



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

FIFTEEN YEARS OF GRACE

This September, we will be celebrating 15 years since we transferred the holy relics of Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky from All Saints Cemetery to St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Winnipeg. In 2001, a year earlier, Blessed Vasyl was beatified by Pope John Paul II along with other martyrs from Ukraine. After the beatification, it was proper and appropriate



Exhumation of the Holy Relics from All Saints Cemetery

to bring his holy relics to be enshrined in a sacred place. Thus began our Shrine ministry. The transfer of the holy relics was a solemn event, lasting from September 16th when his body was exhumed to September 22nd when it was enshrined in a chapel in St. Joseph's. Many faithful participated in this three day event of vigils, prayers, concerts and services, and ended with a processional walk from Ss. Vladimir and Olha Cathedral to St. Joseph's Church. A detailed account of these events can be found in our 1st Newsletter January 2003 on our website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com under 'Media'.



Procession with the Holy Relics to St. Joseph's Church

Reflecting on the past fifteen years, we have seen a growth in this ministry around Blessed Vasyl. He is slowly becoming known around the world. In constructing the Shrine, we also constructed a muse-

um so that his story could be told. In the beginning, we had over 60 volunteers who were trained to welcome the pilgrims. With time and years, many of these volunteers (who were mainly seniors) became unable to continue their ministry. More staff had to be hired so that we could keep the doors open throughout the week. Many books, DVD's and CD's have been published by the shrine and are available in the Shrine gift shop or online through our website.

To date, we have had over 60,000 pilgrims who have come to the Shrine. Many have shared with us graces and blessings they have received through Blessed Vasyl's intercession. We have been honoured with pilgrims from all over the world: individuals, families, school groups, parishes, organizations, tour groups and church dignitaries. One summer, a group of 65 Inuit arrived with their bishop and priests. They adopted Blessed Vasyl as their patron because Blessed Vasyl had shared with them the bitter cold of the north and the endless nights when he was imprisoned in Vorkuta, Russia. In 2012, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Synod began with the bishops taking an oath before the relics of Blessed Vasyl in the Shrine Chapel. All of the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops from the whole world together with Patriarch Sviatoslav were present.



Inuits make a pilgrimage to the Shrine

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Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2V 0M6

Tel: 204-338-7321 Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com



Ukraine Bishops from around the world tour the Shrine/museum.

This was a great honour for our Shrine.

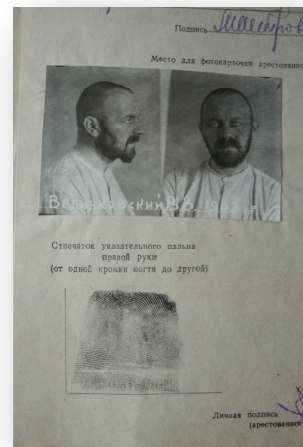
Since 2004, we began travelling yearly to Ukraine to collect information and knowledge about Blessed Vasyl. We interviewed and recorded over seventy people who knew him and some who had worked closely with him. Through these interviews, we were able to glean much precious information about the life of Blessed Vasyl, until now unknown. We were able to obtain many valuable artifacts that belonged to Blessed Vasyl. Many of them are now in our Canadian museum. For example, we obtained a spoon that Blessed Vasyl used as a chalice while in prison in Vorkuta. We also have the 'episcopal staff' (a walking cane) which Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj passed on to Blessed Vasyl when the Metropolitan consecrated Blessed Vasyl to the episcopacy. In Lviv, Ukraine, we were able to restore his apartment to its 'original' state with original furniture and artifacts. It is now a museum/chapel open to the public. In this museum, we have the original winter coat worn by Blessed Vasyl in Vorkuta.



'Episcopal staff' passed on to Blessed Vasyl after his consecration in a Moscow Hotel room.

In 2009, we were fortunate to be able to gain access to the former KGB archives and were allowed to copy the files on Blessed Vasyl. We found two volumes on his first arrest in 1945, and

four volumes from his second arrest in 1969, for a total of 2000 pages. These provided us with much new information about this time period. All the files have been transcribed into digital format. Based on these documents, a Master's Thesis was written and published about his first arrest.



From Volume One of the KGB documents

In 2014, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church decreed Blessed Vasyl to be the Patron of Prison Ministry. This took place in the Marian Shrine of Zarvanytsia in Ukraine by Patriarch Sviatoslav before some 200,000 people. To further the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl in Ukraine, we hired a young couple who have been giving presentations of his life in various parishes and institutions, including prisons. They have given over 250 presentations. Through these efforts, Blessed Vasyl is becoming known by the masses in the church in Ukraine.



Pilgrims in Zarvanytsia during the proclamation of Blessed Vasyl as Patron of Prison Ministry

As we pass this milestone of our Shrine ministry, we pray that the church becomes more and more familiar with Blessed Vasyl's life, his virtues, his heroism and his holiness. Most of all, we pray that the church discover the great intercessor we have in Blessed Vasyl. In the Shrine, we have been witnesses to many cures, graces and blessings that have occurred through his intercession. Truly, he is a great gift to the Ukrainian Catholic Church and to the whole Church and to the world.

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

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM/SHRINE IN WINNIPEG



Fr. Taras Svirchuk, C.Ss.R. (Newark, NJ) with Fr. Andriy Rak, C.Ss.R. Provincial of the Lviv Province



Confirmation Classes from Christ our Saviour Parish in Steinbach, MB



Fr. Sam Samuel (center) and singing group from Divine Retreat Centre, Toronto



Staff of Holy Ghost Catholic School, Wpg



Sauvageau family, Fargo, ND



Madejski family, Calgary AB



Svitlana Prytuliak from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine



Lesiuk family from Wpg and Miami, FL



Fr. Gregor, a priest from Gubin, Poland

VISITORS TO MUSEUM/APARTMENT IN UKRAINE



Sisters of the Incarnate Word, Ivano-Frankivsk



Seminarians from Holy Spirit Seminary from Lviv



Mysak family from Kyiv



Parishioners from St. George's Cathedral, Lviv

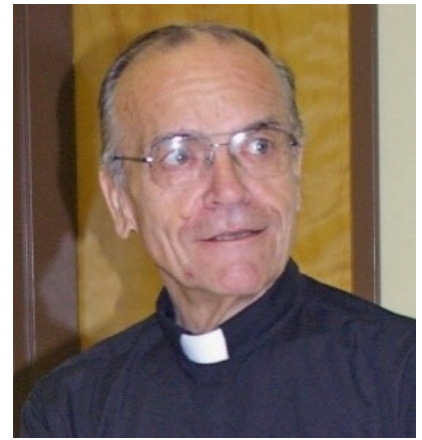
GRACES & BLESSINGS

On Tuesday—April 25, 2017, I came home with a splitting headache. I thought I was going to throw-up. Still sitting in my car, I noticed a vial of holy oil, blessed with Blessed Vasyl's relics. I blessed my temples, the back of my neck and my shoulders. I prayed to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky and to Jesus to help me. I prayed the "Our Father" and the "Hail Mary". My pain subsided totally. I didn't even take any pain relievers that night! Thank you Jesus! The next day I went to the Shrine and lit a candle in thanksgiving for the healing. I have the oil but never used it. Please, everyone, use it and bless those who are in pain.

Evelyn

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. Boris Kyba, C.Ss.R. fell asleep in the Lord, May 2, 2017. His last assignment was to the parishes in the Ituna district in Saskatchewan. Fr. Boris Kyba was the pastor at St. Joseph's in Winnipeg when Blessed Vasyl was beatified in 2001. Immediately, upon hearing this news, he began to make plans to have Blessed Vasyl's holy body brought to St. Joseph's church, which is served by Redemptorists and to which Blessed Vasyl belonged. After permission was received from Metropolitan Michael Bzdel, C.Ss.R., plans were made to construct a shrine chapel and a room for a museum within St. Joseph's. It is due to his leadership and after many hours of meetings, that both projects were beautifully completed. Fr. Boris has always been a great supporter of the Shrine, promoting it in whatever way he could. We are very grateful to him and are blessed that he was part of the shrine in its infancy. May God grant him eternal rest with all the saints!
ВІЧНА ЙОМУ ПАМ'ЯТЬ!



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 2017 until May 15th, 2017.

+1000

In memory of Edward Michaluk
Nadia Michaluk

+500

St. Basil's UCWLC

+100

Archdiocese of Winnipeg
Leonard & Carol Bzdel
Sofia Hull
Anne Shymko
John & Yvonne Sirdar
Helen Stockburn

>100

Sylvia Bock
Wirlana Holowka
Walter Lesiuk
Richard & Marietta Persian
Wlodzimierz Sawka
Dmytro Sikora
Iris Smellie
Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of St. Michael's, Wpg

In Memory Of...

George Balacko
Ernest & Leona Shewchuk

Maria Benz

Dirk Schmid

Sr. Marie Bielski, SSMI

Walter Smadella

Alexander Boychuk

Leo & Oksana Baluta

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Joseph & Susan Zeleny

In Honor Of...

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Bill & Olga Katerynuk

Evie & Elizabeth Kuz
Gerry & Stefie Hrabarchuk

For the Health Of...

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Don & Liz Dodd

Mila Avramoski
Bill and Olga Katerynuk

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Vera Matwichyna

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Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

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Bill Senkowski
Sophie Senkowski

Gary Senkowski
Sophie Senkowski

Maurice Senkowski
Sophie Senkowski

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Holy Ghost School Inc.

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Janice Tycholis-Lloyd

Vera Werbeniuk
Semeon & Marge Hrushovetz

Joseph Zeleny
Joseph & Susan Zeleny

Corrections:

Our sincere apologizes to our donors who were omitted in our previous newsletters.

In memory of the Chemerika & Nestor families
Margaret Chemerika

St. Basil's UCWLC

In memory of Peter "Peco" Chorney
Grace Chorney & family

For the health of Grace Chorney
Sons, spouses & grandchildren

Donations to the Shrine can now be made ONLINE.

Visit our website:
www.bvmartyrshrine.com

COME & CELEBRATE

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

**TUESDAY
JUNE 27, 2017**

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.

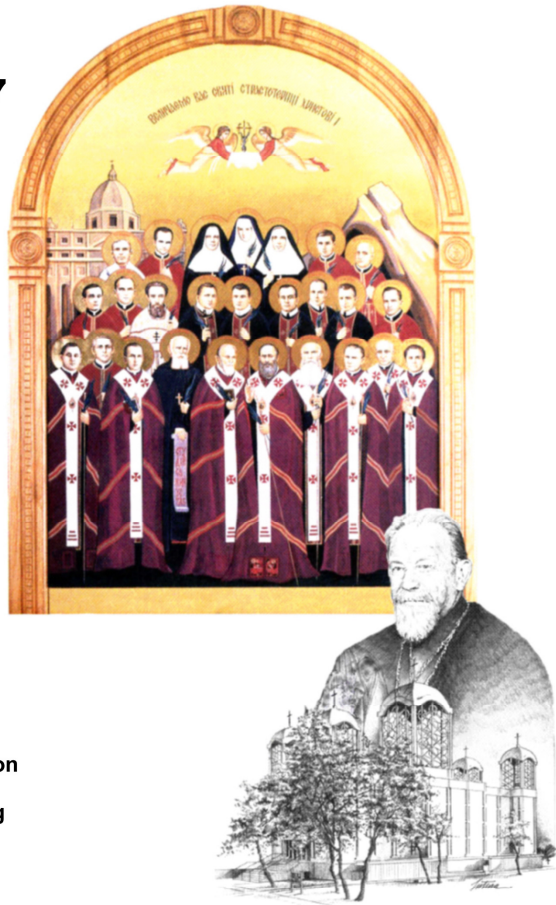
EVENING PROGRAM

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 SUPPLIES FROM UKRAINE

Just arrived from Ukraine
beautiful

Chotke

(Jesus prayer ropes) from Ukraine. They come in three sizes (100 beads, 50 beads, & 30 beads) and in a variety of colours. Check them out on our **website Gift Shop**.



EWTN

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

**Visit our
Online Gift Shop
for our latest gift shop
items.**

www.bvmartyrshrine.com

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