



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

REDEMPTORISTS HEROES

Two Worlds Meet

With the influx of immigrants to Canada at the end of the 19th century, especially those from Eastern Europe, the Catholic Church was unable to minister to them because no priests spoke the Eastern European languages. An appeal was made to the Redemptorists in Belgium to come and serve these most abandoned. A young priest Fr.



**Fr. Achiel Delaere, C.Ss.R.,
Founder of the Eastern Rite branch of**

Achiel Delaere, C.Ss.R. took up this challenge, went to Poland to learn Polish, and in 1899 came to Canada by boat. Surviving a shipwreck on the shores of Canada, he traveled to Brandon, Manitoba and began serving these immigrants. The immigrants lived in poverty, but the land with a lot of hard work began to yield its fruits. Fr. Delaere soon discovered that the Ukrainian Catholics were not of the Roman Rite and could only be served properly by their own priests. Since very few priests came to Canada in 1902, he decided to petition Rome to receive permission to change to the Eastern

Rite. This was finally granted. On September 26, 1906, Fr. Delaere celebrated his first Eastern Rite Liturgy. This day marked the beginning of Redemptorists serving in the Eastern Churches.

Fr. Delaere was a man of great courage and perseverance. He began himself to minister to the Ukrainian Catholics in the Yorkton District, confirming them in their Ukrainian Catholic faith and saving them from the hands of the enemies who were seeking to destroy the Catholic Church. He formed the various church communities, prevailed the hardships of the land. He was often misunderstood and even persecuted. But he did not abandon the people, but rather stayed with them, endured them, loved them and evangelized them. Fr. Delaere had a broad vision of the church and was very innovated in its structures; for example, proposing an Eastern Rite Bishop in a 'Latin territory'. He was a man of vision and determination.

The Redemptorists of the Eastern Rite grew. They spread to Ukraine. Some of the Ukrainian Redemptorists came to Canada to help in this mission. Of the Redemptorists in Ukraine, God called some of them to become martyrs, including our own Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. In some respects the two figures, **Fr. Achiel and Bishop Vasyl are very similar. Both had great zeal for the Gospel.** Both had apostolic fervor even in the face of great obstacles. Both had their lives rooted in the Gospel and had a great hunger to bring people to God.

When Blessed Vasyl came back from the prison camps in 1955, he began to organize the underground church, amidst much difficulty and danger. He

continued to give retreats to sisters and to priests. He continued to baptize,



**Blessed Vasyl conducting
an underground retreat.**

catechize, even prepare young men for the priesthood. As an underground Bishop he secretly ordained priests, and a bishop. He persevered and in the end was arrested for his activity. But the underground church grew strong and survived all those years of persecution. It was one of the powerful forces that caused the Soviet Union to fall in Western Ukraine.

As we Ukrainian Redemptorists celebrate our centenary, we give honour especially to these two great figures, one who was our founder, and the other who lived only his last year of life in our Province, but has now become a great intercessor and inspiration for us all.

("Eternal Memory" a biography of Fr. Delaere's life available in the Shrine.)

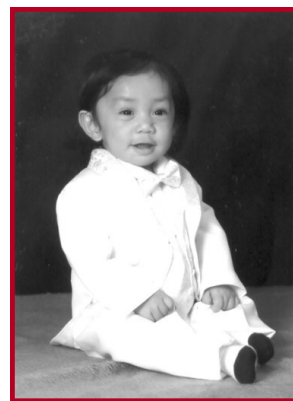
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Graces and Blessings

I want to share with you a blessing that occurred July 29th 2005 - the birth of my 2nd child, Kyle. In the sixth month of my pregnancy I visited my gynecologist, who informed me after I had an ultra sound done, that the baby weighed 7lbs.9ozs. My due date was August 12th. Because of the size of the baby and my small stature, the doctor indicated that probably a cesarean section delivery would be done. A month later the weight of the baby was 8lbs.1ozs. I really wanted to have a natural child birth as I had with my first, a daughter who weighed 6lbs.9ozs. I shared this with my friend who suggested I go with her to the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine and pray to Blessed Vasyl to intercede for me. In the beginning of June, I went with her to the Shrine.

On July 10th, I again went to the Shrine and prayed to Blessed Vasyl. I was there for 1 ½ hours, asking him to help me deliver my baby naturally. On July 15th the doctor called and told me that the fetal assessment showed that the baby was growing rapidly and weighed 9lbs. They were 99% certain that a C-section would be required. I also suffered from gestational diabetes. On July 26th a bed was available at the Women's Centre Hospital in Winnipeg. On July 27th I was admitted to the hospital. I again pleaded with the doctor to have a natural birth. They respected my wishes and administered a medication to induce labour. But after 24 hours, nothing happened. I was wheeled into the surgical room at about 11:00 pm that night. At about 12:15am, as they were about to anesthetize me, I placed a 3rd Class Relic of Blessed Vasyl and a rosary on my stomach and began to pray "Lord help us – give us this chance. I can't push anymore – Lord you push for me." Within 5 minutes the baby came out. I experienced no pain during the birth. The doctors and nurses were amazed, they began to clap. Kyle weighed a healthy 9lbs.3ozs. It was a miracle. I came back to the Shrine 2 months later to thank Blessed Vasyl and God.



Kyle on his 1st Birthday

Hilda Dayanghirang

SHRINE PILGRIMS

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 Martyr's Shrine. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you.

Contributions listed below are from September 1st until November 15th, 2006

5000+

Anonymous

1000+

In memory of Nelie and John Boychuk

Harry and Doreen Boychuk

Peter Boychuk

William Boychuk

Evelyn Melnyk

Edward and Anne Faseruk

Archbishop Michael Bzdel (Emeritus)

Redemptorists of the Edmonton/Toronto

Province

Ukrainian Catholic Foundation of

Canada

100+

Rev. John and Mrs. Marion Barszczyk

Mary Buriak

James and Annie Derkach

Sonia Domitruk

Andrew and Adeline Dziadyk

In memory of Mom, Dad, Mike and Bill

Roy Gulenchin

Dan and Bella Kalenchuk

In memory of Pat Mackay and Anne and Bill

Machuga

Joanne I. Coombs

In memory of Walter Podiluk

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For health of John and Lesia and Family

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For health of Perry Nakonechny

Ed and Nettie Nakonechny

Darlene Nelson

Irene Pilipowicz

In memory of Milton Prydun

Nell Lupyrypa

Walter and Pauline Prystai

In memory of husband Michael

Jean Roshko

Mike and Darlene Sidak

D. Sikora

Mary Sinclair

In memory of Zenon Swydneyck

Jenny Swydneyck

Ukrainian Catholic Mission- Yorkton

In honour of the Valerion and Shade families

Steve and Agnes Valerio

In memory of Michael and Sophia Witer

Fr. Josaphat and Joan Korchinski

Flora

In honour of William and Kay Zambrick

Mary Stasiuk

In memory of the Fatershank and Zeaton

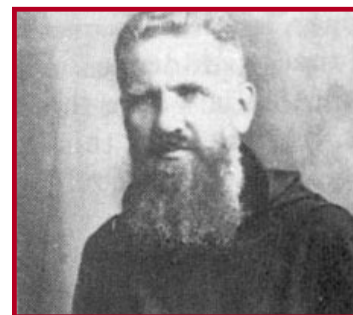
families

Frank and Nellie Zeaton

LOVER OF THE POOR

In this little segment of a retreat talk given by Blessed Vasyl in 1965, he remembers Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky, a holy Metropolitan of Ukraine with whom he worked closely and who died on November 1, 1944 .

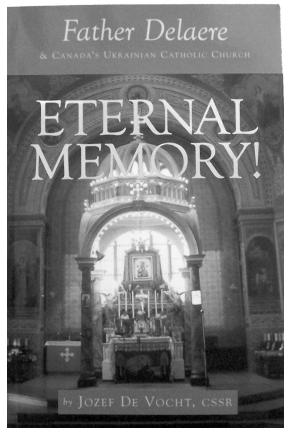
"And Jesus said 'Blessed are the poor in spirit.' There were kings, princes, queens who used their wealth and riches for the poor, in order to wipe the tears of the widows, the poor, the orphans. Like our Prince of the Church, the Servant of God, Metropolitan Andrej. Today we read in propaganda brochures that he was rich and had thousands and so on.. But if you only saw him. He always wore poor, patched up clothing. His shoes were patched. Perhaps he only had a few pairs for his whole life... He would not even spend 50 cents on himself. When they told him 'you need a new collar because what you have is torn', he would say 'No, patch it up.' The sister said 'But you will see the patch. It only costs 50 cents.' 'For 50 cents I can buy a meal or two for a poor student' he replied. She sat down and patched the collar. He wore a patched cassock all the time until his death. Although he had much wealth, in his heart, he had nothing else but Jesus. All that he had was for the poor."



Metropolitan Andrej Sheptytsky

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS

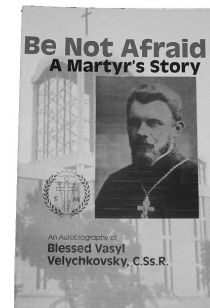
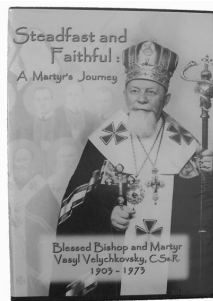
The Redemptorists of the Yorkton Province celebrate their 100th Anniversary this year. A Belgian Redemptorist, Father Achiel Delaere, C.Ss.R., adopted the Eastern Rite and celebrated his first Divine Liturgy in that Rite on September 26, 1906. A book on the glorious life of Fr. Delaere was written in Flemish in 1956. An English translation is now available called: **"Eternal Memory"**.



Copies of this book are available from our gift shop for \$25.00.

Gift Shop Items for Christmas

Why not give a documentary DVD on Blessed Vasyl or a book on his life?



Check out our web-site, www.bvmartyrshrine, for other gift giving ideas.

Please notify the Shrine of any graces received through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl.

Call in Prayer Requests

For a special intention or prayer request you may phone or email us. Your prayer request will be placed in the Shrine and remembered in prayer every Wednesday evening after the Service in honour of Blessed Vasyl.

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

*Wishing all of our supporters and their families
 a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.*

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