



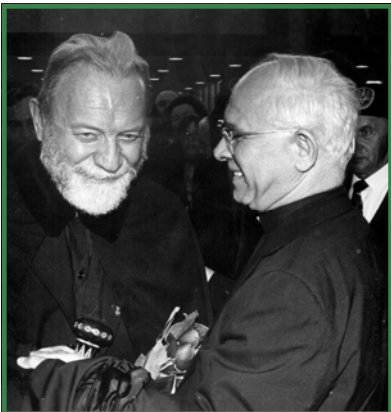
FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

The Suffering Servant

TESTIMONIES OF MARTYRDOM

June is a very special month in the life of Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky. He came into this world June 1st, 1903 and entered heaven 70 years later on June 30th, 1973. Twenty-eight years later on June 27, 2001 he was beatified as a Blessed Martyr by Pope John Paul II. A year before his death, June 15 1972, God brought him to Canada June 15.



Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk greeting Blessed Vasyl at the Winnipeg airport.

He came to North America after having endured three years of imprisonment under the hands of the Soviets in Eastern Ukraine in Kommunarsk. His last imprisonment January 27, 1969 to January 27, 1972 was very difficult. He was placed in a hospital for the mentally ill where he received drugs which ruined his nervous system and caused severe heart disease. His first cousin Maria Matwichuk relayed how Blessed Vasyl described this imprisonment. One day as a nurse came to administer him his injections, Blessed Vasyl asked her if these injections would harm him. The nurse, without saying a word, indicated with her eyes that it was so. Another nurse, who had mercy

upon him, instead of injecting the drugs into his upper arm, would inject them into the mattress next to his arm. Blessed Vasyl said that this act of kindness probably prevented him from dying in prison.

When Blessed Vasyl was released from prison, and before he was exiled from Ukraine, he was met by two Basilian Sisters in Kyiv. We met one of them, Sr. Justina, in Ukraine in 2005. She described her impression of Blessed Vasyl. He was gaunt, he was filled with paranoia, very weak, his emotions shattered. The very sight of him brought tears to her eyes. Upon exile, he was sent to Zagreb in the former Yugoslavia, where his nephew, a medical doctor, Dr. Velyslaw Nikolych, immediately began to treat him for his poor health and heart condition. Dr. Nikolych described his uncle as being very sick when he arrived in Zagreb. Despite his ill health, Blessed Vasyl left for Rome in three weeks in order to meet with Pope Paul VI and share with the Pontiff the plight and status of the underground Ukrainian Catholic church in Ukraine. While in Rome he lived with Cardinal Josyf Slipyj, who had spent 18 years in Soviet prison camps. After obtaining a visa for Canada, upon the invitation of Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk, Blessed Vasyl arrived in Winnipeg in mid June 1972.



Cardinal Josyf Slipyj with Blessed Vasyl in Rome

Upon his arrival in Canada, his cousin-in-law Dr Zenon Matwichuk took him under his medical care. However, the effect of the drugs Blessed Vasyl received while in prison could not be re-

In This Issue:

- Testimonies - 1
- Relic - 2
- Pilgrims - 2
- Thanks to Contributors - 3
- New Liturgy - 3
- Feast Day Celebrations - 4
- EWTN - 2
- Prayer to the Martyr - 4

Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2V 0M6

Tel: 204-338-7321 Fax: 204 -339-1062 Email: bvshrine@mts.net Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com

versed. After a year in Canada, with his health deteriorating, he fell asleep in the Lord on the last day in June in 1973.

God brought him to North America, so that he could become for all of us a great witness of Jesus Christ and a great witness for the Catholic Church. It was for his faithfulness to the Catholic Church that he was persecuted and arrested. His love of Jesus and His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, were the foundation of his life. For them his life was crowned with martyrdom. Seeing this great martyr, may we be inspired to be faithful to our Christian Catholic faith.

AN EXTRAORDINARY RELIC

We received an extraordinary relic several months ago - an iron nail pen that belonged to Blessed Vasyl. Shortly after Blessed Vasyl's death, Bishop Volodymyr Sterniuk, who was ordained a bishop by Blessed Vasyl and who succeeded Blessed Vasyl as the head of the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine, gave this pen to Fr. Roman Dubitsky from America. Bishop Sterniuk relayed to Fr. Roman that Blessed Vasyl made this extraordinary pen, while imprisoned in Vorkuta, in northern Russia. This pen is made from a nail or perhaps it only looks like a nail. It is made of iron and is hollow inside. The "head" of the nail unscrews so that one could put a ink refill into it. What makes this relic "authentic" and precious is that Bishop Sterniuk was passing on this relic to the Metropolitan and Archbishop Ambrose of Philadelphia. This shows the importance of this relic.



Blessed Vasyl's nail-pen

While in prison in Vorkuta, eye witnesses relayed to us that Blessed Vasyl wrote a history of Ukraine. This manuscript has been lost to our knowledge. But he would have written this manuscript with this pen. Perhaps he used this to write the book on the History of the Miraculous Icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help, which is now translated, published and available in our Shrine Gift Shop.

GRACES RECEIVED

SENT FEBRUARY 10TH 2009

I begin with: on August 8, 2008, when I had severe pain in my abdomen. I was rushed to the Northeast Clinic when the doctor examined me and found a fibroid in my uterus. He removed it and sent it to a pathologist for examination. 3 weeks later the doctor from the Northeast Emergency Clinic telephoned me and said it was cancer. I then went to my family doctor and he sent me to the specialist (gynaecologist). He immediately scheduled a DNC and then sent me to the cancer clinic. A doctor spoke to me about a complete hysterectomy. My surgery was scheduled for Oct. 17th (Thursday) but on Sunday and on Oct. 11, Oct. 12, and Oct 13, I attended Divine Liturgy for my intentions. On Oct. 12 after the Divine Liturgy, I stopped by Sister Petronella (Fr. Yaroslav Dybka's sister) for a bottle of Holy Oil from Bishop Velychkovsky. I blessed myself with the oil and put it on my abdomen everyday until my surgery. I also said the prayer to the Bishop and prayed the rosary.

After my surgery was completed, I came home 2 weeks later Nov. 13, 2008. The doctor from the cancer clinic called to tell me the surgery went well and that all the cancer is gone and that she is done with me.

PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE



Bishop Bohdan Dzurakh from Kyiv, Ukraine, together by Metropolitan Lawrence Huculak of Winnipeg and Bishop Michael Wiwchar of Saskatoon (emeritus)



SERVE 2009 visit the Shrine as part of their program in Winnipeg



Teachers and staff from St. Joseph the Worker Catholic School in Winnipeg



St. Nicholas Catechism Group from Winnipeg spends a Saturday at the Shrine

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. 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 March 1st 2009 until April 30th 2009.

+500

Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption, Perth Amboy, N.J.

+100

Tom & Julie Abrametz
James & Annie Derkach
Dr. Peter Gnanapragasam
Ben V. & Violet Kluk
Geraldine Koban
Peter & Minnie Koropatwa
Iris Kozarchuk
Gerard & Regina Muench
North Winnipeg Credit Union
Joe & Liz Senderewich
Lillian Sianchuk
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Men's Club-Winnipeg
Jenny Swydneycky

<100

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Arvidson
Flora Beaulieu
Olivia Borgonia
Hazel J. Borodey
Emil Boychuk
Bohdan & Jayne Buryn
Sr. Chrysostom, OSBM
Marianne Derkach
James Dozorec
Maria Fil
Bernie & Lucy Gray
Mary Jane Kalenchuk
Harry & Evelyn Kardynal
Mr. & Mrs. Zenon Kohut
Anton & Florence Kuchinski
Bernard & Marjorie Lapchuk
G. Lasko
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Lischinski
Jean Maksymchuk
Anna Medwechuk
Rev. Fr. James Miara
Jim Nakonechny
Dan & Marilyn Nazar
Walter & Pauline Prystai
Olga Roulette
Bernice Sciog
Jacinthe Shand
Frank & Anne Shymko
D. Sikora
Stan & Luba Sirdar
Lena Smaluck
Iris Smellie

St. Basil's Ukr. Cath. Women's League-Winnipeg
St. Joseph the Worker Catholic School-Winnipeg
Walter & Nellie Wowczuk
William & Kathleen Zambrick

In memory of...

Petro & Olena Berezny & Larry & Josephine Sakundiak

William & Genevieve Berezny

Maria Borowec

Fr. Bohdan Borowec

Mary Patricia Brennan

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Martin Chanas

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Don Chipilski

Peter & Joan Washchyshyn

Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R.

Mary Lazurko

Mae Hunter

Bonita Hunter-Eastwood

grandson Chris Johanson

Millie Lefko

John Juypink

Kolin & Ela Berglund

Gregory Kozakewich

Dr. Joseph Lozinski

Rev. Stephen Kulak

William J. Karlicki

Members of the Oshut family

Ann Zulak

Joseph Novak

Peter & Glikeria Iwanuck

Fr. Volodymyr Panchyshyn

Stan & Luba Sirdar

Anne Pasternak

Rick & Cynthia Bryant

Chris Patson

Dorothy Labay

Fred Pawliw

William Bailey

Alice Derow

Ted & Ella Dusyk

Mary Kurulok

Maurice & Jean Mcken

Sonja Pawliw

Hnat & Sophia Pisiak

Joe & Valerie Ratuszniak

Bishop Andrew Roborecki

Adeline Dudar

Michael Roshko

Jean Roshko

James Rowan

Leo & Rose Rowan

Alexandra Saganski

Henry & Iris Spilchuk

Michael Robert Sidak

Darlene Sidak

Steve Sherman

Jennie Sherman

Stoski & Wielgoz families

Casper & Violet Stoski

Rev. Mother Monica Polianska

Xenia Deresz

Alex Thachek

Sonia Thachek

Maria Tycholasz

M. Tycholasz

Dmytro & Mary Werezak

Michael & Zenya Werezak

In honour of...

Kokolski & Gingera children & grandchildren

Mary Kokolski

The engagement of Adam Kwiecien & Jodie Shore, & Matthew Kwiecien & Katherine Reichardt

Valerie Sigurdsson

Michael Page

Darlene Litche-Brown

Macara Slododian & Austin Lavallee

Ronald & Adel Slobodian

children and grandchildren

Kay Zawortny

NEW

Liturgies at the Shrine

Since Easter, every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m., the Divine Liturgy is celebrated in the Shrine on the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky. If you desire to have a Liturgy celebrated there, please inform the Shrine Office (204) 338-7321 or e-mail

COME & CELEBRATE
 the Feast Day of the Ukrainian Catholic Martyrs
Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions

SATURDAY
JUNE 27, 2009

DAY PROGRAM

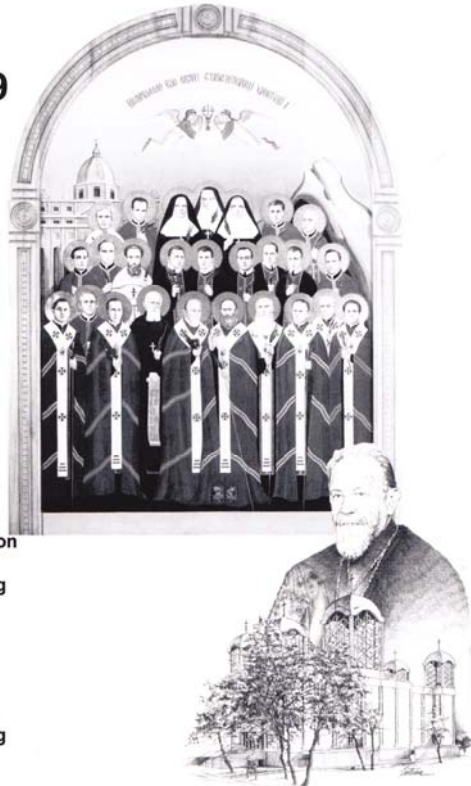
9:00 Divine Liturgy
 10:00 Rosary
 10:30 Moleben
 to the Martyrs
 with anointing

Lunch available

1:30 Acafist Hymn
 in honor of Blessed
 Bishop and Martyr
 Vasyl Velychkovsky,
 C.Ss.R.
 2:30 Pilgrimage
 Procession
 Pilgrimage Procession
 Veneration of Relics
 Anointing for Healing

4:15 Vespers

5:00 Divine Liturgy
 Veneration of Relics
 Anointing for Healing



LOCATION: **ST JOSEPH'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC**
CHURCH
BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY MARTYR'S SHRINE
 250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB
 for more information call: 338-7321

EWTN

Watch for the airing of
 "Steadfast and Faithful: a
 Martyr's Journey" on the
 life of Blessed Vasyl which
 is usually aired on June 30.

Please notify the Shrine of any
 graces or blessings received
 through the intercession of
 Blessed Vasyl at 204-338-7321 or
 e-mail: bvshrine@mts.net

Prayer Requests

For a special intention and prayer request
 you may call or e-mail us. Your prayer re-
 quest will be placed in the Shrine and re-
 membered 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: Open until 1:00 pm

Shrine is open to the faithful during the times
 of Liturgical Services. The Museum is open 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
Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com

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 Ve-
 lychkovsky** 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:
 Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine
 250 Jefferson Avenue
 Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
 Canada
 or E-mail: bvshrine@mts.net