



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

Family Album

The year 2003 is important in the life of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky for it marks several anniversaries: 30 years since his death or rather since his new birth into the fullness of the Kingdom of God; 40 years since he was secretly ordained a bishop in a Moscow hotel room; and 100 years since his birth in Stanislaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk) Western Ukraine.

The year 2003 is also dedicated to the Year of the Family. Blessed Vasyl was born to saintly parents. His father Volodymyr was also a priest, who in fact came from a long line of priests. His mother Anna was a daughter of a priest, Fr. Nicholas Teodorowych. Blessed Vasyl described his parents in his autobiography written in May of 1967: "My father was a zealous and holy priest, and my mother was a devout and exemplary mother and wife, a shining example for the home and parish. I remember that Father, from morning on, was always praying, meditating, confessing, celebrating the Holy Divine Liturgy. He

never missed saying the *chasoslov* (Divine Office) and the rosary. When on the road he always had the rosary in hand. Before nightfall, with the entire family, he went to the church to visit Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist.... My Mother had a good and merciful heart; she took into the house the abandoned, the orphaned and brought them up; and later assisted them in setting up their own family, or in entering a monastery."

I believe it was in this family atmosphere of holiness that the seed of Blessed Vasyl's vocation was sown. Blessed Vasyl was the oldest of three children. He had two sisters Vera and Barbara. Vera married Velyslav Nikolic and lived their married life in Zagreb. They had one son, Dr. Vasyl Nikolic. Barbara married Fr. John Petryshyn, who was ordained a priest by Blessed Vasyl. They had one son Cornelij now



From left to right: Fr. Volodymyr, Vera, Anna with little Vasyl Nikolic, Barbara, her husband John, and Blessed Vasyl. (around 1934)

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Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

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JUNE 27TH FEASTDAY CELEBRATIONS

This past June 27th marked the second anniversary of the new feast day of the holy martyrs Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and 24 Companions, among which is our Blessed Vasyl Vsevolod Velychkovsky. To commemorate this day we had a full day of prayer and pilgrimage at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church where the Shrine of Blessed Vasyl is located. Many faithful from across the city, province and even from the neighboring provinces came to be part of this special day.

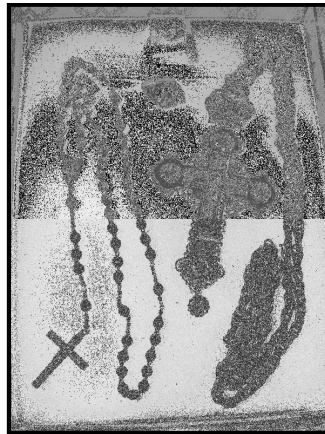
The day began with the sung Divine Liturgy. Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R. spoke on the gift of



Various groups recited the rosary

martyrdom to the Church and that we are called to also be committed to our Lord. This was followed by the holy rosary which was led by several parishes and organizations. Then we celebrated a Moleben written in honor of the Ukrainian Catholic Martyrs during which the preacher was Fr. Larry Kondra, C.Ss.R. The Moleben was concluded with an anointing with holy oil blessed by the relics of Blessed Vasyl. Throughout the day there were the second class relics of Blessed Vasyl on the tetrapod.

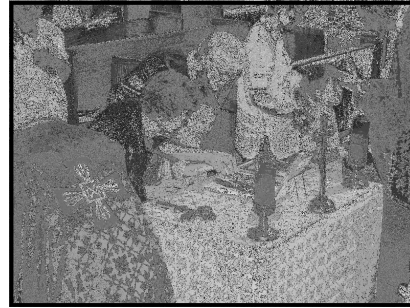
These were articles that were buried with him, such as, the pectoral cross, a rosary, and the episcopal ring. Faithful had the



2nd Class relics

opportunity to come and touch them and in this way to pray for their various intentions.

After a healthy lunch a video was shown on the lives of the Ukrainian Redemptorist martyrs.



Vereneration of the holy relics and anointing.

Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R. then shared more about their holy lives. The afternoon program concluded with an Acafist service in honor of Blessed Vasyl during which a homily was given

by Fr. Boris Kyba, C.Ss.R. People were coming all day to the church and spending time in prayer. In fact a very prayerful and holy atmosphere permeated this whole day.

In the evening, we began with a Divine Liturgy, at which Metropolitan Michael Bzdel and Bishop David Motiuk participated. The homily was delivered by Fr. Dmytro Dnistrtian, C.Ss.R. We then processed with the relics of Blessed



The Procession leaving the St. Joseph's Church.

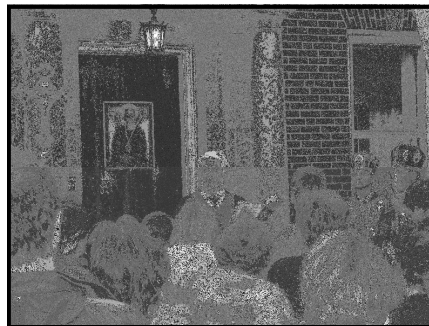
Vasyl to the Chancery (the bishop's residence). Blessed Vasyl resided there when he was in Canada. Along the route we recited the holy rosary and sang church hymns. At the Chancery we had a brief service followed by a blessing with the holy relics. After returning to the Church we concluded the evening with a Moleben service in honor of Blessed Vasyl, a blessing with the relics and an anointing for the faithful. A truly prayerful



Procession to the Chancery.

and holy day was experienced.

A heavy rain cloud was threatening the procession. From all indications it would be over the city, making it impossible to have a procession that evening. The rain never came. Later that evening we heard from those who were following the cloud on their computer screen, that the cloud came to Winnipeg, then



At the Bishop's Chancery.

Blessed Vasyl
on his feastday.

May this
be the first of
many such cele-
brations of our
holy Martyrs.



Pilgrim kissing the reliquary

BLESSINGS AND GRACES

We have received the following letters from pilgrims:

"I heard of Blessed Vasyl on Friday the 14th of February 2003 at the Charismatic Prayer evening held at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Church. On Saturday the 15th after the healing Mass and anointing I went to the Shrine and prayed for healing on my right knee. I bought the blessed oil, used it and healing came to that leg. I can now use the leg without knee support. Thanks to God through Blessed Vasyl." Julie

"I have been praying to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky (since I visited the Shrine in 2002), and Bishop Charnetsky and have been fortunate in receiving favors from these holy figures. I have been praying that my mental symptoms go away and since that time have found a method of alleviating my symptoms, and I have also been allowed to reduce my medication significantly (from my doctor). I feel blessed and have found renewed strength due to prayer." Lara

"Hello, my name is Jesse, I live in Saskatoon and am 12 years old. In May of 2003 I got the privilege to go with St. Peter and Paul altar servers to see Blessed Vasyl's Shrine. It was a beautiful experience for the little time we were there and I'd like to share that feeling of joy and just that good feeling all together that good people are still alive. So because of those reasons and more, I decided to do part of my school project on Vasyl..." Jesse

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 at the Velychkovsky Shrine Office address. These testimonies help for the edification of the faithful and also for the process of canonization.

PILGRIMS AT THE MARTYR'S SHRINE



Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate Provincials from around the world.



School children from Immaculate Heart School.



UCWL from St. Basil's



John Petryshyn, nephew of Blessed Vasyl, with his wife Iryna Kolomyjec and Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.



Participants of SERVE 2003



UCWL from St. Michael's



The Superior General of the Basilians from Rome, Metropolitan Michael, Bishop David, and Basilian confreres



Altar Servers and Children of Mary from Saskatoon



Pilgrims from Poland and Denver

NEW RESEARCH ON BLESSED VASYL



Halyna Shtoyko doing research.

Through the Summer Student Placement government grant Halyna Shtoyko was employed by the Ukrainian Catholic Mission to do research and assist at the Bishop Velychkovsky's Shrine for the summer 2003.

Halyna was born in Sokal, Ukraine. Three years ago she moved to Canada with her parents and younger brother. Her skills in English allowed her to succeed in the three year advanced International Baccalaureate Program at Miles Macdonell Collegiate. In spring 2003 she graduated with an A Honours Diploma and was accepted to the University of Manitoba to continue her studies with a Major in Actuarial Mathematics.

For the past two and a half years Halyna has been a member of Ukrainian Youth Association (CYM), participating in various activities and being a mentor for younger *sumivtsi*. She enjoys reading historical novels, collects modern Ukrainian rock music, likes skiing, biking and dancing.

"Since I was small I would always get excited about trying something new. Having a firm decision to pursue a career as an actuary (a business professional who analyzes the financial consequences of risk) I chose my courses at the University of Manitoba according to that plan. Then I learned that Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine was looking for a student to do research on Blessed Vasyly. At that time I already had a job for the summer, but one doesn't get an opportunity to do research about a Martyr's life every day. It has been a truly wonderful experience. I had a chance to get to know Blessed Vasyly, to admire his strength in faith and talk to the people who had been blessed to know Him. I want to thank all of those (here in Winnipeg and abroad) for their generous help in the research. It's been a great pleasure to work with Mary Jane Kalenchuk, Fr. John Sianchuk and everyone else at St. Joseph's. I want to thank Mrs. Mary Marcinkow for advising me to apply for the job.

I also learned something about myself – I love doing research. However, my long-term friendship with Math is even stronger. Hopefully, one day, when business becomes my career research work will still be my hobby."

ICONOGRAPHER VISITS SHRINE



Marianna Savaryn

Last May we were honored to have Marianna Savaryn from Edmonton, who wrote the icon of Blessed Vasyly for our Shrine, come to complete her work. Marianna, a student of iconographer Father Juvenal Mokrycky - a Studite monk, has been an iconographer for several years now and has painted several iconostasis and various icons for chapels and schools.



Young altar servers learn about icons.

During her visit to the Shrine, she gave a icon workshop to Altar Servers and Children of Mary from Saskatoon.

The Prophetic Word of Modern Day Martyrdom

We live in a world in which we are bombarded daily through the media and by most of what we see around us with a message of what will fulfill us. They shout to us through sound and sight offering us various things and experiences that will make us happy. They entice us to buy that latest computer or accessory, the latest style of dress, a particular brand of food, exotic vacations, the larger house, the quickest car or SUV. All these things are to bring us happiness, fulfillment and sense of worth. We are encouraged by our present day culture to first look after ourselves, our needs, our comfort, our wants. We seek to avoid pain at all costs. We hide death from our young. We take tranquilizers, and pain killers for the slightest pain. The ideal in our culture is to live life in an insular way and not be affected by the pain of others that is around us and in our world. The ideal of sacrifice is foreign to our vocabulary. Our own personal goals are supreme. We have a "right" to them and nothing is allowed to get in the way to prevent us from fulfilling them.

Into this selfish and self-absorbed world God has given us the testimony of Bishop

Martyr Vasyl and other Christian Martyrs. They witness to today's world of a very different set of values. Their lives point to some deeper value and ideal in life – that there are certain things in life that are worth dying for. There are certain truths for which it is worthy of our sacrifice and at times even our supreme sacrifice. Our recent Christian martyrs understood deep in their hearts that the key to true fulfillment, to true life, is our union in Jesus Christ. For this faith, for this relationship they would not compromise but rather they were willing to suffer much torture and even lay down their lives in order to remain faithful to Christ. Their value system, what was important to them, was very different from the ideals presented by our world.

The martyrs point out to us a different way of approaching life. They unravel for us the mystery of the Cross, that within suffering and in fact through it we find new and eternal life. They encourage us to embrace the crosses we have in life, to approach them with faith. They proclaim to us the irreplaceable truth that Jesus is the only way to fullness of life. May they be for us an inspiration and an impetus to reaffirm our commitment to God and to His Church.

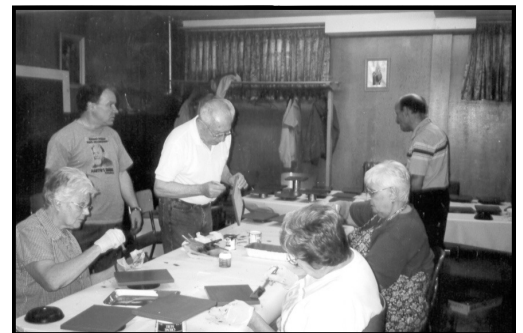
Volunteers Celebrate First Anniversary



Volunteer Orientation Evening

them. Besides being tour guides, they also participate in helping and preparing material for the museum/gift shop. We thank each one of them. May God continue to bless them and may Blessed Vasyl intercede in all their needs.

The Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine is open daily as a result of many dedicated volunteers. Pilgrims are taken on a spiritual journey by trained volunteers who devote many hours of their time throughout the week. Orientation and ongoing workshops are held for



Volunteers at icon workshop

THANK YOU!!!

Your generous donations make it possible for us to conduct our ministry at the Shrine. The total deficit on construction costs and inventory is \$150,000. Thank you to all the Contributors to the Shrine for Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you.

NOTE: The Contributions listed below are those from April 30th until October 31st, 2003 .

FRIEND (\$1,000+)

Katherine Dankiewicz
Shirley and Stan Kalupar
Thaddeus Krawchuk
Slovak Redemptorist Fathers
Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Ben Wasylyshen
In memory of Paul Yakimischak
Lyna & Gregory Yakimischak

DONOR (\$500+)

Holy Eucharist U.C.W.L.C.
St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Women's League
Ukrainian Catholic Church of Assumption

DONOR (\$100+)

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Eric and Donna Cunningham
In memory of Fr. Basil Dzurman
Fr. Maurice Dzurman
In memory of Michael & Ksenia Dzurman
Fr. Maurice Dzurman
In memory of the Gembarsky family
Mychajlo and Anna Gembarsky
In memory of Laurette, Dan, & Tillie Gulenchin
Roy Gulenchin
In memory of Andrew Hykawy
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Mary Jane Kalenchuk
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In memory of Michael Roshko
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In memory of Ivanna Tyrawski
C.A.W.Local 3005
Friends and family
Magellan Aerospace Limited

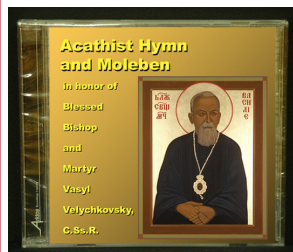
Victoria Zabiaka

DONOR (>\$100)

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Sophie Kereluk
Michael and Mildred Kucher
In memory of Anne Kyrzyk
Dennis W. And Edna Kyrzyk
Dr. Joseph Lozinsky
Edward and Emily Lukie
Metro and Rose Lukie
Audrey Lynchuk and Anne Lynchuk
In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. M. Lypypypa
Maurice Lypypypa
Paul Matwichuk

McMillan Melnychuk Enterprises
In memory of Stephen Nebozenko
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Robert Ouellette
In memory of Paraleuch/Grycho & Beaudoin/Dejarlais families
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Rosalina Pernarowski
Mary Anne Piercy
Lukia Porcyk
In memory of Debbie and John Radlinsky
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Helen Romaniuk
In memory of Nykola Romaniuk
Harvey and Gloria Winn
In memory of Nellie Rudy
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In memory of Dave Iafolla
Ray Starr
S. Stasiewicz
John Stefanishyn
Rev. Georgios M. Svoboda
Mary Trach
In memory of Alexander & Anastasia Weselowski
Elizabeth Weselowski
Kristine Wong
Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Wozney
Mike Wozney
In memory of John & Petrunella Yaworsky
Alice Boyko
In memory of Yoda Yusishen
Cindy Yusishen
John Zborowsky
In memory of William Zborowsky
Joanne Peters
Fr. Jacek Zdzatek C.Ss.R.
In memory of parents
Nicholas Zimrose
Steve Zimrose

NEW CD AVAILABLE



**Acatist Hymn and
Moleben in honour
of Blessed Bishop
and Martyr Vasyl
Velychkovsky
C.Ss.R.**

(English or Ukrainian)

CD's are sold for \$8.00 (plus Prov. Sales Tax)

Special Christmas Gift Packages



\$5.00



\$10.00

**Available at the
Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine
Museum/Gift shop**

or call (204)338-7321

or e-mail: bvshrine@mts.net

(shipping and handling not included)

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to welcome pilgrims coming to the shrine or to serve in the gift shop. Consider a couple of hours a week or even once a month on a regular schedule. There is an orientation session for all those who volunteer.

Come and spend a few hours in prayerful presence and service before the Holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl.

ON-GOING SUPPORT

We welcome all donations.

Donations to the Velychkovsky Shrine can be made in memory of a loved one.

Donations over \$1,000.00 will permanently acknowledged in the museum.

Make cheques payable to:
Ukrainian Catholic Mission-Shrine

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 2:00 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
338-7321 or e-mail: bvshrine@mts.net

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:

Fr. Provincial
250 Jefferson Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
Canada