



# FULLY ALIVE

A Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine Publication

## The Passion and Resurrection

It was said that whenever Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R. would preach about the Passion of our Lord, he would begin to shed tears. When he would contemplate the sufferings of Jesus, he would be filled with emotion, thus revealing to his listeners his intense love for the Lord. His spirituality was not theoretical or purely emotional, but rather it was based on a living relationship with the Risen Lord. This relationship was fed by constant prayer and great confidence in God's Providence in his life. Blessed Vasyl understood the words of the Lord who said: "whoever wishes to be my disciple, must take up his cross and follow me." This, Blessed Vasyl did throughout his life. The cross was no stranger to him. He shared Jesus' Cross by suffering physically many times: by being enclosed in an extremely small cell in solitary confinement; by freezing his toes during the long train ride to Kirov; by enduring the extreme cold and hard labour in Vorkuta; by suffering abuse, false accusations and confinements while in the laager camp; by being beaten and tortured during many interrogations; by being injected with poisonous drugs while in prison in Kommunarsk; by suffering the pain of torture with electricity; and so forth. Yet in all this we never hear him complain or condemn those who were torturing him. In fact, we have witnesses who saw and heard Blessed Vasyl praying for his persecutors while he was in prison.



Blessed Vasyl had full confidence in the resurrection of the Lord, that his suffering was only temporary and that the Lord would be victorious in the end. Mr. Boris Mirus, a fellow prisoner, related in an interview how very depressed and discouraged he was. He came to Blessed Vasyl and shared this with him. Blessed Vasyl consoled him by responding prophetically that a day was coming soon when all this persecution and suffering will be overturned over night, and that again churches will be built and the country will be free. Mr. Mirus took these words to heart and remembered them when the Soviet Union fell apart.

Jesus is victorious. Through his Cross and death, new life does spring forth. By His death, death itself has been conquered. Blessed Vasyl believed this and lived it throughout his life of persecution.

### GRACES AND BLESSINGS

January 21, 2008

*Just to let you know I was blessed by a priest yesterday, just after Holy Mass, with the oil from Blessed Velychkovsky's shrine. I had a very sore lower back. Just after being marked with the cross on the forehead with the oil, I silently thanked God for the blessings I was receiving. It then came to me to thank Blessed Velychkovsky for his Fiat and for all the pain and suffering he offered for all of us in the mystical body of Christ. Just after saying that, I felt a sharp jab of pain halfway up my spine, not where the pain was. It startled me a bit. Last night I noticed the pain had diminished by about 60% and this morning I only have about 5% of my pain. Thank you Lord and thank you Blessed Velychkovsky. I was born and raised in Winnipeg and have now lived in Montreal for 30 years. It moved me in a particular way that the Lord healed me through the intercession of someone who also lived in Winnipeg, even though for a very short while. Alleluia!*

Nicole Sicotte

### EXERPT FROM THE ACATHIST HYMN IKOS 8

Rejoice, for you received the crown of thorns!  
Rejoice, for you were bound to the pillar of pain!  
Rejoice for you carried the full weight of the Cross!  
Rejoice, for you were stripped before the ungodly!

Rejoice for you drank the cup of sorrow!  
Rejoice, for you were baptized in the bath of pain!  
Rejoice, O Light of Christ!  
Rejoice, O Joy of the kingdom!

**Rejoice, O Bishop and Martyr Vasyl,  
Glorious Champion for Christ!**

Please notify the Shrine of any grace received through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl. This greatly helps the cause of his canonization.

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# 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.

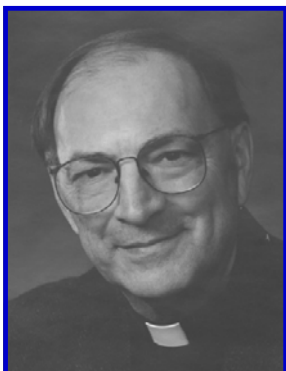
Contributions listed below are from December 1st, 2007 until March 15th, 2008

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 In memory of Julia Shpytkovsky  
*Andy & Leciya Shpytkovsky*  
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 Frank & Nellie Zeaton  
 In memory of Anton & Magdolene Oshust  
*Ann Zulak*  
 Richard & Verlee Zulyniak



## Father Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R. 1930 – 2008

The Redemptorists thank all those who contributed to the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine in memory of their confrere, Fr. Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R. Fr. Russ, our former Provincial, was a great missionary preacher who preached many missions and retreats across North America and Ukraine. He was a spiritual father to many by his wisdom, gentleness and great love for our Lord. He had a strong personal devotion to Blessed Vasyl and in recent years would often preach using Blessed Vasyl's example of holiness and martyrdom. May God grant him everlasting memory!

**ВІЧНА ЙОМУ ПАМ'ЯТЬ!**

## SHRINE PILGRIMS



Parishioners from Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Winnipeg



Ukrainian Catholic Youth of Winnipeg at the Shrine during their day of fast.



UCWLC from St. Mary's in Yorkton being anointed by Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R. at the Shrine

### VELYCHKOVSKY PILGRIMAGE to UKRAINE

This summer July 14 to August 1 there will be a pilgrimage to Blessed Vasyl sites in Ukraine: Lviv, Kowel, Ternopil, Zarvanytsia, Ivanno-Frankivsk, the Karpaty, Kiyv and other places. The complete cost is \$3100. It will be a pilgrimage with time for prayer and an opportunity to become more aware of the life and events of Blessed Vasyl. There is still some room available. Contact the shrine office as soon as possible for more information.

### 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](mailto: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:  
 Fr. Provincial  
 250 Jefferson Avenue  
 Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6  
 Canada

### Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine

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