



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

A MOTHER FOR US ALL

150TH ANNIVERSARY

On June 27, 1866, Pope Pius IX entrusted the miraculous icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help to the Redemptorist Congregation. To commemorate this momentous event, the Redemptorists around the world are having a three year celebration beginning June 27, 2015 and ending in the summer of 2018. This celebration begins on this year's feast day of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky.

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help finds its roots in the original icon of the Mother of God, called the Hodegeteria (the One Who shows the Way), which was allegedly painted by St. Luke the Evangelist. In the 5th century, this icon was brought to Constantinople. Before this original icon was destroyed by the Turks in 1453, many copies of the icon were made, keeping the basic features of the icon but often changing some details. Our icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help was one of these icons. It was found on the island of Crete. By God's providence, this icon was stolen and taken to Rome in 1493, again escaping the Turkish invasion of the island. In Rome, it was eventually brought to the Church of St. Matthew, located between the churches of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. When this church was destroyed by the Napoleonic wars, the icon was lost. Secretly, it was hidden beneath the altar in a chapel in Trastevere. When it was rediscovered, Pope Pius IX solemnly entrusted this treasure to the Redemptorists so that they would make her known throughout the world. Today, this icon is found in many churches and shrines throughout the world. In the Philippines and

Brazil, tens of thousands of pilgrims visit her shrine weekly.

It is called the miraculous icon because of the many miracles and graces people have received through her intercession when they turn to Mary under the title of our Mother of Perpetual Help. The icon gives people confidence in Mary's perpetual motherhood, in her perpetual care and concern and in her powerful help, especially for those who are in desperate need. For 150 years, the Redemptorists have spread devotion of this icon of the Mother of God through their parish missions.

When the Redemptorists began serving the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the beginning of the 1900's, they brought this icon with themselves. As icons are very common in the



The large icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help behind the altar in the Redemptorist Church of St. Mary's in Yorkton SK

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Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

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Blessed Vasyl in Ukraine giving a retreat during the same time period as he wrote his book on Our Mother of Perpetual Help

devotional life of eastern Christians, the Ukrainian Catholics embraced this icon as their own. The icon can be found adorning many of the Ukrainian Catholic Churches both in North America and in Ukraine.

Blessed Vasyl was a great devotee of the Mother of God under the title of Perpetual Help. This icon adorns the Marion altar in Probizhnya where Blessed Vasyl's mother, in 1911, consecrated her son to the Mother of God. In 1940, it was in her honor and on her feast day that Blessed Vasyl led the procession of 20,000 faithful through the streets of Stanislaviv during the Soviet occupation. For this, the authorities arrested him. Fearing the popular support that he had from the people, they soon released him. It was in a prayer he composed to her, wherein the words "save us from the red horde" were found. When he was arrested in 1945, these words were used to accuse him of anti-Soviet propaganda and sentenced him to death by firing squad. This sentence was later changed. Finally, the main reason for his final arrest in 1969 was that they found a copy of the book he wrote on the "History of the Miraculous Icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help." The Mother of God led him to her Son, Jesus, until Blessed Vasyl died a martyr's death.

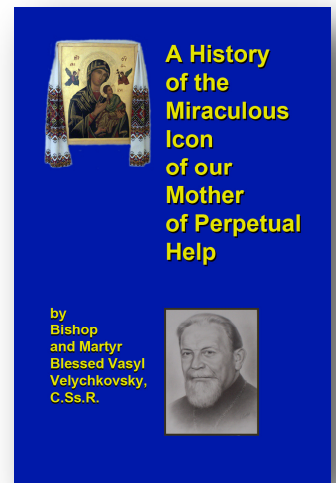
On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Redemptorists receiving this icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help, Blessed Vasyl began writing a book in her honour. Writing a book in itself is a great feat, but writing it in his circumstances

under the watchful eye of the KGB was heroic. Composing religious literature was illegal in the Soviet Union. Blessed Vasyl had to secretly spend hours, days and months writing the 266 page book. A good portion of the book was a translation of a polish book that he had, but he added much to it, including personal stories and reflections on his own time in the Soviet Union. He wrote the book by pen, then he had others (clandestine sisters) who typed it with carbon copy paper. These typed copies were bound into books. To produce more copies one had to type a new copy of the book. It is unknown how many copies were made in this fashion.

This book was finally published in Ukrainian in 2008 and a year later an English translation was published. This is a spiritual reading book in which Blessed Vasyl relates the history of the icon and its dissemination throughout the world. Each chapter concludes with a story of our Mother of Perpetual Help's intercession. The book has 31 chapters. The last few chapters relate the role of this icon in Ukraine. Blessed Vasyl gives the spiritual reasons why we should increase our devotion to the Mother of God. Throughout his life, the Mother of God walked with Blessed

Vasyl as he always had the rosary in his hands. The "Hail Mary" was always on his lips. In chapter 15 of the book, he relates how he received his own vocation to the priesthood and ultimately to martyrdom through the intercession of the Mother of God.

As we begin to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the dissemination of the Icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help throughout the world, we would do well to walk through these years with Blessed Vasyl, mediating with this wonderful book. This is a sure road to sanctity. As Blessed Vasyl always preached in his sermons: "A child of Mary will never be lost."



The English translation of Blessed Vasyl's book is available at the Shrine Gift Shop and online at our website.

SPECIAL ICON HONOURED IN UKRAINE

A very special icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help hung in Blessed Vasyl's apartment during the time of the underground church. This icon was a true copy of the original icon which is in Rome and was certified in 1922 by Fr. Patrick Murray, C.Ss.R., the General Superior of the Redemptorists. It was given to the newly formed unit of Redemptorists in Ukraine and adorned the seminary chapel in Zboisk, near Lviv. During the Second World War, an enemy soldier entered the chapel, took out his revolver and shot at the icon. Bullet holes can be seen throughout the icon, with the largest hole (wound) just above the head of Jesus. When the seminary and the monastery were closed and confiscated by the Soviets in 1948, the icon was hidden by the Redemptorist Brother Irene Manko. He joined Blessed Vasyl in the Lviv downtown apartment when Blessed Vasyl returned from his imprisonment. He brought this icon with him and it remained in the apartment until Brother Irene moved to the monastery in 1991 when the church again became free from persecution. This icon symbolized for the Redemptorists and for the Church that the Mother of God also suffered with them during this time of persecution. Before this icon, Blessed Vasyl spent hours in prayer. He wrote his book mediating upon this icon. The original icon is now in the Redemptorist Church of St. Josaphat in Lviv where it is daily venerated by many faithful.

Theofilia Manko shared a beautiful story about this particular icon. Theofilia is married to Vasyl Manko, the brother of the Redemptorist, Brother Irene. She was 12 years old when their family moved to Zboisk in 1945. She had many siblings and the family was very poor. It was a great struggle just to feed the family. The family choose to settle in Zboisk, after the war, because the Redemptorist monastery was near by and because the icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help was there. One day, they literally had no food, no money and the cupboards were bare and there was a large family to feed. Her parents left the house early in the morning and went to the Redemptorist chapel before the icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help, the one that already had been riddled with bullets. They earnestly spent time in prayer pleading with the Mother of God to help them for they were destitute. When they returned home, with the doors locked and the children still sleeping, they found a sack of food on the kitchen table that someone had placed there through the open kitchen window. The sack was full of buckwheat and meat. They were speechless and said "this is God's miracle. It is the Mother of God who has saved us."

Many graces continue to flow from the hands of our Mother of Perpetual Help.

PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE



Fr. Varghese— Christ the King Parish
& Fr. Joby and team—Divine Retreat
Centre from Toronto



FOCUS Catholic Campus Missionaries
from the University of North Dakota



Christ the Saviour Parish Confirmation
Class from Steinbach, MB

GRACES AND BLESSINGS

In December 2007, I was inflicted with a fistula that was so deep in my tissues that the surgery I was undergoing came to a complete halt. When I had awoken from the surgery, I was told by an experienced surgeon that what he had seen was so severe that if he had proceeded, I would be left with no bowel control. I was 35 years old. He said that he could not submit me to this situation. I was devastated. I was to remain with this open wound until a specialist was willing to do a radical procedure that could possibly fix my issue. I waited ten months, out of work, depressed and unable to leave my home. I have a friend, Gail, who came to the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine to pray for my recovery. I finally was able to see the specialist. To his surprise everything was healed and closed! He said my medical records proved this to be impossible. He could not understand what had happened and could not explain it. The specialist looked at me straight faced and said this is nothing less than a miracle. He shook his head and sent me on my way. My illness occurred in December of 2007 and I was completely healed by June 2008.

On January 3rd, 2015, I came to the shrine for the first time for a tour in the museum with my friend Gail. I went and said a prayer in the shrine for the safety of my children, to keep them healthy and safe. Three days later, my son was at work. He works in a warehouse. He was putting things away with a forklift on one side of the area. He was about to walk to the other side, because he had finished his task. Then he had thought "work smarter, not harder". He then proceeded back to the forklift. As he turned around and took a few steps, a dishwasher and an overhead range that was piled high on pallets fell and smashed to the ground on the path he was previously going to take. My son was really shaken up when he got home. Although my son thinks that it was dumb luck and his "laziness" that saved him, I believe it was more than that. I believe that it was the intercession of Blessed Vasyl that kept him from harm.

Corina
Winnipeg, MB

PRESENTATIONS IN UKRAINE



Middle school "Pervotsvit" in Lviv



Bringing the relics and anointing
to Minsk, Belorussia



First Communion Class from the Blessed
Zenon Kowalyk school in Lviv



Basilian Youth Group
from Bruhovych near Lviv



Svichado Staff being anointing
in Lviv



Seminarians from Drohobych

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 March 1st 2015 until April 30th, 2015.

<p>+ 500 St. Anne's Ukr. Cath. UCWL</p> <p>+100 Vasilj & Eugenia Bartos Sofia Hull Ben V. & Violet Kluk Paul Kyba Walter & Mary Melnyk Nestor Mykytyshyn Manuela Rubio Frank & Anne Shymko Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus St. Basil's Ukr. Cath. Church, Edmonton, AB Helen Stockburn</p> <p><100 Sonia Bereza Bill & Bernie Bessant Gene & Sylvia Bodnar Maureen Delorme Knights of Columbus Fr. Filipow Council #89444 Bernard & Marjorie Lapchuk Dr. Jospheh Lozinsky Virgilio Magsajo Dennis & Joyce Maksymetz James & Elaine Mandziuk Glenn Marr Denise McAvoy Nation Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos Isabel Pagvio Anne Pawelek Richard & Marietta Persian Jean Rubel Virginia Serelo Phyllis Sianchuk Dmytro Sikora Iris Smellie Alex & Angeline Stelmach Fred Stoyka Exenuiel Tolentino</p> <p>In Memory Of... Bishop Basil Filevich Charlotte Martynuik Sarah Casherine Adams Peter Adams Archbishop Michael Bzdel, C.Ss.R. Stan & Luba Sirdar Ruben Cervantes Corazon Cervantes Jeffery Dunn Sonia Yaskiw Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R. Stan & Luba Sirdar Walter Gwozd Mary Kohut Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn, C.Ss.R. Stan & Luba Sirdar</p>	<p>Bella Kalenchuk Dan Kalenchuk Kay Kowerko Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk Millie Lefko Harry Kozakewich Thomas Bailey Anne Leniuk Deborah Capek & Guy Regnier Shirley Lisowski Peter & Glikeria Iwanuck Mary Lukie Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk Phyllis Shindak Stan & Luba Sirdar Vladimir & Marlene Solman Orest & Elizabeth Zahayko Peter Makahoniuk Morris & Iris Smolinski George & Wasalina Martyniuk Bernadette Sorochuk Ted Martyniuk Bernadette Sorochuk Joseph & Lee Melnychuk Julian Kozak Ivan & Wasalina Musey Charlotte Martynuik Anastasia Nahachewski Bernadette Sorochuk Helen & Jacob Nechwediuk William J. Karlicki Judy Odger Fred Odger Ashley Owen Stan & Luba Sirdar Lisa Pasternak Jerry Pasternak Alexandra & Theodore Saganski Henry & Iris Spilchuk Stella Semeniuk Marilyn Krawchuk Ernie Sorochuk Bernadette Sorochuk Anastasia & Gregory Spilchak Henry and Iris Spilchuk Manolo & Elisea Tagarda Marfe Prado War victims in Ukraine Jean Rubel Josie Warga Fred Odger Zabinsky & Sass Family Orest & Vi Zabinsky</p> <p>In Honor Of... Mike & Lillian Balak Mike & Lillian Balak Irena Bilynsky Deacon Stepan & Natalia Bilynsky Brianna D'souza Herman D'souza Kuchinski Family</p>	<p>Anton & Florence Kuchinski Mary Lazurko W. Allan Bailey Fredalyn Rubio & Family Manuela Rubio</p> <p>For the Health Of... Brenycz Children & Grandchildren Ewhen & Stephanie Brenycz Raymond, Daniel, Richard & Meagan Carbotte Paul & Adeline Carbotte Theresa Hlus Olga Hlus John Kulak Olga Hlus Walter Kulak Olga Hlus Margaret Kuzminski Mrs. Mary Kuzminski George Mudryj George Mudryj Paziuk Family Elizabeth Paziuk Orest Pidwerbeski Chris Pidwerbeski Sawka Family Wlodzimierz Sawka Kevin Scott Sonia Scott Seychuk, Kokolski, & Gingera Families Mary Kokolski Sr. Theodosia Ron & Angeline Gretchen Frank & Elaine Grzenda St. Basil's UCWLC St. Basil's Ukr. Cath. Women's League , Winnipeg Nick, Allan & Chris Winchar Nick & Mary Winchar</p>
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Donations to the Shrine can now be made ONLINE.

Visit our website:
www.bvmartyrshrine.com

COME & CELEBRATE THE FEAST DAY of Bishop & Martyr BLESSED VASYL VELYCHKOVSKY and the 150th Anniversary of the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help

**SATURDAY
JUNE 27, 2015**

DAY PROGRAM

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

Lunch available

1:00 Presentation

2:00 Acafist Hymn
in honor of Blessed
Bishop and Martyr
Vasyl Velychkovsky
Living Rosary
Anointing

4:15 Vespers
5:00 Divine Liturgy
Veneration of Icon and 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: 204-338-7321

SHRINE'S WEBSITE

We invite you to visit our website at
www.bvmartyrshrine.com.

We now have a new look, although not yet complete. This summer we will be dedicating some time to updating the site with pictures, videos and information.

Our **GIFT SHOP is now online**. You may now purchase items from our gift shop online through Visa or MasterCard. These items will be shipped to you within 7 to 10 days.

You can submit your **PRAYER REQUESTS** to us through the site and we will enter your request into our prayer box in the Shrine. Your request will be prayed daily before the holy relics in the Shrine Chapel and weekly at our devotional services.

We can **LIGHT A CANDLE** in the Shrine on your behalf. Together with your online donation for the candle, you can submit a prayer request intention.

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
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: info@bvmartyrshrine.com