



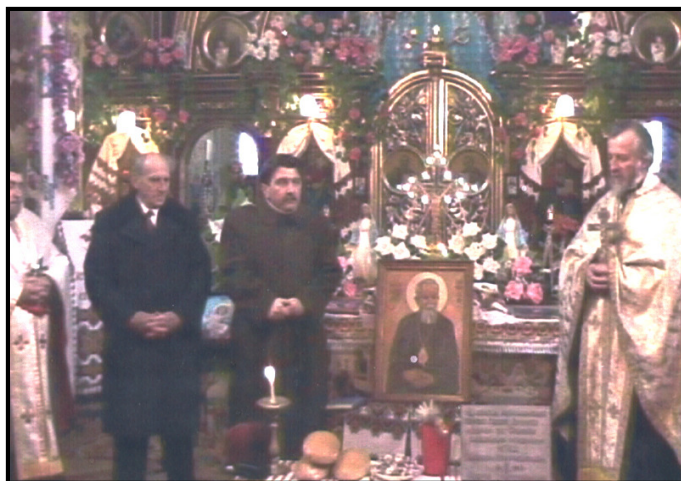
FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

That All May Be One

A beautiful connection is happening between the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine in Winnipeg and Blessed Vasyl's home village of Shuparka, near Borshchiv, Ukraine. Blessed Vasyl's father, Fr. Volodymyr, was the pastor in Shuparka for thirty years. It was in this parish church of Holy Protection where Blessed Vasyl celebrated his first Divine Liturgy on October 14, 1925.

After having received some books, icons and other material from our Shrine, the parish priest and people of Shuparka became aware of the great honor it was for their church to be the place where Blessed Vasyl grew up, had his First Communion and celebrated his first Divine Liturgy. They decided to mark the centenary of Blessed Vasyl's birth (which was last year) with a joint celebration of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches on December 28, 2003. During that prayer



In the Church of Pokrova in Shuparka, (left to right) Father Dean Bohdan Bodnar (Ukrainian Catholic), Mr. Peter Danyiuk (museum curator), Mr. Peter Dovhoshyja (head of "Prosvita"), Fr. Michajlo Batij (Ukrainian Orthodox)

celebration they blessed and dedicated an icon of Blessed Vasyl (a replica of the icon that is in the Shrine in Winnipeg) and placed a plaque in the church commemorating Blessed Vasyl. They have now added to their museum in the village of Shuparka a display in honor of Blessed Vasyl.

They have been greatly encouraged knowing that Ukrainians in Canada are honoring one who is native to their village. The people of Shuparka feel a kinship with those at St. Joseph's. One of their native sons, Fr. Joseph Denischuk, C.Ss.R. (whose family came from Shuparka) began the construction of St. Joseph's Parish in Winnipeg and now another of their sons is a Blessed in this church.

"Нам дуже приємно, що в Канаді українська діаспора так величаво вшанувала нашого земляка перезахоронивши його мощі в церкві Св. Йосифа в Вінніпегу де добудована капличка і там же заходиться музей Блаженного Владики Василя."
п. Петро Данилюк

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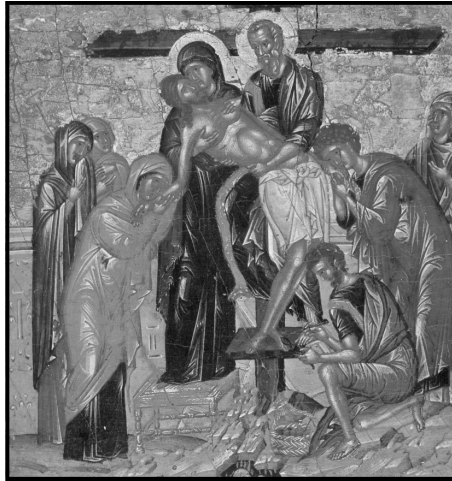
Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

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THE PASSION AND MARTYRDOM

In recent months millions of people have gone to view the Mel Gibson film "The Passion of the Christ." For many this has been a deeply religious experience. The movie was rated "R" because of the extreme violence that is depicted as it graphically showed the suffering and torture that Jesus underwent in his last hours before his death on the Cross. In most violent movies the emphasis is placed on those who perpetrate the violence. In this movie the emphasis was on Jesus who willingly undergoes the Passion. It focuses on Jesus receiving the blows, the insults, the crown of thorns, the scourging, the nailing, the unjust punishment and finally death. When meditating on the reason for His suffering and death, it became clear that it was for the love of us - for us and our salvation. He underwent all this suffering because of his relationship with His Father and with us. He remained faithful to the Father's Will even unto death. He knew that by "His stripes we would be healed." (Is. 53: 5)



Martyrs are faithful disciples of Jesus. It is their relationship with our Lord and their Church that caused them to remain faithful despite the various tortures and sufferings that they underwent. The Passion of Jesus was not a pretty sight, neither were the tortures that our martyrs suffered. These tortures were accepted as "the way" God had chosen for them. Just as Jesus was exalted in His resurrection, the martyrs, because of their faithfulness, are also exalted. The martyrs are now a gift to the Church, given to the Church as protectors and powerful intercessors.

In the summer of 1940 during the Soviet occupation, Blessed Vasyl led a huge procession with some 20,000 faithful through the streets of Stanislaviv during the feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Several days later the NKVD arrested him, took him in for interrogation and tried to force him to admit that it was an anti-soviet action.

"...Long past noon time, he asks me many questions, and I give him many answers... Suddenly the doors burst open. An NKVD officer stalks in, tall, dark, with fearsome face, like Mephistopheles, unlike anyone I have ever seen. This is the head of the district NKVD himself.

"This is Velychkovsky? Has he admitted?" he barks. "No," replied my interrogator.

He throws himself at me, fists flailing at my head, my face, screaming wildly, rabidly: "Confess, admit it, or you go immediately against the wall like a mongrel dog! Admit it scoundrel!"

I look at him, and say loudly and leisuely, "To this uncultured man I will answer not a single word!" And I turn away from him, sit with my hands on the back of the chair, and begin to

say the rosary, holding it high in my hands.

He continues to shout. My head rings. I am almost unconscious. I just keep praying the "Hail Mary" – of that prayer I am aware, nothing else.

For a long while he screams at me, assaults me. I pray... It was a long time, for I recited the whole full-length rosary.

Then suddenly, a loud slam of the door. And silence."
(From the autobiography of Blessed Vasyl)

Excerpt from Blessed Vasyl's poem entitled "Blessed May You Be, Mother!"

*Where was he not
during those terrible times,
as with rapid steps he paced
the steppes without end,
empty space...*

*And shook in the shelling, benumbed,
and lay among the typhus-laden,
and rested among the corpses,
—and waited against the wall, even,*

*and looked into the eyes of death...
Was it only once?
But beside him, as it were,
some charms?...*

*Yes!
The rosary of the Mother of God,
the perpetual protection of Mary,
for this child of hers!....*

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE CELEBRATIONS
for the
Feast Day of the Ukrainian Catholic Martyrs
NICHOLAS CHARNETSKY and COMPANIONS

JUNE 26 & 27, 2004

Saturday June 26th, 2004

4:30 pm Great Vespers

5:30 pm Divine Liturgy followed by blessing with holy relics and anointing

Sunday June 27th, 2004

9:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by blessing with holy relics and anointing

11:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by blessing with holy relics and anointing

Lunch available

2:00 pm Acafist in honor of Blessed Vasyl (with sermon)

- Procession to Chancery on Scotia St.
- Rosary recited during the procession
- Short service and blessing at the Chancery

4:00 pm Moleben to Blessed Martyr Vasyl (with sermon)
followed by blessing with holy relics and anointing



LOCATION: St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church
Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

250 Jefferson Ave. Winnipeg, Manitoba
for more information call: 338-7321



Blessed Vasyl giving a mission in the district of Volyn

From 1928 to 1935 Blessed Vasyl went to the northwestern oblast (province) of Volyn, Ukraine. There he joined Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky in an evangelization apostolate among the poor immigrants from Halychyna, Ukraine. He also served the Orthodox faithful, who were forcibly taken into Orthodoxy in the early 1800's. Blessed Vasyl had much success in his preaching missions. Many new parishes joined the Catholic Church. In his ministry with the Orthodox he had a great respect for their traditions and faith. His mission was to bring them into the fullness of the faith.

Testimony of graces received.

On Monday morning April 21, 2003 our Mother Janina – Ivanna Tyrawski got a stroke and was admitted to Concordia Hospital. By the same evening around 7 pm she started to recover quite rapidly that even the doctors were saying that with such quick recovery there is a good chance that she will not have any permanent signs of paralysis damage caused by it. We (children – Deacon Stefan, Jaroslawa and Peter) left the hospital around 11:30 pm that night and she was feeling much better in comparison to the morning condition. Then later on at approximately between 12:30 and 1:00 am the next morning she got another stroke this time a massive one and she took a turn for the worse. When we were called to the hospital around 3:30 am, she was not talking but just breathing quite heavy and making a sign of the cross upon herself. Even though we were in shock, seeing her doing that at the time of her definite need and danger, has proven and strengthened our faith much more. We were told that there is no hope for recovery. I called our Metropolitan Michael who administered the sacrament of the sick around 6:00 am. She was still quite conscious and knew what was going on and was making signs of the cross as doxologies and blessing took place during the administration of the sacrament of the sick even though she was not able to say any words. She was still looking and responding to our questions with movement of her head. Later on during the day her headache was getting worse so she was given a dose of morphine to make her somehow comfortable. After the second dose of morphine was administered a thought of Blessed Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky came to my mind and then I called Fr. John Sianchuk C.Ss.R and asked him to come and anoint our Mom with relic oil of Blessed Vasyl. Fr. John came and did that anointing. During that anointing Mom also made a sign of the cross upon herself and since that time she never took morphine any more till her demise. She was just lying in bed and resting peacefully until Wednesday afternoon when she passed away in the presence of the Lord and surrounded with her family.



Even though she had never recovered from her condition to good health but **we think and believe that prayers of intercession and anointing with the relic oil of Blessed Vasyl and prayer to God gave her that comfort during those last couple of days of her life that she had with us.** She always prayed that she will not be a burden to anyone and she will not suffer much, so the almighty God gave her that grace and granted her wish. We are also grateful to God for that grace which he bestowed upon her even though we were hoping that she still would be alive and with us for a while longer enjoying her life with us and her grandchildren, family and friends. But the will of God was different so His will was done. Now we pray that she will be forever with God and always in our hearts. Rest in peace Mom.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Deacon Stefan Tyrawski and Family.

If you have received any graces, blessings or miracles through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl, we kindly request that you write them down and send them to the Shrine Office address. These testimonies help for the edification of the faithful and also for the process of canonization.

URGENT REQUEST

The Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine is searching desperately for any **photographs, audio recordings and visual recordings** of Blessed Vasyl during his short stay in Canada. Also we would like to hear stories or experiences you may have had with Blessed Vasyl. If you met him or spoke with him we encourage you to call 204-338-7321 or e-mail bvshrine@mts.net. We presently have a summer student who is collecting and compiling all this information. Your cooperation will assist her in this work and will further promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl.

PILGRIMS AT THE MARTYR'S SHRINE



Bishop Stephan Meniok, C.Ss.R.
from Donetsk, Ukraine



Redemptorists from across Canada



Youth from Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Roman Catholic Parish



Grade 5 Catechism class
from St. Joseph's



150 Grade Nine students
from St. Paul's High School



Shrine display at Study Days
in Yorkton, Saskatchewan



Ukrainian Catholic Ladies League
from St. Anne's Parish



Father Shyshkovich
Knight of Columbus Council #8925

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 Shrine for Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky. 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 November 1st 2003 until March 31st 2004.

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In memory of Lloyd Sulymka
Irene Sulymka

FRIEND (\$1,000+)

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In memory of the Michael Dzurman family

Fr. Maurice Dzurman, C.Ss.R.

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In honor of Danylo and Levko Gusztak

Wasyl and Olena Gusztak

In memory of parents, John and Effie

Myron Halayda

In memory of Sam and Mary Kondra

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Terry Kondra

Pauline Mantyka

Tillie Viezko

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Edith Kotyk

Gregory and Lawrentia Kozakewich

Robert and Dolly Kuzyk

In memory of Dr. Zenon Matwichuk

Maria Matwichuk

Emil Maybo

In memory of Pat McKay

Andre Lalach

Lesia Sianchuk

Phyllis Sianchuk

Natalie Storozuk

Peter and Joan Washchyshyn

Adrian and Vera Olenick

Fred and Sonja Pawliw

In memory of James

Joanna Pidperychora

Walter and Pauline Prystai

Julia Saganski

St. Anne's Ukr. Cath. Church UCWL

St. Paul's High School
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

DONOR (>\$100)

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Charles and Jean Stewart
Harry and Helen Szpyhulsky
Adel Yakimoski
In memory of husband Paul and family
Olga Yaskiw
Fred Yurkiw
Frank and Nellie Zeaton

**We apologize for any errors. Please contact the shrine office if you require clarification.*

IN MEMORIAM



Pat McKay, a dedicated Shrine volunteer passed away suddenly on December 21, 2003. She was an active member of St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church and one of the founding members of St. Joseph's Outreach. As a Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine volunteer she devoted many hours conducting pilgrimage tours and leading pilgrims in prayer. Pat's cheerfulness always put a smile on her fellow volunteers and the pilgrims that came to the Shrine. She had a personal devotion to Blessed Vasyl and drew her strength from him. Her joy and caring gave support to those around her. She is greatly missed by all of the volunteers. May God grant her eternal memory.

In recent years Pat found comfort in her writings. The following is a poem that she composed shortly before her death.

A GOOD PLACE

I wear my solitude like
a warm blanket – gathering
it around me – a comfortable fit.

I sit in the quiet,
savouring the calm atmosphere
and I smile

My road to this place was full
of pain and sorrows
But always with a hope of bright tomorrows

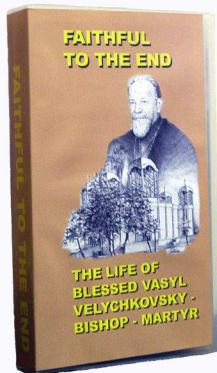
With faith and trust in God
I learned to embrace my
life's journey.

Now I am happy just being me.

Return Address:

Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine
250 Jefferson Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6

TEACHING VIDEO Available for Classrooms



A 15 min. video on the Life of Blessed Vasyl and highlights of the enshrinement.

*The video is \$5.00
Lesson Plan is \$2.00
(plus Prov. Sales Tax)
Shipping and handling not included*

Available
at the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine
Museum/Gift shop
call (204)338-7321
or e-mail: bvshrine@mts.net

ON-GOING SUPPORT

We welcome all donations. Your donations to the Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine in honour of Blessed Vasyl who died a martyr in 1973 will help promote his cause for Canonization by the Church. It also helps to support and maintain the Shrine and Museum so that pilgrims may continue to come for prayer and devotion.

Donations can be made in memory of loved ones. Gifts of \$1000 or more are permanently acknowledged on our Donor Wall in the Museum.

NEW VOLUNTEERS are always needed to welcome pilgrims to the Shrine/Museum. Please contact the Shrine Coordinator.

SHRINE SCHEDULE

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

Shrine is open to the faithful during the times of Liturgical Services. The Museum is opened on weekends after each Divine Liturgy.

Group tours are available.
For pilgrimage group tours call for reservations
204-338-7321 or e-mail: bvshrine@mts.net

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING - 7:00 pm
Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasyl
(Acafist 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:
Fr. Provincial
250 Jefferson Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
Canada