



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

IN GOD'S HANDS

A Martyr's Gift

When one reads the story of the history of the miraculous icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help, one finds many moments when divine intervention helped either to save the icon from destruction or to find it after it had been lost. Similar events have surrounded our publishing of a book written by Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky about this famous icon.



Before this bullet-pierced icon, Blessed Vasyl wrote his book

Because of this book, Blessed Vasyl was arrested by the KGB in January 1969. This final arrest and imprisonment led to much torture, especially with chemical injections and electric wires. He was crowned, soon after the completion of his sentence, with a martyr's death.

Over the past five years we (Mary Jane Kalenchuk and I) have been doing research in Ukraine to discover and interview people who knew and worked with Blessed Vasyl. During our first year of interviews, we heard that Blessed Vasyl had written a booklet about the history of the miraculous icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help. Many of the sisters that we interviewed had been involved in either retyping this book (the only way to make copies during the time of the underground church) or had corrected it. However, no one had a copy of this book or knew where one could be found. The sisters were afraid to have a

copy in their possession, because it would have been illegal and meant possible arrest by the KGB. Finally, when interviewing Fr. Michael Sevchyshyn, C.Ss.R., (he was ordained to the diaconate by Blessed Vasyl), he told us that he had seen it in the museum of atheism in Lviv. When we toured this museum (now a museum of religion), we discovered Blessed Vasyl's vestments, which had also been confiscated. No book was found. We kept searching to see if we could find someone who could help us. We were given a name of a sister who knew someone who worked in this museum. However, it was our last day in Ukraine and we were unable to make contact with this sister. Just as we were about to give up, Sr. Gerarda of the Sisters of Mercy came through the door. This is the sister whom we were searching for. We conveyed to her our request to obtain this book, if it still existed in the museum. She promised to help.

Six months after we returned to Canada, we receive news that the book was found in the warehouse of the museum. However, the museum would not allow it to be removed. A clandestine photocopy of the book was then made. We received this copy. This was then retyped onto a computer, not a booklet, but rather a 266 page book. There was much need of editing, since the original itself was filled with handwritten corrections and changes. With the manuscript in our hands, we placed this project as something to do in the future. We needed to find someone to correct it and then publish it. We were in no hurry to do this since other projects seemed more pressing.

We returned to Ukraine the following year to continue our research and interviews. On the very last day of our stay in Ukraine, through God's providence we were led to meet Sr. Justyna. We first heard about her in KGB documents. These documents spoke of a Julia Tverdohlib and her involvement with Blessed Vasyl during the time of the underground church. This full story may be found in Issue 16, September 2007 Newsletter. She was one of two sisters that saw Blessed Vasyl in Kyiv, after his release from imprisonment in



Sr. Justyna OSBM, a co-worker with Blessed Vasyl in the underground church.

January of 1972 and a few days before his exile to Yugoslavia and Canada. She relayed to us that Bishop Vasyl told her in a whisper, (so that the hidden microphones would not hear their conversation,) that he would soon return and then they would finish the book and have it secretly published. Once we heard this "final" request of Bishop Vasyl, we knew that we needed to fulfill his wish. We found someone to edit the Ukrainian version of this book, and then we began the English translation. Both the Ukrainian and English versions of this book are now available in the Shrine Gift Shop.

We are very grateful to God and to Blessed Vasyl that this precious book was not lost forever in some warehouse, but is now available for all of us to read and be spiritually fed by the words of one of our modern day martyrs.

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

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Graces and Blessings

June 27th, 2008
Blessed Vasyli's Feast Day

In early June 2004, I conceived my little Maria, my twelfth pregnancy, of which, five little ones were lost in miscarriages previously. Each pregnancy was an anxious time for me. My family made a pilgrimage from Wisconsin to The Blessed's Shrine in July 2004; at that time, we dedicated our pregnancy to his trust and safety and protection. At this time, I was 40 years old and was considered, in medical terms, a high risk pregnancy, because of my age and also because of my many miscarriages. After my pilgrimage, I frequently anointed my womb with Blessed Vasyli's Holy Oil.



On December 21, 2004, two months to the baby's due date, I was driving home (alone) from getting things for our Christmas celebration. I was driving the speed limit (50 miles/hour) on a double-lane, paved highway, when suddenly, in front of me, a car crossed over into my lane and was heading to hit me "head on". I made a split second decision to drive into a deep ditch where I hit a telephone pole, head on at a terrific speed. The car was totaled at the time of impact. I felt guarded and protected by the Mother of God, as if she completely protected me from the impact and lifted me from the wreck. I also immediately remembered Blessed Vasyli as an intercessor for this baby.



Supernatural peace entered my womb and soul, at a time when I normally would have been very anxious and in a state of shock. He interceded for me and for Maria. He delivered us safely from the accident which could have been fatal for both of us (as testified by the police and rescue team.)

*Blessed Vasyli loves his people and he shows himself to us!
Blessed Vasyli, the worker of miracles and intercessor for us! Pray for us!*

**Maria Arianna Therese
Lemke**

P.S. Maria Arianna Therese Lemke was delivered safely into our hands on February 23, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.



A group of Western Canadian Catholic Youth Directors and the Western Canadian Association of Catholic Youth Ministers visit our Shrine.



Shrine Volunteers and their families are anointed during the Shrine Volunteer Appreciation evening.



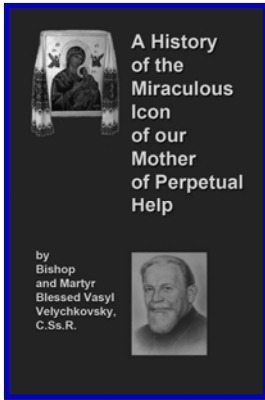
A catechism class from Christ the King Roman Catholic Parish learn about our martyr.

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 December 1st, 2008 until February 28th, 2009

- 1000+**
Helen Jakimeczko
Don and Karen Solman
- 100+**
Lise Anglin
Dr. Jaroslav and Mary Barwinsky
William & Genevieve Berezny
Kateryna K. Bodnarchuk
Fr. Bohdan Borowec
Dan and Bella Kalenchuk
Stan Kalupar
Beverly Kyle and David Sokolowski
Marusia Labay
G. Lasko
Dr Joe S. and Janice Mezibroski
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Joanna Pidperychora
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Anne Shpak
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Ukr. Cath. Church of Assumption (Portage la Prairie)
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Christine Walker
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Ben, Grace, Armyynn, Milak, Ivy, Espie & Staff
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- Jack Daniels**
Dolores Daniels
- Mykola Yaraslawa Derez**
Xenia Derez
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Iyvna Michalchyshyn and Marta Hnatiw
- Marianne Necnyk**
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- Nester family**
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- Joseph Novak**
Mary Glicaria Bilinsky
- Oshust family**
Ann Zulak
- Anne Pasternak**
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Father Shyshkovich Knights of Columbus
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- Mary Huminiski**
Deacon Victor Humniski
- Dan & Bella Kalenchuk**
Mary Jane Kalenchuk
- William & Anne Karlicki**
William J. Karlicki
- Slobodian children & grandchildren**
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Slobodian
- Mike Swydneycky**
Jenny Swydneycky
- Tataryn family**
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tataryn
- Jody Yakabowski**
Metro Lukie

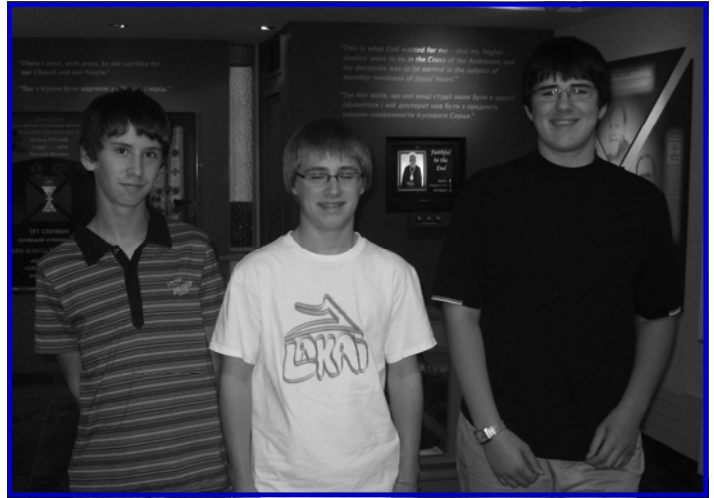


A NEW BOOK PUBLISHED

In 1966, while being a Bishop in the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church, Blessed Vasyl wrote this 266 page book on our Mother of Perpetual Help. This book, being considered anti Soviet literature, became the main reason

for his final arrest in 1969. It expresses his great love for the Mother of God and it's short stories offer much inspiration to the reader. It is now available in English from the Shrine Gift shop for **\$12.00 CDN.**

Email: bvshrine@mts.net



Justin Mezibroski, Derek Solman and Andrew Konopelny, students from St. Paul's High School, who did their required hours of Christian services by volunteering at the shrine by giving tours and greeting pilgrims, have now decided to continue this ministry at Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine.

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. A beautiful way to share with others in promoting the Martyr's Shrine! What a blessing it is to be in the presence of the Holy Relics of Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky!

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

Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine
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Tel: 204-338-7321 Fax: 204-339-1062 Email: bvshrine@mts.net Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com