



FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

A SIGN OF HIS BLESSINGS

GOD'S MANIFESTATIONS

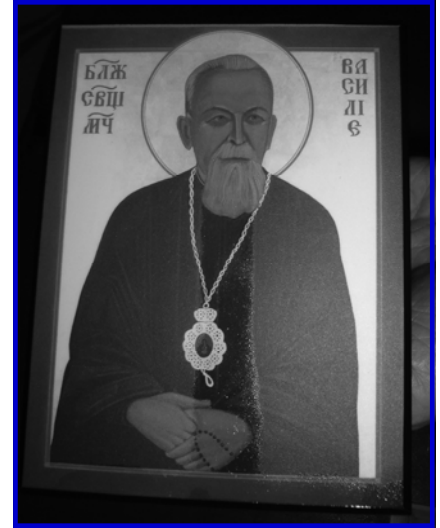
"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Mt 5: 14-16"

Over the past several years, the Shrine ministry has increased throughout the world. Shrines have always had a particular place in the life of the Church where people are touched by the mercy and compassion of God. They are places of conversion. At Shrines, pilgrims experience the presence of the communion of saints and the power of their intercession. They are places where people often come with deep needs. They bring their heartfelt petitions to the Lord through the intercession of the saints and the Mother of God. Shrines are places where God's compassion and mercy flows abundantly.

Here at the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine, we too have witnessed the extraordinary grace of God. So many pilgrims find great peace when they come and pray before Blessed Vasyl's holy relics. The Lord touches their hearts. Many receive healings and graces. God calls all the pilgrims to a deep conversion of life. As they encoun-

ter this modern day martyr, pilgrims are encouraged to imitate his self-giving and steadfast commitment to the truth of the Gospel and to imitate Blessed Vasyl's dedication to Christ. At times, God acts in extra-ordinary ways to reveal to us that He is truly present, that He is "God-with-us".

In the summer of 2009, a married couple from Calgary came to visit the Shrine and pray before the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl. They returned home with third class relics and holy cards. On Sunday October 4th, we received a phone call that the third class relics had begun to weep perfumed oil. The paper, especially where the 3rd class relic cloth is located, was wet with oil and produced a floral scent. The couple from Calgary asked us if we could send them an icon of Bl. Vasyl. We did. On November 13th, this icon began to weep this same scented oil. The oil ran from Bl. Vasyl's forehead and down his left shoulder. On November 25th, Fr. John and Mary Jane visited their home and witnessed the icon weeping perfumed oil profusely, from the top of the head to the bottom of the icon. They gave us that icon and the third class relic and asked if they could be placed in the Shrine. They are presently in the Shrine Chapel located below the "Cross of Resurrection" behind the sarcophagus of Bl. Vasyl. Since the icon has been in the Shrine, on two occasions scented oily marks appeared on it. The 3rd class relic,



Icon of Blessed Vasyl weeping perfumed oil.

although dry, still emits a beautiful scent.

On September 13, 2010 (the eve of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross) two Shrine staff were working by the sarcophagus, when they noticed an oily substance that had flowed from the cross beam of the "Cross of Resurrection" to the icon of Blessed Vasyl beneath it. The

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The Cross of Resurrection in the Shrine chapel weeping oil.

oily substance had no fragrance but remained on the cross until the end of October. After reflecting about this event, an analogy came to Fr. John. Just as the blood and water flowed from the side of Jesus, giving the Church the Mysteries (Sacraments) of the Eucharist and Baptism, so too from the “face of Christ” flowed this precious oil down to the icon of Blessed Vasyl as if to say to us that healing power flows from Je-

sus through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl, thus encouraging us all to offer our petitions to Blessed Vasyl for his intercession.

On January 5, 2011 (the eve of the Theophany-Baptism of our Lord) one of our Shrine staff, after praying before the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl, came to pray before the icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help which is in the Shrine Chapel. As she was praying, she opened her eyes and saw a drop-let of perfumed oil flowing from the hands of our



The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in the Shrine Chapel weeping perfumed oil.

Lady and Jesus. After being overwhelmed at this phenomenon, she called others to witness this occurrence. Three others saw it also. By the morning of January 7th the icon was dry.

We do not know why the Lord is revealing Himself in this way. But, we do know that it is a sign of His blessing and presence, encouraging us to a deeper faith, hope and love. His manifestations are a call to us to profound dedication and commitment to Him. Just as Blessed Vasyl lived his life faithfully in the midst of all his trials, we too are called to stand firm in our faith.

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

TRUE AND LASTING GIFT

“The greatest glory one can receive is from our relationship and our conversation, not with a great person, but with the greatest Majesty, with the Creator, with the unfathomable Being, and to participate in His life and Majesty. To converse with Him, to live in intimate union with Jesus, with Mary, with God, this is the greatest glory!

“An active interior life gives us that glory. It is not an earthly glory, but an eternal glory. This glory raises a person to the greatest happiness. There is nothing greater than our relationship with God. There is nothing more worthwhile. Interior life gives us the greatest treasure.

“In our interior life, we find the Light of God. This Light enlightens our minds. There is nothing like it in the world. This Light reveals to us the true worth of everything - of grace, of virtue, of intimacy with God. It gives us such gifts as trust, love, holiness and constant spiritual interior life. Our days become full - full of the great treasures of His kingdom .

“How pleasing it is to speak with good people. Time passes, hour upon hour, and it is not boring. What grace this conversation brings. However, our living conversation with Jesus - what joy that brings! Without Jesus, life becomes bitter. But what sweet happiness our interior life with Jesus, with God, brings to us.” *from a sermon Blessed Vasyl gave to priests in Ukraine during the time of the underground church.*

GRACES AND BLESSINGS

Dear Fr. John,

In times of distress, I have learned to rely on those whose faith is greater than my own to sustain me. Through the intercessory prayers of Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky I have, on a number of occasions over the past two years, become the blessed recipient of and/or witness to the profound mercy and healing power of God, on which I reflect upon now with humble gratitude.

One such instance was last February (Feb. 13th, 2011) on what started out as a very ordinary Saturday. After a full day of doing “Saturday things” – laundry, housecleaning, making sushi – I crawled into bed close to midnight, suddenly aware that I was “feeling weird”. Within a matter of minutes, my pulse skyrocketed to more than double its usual rate and my body temperature plummeted. I didn’t know what was happening, but I felt like I was dying.



My husband Adam, a trained First Responder, recognized these signs, in combination with a host of other symptoms I was displaying at the time, as an indication that my body was going into shock. Immediately, he called 9-1-1 for the ambulance which we knew would take at least an hour to reach us. (Oh, the joys of living in the middle of ‘nowhere’. . .)

So, together, we waited.

And prayed.

Adam administered the Sacrament of Healing, and as he anointed me with the rose-scented, relic-touched oil which I always keep on my bedside shelf, I silently prayed: *Through the prayers of Blessed Velychkovsky, O Savior, save us... Through the prayers of Blessed Velychkovsky, O Savior, save us... Through the prayers of Blessed Velychkovsky, O Savior, save us...* the words racing through my soul as fast as my heart was beating. By the time the ambulance finally arrived, all my previous symptoms had disappeared. Initial assessment by the EMT, and subsequent monitoring and testing with x-rays and blood work at the hospital that night showed no signs of abnormality of any kind.

Blessed Vasyl has also revealed to me his compassion on those with worst-case cancer concerns: In January 2010, one evening (a different Saturday), I was undressing for bed when I discovered a suspicious type of lump which I, as a Certified Professional Cancer Coach, immediately recognized as symptomatic of Inflammatory Breast Cancer, the rarest of all breast cancers with the lowest survival rate.

Until this point, I had only heard about the miraculous works of Blessed Vasyl but had not yet experienced them for myself. Nonetheless, I reached for the “Velychkovsky oil”, applied it to the affected area, and with a combination of faith and fear (mostly fear), I began to pray.

I never did get a chance to confirm my grim self-diagnosis through conventional medical testing this particular time, because by the time the weekend was over, all signs of the cancer were gone!

And in the weeks that followed I continued to pray.

These are perhaps the most dramatic examples of the loving way in which Blessed Velychkovsky has come to my aid. But there are many others. “Little” things – offering protection for me or my family from stressful, threatening, or dangerous situations when I called upon him for his intercession. He even “healed” my computer printer at a very critical moment! (That’s another story. . .)

In fact, as I reflect upon his MANY wondrous works of which I have been given the grace to witness, I can appreciate the words expressed by the Holy Apostle John at the conclusion of his testimony of all that Jesus had done. “I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.” It kind of feels like that.

In Christ,

Marian Pidwerbeski

My Tribute to Blessed Bishop Vasyl Velchkovsky

by Chris Winchar

I was asked to say a few words on how I personally knew Blessed Vasyl. I met him when I was 17 years old when I was an altar boy at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Church. He celebrated the Divine Liturgy along with Fathers Dybka and Krawchuk.

I thought to myself at the time here was another bishop from abroad celebrating another mass at St. Joseph's, not realizing he was soon to become a martyr and a well-known bishop across the world. My first impression of him was that he was a very tall man with large hands and fingers, and when he spoke he had a very deep low voice. But there was something special about him that day that drew my attention to him that I couldn't pin-point at the time. He had a certain "aura" about him. As the liturgy continued and it was time for Blessed Vasyl to say the homily, it then became evident to me why this man was so special.

As he talked about his life and how he was tortured in prison camps, weeping to the people, sparing nothing to the imagination, it was now plain to see THIS MAN was a disciple of God.....

I felt sorry for him that he had to go through so much, but not once did he sway from his faith. He was very devoted to our Blessed Mother of God...



Blessed Vasyl preaching while in Winnipeg

His constant praying of the rosary and his strong faith got him through these tough times, especially when he was placed on death row. All I remember him saying was PRAY, PRAY, PRAY....as the tears rolled down his face.

When he passed away I remember I attended his funeral. The church was full of priests and people.

When Blessed Vasyl was enshrined at St. Joseph's Church it was unfortunate that I was living in Bristish



Blessed Vasyl celebrating the Divine Liturgy with the assistance of Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R. .

Columbia, Canada at the time and unable to attend. I received a folder along with his 3d class relic of which I kept close to my bed stand. I also did watch a video of his enshrinement on VHS, drawing me even more close to him.

There were times that I prayed to Blessed Vasyl while holding the relic and my prayers were answered. My first encounter was when we had to put our dog down due to old age and if you are a dog lover like me you will understand what I was going through. Within a week I had another puppy, but in less than a month I noticed some black abnormal growths on her lower chin resembling that of melanoma. I researched the appearance of the growths in my textbooks and computer and I was convinced she had this. Having worked in a medical Laboratory during my lifetime, I had seen this kind of thing before quite often....but I was still in denial... I rushed her to the vet and I could see that he couldn't make any diagnosis without a biopsy first. The dog then stayed overnight for further tests. That night when I got home I for some reason pulled out Blessed Vasyl's 3d class relic and started praying to him for her not to die. I couldn't go through this again. I did not want to put down another dog in so short a time. It was hard enough to wait for the results to come back from Vancouver....but one day the phone rang and it was my vet. He was very excited in bringing me good news that the growths were benign. Was It a miracle?Does Blessed

Vasyl intervene on our pets well being? Was Blessed Vasyl a lover of dogs like myself? Who knows for sure, but one thing I strongly believe in is he did intervene this time and he knew my intentions were genuine! "We need to pray with our WHOLE minds and our WHOLE hearts, and our prayers will be answered !" I felt deeply my prayers were answered that day.

After we eventually moved back to Winnipeg I was asked to help out to volunteer at Blessed Vasyl's Shrine, and have enjoyed every minute of it.

We are SO BLESSED to have a martyr in our midst....here in Canada....here in Manitoba....here in Winnipeg....but above all HERE in our St. Joseph's Ukrainian Church. When I pray by Blessed Vasyl's sarcophagus I feel an inner peace that he is near

and listening to all my prayers. THANK YOU for your interventions!

You have personally touched my life in a very special way to make me believe in you and what you represent to me. It was a Blessing to serve with you at the Divine Liturgy of which I will cherish forever. I too have am devoted to our Blessed Mother of God like yourself and I pray one day that my faith can be as strong as yours.

I look forward to the day when you are canonized in our church as Saint Vasyl Velcyhkovsky...REST IN PEACE our dearly beloved martyr and please keep our Ukrainian people close to your heart.....

Vichnya Pamyat....

SHRINE VISITORS



Participants from the Marian Conference in Winnipeg



Fr. Petro Krachko from Warsaw, Poland with Proto-deacon Stefan Tyrawski from Winnipeg



American seniors include the Shrine as they tour Winnipeg during Folkorama



Parishioners from St. Timothy's Roman Catholic Parish in Winnipeg

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 1, 2011 until February 28, 2012.

+1000

In memory of Stephen & Katherine Dankewich

Katherine Dankewich

In memory of Dan, Tillie, Michael & Bill Gulenchin

Mary Anne Piercy

+500

In memory of Hnat, Nickolas & Matrona Pisiak, Michael, Nickolas & Anastasia Zawada

Sophia Pisiak

Lesia Sianchuk

Elsie A. Tymchak

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Dr. Jaroslav & Mary Barwinsky

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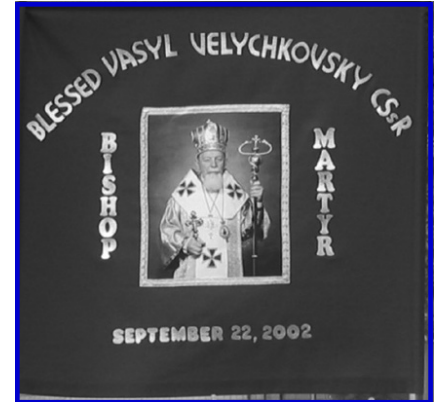
Allen and Mary Marcinkow

**Please consider
Bishop Velychkovsky
Martyr's Shrine when
planning your estate.
This will help to
secure the future of
this ministry.
Thank you.**

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This year, 2012, we are celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Enshrinement of the Holy Relics of Blessed Vasylychkovsky, C.Ss.R. The Enshrinement marks the beginning of a popular devotion to our Holy Martyr. It has been a true blessing and grace to have been part of this ministry for the past ten years. We have witnessed thousands of pilgrims coming and praying at the Shrine. We have received countless testimonies from those who have received a grace, a blessing or even a miracle. How many others have not shared their blessings with us. Over these past ten years Blessed Vasylychkovsky has become more known throughout North America and, by means of the internet, throughout the whole world.

This year we will mark this event with two celebrations, on the Feast-day **June 27th** and on the weekend of **September 22- 23**. We invite you to mark these days and come and join us in our prayerful celebrations.



Commemorative Anniversary calendars are still available from the Shrine Office. This colourful calendar highlights important events in Blessed Vasylychkovsky's life.

Shrine Volunteers are still needed

If you can spare 2 hours a week taking pilgrims on a spiritual journey through the Museum and Shrine, please contact the Shrine office at 338-7321. This is a beautiful way to share with others promoting the Martyr's Shrine! What a blessing it is to be in the presence of the Holy Relics of Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasylychkovsky!

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 Vasylychkovsky.

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

The 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: info@bvmartyrshrine.com

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:00 pm
Liturgical Service to Blessed Vasylychkovsky
(Acatist or Moleben) followed by an anointing with Holy Oil blessed by his relics.

Prayer to Blessed Martyr Bishop Vasylychkovsky

*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 Vasylychkovsky** 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 favours received:
Shrine Administrator
250 Jefferson Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
Canada

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