

Father Cyril Mykytiuk, OSBM - a man of God - a son, a brother, a brother-in-law, an uncle, a cousin, a teacher, vice-principal, a colleague, a friend...

Father Cyril was born on October 15th, 1936, in Holden, Alberta, the third of five sons of Philip and Anastasia (Wynnyk) Mykytiuk. After a period of time spent in grain crop farming, the family relocated to Vernon, British Columbia, in 1946. Father attended elementary school as well as high school in Vernon. He is survived by and will be missed by his elder siblings, Lawrence and family and Ambrose, and his younger brother Basil and his family. Alexander, the youngest of his brothers, predeceased Father Cyril on Easter Sunday, April 4th, of this year. He is survived by many cousins, nephews and nieces.

Father Cyril responded to Our Lord's call to the priesthood and joined the Basilian Fathers on October 4th, 1954. He professed his monastic vows on September 15th, 1959, and he was ordained on July 21st, 1963. Throughout his school years Father Cyril excelled in all areas of the curriculum, achieving top honours consistently. In his high school years he had several interesting hobbies, namely: photography, leather craft, and painting; as well, he was elected president of the science club. As the years passed by he furthered his skills and abilities in each of the areas of his interests. While studying theology in Rome, he received instruction from the Austrian artist in residence who recognized his artistic talent, and his paintings of woodland scenes were deemed well worthy of praise. He continued to explore his love of nature, photographing many scenes of rural areas throughout his travels, and his prolific photography collection is evidence of this regard for the environment. His many trips to Vernon and to California to attend family reunions were highlights in his life as well as his trips to Ukraine to connect with family members there. While serving as vice-principal of St. Basil's high school in Weston, Ontario, where he taught physics, geology and mathematics, he joined the pysanky workshop sessions held at the school and he produced a multitude of designs originating from areas of Ukraine including those of the ancient trypillian form.

Upon his retirement from the school system, Father Cyril became parish priest of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine in Ottawa. Under his direction the decoration of the Shrine was completed by noted artists from Ukraine. Many visitors from all across Canada and the United States as well as other European countries have visited the Shrine and experienced Father Cyril's tour and explanation of the artistry and significance of the icons. St. John's Camp, located in Quebec in a beautiful rural setting, was one of his favourite places in the world, and as he was appointed Rector of the Summer Religious programs there he was very happy to

celebrate liturgies for the campers and visitors from his parish as well as tending the land and buildings and cutting miles of grass in preparation for young campers who descended on the property every summer. He repaired buildings, painting, hammering and refurbishing, as well as keeping a watchful eye on the eager young people on the adjoining lake. At the Shrine, he tended the grounds as well as fulfilling his priestly obligations; several large flower gardens flourished under his care. **At Easter** he could be found cutting pussy willows which he had planted and nourished over the years in preparation for Palm Sunday. Father Cyril was a member of the Knights of Columbus and served as Chaplain to the parish Knights. In addition, the UCWLC in Ottawa appreciated his support as their spiritual advisor. He was devoted to his church and his parish; he will be remembered as a man of strength, generosity, and integrity, a renaissance man with a wicked sense of humour and a heart of gold.

Fr. Cyril's last assignment was to the monastery in Mundare where he strove until his last breath to carry out his service in total dedication to the Church, the Order and the people. Not long before Covid, father gave a Lenten mission in Sts. Peter and Paul church in Mundare. He always gladly served divine liturgy for the Sister Servants, as well as at the local seniors' lodge where many of our older parishioners live. And even when walking became very difficult, he took along with him a younger priest who served the divine liturgy, while he sat on the side and provided the responses.

He fulfilled the words of the Apostle Paul: "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Cor 9:22). His teaching was true, his example was bright and worthy of imitation (**наслідування**), his patience was noble, his humility was deep, his faith was firm, and his hope was unshakable.