



# FULLY ALIVE

*A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication*

## FAITHFUL TO THE END

### THREE TEMPTATIONS

2013 has been declared as a **year of faith**. This is a time for us to renew our belief in our Lord and in His Holy Church. Our holy martyrs had a very profound faith. They saw their faith as a precious gift for which they were willing to pay the ultimate price – to lay down their lives for the Lord. They saw their faith as integral to their allegiance to the Holy Catholic Church. To believe in Jesus Christ meant to belong, adhere to and participate in the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Church (The Body of Christ) faithfully. In a “complaint” letter written by Blessed Vasyl to the Soviet government on October 2, 1969, he recalls the moments when he had to choose faithfulness.

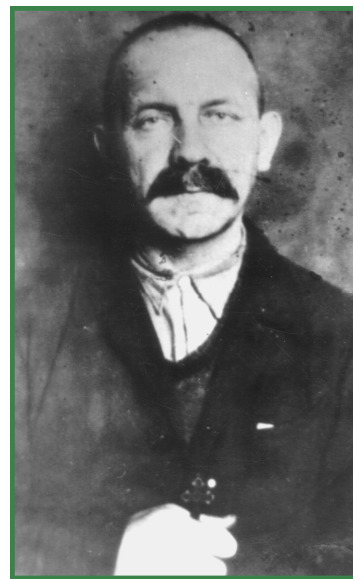
“I add the following explanation to my case from 1945 to 1969.

I was arrested in Ternopil, the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1945 and that same night the head of the KGB in Ternopil asked me whether I agreed to join the mission of Kostelnik in Lviv and unite myself to the Orthodox Church. If I was in agreement, then I will immediately be freed, if not, then I will be sent to Kyiv for trial. Of course, I refused to deny the Greek-Catholic Church, the Church of my ancestors..... While in Kyiv, the interrogators did not propose to me anything of this sort. But after the interrogations in the Lukianivsky prison, before the

closed trial, the head of the prison called me forth and told me that I can immediately be freed if I would sign my transfer to the Russian Orthodox Church, if not, a terrible trial awaits me. Obviously, I overcame this second temptation... After the trial, being condemned to the highest punishment that of death by firing squad, I was placed on death row in the Lukianivsky prison. After about two months, late at night, when the others were asleep, I was still standing and praying. I heard a very soft knock on the door. I looked and saw an open window in the door and a finger that beckoned me. I came and heard a voice: “Do you recognize me?” I saw the golden lapel and said: “No, I do not recognize you.” “I am the one who came to you before your trial to question you and now I give you one last chance, - sign to join orthodoxy and immediately you can go home. I answered in the negative, that I have reconciled myself to this life, my conscience is peaceful and I will in no way become a betrayer. The window abruptly closed and the third temptation was overcome....”

We are called to make choices everyday whether we will be faithful to our faith in the way we respond to the events of daily life. May we treasure the gift of faith that we have received and like the martyrs be willing to pay the price necessary for it.

Submitted by Fr. John  
Sianchuk, C.Ss.R



Blessed Vasyl on death row  
in Kyiv

### CONGRATULATIONS

On April 29, 2013, Kseniya Kavats, a long time employee at the Shrine, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Sofia. Kseniya spent years researching and transcribing KGB documents and is presently writing her Masters thesis on the 1st arrest of Blessed Vasyl. May God bless Kseniya and Roslan as they begin their journey parenting this precious bundle of joy.



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**Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine**

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Tel: 204-338-7321 Email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com) Website: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://www.bvmartyrshrine.com)

## GRACES AND BLESSINGS

*During the past two and a half years, while attending nursing school, I prayed to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Nicholas, and Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky for the strength and concentration to do my best in nursing school. Each week I would light a candle before Our Lady of Perpetual Help in my church and pray for the intercession of Blessed Vasyl and Mary. On Thursday May 2, 2013, I took my final exam while a candle burned before an icon of Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky, that was touched to his relics. I passed the exam and now will graduate from nursing school on May 16, 2013.*

*When I started nursing school in 2011, I thought about what saint or saints I should ask to intercede for me. Since there are candle stands before Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Nicholas in my church, they were a natural choice. However, after reading the story of Bishop Velychkovsky, I felt that he would be a good choice for appreciating a man becoming an RN, and I felt that he would want me to succeed in nursing school. This was because he had worked in a prison hospital ward. I also felt that Bishop Vasyl must have appreciated the nurses who, as it was described in one reading, did not give him the harmful medication, resulting in the nurses risking their own safety. I am not aware of a patron saint of men in nursing, but I believe that Bishop Velychkovsky was a good choice for me.*

*"Oh 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 thank you for your assistance in passing nursing school, and ask that you help me do my best on the NCLEX-RN licensing exam. Finally, I ask that you help me to be a instrument of your work by being a skilled and knowledgeable nurse, for your Name is glorified forever. Amen."*

Gerard Muench  
Long Valley, NJ

## PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE



The catechism children from St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Parish, Wpg tour the museum and shrine

Fr. Mykhaylo Khomitskyy and parishioners from the parish district of Rossburn-Russell, MB for a lenten pilgrimage.



St. Joseph the Worker Catholic School, Wpg teachers and staff spent a retreat day at the Shrine



Mount Marty College English Club from Yankton, South Dakota, USA



Ladies from St. Timothy RC Parish, Wpg



Fr. Rafael Hennique da Costa and Sr. Deigivan Rodrigus de Lima from San Paulo, Brazil



# 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 2013 until April 30th 2013.*

+100

Harold & Roseanne Baehnk  
Jon & Michele Barrett  
Vasilij & Eugenia Bartos  
Canon Luhovy Assembly #374, Wpg  
Paul & Georgina Civka  
Martin & Helen Fydirchuk  
Holy Eucharist U.C.W.L.C., Wpg  
Holy Eucharist Ukr. Cath. Parish, Wpg  
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Frank & Anne Shymko  
Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate, Wpg  
Iris Smellie  
St. Joseph the Worker Cath. School, Wpg  
Orest & Vi Zabinsky  
Alex & Mary Zimrose

## In Memory Of...

**Pete & Olena Berezny**  
Taras Berezny  
**Wasył & Anne Bylow**  
Adella Byblow  
**Sophia Bean**  
Vera Chyzowski  
**Irene Judy Bouris (Kereliuk)**  
Murray and Lu Beange  
Robert and Iris Cesmystruk  
**Archbishop Michael Bzdel, C.Ss.R.**  
E. Mazur  
Olga Shutiak  
**Bill Chorney**  
Jane Chorney  
**Len Copley**  
Fr. Michael and Marilyn Krochak  
Stan and Luba Sirdar  
**James Derkach**  
Annie Derkach  
**Florence Drewniak**  
Walter Drewniak  
Leslie and Caroline Dubowits  
**Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R.**  
Olga Shutiak  
Stan and Luba Sirdar  
Mark and Dr. Melanie Turgeon  
**Fr. Morris Dzurman, C.Ss.R.**  
Olga Shutiak  
**Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn**  
Carrie Bishop  
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**John MacKay**  
Anna Banera  
**Peter Manchulenko**  
Walter and Isabel Lukie  
**Michael & Olena Demko and Wally Kitash**  
Yaroslava Demko  
**Rt. Rev. Msgr. Gregory Oucharyk**  
Robert and Leanna Obirek  
**George Palmer**  
Olga Palmer  
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Olga Shutiak  
**Prokip & Olga Sikora, Harry & Lena Kluk**  
Ben V. and Violet Kluk

## Kay Sawychyn

Sharron McKenzie  
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**Michael Robert Sidak**  
Darlene Sidak  
**Fred & Eva Sobkow**  
Mary Sobkow  
**Rev. Fr. Ivan Syrotinsky**  
Mary Kohut  
**Albert Van Landeghem**  
Anna Banera

## In Honor Of..

**Mike & Lillian Balak**  
Mike and Lillian Balak  
**Gerald Berscheid**  
Laurie Fedorowich  
**Magdalena Diaz**  
Manuela Rubio  
**Marilyn Jessap**  
S. Demjanew  
**Metro Lukie & family**  
Metro Lukie  
**Lorne & Dianne**  
Lorne Matsalla  
**Rose Podruski**  
William J. Karlicki  
**James & Delise**  
Manuela Rubio  
**Fr. Yaroslav Strukhlyak**  
Victor and Elsie Sorochuk  
**William Tkachuk**  
Starr Tkachuk  
**Anastasia Tymchuk**  
Oxana Tymchuk  
**Jody Yakabowski**  
Metro Lukie

## In Celebration Of...

**Debra Mason**  
Yvonne Mason

## Judy Odger

1945—2013

We mourn the loss of Judy, a close spiritual friend of Blessed Vasyl. After being diagnosed with cancer and given a year to live, she began coming daily to the Shrine from where she received much peace, spiritual strength and a renewal of her faith. God granted her four more years of life.  
**God grant her eternal memory.**



## COME & CELEBRATE

the Feast Day of the Ukrainian Catholic Martyrs at  
**Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine**

**THURSDAY  
JUNE 27, 2013**

### DAY PROGRAM

9:00 Divine Liturgy  
10:00 Rosary  
10:30 Moleben to  
Blessed Vasyl  
with anointing

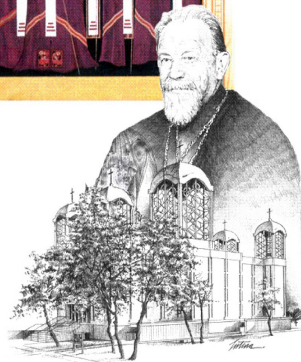
Lunch available

1:15 Video Presentation  
2:00 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

## NEW SUMMER STUDENT

We welcome  
**Igor Karouakh**,  
a pre-medical  
student from the  
University of  
Manitoba. He will  
be employed this  
summer at the  
Shrine to con-  
duct guided tours  
of the museum  
and shrine to the  
ever-increasing  
number of pil-  
grims. He will also continue to work on our re-  
search material pertaining to Blessed Vasyl.



Igor is fluent in English, Ukrainian, Russian and Polish. Born in Ukraine, he has spent years living in Newark, NJ and more recently in Brandon, MB.

## 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: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)  
Website: [www.bvmartyrshrine.com](http://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: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)