. He will be sharing with us about Blessed Vasyl's influence on his life and on the relationship between Blessed Vasyl and the war in Ukraine today.

FAREWELL



Our Shrine Coordinator, Bohdana Kornelyuk, has moved onto Saskatoon, SK, where she has taken a new position. We thank her for all she has contributed to the Shrine ministry during her time with us. We wish her God's blessing for her future.

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.

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