



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

INITMACY WITH OUR GOD

LENTEN REFLECTION

As we prepare for the celebration of Holy Week and the Resurrection, the church offers us this period of



Lent to reflect on our spiritual lives. We are asked to go deeper into our relationship with God than we normally do. Lent is a time to recognize our need for God's forgiveness and of His enduring presence in our lives.

Blessed Vasyl speaks of this deeper spiritual life in one of his sermons given in 1965 in the underground church. He calls it the **interior life**, the inner spiritual life, the life of the spirit. No doubt that his long years of imprisonment in the Soviet gulag (1945-55) deepen his own spiritual life and his own intimacy with Jesus. It is from this background that give these words special meaning. This is an excerpt from that sermon.

"It is a great honour to encounter and speak with an important person. But, how much greater it is to speak with the Creator, the Eternal Existence,

to be able to partake in His Life and his Glory. What a glory it is to converse with Him, to live in intimacy with Jesus, with Mary, with God.

Our interior life (spiritual life) holds a glory not of this earth, but rather an eternal permanent glory. There is nothing more important than to have this relationship with God through our interior life. There is nothing more worthwhile. This interior life gives us the greatest treasure. It is a Divine Light which reveals to us what is good and what is evil, in the past, in the present and in the future.

Light – Human technology has not produced such a light nor anything close to it. This Divine Light reveals everything to us – the truth, the grace of God, our intimacy with God, the virtues. It gives us such benefits, such treasures – trust, love, holiness. Days when we live our interior life are complete days, filled with great treasures for eternity. Can there be anything richer? Can there be a greater treasure? Who else can give it? Only God - we receive his Kingdom through our interior life.

"The interior life is the Kingdom of God within us. It is Christ who has to live in our soul."

That is why the interior life is so beneficial. Because there is nothing greater, nothing more precious, nothing sweeter. The interior life is above all earthly sweetness. How pleasant it is to speak with a dear friend. Time passes quickly and it isn't monotonous. However, a conversation with Jesus is even more life-giving. Life with Jesus is most sweet. Life without Jesus is bitter. All the earthly pleasures

become as a drug, clouding our senses. But how sweet is the grace that our interior life gives, our life with Jesus, our life with God.

*So we see, my dear people, that the kingdom of God is within us. Let us now see how we can find and develop this interior life. Jesus shows us. The first attribute in obtaining this interior life is the great purity of the heart. **"A pure heart create for me O God."** Once the psalmist David wrote **"God create in me a pure heart."** Jesus says: **"Learn from me who am meek and humble of heart."** "You will have a pure heart, a shiny heart, like my heart." Whoever wants to live the interior life, to have God live in his soul, to have the kingdom of God's love be in his inner self, must strive first to have a pure heart.*

What is this great purity of heart? It is a heart filled with the grace of God, of God's love. How do you preserve it? God has shed much blood in the mystery of reconciliation. On every occasion we must strive to purify our hearts for such is the demands of the interior life. The interior life is the Kingdom of God within us. It is Christ who has to live in our soul.

Christ comes to us every day. He doesn't come for only a moment at the time of the Eucharist. No, He comes to live with us always. He comes to give us His Life. How pure we should keep our hearts!"

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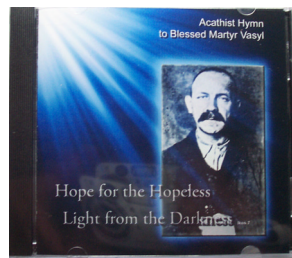
HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS, LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The Acathist Hymn first appeared in the Byzantine Church approximately in the year 600. It was written in honour of the Most Holy Mother of God. This hymn meditated on the events of the Incarnation, the Nativity of the Lord, the Visitation, the Flight to Egypt and also on the mysteries of the Virgin Mary's Virginité, Motherhood and as an Intercessor. The Acathist Hymn consists of twelve alternating hymns of the Kondak and the Ikos. The Kondak concludes with the Alleluia, while the Ikos has twelve descriptive verses. The form of the Acathist hymn began to spread and various Acathists were composed, first to Christ and then to the various saints.

With the beatification of Blessed Vasyl, an Acathist hymn was composed in his honour. This hymn helps the pilgrims to reflect on the martyr's life and especially on how the martyr reflects the image of Christ to us. Through the twelve Ikses and Kondaks pilgrims go through Blessed Vasyl's life, from his birth until his martyred death and unto his role as intercessor for the church. The

Acathist Hymn deepens our appreciation of the Martyr and gives us the opportunity to pray for his intercession as we give honour to him for the wonders that God has done for him.

This Acathist hymn has now been recorded by a choir and is available both as a CD or DVD, called "**Hope for the Hopeless, Light in the Darkness**". The DVD is a recording of the Acathist Hymn at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church and is filled with images of Blessed Vasyl's life and of interpretive icons appropriate to the sung text. These and the booklet with the Hymn may be obtained through the museum gift shop through email: bvshrine@mts.com or through the website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com.



VISTING THE SICK WITH THE HOLY RELICS

A pastoral workshop was held for Shrine Volunteers on November 5th. The workshop trained volunteers to visit the



Shrine Volunteers participating in the Pastoral workshop

sick with the relics of Blessed Vasyl. Many people are unable to come to the Shrine and pray before the 1st. Class Relics of Blessed Vasyl to seek his intercession. Therefore, the Shrine has begun this new ministry to bring Blessed Vasyl to the sick. The purpose of this ministry is to have volunteers visit the sick in hospitals, nursing homes and the shut-ins who request these prayers. Volunteers will spend time in prayer, taking the **1st Class Relics of Blessed Vasyl** to the ill and praying with them asking for healing through the intercession of the Martyr. If you or your loved ones wish to receive a visitation from the Shrine with the Holy Relics, please contact the office at 338-7321.

ST. PAUL'S HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL VISIT

St. Paul's High School made its annual pilgrimage to the Shrine on December 14th, 2005. As part of the Discovering Diversity School Program (World Religion Course), 144 grade nine students arrived for a tour of the church, museum and shrine. The day began with a pizza lunch, followed by a video on the life of Blessed Vasyl. The students then divided into four groups. As two groups were introduced to the Byzantine Eastern Church theology and rituals, the other two groups toured the museum and prayed at the shrine respectively. The students shared with the shrine staff that for them it was a wonderful learning experience to visit the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine.



Shrine Volunteer explaining the artifacts in the museum

SHRINE PILGRIMS - Since the Shrine opened in the fall of 2002, we have recorded approximately 38,000 pilgrims that have visited the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's 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 Vasyi throughout the world. Thank you to all the contributors to the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine. May Blessed Vasyi bless each one of you.

Contributions listed below are from December 1st 2005 until February 28th, 2006

\$1000 +

Slovak Redemptorist Fathers

\$500 +

Fr. Theodore Harasymchuk
Ukrainian Catholic Mission- Yorkton

\$100+

Dr. Jaroslav & Mary Barwinsky
C.W.L. Mary Mother of the Church
In memory of Jack Daniels
Dolores Daniels
In memory of Nickolas & Ann Genik &
Harry & Lena Kluge
Mike & Terry Geniuk
Roy Gulenchin
Mary Jane Kalenchuk
In memory of John Karlicki Jr.
William J. Karlicki
Michael & Ollie Komarnicki
In memory of Alexander Kotowycz
John & Martha Baluta
Frank & Cynthia Lischynski
Rev. Kevin McBride
Gerard & Regina Muench
Adrian & Vera Olenik
In memory of Johanna Pazak
Vi Zabinsky
Helene Yuzwa
Bishop John Pazak, C.Ss.R.
Joanna Pidperyhora
John & Mary Pidskalny
Ned & Susan Pisiak
For the health of Jeannette Popowich
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk
In honour of Alexandra 100th birthday
Julia Saganski
In memory of Rt. Rev. Mitrat Ihor
Shpytkovsky
Wsevolod Andrew Shpytkovsky
St. Paul's High School
In memory of parents Michael & Lillian
Baraniuk, & Peter & Anne Sulymka
Mrs. Irene Sulymka
Elsie A. Tymchak
Ukrainian Catholic Church of Assumption –
Portage la Prairie
Natalie Zalusky

<100

In honour of Jess & Cecilia Ahlers
Maria Ahlers
In honour of parents Bob & Anne Artymko
Vincent & Marianne Artymko
Harold & Roseanne Baehnk

In memory of Wolodymyra Kysilewsky
John & Martha Baluta
Anna Banera
Lydia Kotowycz
Anna Banera
Peter Boiwka
Robert & Alexandra Brezinski
Mary Buriak
Victor Carrington
William & Marika Chabluk
In memory of Mike Chomyn
John M. Chomyn
Ron & Evelyn Cinch
In memory of husband Stephen
Katherine Dankiewich
Gordon & Louise Danylchuk
Lena Derkach
Marianne Derkach
In memory of T. & A. Dmyterko
Jaroslav & Julia Dmyterko
In memory of Steve Chupick
Stan & Eileen Dudzic
Pauline Duges
Lew & Lubow Figol
For the health of husband Bert
Val Galay
M.P. & O.M. Garcia
Mychajlo & Anna Gembarsky
Theodozy & Oksana Halma
Holy Trinity Prayer Group
In memory of Hrechkovsy & Winkler families
A. Winkler
William & Phyllis Hrynko
Adam & Jennie Huchko
Roman & Anne Indzeoski
In memory of Steve & Jessie Kanteluk
Ronald Kanteluk
Peter Kisil
Mary Kohut
Augustus & Catherine Korchinsky
Lydia Kotowycz
In memory of Nell Kozoriz
John & Martha Baluta
Anna Banera
Lydia Kotowycz
Erika Kszyk
In memory of Mike
Annie Kyba
Marusia Labay
Nick Labay
Bernard Lapchuk
In memory of husband Michael
Millie Lefko
In memory of parents John & Maria Lozinsky
Dr. Joseph Lozinsky
Gary & Jan Lukie
In memory of Mary Kulchytzki
Nell Lupyrypa

In memory of Mary Kuzyk
Elfia Strilec
In memory of Lysak family
Bernice Peternaik
James & Elaine Mandziuk
Yvette McMullan
In memory of Alexandra Melnyk
John & Martha Baluta
Maria Murano
Darlene Nelson
Albert & Margaret Otchenash
George & Olga Palmer
Pastoral Ministry Office - Pittsburgh
Bernice Poworoznyk
Justin Reany
In memory of husband Michael
Jean Roshko
In memory of Sara Saray
Margaret Saray
Arthur Schamp
Helen Schentag
Leonard & Adeline Schmidt
In memory of John J. Shewchuk
Edith Kotyk
Mike & Darlene Sidak
D. Sikora
In memory of John Skulski
Stefanie Buzma
Lena Smaluck
St. Paul's College
In memory of husband Zenon
Jenny Swydneycky
Zirka Tkachuk
Carlo & Maria Villeta
William & Kathleen Zambrick
Frank & Nellie Zeaton
Ann Zimmerman
In memory of family members
Ann Zulak

Contributions to the Shrine are cumulative. Once a Donor has contributed a total of \$1000, their name is placed **permanently** on the beautifully designed Donor Wall in the museum. The other categories are: Sponsor \$5,000+; Benefactor \$10,000+; and Patron \$25,000+.

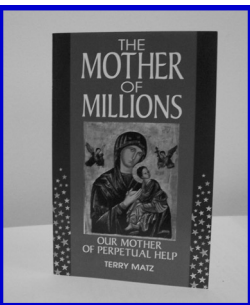
Please remember the Shrine in your estate or in memory of your loved ones.

NEW ITEMS IN THE GIFT SHOP



A triptych icon of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, Blessed Martyr Nicholas Charnetsky, and our Mother of Perpetual Help. Because these icons (direct from Ukraine) fold together, it makes an ideal traveling companion.

A rosary with beads in the form of rosettes, similar to the rosary used by Blessed Vasyl and which was buried with him. This rosary also has a holy medal of Blessed Vasyl attached to it.



This booklet contains a short history of the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. This icon that was very dear to Blessed Vasyl. One of the reasons for his final arrest was because of a book he wrote on the Mother of God under this title.

To order the above items, check our website or e-mail the Shrine office.

Shrine Volunteers are still needed

If you can spare 2 hours a week taking pilgrims on a spiritual journey through the museum and in pray with them in the Shrine, please contact the Shrine office at 338-7321. What a beautiful way to share with others in promoting the Martyr's Shrine! An orientation is given to new volunteers. Also we have periodical gatherings throughout the year to update you on the new artifacts, the latest gift shop items and to share your experiences, blessings and graces received from pilgrims. What a blessing it is to be in the presence of the Holy Relics of Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky!

FEASTDAY CELEBRATIONS

This year is the 5th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Vasyl. Plan to join us for the feast day celebrations on Tuesday June 27th. A detailed program will be in our June Newsletter.

Call in Prayer Requests

For a special intention or prayer request you may phone or email us. Your prayer request will be placed in the Shrine and remembered 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:	opened until 1:00 pm

Shrine is open to the faithful during the times of Liturgical Services. The Museum is opened 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

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:00 pm
Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasyl
(Acatlist 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:
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Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
Canada

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