



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

GOD IS WITH US!

God is with us, understand all you nations and be humbled for God is with us.

These words are heard during the Great Compline on Christmas Eve. They are repeatedly proclaimed as a way of reminding us of the true gift of Christmas. "З нами Бог" – God is with us are words that Blessed Vasyl would have prayed every Christmas no matter of where or what circumstance he was facing. Throughout his life Blessed Vasyl faced fears and darkness with hope, knowing that they would be overcome because God is with us.

Since 2001, when Bishop Vasyl was proclaimed Blessed, the Shrine staff have been committed to researching his life story. Over 70 interviews have been recorded with those that knew Blessed Vasyl personally. Here are some of the memories that have been shared about the impact of Blessed Vasyl on their lives.

"At that time there were no Basilian sisters in Ternopil. They had to leave because of persecution. Father Vasyl (who choose to come back to Ternopil), decided to bring back the Sisters and his mother, who was now a part of their community. He asked me to look for a house for them. It seemed impossible, but Father believed that everything is possible with God's help. Soon we found an old small house that had walls covered in mold. When Father Vasyl saw it, he said, "We should take what we

have. Jesus Christ lived a simple life in Nazareth and we will live here, if God allows us." We bought this house and started renovations. The house had only one room, so we built a porch which



Sr. Iryna, Sr. Maria, Sr. Emilia (mother of Blessed Vasyl) & Father Vasyl in front of Sisters' house

became our tiny kitchen. We installed gas in the house, painted the walls, making our house a nice home. Fr. Velychkovsky helped us with everything including purchasing the house. He himself worked hard to create the home." *Sister Iryna Korduba*

"Bishop Julian Voronovsky called Bishop Velychkovsky the Father of the underground Church. Bishop Vasyl

was a kind and true father, especially to his sisters. When Bishop would visit us, he would ask: "Do you have anything to eat? Do you have something to live on?" and looked to see if there was anything cooked. He was worried about us. We all worked, so we had enough to live on, although we lived modestly. The Bishop appointed me the elder in the house and, as best we could, we gradually put the house in order. We went to our neighbors for water because we did not have our own well. One day, the Bishop saw that sister was carrying two buckets of water and said: "Carrying water so far is difficult. You must have your own well. Look for someone who digs wells." Soon the Bishop brought us money to ensure that we could have our own well." *Sister Constantina Senyk*



Sr. Constantina

"Bishop Velychkovsky tried to gather the sisters living in Ivano-Frankivsk together. At that time, the sisters were scattered all over the place, living among the people. Some of the sisters were old and infirm. They did not receive a pension because they did not work. So Bishop got the sisters a house. He helped us buy and furnish this house in 1967. Bishop went with me to a store that had used items. He helped me select and helped load the items into the car. Bishop Vasyl first blessed our house. He led Divine Liturgies and conducted retreats here in our home. When the house was purchased it was abandoned. There were bricks and clay in the basement. The previous owner worked in the basement, leaving behind lots of shavings and pieces of wood. Bishop Vasyl came to us. Sometimes he stayed here himself. Once I came and did not find Bishop in the house, so I went to the basement where I found him cleaning. He said: "You can't leave it here, you have to use it." This is how Bishop Vasyl took a break from writing or praying." *Sister Teofilia Rudka*



Sr. Teofilia

"Father Velychkovsky cared for the sisters. He helped them to purchase their homes. He was their benefactor, because the older sisters had no pension and only lived on what their small garden produced. Father knew many people, intellectuals, doctors and helped the sisters to enter in medical colleges and to find work."

Lydia Choma

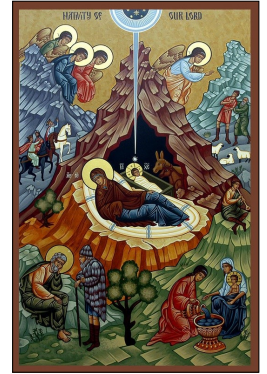


"I know Father Velychkovsky as very hospitable. Whenever someone came, his first question was: "Did you have breakfast? Did you have lunch?" Then he would tell Sister to bring some food and only after that would he begin the conversation." *Fr. Ivan Dankiw, C.Ss.R.*

This is a glimpse into Blessed Vasyl's generous heart. He exemplified that God is with us! May the example of Blessed Vasyl inspire you especially during this time of

year to notice and respond to those in need around us because – God is with us!

During this time of year, we are encouraged to do acts of kindness. For Blessed Vasyl being charitable was a way of life that was not restricted to one time of year. May his example inspire you to take time to notice and respond to those in need knowing that **God is with us!**



Visitation to Ukraine

On November 9, Fr. Ivan Dzhur, C.Ss.R., a Redemptorist from the Province of Canada -Yorkton Region, was ordained to the priesthood in Peremyshl, Poland. Since this place is on the border with Ukraine, we (Mary Jane Kalenchuk and I) ventured to travel to Ukraine to visit the Shrine workers, (Oleh & Tania; Taras, Lydia & Liliya) and Sister Natalia and her work with the orphans.

We spent only five days in Ukraine. Evidence of the war was visible, although life seems to just carry on. While there, we experienced the warning sirens three times, announcing the eminent possibility of incoming missiles.

We also paid tribute to hundreds of fallen soldiers buried in Lviv. It was very moving talking with some of

where they were by just a few hours. Blessed Vasyl protected them.



*Blessed Vasyl Ministry Staff in Lviv
(l to r) Lydia, Taras, Fr. John, Tania, Oleh & Liliya*



Cemetery in Lviv

the mothers who lost their sons. One mentioned to us that her son before he died said: "Mother don't cry. I have fulfilled my life by dying for freedom and for our country, so that my nine month old son could live in a free country."

Our Shrine workers continue to do their presentations on Blessed Vasyl. Daily they have a liturgical service to Blessed Vasyl for him to intercede for the people of Ukraine and bring them freedom and victory.

Thanks to the staff, Blessed Vasyl is now known throughout Ukraine and even on the front lines. Soldiers have his third class relics with them. Chaplains bring his relics to comfort those who are wounded. Several times Oleh & Tania escaped the missile attacks in places

Sister Natalia welcomed us warmly. She has several ministries at present. First her home called "Home for Girls in honour of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky" is where nine girls at risk live with her. The last time we were in Ukraine was 2019. By now, all except one girl are new. Those who were with her have now graduated from universities and colleges and are on their own.



*Live-in community at the Home for Girls in honour of
Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky in Lviv*

Some of them still work for Sister Natalia in her other ministry. All of the new girls were at one point abandoned in their lives. Some have had their parents killed in the war. Some were found in the streets. Most of them have suffered abuse, sexual and physical. Some are suffering from alcoholism. Sister provides them a

loving home, an education, discipline, moral upbringing, religious awareness and helps them mature into beautiful responsible citizens of Ukraine.

Sister needs financial help to be able to provide tutors for the girls, since many came to her with little or no education. Among the girls is a 14 year old mother with her baby son. Even though this mother is underage, the government offers no support for her nor her child. We are helping to provide for their needs.

Sister was also made the directress of an ambitious social service program which has three parts: for orphans (25-40), many of them from war-torn eastern Ukraine, and those whose parents lost their parental



Group of orphans at the Centre with Sister Natalia

rights; a rehabilitation center for the parents who lost their children due to abuse, drugs or alcoholism; and a shelter for pregnant women coming from the war-torn area of

Ukraine. She brings humanity, compassion and warmth to all these three ministries.

Through Sister Natalia we met with the commander of the 103rd Brigade, Cmdr. Tymkiw, formerly the Minister of Family Services. We were able to financially support the military through him (medical supplies, winter gear, surveillance drones). He was very grateful. As we know the needs are very great for the Ukrainian army in their effort to defend and liberate Ukraine.



Presentation of the 103rd Brigade Flag to Mary Jane Kalenchuk & Fr. John Sianchuk

We thank you for your generosity that allows us to support these noble causes.

Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.

DEVOTION TO BLESSED VASYL — IMPACTING LIVES TODAY

November 4, 2023

I was on holidays at my cousin's place in Calgary, Alberta. We were preparing something to eat. I was helping her with the cooking on her gas stove top. I went to grab a pot on the stove forgetting that it would be hot. As a result I burnt my thumb, 2nd and 3rd fingers. We immediately applied ice on the fingers. However, they started to blister. I happened to have Blessed Vasyli Holy Oil. I put the Holy Oil on my fingers and prayed for a healing. The blistering went right down. The area was red but that healed too. My cousin was amazed because she was convinced and thought that we would have to go to hospital.

Evelyn Zwarych—Winnipeg, Manitoba
Shrine Volunteer

Please notify the Shrine of any graces or blessings received through the intercession of Blessed Vasyli Velychkovsky.

**Call 204-338-7321 or
Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com**

Father James Del Rosario was in Winnipeg this fall visiting family. He was introduced to Blessed Vasyli and subsequently celebrated Mass in the Shrine Chapel a couple of times a week over the two months. He is now back home in the Philippines and has been sharing the story of Blessed Vasyli. Recently Father James shared this photo. Father James provided the sacrament of healing and anointing to Sir Randy Boromeo, who was recuperating from internal bleeding between his brain and skull. Sir Randy is one of the servant leaders of 'The Feast', one of the Catholic Charismatic movements in the Philippines. Father James also gave him a third class relic of Blessed Vasyli and encouraged his family to ask for the intercession of Blessed Vasyli.



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. Through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl may each of you be blessed.

Contributions listed below are from September 16 until November 30, 2023

\$1,000 +

In memory of Vera & John Chyzowski
Terri Chyzowski

\$500 +

Caboto Centre Seniors
Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer
– Canada
Paul and Lynne Kyba
In honor of Bishop Michael Kwiatkowski
Dr. Barbara Ann Mackalski
Adrian & Vera Olenick
St. Basil's U.C.W.L.C. – Winnipeg
Fr. Michael & Dolores Tkachuk

\$100 +

Peter Adams
Sonia Domitruk
Fr. Ivan Dzbur, C.Ss.R.
Dorilyn Garduque
Archbishop Borys Gudziak
Alexandra Lamont
Sharon Malchuk
Margaret Ortynski
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
– Santa Fe NM
Rayner Agencies Ltd.
Anne Shymko
Henry & Iris Spilchuk

<\$100

Michelle Blanchard
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Kateryna Buduykevych
Kathleen Coles
Kris Dandurand
Marie Del Rosario
Ivan Deresh
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Guy & Janet Foullard
Walter & Adele Mychasiw
Elizabeth Patzer
Richard & Marietta Persian
Theodore Reznowski
Agnes Angela Samhez
Iris Smellie
Jacques Tremblay
William Vandervan
William & Mary Zaporzan
Alex & Mary Zimrose

In Memory Of...

Nelle Bereza
Carol Bereza-Asham
John & Nellie Boychuk
Edward & Anne Faseruk

Harry & Dokia Burdeny

Ollie Humeniuk
Rosalie Demchuk
Elizabeth Paziuk
Sophie Demjanew
Linda Kohut
Jack, Mary & Steve Faseruk
Edward & Anne Faseruk
Metro & Anne Glute
Bob & Darlene Famulak
Vi Hnatiuk
Adela Zatwarnitski
Reta Hrechka
Gary & Jan Lukie
Harry & Mark Kardynal
Evelyn Kardynal
John and Barabara Karlicki
William J. Karlicki
Maurice Kindrachuk
Elsie Kindrachuk
John Klos
Janice Klos
Ben Kluk
Violet Kluk
William L. Kobitowich
Phyllis Kobitowich
Yaroslav Kostur
Elaine Kisiow
Lorraine Kozakewich
Gerald & Linda Kozakewich
Peter & Olga Krushelniski
Cecil & Leona Krywulak
Nick & Victoria Krywulak
Cecil & Leona Krywulak
Lorri Kuchera
Rev. Fr. Kolin & Elzbieta Berglund
Edward & Josephine Michealycia
Marilyn Krawchuk
Karel Moravek
Connie McCorrister-Moravek
Moskal & Spicer Families
Robert J. Moskal
William Oleynik
Mary Oleynik
Nick Samorodny
Helen Samorodny
William & Elizabeth Shemeluk
Janice Klos
Lillian Sianchuk
Constance Kindiak
Gary & Jan Lukie
Steve & Lillian Sianchuk
Marian Moshansky
Sr. Theodosia
Bob & Darlene Famulak
John Warrenchuk
Kathleen Warrenchuk
Werbowsky Family
Ken & Evelyn Thorkelson
John Zatwarnitski Jr.
Adela Zatwarnitski

In Honor Of...

Blessed Vasyl
Rev. Protodeacon Stefan &
Maria Tyrawski
Robert & Iris Cesmystruk
Bill & Olga Katerynuk
Dutchak Family
Ron & Teresa Dutchak
Bishop Michael Kwiatkowski
Dr. Barbara Ann Mackalski
Lolita & Cesar Oandasan
Lolita & Cesar Oandasan
Sisters of St. Joseph
Bob & Darlene Famulak
Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R.
Bob & Darlene Famulak
Bishop Michael Wiwchar, C.Ss.R.
Bob & Darlene Famulak

For the Health Of...

For our Sons
Tom & Julie Abrametz
Quinton Antonyshen
Jean Derhak
Greg & Erina Barrett
Greg & Erina Barrett
Mary Bilinsky
Bill & Bernie Bereziuk
Vicki Chaikowsky
Terry & Vicki Chaikowsky
Randy Crerar
Robert & Debbie Braid
Bob Famulak & Family
Bob & Darlene Famulak
Trevor & Deanna
Murray & Anne Flynn
Marcella Garner
Darlene Sidak
Kokolski Family Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren
Mary Kokolski
Mary Kokolski
Diane & Robert Gingera
Nelson & Bernice Wizniak
Mathew, Sacco, Zappia, Kozak, Schentag Families
Sophie Manulak
Ariadna Ochrymovych
Ariadna Ochrymovych
Mary Theresa Papinko
Greg & Mary Papinko
Norris & Jennie Pawlychka
Olga Boychuk
Pina & Virgilio Radicchi
Virgilio & Pina Radicchi
Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.
Steve Prokop
Helen Stockburn

Visitors to the Shrine



Archdeacon Nazar Yaruniv,
Ukraine



Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of
Philadelphia



Canadian Military Chaplains



Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation
Natalia Klymovska, Vice-Rector for Develop-
ment and Communications from Ukraine, Olha
Zarichynska, Donor Relationships Manager
from Philadelphia with Lesia Uhryn (Ukrainian
Catholic University Alumna)



Caboto Center Seniors with Auxiliary Bishop Andriy Rabyi, Archeparchy of Winnipeg
and Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.



Jusha Massie— Edmonton, Alberta



Catholic School of Evangelization—St. Malo Manitoba (l to r)
Louis Richard, Mary Richard, Sarah Beatty, Sinead Gordon,
Merick Rivaro

*When planning your charitable donations
remember to include the*

Blessed Vasyl National Martyr's Shrine

All gifts are used for the upkeep of the Shrine and
Museum, and for the ministry to promote the
knowledge of and devotion to Blessed Vasyl.
It is also a wonderful way to remember family and friends by
choosing to make your donation a
Tribute Gift in memory, in honour, or for the health
of someone special.
*Donations can be mailed in, called in or made online
through the Shrine website.*
Thank you

The Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine now accepts gifts of public traded securities.

Your gift of securities entitles you to a **donation receipt
for the full market value** of your contribution.

For more information contact the Shrine Office
at 204-338-7321 or email your request to
info@bvmartyrshrine.com

*Through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl—the Shrine Staff prays
that you have a blessed Christmas May it be filled with peace, hope and health.
May this be a source of your strength throughout the New Year.*



**VISIT THE BLESSED
VASYL SHRINE
GIFT SHOP**

To purchase some unique,
inspirational gifts including
books, icons, candles and
special gift packages.

Purchase online at
bvshrineshop.ca

Looking for a unique special gift to
share with someone that can be a
source of hope and joy, consider
a handcrafted rosary in honour of
Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky.
Each rosary is prayerfully created
by Winnipeg Artisan, Chantal
Bishop.

During the process of creating the
rosary, Chantal offers prayers of
intercession to Blessed Vasyl for
the needs of the person that will
be receiving the rosary.

Order through the Shrine Gift Shop



Call in Prayer Requests

If you have a special intention or prayer request and
would like it placed in the Shrine you can call the office,
email or submit it through the website. Every Wednes-
day during the morning Divine Liturgy in the Shrine and
at the evening devotional service in honour of Blessed
Vasyl, these intentions are remembered in prayer.

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

You are invited to pray before the Holy Relics

The Rosary
The Blessed Vasyl Chaplet
all are available at anytime on the
Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine
YouTube Channel.

LIVE STREAMING - every Wednesday
Praying for Ukraine - 1:30 p.m. CST
Devotional Services - 7 p.m. CST
on



SHRINE SCHEDULE

Monday: Shrine is closed
Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Sunday: Shrine is open during Divine Liturgies.
The Museum is open after the Divine Liturgies.

Group tours are available. To make a reservation
call **204-338-7321** or e-mail: info@bvmartyrshrine.com
Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com

EVERY WEDNESDAY:
8 a.m. Divine Liturgy in the Shrine
1:30 p.m. Praying for Ukraine
7 p.m. Liturgical Devotions to Blessed Vasyl
(Acatist or Moleben)

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