



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

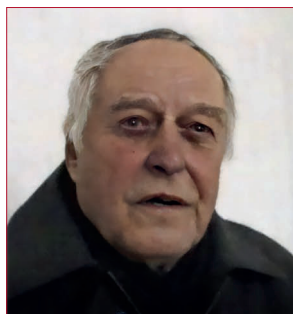
Pilgrims of Hope - Witness of God's Love

This Jubilee Year, we were called to be Pilgrims of Hope, especially during challenging times. We were encouraged to be bearers of hope and builders of peace. As we approach Christmas, proclaiming the message that "God is with us", may our celebration focus on Jesus' birth as a source of new hope, encouraging us to continue on a courageous spiritual journey, so that we can be witnesses of God's love.

Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky was a witness of God's love through his actions and willingness to share the message of hope that **"God is with us"**.



In 2017, Oleh (staff member in Ukraine), met Myroslav Romash, one of the many witnesses of Blessed Vasyl's life. Myroslav shared that he was taken to the Vorkuta prison Christmas Eve, 1946. Here is Myroslav describing meeting Blessed Vasyl.



Myroslav Romash

"In 1949, there was talk amongst some of the prisoners that the superior of the Redemptorist monastery in Ternopil, Father Vasyl Velychkovsky, had been assigned to Vorkuta. When the boys found out there would be a priest among us, they began to consider what would be the best workplace for our honoured Father Superior.

When Father Vasyl finished his quarantine, he was assigned to our barracks. I proposed to Father a free bunk in the corner of the barracks next to mine. From then on, we were bunk neighbours for almost three years from 1949 to 1952. I was fortunate to have him as a neighbour. Father Ihumen (Superior – name of honour for Blessed Vasyl) was pleased with the corner bunk, because he liked the quietness. In his corner, he sought solitude and peace. After the evening inspection, we whispered with each other in that dark corner. Although it was dark, it was good for thinking. Before going to sleep, I said my prayers. Father Vasyl prayed the rosary for a long time. In the morning, I saw that his rosary was made of bread.

Father Velychkovsky was open to all prisoners. They came to him from other barracks. All were gathering around him, seeking advice and guidance. He gladly responded by giving short instructions and teachings. Other priests from other barracks often came to him. The priests came individually to avoid drawing attention. They prearranged the meetings. They spoke on topics about

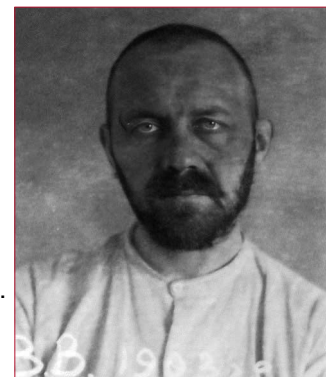
the history of Ukraine and the church. I still remember how Father emphasized that when Kyivan Rus accepted Christianity under Prince Volodymyr the Great, the Eastern Church under the Patriarch of Constantinople was united with the Universal Church of Rome while maintaining its own rite. These chance conversations made a deep impression on me and the other listeners.

We gathered in the evenings in our corner, and Father would tell us about his monastic life and about his missions. I especially remember his sharing about the mission he gave in St. George's Cathedral in Lviv. Father Vasyl said, *"I was preparing to fulfill the errands given to me by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, but everything was changed because of the communists."* Father remained faithful and totally gave his service to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, even in exile.

I saw how Father Velychkovsky scrupulously attended to the order of all things and the household items. When he found time, he would sit at the table under a light and write prayers at the request of fellow prisoners.

The paper, the ink, and the pens were all obtained from fellow workers who received packages from home.

The guards treated Father as they did the other prisoners. He had to keep their strict regime. As a prisoner, Father Vasyl did not place himself above others, but the opposite. His humility and sensitivity drew fellow convicts to him. He gladly engaged in conversation with them. Once, when we had the same shift, I had the chance to talk to him. I understood that through conversation with him, one could learn many things.



Despite the camp's strict regime, there was a tradition of celebrating great feast days, such as Christmas and Easter, collectively with members of your barracks. We prepared long for these feast days. On the feast day, in the middle of the barracks, we placed whatever each had collected upon a table. Before eating, Father Vasyl approached the table to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Sometimes, for Christmas and Easter, Father would invite other priests to join him.

Our short Divine Service became even more solemn. We, the participants in the Liturgy, even sang quietly. Father Vasyl was very dignified during the Divine Liturgy. He was not afraid or disturbed; instead, he was uplifted and joyful to be able to do this.



Before the end of the service, Father preached. Then he blessed our food, and we all approached the dinner table.

It happened that sometimes a guard entered, but he was usually tolerant. He would announce to us who was present to keep order and discipline as we were then forced to end our celebration."

*Rejoice, for you were one
with the poor;
Rejoice, for you brought them life;
Rejoice, for you showed them the
path of devotion;*

Rejoice, O Proclaimer of hope!

*Rejoice, O Bishop and Martyr Vasyl,
glorious Champion for Christ!*

Acathist Hymn to Blessed Bishop - Ikos 4

Ministry in Ukraine

From September 23 to October 9, Mary Jane Kalenchuk and I, travelled to Ukraine to do ministry work for the Shrine, visit and support the Sister Natalia's orphans and to meet and support the wounded soldiers who have come back from the war front.



*Sr. Joseph &
Sr. Theofilia, friends
of Blessed Vasyl*

We also met with dear friends and fellow-workers. The time was very rewarding and educational. We travelled to Ukraine to share in the circumstances and the reality of war.

During our stay, on October 5 in the early morning (4 am to 9 am) we were present in Lviv when missiles fell on the city. We could hear the

Shahed drones flying over head, the anti-air defense fire and the explosions of the missiles. Unfortunately, a family of four died in this attack. The father arrived that day from the war front only to find his family gone. Several others were injured and infrastructure destroyed. This certainly brought home the reality of war. We experienced trauma from that one attack. We could not imagine the trauma that the people of Ukraine are experiencing now for almost four years.



We met the "new girls" which have now come to live with Sister Natalia at the "Home for Girls in the Name of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky". We learned that the former girls who were with her



have now graduated, found jobs and some have started families. Meeting these girls for the first time, we discovered they were all victims of this war in one way or another. While we were there, the mother of one of the new girls was killed brutally by the Russians in one of the front-line villages in the battle zone. We learnt of this tragic event only after we returned home. Another girl escaped from Kherson while it was being attacked and occupied. All the girls who live with Sister need support, especially in providing tutors to help them with their classes. In the past, because they received tutoring, most girls qualified for higher studies at colleges or universities. Your support is saving them and helping them to become responsible Ukrainian citizens. As the war intensifies and as winter approaches, we noticed the lack of electricity, heating and even cell phone service. Almost daily blackouts occur.

We had the privilege to meet some of the soldiers that have been supported by our recent Church Yarmaroks and fundraising. We met five of them.

Mykhailo: who fought in 2014, was wounded and after his recovery he rejoined the army to fight in this new invasion. He recently lost his right arm and is in need of a

good arm prosthetic. The cheaper wooden one was causing infections. **Andryi:** a year ago lost his right leg from the hip and his left leg from the knee. He wears prosthetics and continues to work for the military in the office. He needs help to obtain a bigger apartment so that he could use his wheelchair since the doorways are too narrow. His mother escaped from Mariupol to live with him. **Serhyi:** was a military special agent who was



Wounded Soldiers Andryi & Mykhailo

wounded while on surveillance behind enemy lines, has developed osteomyelitis. He needs an operation from an European or North American hospital. **Orest:** was on the front line when his unit was poisoned with chemical war gas. He was able to crawl out and walked for 3 km to an evacuation zone. He is now being treated for his lung damage in the city of Rivne. **Mykola:** was wounded in Mariupol and received brain trauma. He is blind in one eye and lives now in Kyiv. It was inspiring to hear their stories of courage and hope in the presence of God whom they know saved them from death.

We met an inspiring young woman named Julia who collects and brings medical supplies to those on the front lines. Sister Natalia passes on to Julia some of the funds that we allocate for medical equipment. Julia has been in contact with the front-line medics who occasionally inform her how the medical supplies (tourniquets, blood clothing patches, etc.) that she has given have saved soldiers' lives.



The most inspiring and eye-opening experience was our visit and tour of St. Panteleimon, a huge modern hospital in Lviv with a state-of-the-art rehabilitation center called "Unbroken". Because of the reality of war and the need to heal not only the body, but also the mind and the spirit, "Unbroken" has developed a very person-centered rehabilitation hospital, allowing the wounded to accept their worth and dignity as human beings. The



Rostyslav Tymkiv with Orest Berezowski

Director of the Centre, Dr. Orest Berezowski, told us that these soldiers have changed and can never return to who they were before the experience of war. Dr. Orest said: "They are better than us. They have one through great trauma and the danger of

death and have survived. They understand life more deeper than we do and it is us who have now to change to understand and accept them." He said: "Each wounded soldier is a strong believer. No one can tell them that God does not exist. They may not be church-goers, but their faith is profound for they were saved from the clutches of death." We saw soldiers in



Soldiers' art

physical therapy, mental therapy, art therapy, music therapy and many more therapeutic methods. These help the wounded to become whole again. "Unbroken" which began in



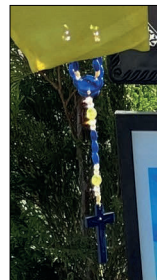
Canadian Red Cross donates directly to this project. This project is worthy of our support.

We also met with the promoters and staff of Blessed Vasyl ministry in Ukraine. Our staff has not stopped giving presentations, despite the war. In fact, since Blessed Vasyl himself was a soldier and experienced the frontline battle, he has become an inspiration to many during this wartime. God is more powerful than any evil.



Oleh, Tania, Lydia, Lilia, Taras

At the end of our time, we went to the military cemetery in Lviv, prayed the Panakhida and spent over an hour walking between the graves of the fallen soldiers, meeting the widows, mothers, daughters and families. We noticed that many of the grave sites had the



blue and yellow rosary wrapped

around the crosses. These rosaries were made by a wounded soldier. We had the opportunity to obtain some of these rosaries which are sold at our Shrine.



It was with great joy that we spent time at some length with Fr. Ivan Levytsky, C.Ss.R., who was imprisoned by the Russians for 19 months (November 16, 2022 to June 27, 2024). His faith and sense of life was very inspiring.



There is a short video on the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine YouTube channel of a sermon he gave in Blessed Vasyl's apartment/museum in Lviv - short but profound.

Let us pray for the people of Ukraine as they endure this time of war, that the Lord bring lasting peace and an end to this unjust aggression.

Slava Ukraini! Glory to Ukraine!

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

Visitors to the Shrine



To date, the Jubilee Year has welcomed over 4,700 pilgrims to the Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine. The staff and volunteers give thanks for the tremendous blessings that the Shrine has received. We met pilgrims from across the county and beyond. We heard their stories, prayed with them and were inspired by their own deep faith and devotion to Blessed Vasyl. The message of **hope** through the example of Blessed Vasyl's life and the blessing being received through his intercession is God's gift for all of us to embrace and share.



Winnipeg Archeparchy Priests' Deanery Pilgrimage



Lum Min Family from Winnipeg, Australia & Vancouver



Gerard & Luz Anthony - Singapore & Joffre Villanueva, Winnipeg

**Words from those
that visited the
Shrine**
Amazing
Wonderful & Blessed
A place of peace
A place of comfort
Inspiring
Opened my eyes
Powerful
Holy Ground



St. Boniface Diocesan High School Student's spending time in prayer



Knights of Columbus Manitoba State Pilgrimage



Redemptorists - Fr. Bernard Gauthier & Fr. Jean Belisle from New Brunswick with Fr. Yevhen



During October and November the Shrine welcomed 8 School groups including:
St. Maurice
(shown in photo)
St. Gerard
St. Paul's High School
St. Boniface Diocesan High School
Ridna Skola

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 21, 2025

\$1,000 +

In memory of Vera & John Chyzowski
Terri Chyzowski
Claude Dupont

\$500 +

Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky
Elizabeth Van De Keere
Lum Min Family
St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church
Red Deer, AB
Winnie Wong

\$100 +

Michelle Blanchard
Helen Byskal
Sophie Gierys
Joseph & Stephanie Green
Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic
Parish Winnipeg, MB
Ollie Humeniuk
Knights of Columbus Manitoba State
Walter & Mary Melnyk
Tetyana Pokeza
Raymond & Beverly Rawluk
Henry & Iris Spilchuk
St. Maurice School
St. Paul's High School
Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Parish of
Sts. Volodymyr & Olha
Walter & Joanne Wandzura

<\$100

Jim & Helen Adamko
Peter Adams
Teresa Bathula
Robert & Debbie Braid
Deacon John Bredemeier
Darrel & Monica Champagne
Bernie Demchuk
Marianne Derkach
Lew & Luba Figol
Celia Fortaleza
Alexandra Golas
Patrick Gwozd
Elizabeth Houghton
Mike & Fay Kraynyk
Karen Mayer
Mariia Melnyk
Fr. David Misbrener
Richard & Marietta Persian
Helen Schentag
Iris Smellie
St. Gerard School
William Vandervan
Fr. Stephen & Maria Wojcichowsky
William & Mary Zaporzan
Alex Zimrose

In Memory Of...

John Borys
Sophie Manulak
Mert & Pearl Bosiak
Ken & Irene Bosiak
John & Nellie Boychuk
Harry & Doreen Boychuk
Peter & Mary Boychuk
Harry & Doreen Boychuk
Katherine Burgess
Marilyn Krawchuk
William & Carrie Drosdoski
Darlene Sidak
Sophia Duda
Ariadna Ochrymovych
Ed Faseruk
Harry & Doreen Boychuk
Gary & Jan Lukie
Zorian Hudyma
Gary & Jan Lukie
Walter Huska
Gary & Jan Lukie
John & Barbara Karlicki
William J. Karlicki
Donna Keller
Gary & Jan Lukie
Families Kindrachuk & Blocka
Elsie Kindrachuk
William L. Kobitowich
Phyllis Kobitowich
Lidia & Alexander Kotowycz
Anna Banera
Joseph & Victoria Kowalchuk
Ken & Irene Bosiak
Frank & Lorriane Kuz
Elizabeth Van De Keere
John Lazaruk
Clarence & Helena Demchuk
Elaine Luhowy
Harry & Doreen Boychuk
Kevin Mandziuk
Elaine Mandziuk
Stan Melnyk
Harry & Doreen Boychuk
Edward & Josephine Michealycia
Marilyn Krawchuk
Karel Moravek
Connie McCorrister-Moravek
Mervin Moroz
Clarence & Helena Demchuk
John & Vickie Ostrowercha
Bob & Kathy Rusnak
Andrei Parkasewych
Orysia Parkasewych
Charles & Theresa Pawluk
Harry & Doreen Boychuk
Fr. Mitrat Ihor Shpytkovksy
Anna Banera
Steve & Lillian Sianchuk
Marian Moshansky
Bishop Peter Stasiuk, C.Ss.R.
Gary & Jan Lukie

Carole Straub

Garth Rowsell
Michael Uchach
Jean Uchach
Ukrainian Ancestors - Moroz & Kostur
Elaine Kisiow
Siobhan Van de Keere
Elizabeth Van De Keere

In Honour Of...

Fr. Isidore Dziadyk, OSBM
Casper & Violet Stoski
Joanne & Allan Malenko
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe
Joanne Peters & Michael Dudar
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe
Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.
Anna Banera
Guyla & Sam Smilski
Olga Boychuk
Elise Tin
Mary Valko
Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky
Vitalii & Veronika Varvaruk

Health Of...

Debra Akister
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe
Margaret & Quinton Antonyshen
Jean Derhak
Elaine Bowman
Betty Soloway
Marusia Gawrachynski
Orysia Parkasewych
Bob & Diane, Emily & Claire Gingera
Mary Kokolski
Augusto Gozzani & Family
Chris Winchar
Children, Grandchildren & Great
Granchildren
Lawrence & Nadia Herasymuk
Gary P.
Oleh & Roksolana Ilynyckij
Ivan L.
Oleh & Roksolana Ilynyckij
Spencer Katerynuk
Olga Katerynuk
Rev. Father Janko, Genka Kolosnjaji
and Family
Clarence & Helena Demchuk
Patricia Lustle
Dirk Schmid
Harry & Lena Malenki
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk
Marian Moshansky
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe
Ryan Paziuk
Elizabeth Paziuk
Pat & Borden Pluhator
Borden & Pat Pluhator
Mykhailo, Svaitoslav, Maxym, Olga
Olga Polish

Health Of ...
Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren
 Julia Saganski
Joan Shume
 Ambra Kostyniuk
Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.
 Helen Stockburn
Children & Grandchildren
 Darlene Sidak
Patricia Sorochuk
 Victor & Elsie Sorochuk

Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe
 Dennis & Patricia Beyak
Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R.
 Gary & Jan Lukie
 Steve Prokop
Olga Szutiak
 Dennis & Patricia Beyak
 Robert & Shirley Erstelle
 Anne Faseruk
 Sophie Manulak
 Kathleen Warrenchuk

Liam Tagarda
 Benjamin & Maria Barcelon
 Maria Barcelon
 Princess Tagarda
Werbeniuk Family
 Vera Werbeniuk
Marion & Joan Woloshyn
 Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe
Austin Zatwarnitski
 Adela Zatwarnitski



**Bishop Velychkovsky
 National Martyr's Shrine**
**Divine Liturgy with anointing
 for Healing**
1st Wednesday of the Month
7:00 p.m.
 Confession available beginning at
 6:30 p.m.

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine at
 St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church
 250 Jefferson Ave.—Winnipeg, MB
 Ph# 204-338-7321
 Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com
 Website: bvmartyrshrine.com

*When planning your charitable donations
 remember to include the*

Blessed Vasyl Martyr's Shrine

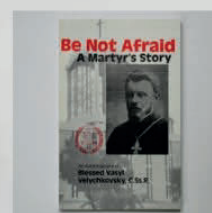
It is also a wonderful way to remember family and friends by
 choosing to make your donation a Tribute Gift
 in memory, in honour, or for the health of
 someone special.
*Donations can be mailed in, called in or made online through
 the Shrine website.*

The Shrine now accepts E-Transfers
 Call 204-338-7321 for more information.

Looking for a unique gift idea

Visit the Shrine Gift Shop

<https://bvmartyrshrine.com/>



*On behalf of the Bishop Velychkovsky
 National Martyr's Shrine Staff*
*We pray through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl
 that you have a blessed Christmas filled with
 peace, hope and health.*
*May this be a source of your strength
 throughout the New Year.*

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 - 7:00 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:

8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy in the Shrine
1:30 p.m. Praying for Ukraine
**7:00 p.m. Devotional Service to Blessed Vasyl
 (Acatist or Moleben)**



1st Wednesday of the Month Healing Liturgy

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