



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

10th Anniversary of Beatification



**Blessed Pope John Paul II visits
Ukraine June 2001**

The Church rejoiced on May 1st, 2011, when our beloved Pope John Paul II was proclaimed a Blessed. St. Peter's Square was packed with over a million faithful who came to witness and celebrate this glorious beatification. Ten years ago a similar event took place in Ukraine when Blessed Pope John Paul II beatified a number of Ukrainian martyrs and blessed. I personally had the privilege to be present at this beatification.

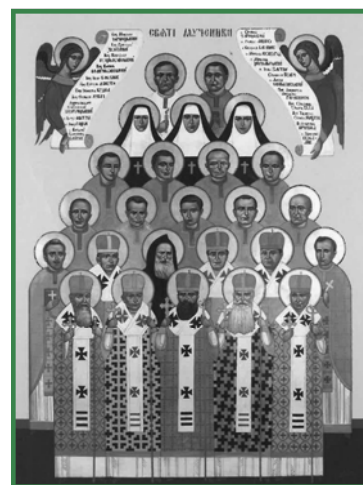
For years the Pope had requested to visit

Ukraine, but because of various political circumstances, he was unable to do so. Then in December 2000, at the end of the celebrations of the Millennium, he announced his intention to make a pastoral visit to the country. He asked the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church to gather their martyrs, for he wished to beatify them during this visit.

There were thousands of clergy and laity, who had been martyred under the Soviet regime in the 20th century. How does one choose whom to beatify? Many religious and laity were engaged to search out documentation to prove that these people were in fact martyred. They focused on bishops, priests and religious. Their stories had to be written and verified through documentation. Although there were many cases investigated, in the end only 25 people were accepted for beatification. Among these were 8 bishops, 7 religious priests, 6 eparchial priests, 3 religious nuns and a layman. The pope named this group of martyrs under the title of **Nicholas Charnetsky and 24 Companion-Martyrs**. Among these "companions" is our Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky. (Their names can be found in the March 2011 issue of "Fully Alive".)

On the morning of June 27th 2001, over a million of Ukrainians flocked to the Hippodrome in Lviv where the Divine Liturgy was to be celebrated. The day began with a tribute to all the martyrs that were to be beatified. A brief biography was presented on each martyr, followed by a quotation, either from the martyrs themselves or eye-witness accounts who knew them personally. It was a very moving experience.

Present at the Divine Liturgy were Ukrainian and Roman Catholic Bishops, hundreds of priests and nuns, and faithful from throughout Ukraine. At approximately 9:30 am, Pope John Paul II arrived to cheering crowds. The beatification ceremony occurred in the first part of the Divine Liturgy before the singing of the Trisagion Hymn. There were four beatifications: Blessed Joseph Hordesheska, SSMI; Blessed Priest Martyr Emilian Kouch; Blessed Bishop-Martyr Theodore Romzha; and Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and 24 Companion-Martyrs. I personally experienced the awesomeness of the apostolic authority of the Pope of Rome, as he pronounced that these holy men and women were being elevated and will be now known as Blesseds. Through his proclamation, what he bound upon earth, was now bound in heaven. It was a glorious moment.



**Icon of the Blessed Martyrs
presented to the Pope
during the beatification.**

In This Issue:

10th Anniversary- 1

Pilgrims - 2

Thanks to Contributors - 3

Feast Day Celebrations - 4

Graces & Blessings - 4

EWTN - 4

Prayer to the Martyr - 4

Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

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In Blessed Pope John Paul's homily, he said the following: *"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (Jn 15:13).

"This solemn statement of Christ echoes among us today with particular eloquence, as we proclaim Blessed a group of sons and daughters of this glorious Church of Lviv of the Ukrainians. Most of them were killed in hatred of the Christian faith. Some underwent martyrdom in times close to us, and among those present at today's Divine Liturgy there are some who knew them personally. This land of Halytchyna, which in the course of history has witnessed the growth of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, has been covered, as the unforgettable Metropolitan Yosyf

Slipyi used to say, "with mountains of corpses and rivers of blood".

"Yours is a living and fruitful community which goes back to the preaching of the holy brothers Cyril and Methodius, to Saint Vladimir and Saint Olga. The example of the martyrs from different periods of history, but especially from the past century, testifies to the fact that martyrdom is the highest measure of service of God and of the Church. With this celebration we wish to pay homage to the martyrs and to thank the Lord for their fidelity."

What a privilege it is for me that I am now working closely with one of these martyrs, discovering more deeply his holy life and witnessing God's grace flow through Blessed Vasyl's intercession!
Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.

PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE



Catechism students from Christ the King (RC) make their annual pilgrimage



The Shrine staff with Very Rev. Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R. General Superior of the Redemptorist, Fr. Enrique Lopez, C.Ss.R. and Fr. Alberto Eserverri, C.Ss.R. all from the General Redemptorist Government in Rome.



"Come and See" participants from across Canada



U.C.W.L.C Regional of Winnipeg include a visit as part of their monthly meeting



Pilgrims from Calgary, Alberta spend a day in prayer.



Fr. Mykola Leskiw (2nd from the left) from Ukraine



Holy Eucharist Parish make their 8th Annual Pilgrimage

THANK YOU!!!

Your generous donations make it possible for us to conduct our ministry at the Shrine and to promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyi 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 Vasyi bless each one of you.

Contributions listed below are from March 1st 2011 until April 30th 2011.

1000 +

Robert Dzisiak & Deborah Mazur
In memory of parents
Stephen & Katherine Dankewich
Katherine Dankewich
In memory of Anne Senderewich
Joseph and Liz Senderewich

500+

Arlene Pickel

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In Memory Of...

Joseph Dudych, Joseph Luch, Steve Shymko
Russ Luch
Lia & Jean Polischuk
Kalyniak, Mary
St. Basil's UCWLC League Members
St. Basil's Ukr.Cath. Women's League
Boychuk & Solotki family
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Zabinsky, Sass, Seabrooke, Kerr,
Scarlett & Goode families
Orest and Vi Zabinsky

In Honor Of...

Fr. Joseph Denischuk, C.Ss.R.
W. Allan Bailey
Jerry Dillon
Nettie Nakonechny
Andrew and Sofia Hull
Peter and Glikeria Iwanuck
William & Anne Karlicki
William J. Karlicki
Francis Steman
Orest and Margaret Fedorchuk

Corrections from March 2011:

In memory of Ivan Parkasewych
Christina Bahry
In memory of William Chick
Janice Leroux

In honour of Macara Faith
Slobodian & Austin Eric Lavalee
Ronald & Adel Slobodian

We apologize for the errors.

10th Anniversary Celebration of the Feast Day of the Ukrainian Catholic Martyrs at Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

**MONDAY
JUNE 27, 2011**

DAY PROGRAM

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

Lunch available

1:15 Video Presentation
2:30 Acafist Hymn
in honor of Blessed
Bishop and Martyr
Vasyl Velychkovsky,
C.Ss.R.

EVENING PROGRAM

7:00 Divine Liturgy
Pilgrimage Procession
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



GRACES AND BLESSINGS

One particular evening, I needed to travel approximately 142 kms. With approximately 60 kms left, an intense summer storm brewing around me, my gas light went on. I always check the gas gauge, especially when traveling on the highway, but this particular evening, I was distracted due to the urgency of my travel, a friend in need. It was still early in the evening, but many small town gas stations were closed. In my car I have stuck on my sun visor the prayer card of Blessed Vasyl. In my wallet, I carry the 3rd class relic of the cloth packet. After the second town I passed with no gas station, I felt I was going to be in trouble. The wind intensified and the rain started. I took Blessed Vasyl's card and held it in my hand while driving. I said a quick prayer that I need assistance to stay calm as I drove through the storm on a near empty tank. Immediately this occurred. I just knew that things would be okay. I arrived at my destination, with a gas station that was opened on the edge of the city. The rain had stopped and it turned into a beautiful summer evening. Again, not knowing how far I could drive on an almost empty gas tank, I just kept going, believing that things will be fine and I would be safe. I was reminded that despite the odds of a situation, or how bleak an outcome may be, just have faith.

Marcie

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.

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