

FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

Hope for the Hopeless

Feast Days of Mary, Feast Days of Blessed Vasyl

In May, we honour Mary, the Mother of God. It is well-known that Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky had a strong devotion to her. He preached about her. He had her as a his constant companion and guide.

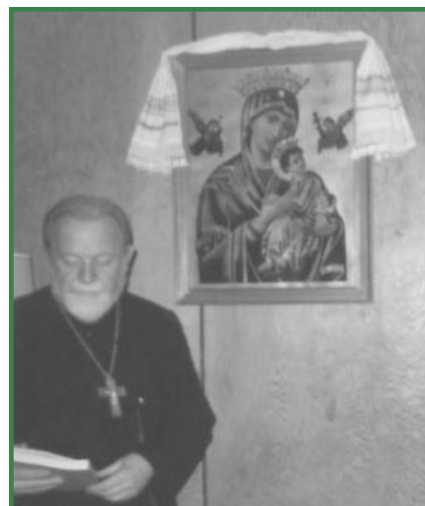
Throughout the church year, there are many feasts of Mary, which mark the events of her life. There is a common element in many of these feast days. This element is found in the special hymns for these feast days called Tropars and Kondaks. They all have the word, "today." On the feast of the Protection of the Mother of God or *Pokrov* on October 1, we sing, "**Today** the virgin is present in the Church..." When we celebrate Mary's Entrance into the Temple on November 21, we hear, "**Today** is the prelude of the benevolence of God..." When we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, when Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, we pray, "**Today** the beginning of our salvation is conceived in a barren womb..." At Christmas, we sing, "**Today** the Virgin gives birth to Perfect Essence..."

On the Annunciation on March 25, we say, "**Today** is the source of our salvation..."

Today, today, today,... Well, which day is it? Which feast day is worth celebrating? We celebrate the gift of God's grace which is present

among us on each and every one of these days. We celebrate that God's grace is alive and active on these feast days and all the days of the year, for all time is extraordinarily blessed by God. Also, on these feast days throughout the year, we are not

only remembering an event from Mary's life that happened long ago, but we are also celebrating a present reality, an event that makes a difference in our lives right here, right now.



On some days, we just do not feel like celebrating. There was one recent Wednesday evening. It was the end of a bad day, the end of a tough day for me. I was still tired from spending a weekend on retreat in Saskatoon with forty-five World Youth Day pilgrims from across Canada as well as driving almost nine hours each way to get there and back. Also, I had just finished two full and stressful days of meetings of our Yorkton Province of Redemptorists' Extraordinary Provincial Council, during which we were discussing where all the Redemptorists were to be placed for the next three years. In the midst of my tiredness, I knew I needed to come to the weekly devotional service in honour of our Blessed Martyr Vasyl at St. Joseph's Church that evening. I

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Blessed Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

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needed to pray. During the Akathist service, I was distracted during my prayer. I was not distracted in the usual way: making lists of things that needed to be done. I found myself going deeper into the words of the Akathist. As we prayed the Akathist to Blessed Vasyl and sang about the events of his life, I felt like I was celebrating and remembering the feast days of his life. We were celebrating his entrance into the temple, his profession of vows, his ordination, his "annunciation," his consecration as a bishop, and his "crucifixion." These feast days of Blessed Vasyl's life were not just events of the past. These events were happening in the present moment. They were real and active signs of God's grace with us now. All the statements in the Akathist that were in the past tense became statements about the present moment: He *is* one with

the poor. He *restores* those who are lost. He *feeds* the starving hearts. He *brings* hope to the hopeless. These feast days of Blessed Vasyl's life are not only for celebrating on Wednesday evenings at St. Joseph's Church, but they are part of our everyday lives wherever we are.

I know that Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky endured much more than I have had to endure on the worst of my bad days. Like Mary, the Mother of God, he is alive, present, and active in the Church today. We need his powerful prayer and intercession in our lives. He is here for us, right here, right now.

by Fr. Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R.
Director of The Welcome Home



ENCOUNTER WITH THE PATRIARCH

Shrine Administrator, Mary Jane Kalenchuk shares with His Beatitude Patriarch Lubomyr, the vision of the Shrine, its ministry and blessings that have occurred through the martyr's intercession. His Beatitude offered words of support and encouragement and stressed the importance of this ministry for the life of the Church, especially in North America.

EWTN will air
"Steadfast and Faithful:
a Martyr's Journey" on
the life of Blessed Vasyl
Velychkovsky on Mon-
day June 30th 5:30 pm
(Central Daylight Time)

PILGRIMS AT THE SHRINE



Holy Eucharist Parish comes for their annual pilgrimage



Associates of St. Marguerite d' Youville pray before the sarcophagus



S.U.M. from Toronto and Winnipeg make a pilgrimage to Blessed Vasyl



Ladies from Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Winnipeg come to learn about Blessed Vasyl



Grade 5 students from Christ the King Catholic School yearly visit the Shrine



S.E.R.V.E. '08 include a visit to the Shrine as part of their program

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. We are grateful to those who have named the Shrine as a beneficiary in memory of their loved ones. May Blessed Vasyl bless each one of you.

Contributions listed below are from March 15th 2008 until May 31st 2008.

1000+

In memory of Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R.
William Bailey
Fr. Edward Evanko
Heruvymy Ukrainian Female Quartet
Yurij Kchik and Maria Kchik
Teresa Korchinsky
Sophie Manulak
Victoria Mcauley
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Natalie
Jean Rubel
Eileen Shewchuk
Christina Sikorsky
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Sirdar
Mr. and Mrs. Vladimir Solman
Mr. and Mrs. David Swatek
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wowryk
Irene Zapisocki

100+

Associates of St. Marguerite d'Youville
 Gordon Blasko
 In memory of Boychuk & Solotki family
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Boychuk
 In memory of Lauretta, Mom, Dad, Mike and Bill Gulenchin
Roy Gulenchin
 Holy Eucharist U.C.W.L.C.
 In memory of Hretzay family members
Lena Hretzay
 Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hur
 Mr. and Mrs. George Kniaz
 Knights of Columbus-Holy Eucharist Council #11330
 Geraldine Koban
 Patricia Kreklewetz
 In memory of Steve and Katie Kyba
Sr. Nestor Kyba
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lapchuk
 Emil M. Maybo
 In memory of Myroslava Parkasewych
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bahry
Mr. and Mrs. George Parkasewych
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rathgeber
 In memory of Michael Roshko
Jean Roshko

In memory of Wasyl Samson
Anna Samson
 Mr. and Mrs. William Skromeda
 Iris Smellie
 St. Anne Council #10551
 Sts. Peter & Paul Ukr Cath Parish
 U.C.B.C. Holy Eucharist Branch
 Natalie Zalusky

<100

Jennie Bailley
 In memory of Mary Baron
Edith Kotyk
 Mr. and Mrs. Roman Boulina
 Leonard Bzdel
 P. Caldwell
 Christ The King School
 In honor of Dorothy Chrun
Deb Lendzyk Soresod
 In memory of Mike Demjanew
Nell Lupyrypa
 Veronica Domingo
 In memory of John and Katie Fedorchuk
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Fydirchuk
 In memory of Tekla Fedus
Elfia Strilec
 Mr. and Mrs. Lew Figol
 Anne Fontaine
 Sofia Hull
 In memory of Adam
Bonita Hunter-Eastwood
 Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Kindrachuk
 In memory of Dmytro Klaczko
Edith Kotyk
 In memory of Ann Kolodi
Mr. and Mrs. David Swatek
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Swatek
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kondra
 Edith Kotyk
 Cathy Kowbel
 In honor of Kuchinski family
Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kuchinski
 Mrs. Mary Kuzminski
 Darlene Litchie - Brown
 Jean Maksymchuk
 Mr. and Mrs. James Mandziuk

Mount Marty College English Club
 In memory of Metro Nazar
Olga Nazar
 In memory of Adam Pisiak
Elizabeth Paziuk
 In memory of Matthew Prociuk
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Prociuk
 Amelia Ratuszniak
 In memory of Dr. Eugene Bohdan
 Roslycky
Mr. and Mrs. Vladimir Solman
 Mr. and Mrs. John Rudan
 Bernice Sciog
 In memory of Julia Shpytkovsky
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Shpytkovsky
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shymko
 D. Sikora
 Mary Sinclair
 In honor of Sloboda family
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Sloboda
 Lena Smaluck
 In memory of Barbara Anne Sorensen (Kyrzyk)
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis W. Kyrzyk
 Victor Sorochuk
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spilchuk
 St. Basil's Ukr.Cath. Women's League
 In memory of Zenon Swydneyck
Jenny Swydneyck
 Gina Torentino
 Deacon Jude von Mann
 In memory of Anne & Frank Wachal
Dr. Joseph Lozinsky
 In memory of John Wytrykush
Adeline Wytrykush
 In memory of Marie Yalowega
Edith Kotyk
 Irene Zapisocki
 Mr. and Mrs. William Zaporzan
 Dianne Zolinski
 In honor of Zulak family
Ann Zulak

Omitted from Issue 18: We apologize for the inconvenience we may have caused.
 St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Calgary, AB



YOUTH PROMOTES SHRINE

A group of youth from St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Winnipeg continue to promote the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine by performing a play entitled "Fragments of the Life of Blessed Vasyl." The youth has performed in Winnipeg, Yorkton and Saskatoon.

**ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE CELEBRATIONS
for the
Feast Day of the Ukrainian Catholic Martyrs
NICHOLAS CHARNETSKY and COMPANIONS**

FRIDAY JUNE 27, 2008

DAY PROGRAM

9:00 Divine Liturgy
10:00 Rosary
10:30 Moleben
to the Martyrs
with anointing

Lunch available

1:15 Video Presentation
2:30 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 Ave. Winnipeg, Manitoba
for more information call: 338-7321

GRACES RECEIVED

*A couple of years ago I was clinically depressed. I received medication and counseling for six months. I came out of the depression, but went back down into depression a few months later. I heard about Fr. Vasyl and I came to his tomb. I prayed, and Fr. Vasyl gave me great strength. I attribute my healing to Fr. Vasyl for interceding to the Lord for me.
Thank you in Christ,*

*Diane
April/07*

**Please notify the Shrine of any
graces or blessings received
through the intercession of
Blessed Vasyl at 204-338-7321 or
e-mail: bvshrine@mts.net**

Prayer Requests

For a special intention and prayer request you may call or e-mail 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: 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: **bvshrine@mts.net**
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:
Fr. Provincial
250 Jefferson Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6
Canada