



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

20th ANNIVERSARY OF ENSHRINEMENT

A JOURNEY OF BLESSINGS

Twenty years ago a holy gift was received. On September 16th to the 22nd, the holy relics of Blessed Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky were transferred from All Saints Cemetery (just north of Winnipeg) to St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church. This event involved a process which took several days. First, the remains of Blessed Vasyl had to be examined by medical experts. To our amazement and wonder, his holy body remained fully intact with all the skin and muscle mass and showed no signs of corruption. As we proceeded, we found the end toe bones had fallen off. It was later clarified that those bones suffered severe frostbite when Blessed Vasyl was in prison in northern Russia.

Being present before his holy body was a profound experience. It was like an experience of Easter, full of joy and exhilaration. His holy relics were then vested and placed into a stainless steel container which was sealed by Metropolitan Michael Bzdel. The transfer of holy relics can become declared as a day of commemoration by the Church. Therefore these days, September 16 - 22, are remembered in a particular way on this 20th anniversary.

Over the past twenty years we have seen the knowledge and devotion of Blessed Vasyl grow. Tens of thousands of pilgrims have come to the Shrine from all



over the world: groups from churches, from schools, catechism classes, catholic school teachers, seminarians, and individual families from various ethnic, racial, and faith backgrounds to name a few. One of the

memorable groups was the pilgrims from Nunavut. Prior to this trip, a nurse from Nunavut came to pray at the Shrine for a friend whose personality changed radically for the worse a month earlier after a confrontation with a shaman. She asked Blessed Vasyl to intercede for the healing and exorcism of her friend. That evening she heard that her friend's personality returned to normal.



This story circulated in Nunavut and a few months later, 65 members from the North came to Winnipeg to visit our Shrine. After hearing the life story of Blessed Vasyl and realizing that he spent years of imprisonment above the Arctic Circle, they quickly adopted him as their "saint" because he understood what it was to live in a cold climate with six months of darkness. Blessed Vasyl's icon can now be found in many of their homes.

In 2012 the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishops from the whole world gathered in Winnipeg for their Synod.

They chose to open the Synod in our Shrine. The Patriarch himself came earlier to the Shrine and Museum and had a personal tour of all the artifacts that we have concerning Blessed Vasyl. He was impressed with the work that had been done. During this Synod opening, the bishops had an opportunity to pray before Blessed Vasyl's holy relics and briefly visit the museum and see some of the more important



second-class relics we have there. This event introduced Blessed Vasyl and his powerful intercessory role to all of our hierarchy from the whole world.

Two years later, in 2014,



Patriarch Sviatoslav proclaimed Blessed Vasyl as Patron of Prison Ministry during the All-Ukrainian Pilgrimage at the Marian Shrine of Zarvanytsia before some 200,000 pilgrims. Relic crosses were given to all the bishops in attendance for their prison chaplains. Since that time, Blessed Vasyl's relics have been placed permanently in a chapel in Zarvanytsia for the faithful to venerate. They also were permanently installed in the Patriarchal Sobor of the Resurrection in Kyiv. Since then, we have seen his icon on the walls or iconostasis in many churches and chapels throughout Ukraine.



Shortly after this proclamation, we hired a couple in Ukraine, Oleh, and Tanya, to do presentations on Blessed Vasyl's life and to bring awareness. They have done over



a thousand presentations in parishes, hospitals, prisons, schools, and before various groups. In 2007, we restored Blessed Vasyl's apartment, where he lived during the

time of the underground church, to its original state. It is

now also a place of pilgrimage in Lviv. They have regular devotional services in this apartment/museum. Since 2008 we have conducted five pilgrimages from Canada to Ukraine to visit and pray in places Blessed Vasyl lived, ministered, and suffered.

Over the past twenty years, we have witnessed many graces, blessings, and miracles that have occurred through Blessed Vasyl's intercessions. We have recorded over 200 such blessings, notwithstanding those that have not been related to us. It has been an opportunity for our faith to grow and understand more how concrete God's love for us is. We have had cancers that have gone into remission, broken bones that were healed, tumors that have disappeared, babies that were healed or were safely delivered under extraordinary circumstances, drug addicts that have stopped using, conversion of hearts, and many blessings and graces received for various circumstances of life. The Shrine has truly become a place of grace and peace. Many come just to be in the presence of the "Holy". One Jewish rabbi said, "I come before him because he is a righteous man, and I find peace here."

I thank all the volunteers and staff that have worked at the Shrine over these past years. Their dedication and love for Blessed Vasyl have allowed us to spread devotion to him across the world. Through the internet, we have been able to minister to people. Almost daily, we receive requests for prayers from various parts of our globe. Our recent online services have enabled many to pray with us. We pray that devotion to Blessed Vasyl continues to grow so that all glory can be given to God, who is wonderful in His saints.

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

BLESSED VASYL FEASTDAY—JUNE 27, 2022

Praying for Ukraine

On June 27th, the Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine commemorated the Martyr's Feastday by devoting the day to pray for Ukraine. The gathering began on the evening of June 26th which included the return of a prayerful rosary procession through the streets of Winnipeg. On the Feastday the main guest homilist was **Fr. Yevhen Zadorozhnyi, C.Ss.R**,



a Redemptorist from Ukraine now serving in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Thank you to all those who came and prayed.



The past couple of years has been filled with restrictions for the safety of one another. Many of these restrictions have been changed or lifted as we have learned to adjust our lives and live with COVID.

WE INVITE YOU TO COME BACK – OR COME FOR THE FIRST TIME to spend time in the Shrine, a holy place created to allow pilgrims to pray and to be present before the holy relics of Blessed Vasyl.

During this time of war in Ukraine – the homeland of Blessed Vasyl, let us intentionally make time for prayer, especially on Wednesdays. Divine Liturgy is celebrated every Wednesday at 8 a.m. in the Shrine Chapel before the Holy Relics. At 1:30 p.m., there is a public Rosary Meditation Hour, and at 7 p.m., a Devotional Service in Honour of Blessed Vasyl followed by intercessory prayer and individual anointing.

In addition, the Shrine is open daily except Mondays.

DEVOTION TO BLESSED VASYL—IMPACTING LIVES TODAY

Blessed Vasyi is our friend. We were introduced to him during the formative years in the lives of our children. We made effort to get acquainted with him, his life and his work. The more we learned, the more each of us grew to love him and develop each one's personal relationship with him. A good friend is a precious gift from God with whom Love invites us to stay in touch with and connected to. To help with this, we recognize that we've also been privileged to have men of Blessed Vasyi's beloved CSsR order reflect and live his charism as they minister in our midst keeping his spirit alive.

Admittedly, we all seek a superhero to emulate. In our family's case we found a timeless superhero in Blessed Vasyi - steadfast and strong in the Theological Virtues par excellence! He ran the race, paid the price and received the reward. In our minds nothing else matters. We have no doubt that he holds a special seat by our Theotokos and intercedes to God through her on our behalf. Sometimes the answer is 'no' or 'not now', usually the answer has been miraculously 'yes', but regardless; each of us is always afforded tranquility of spirit and acceptance of God's holy will. We are indebted to our superhero friend for all he has done for us.

Blessed Vasyi's vigil candle has been lit on our mantle since the Transfer of his Relics to warm us with the knowledge of his closeness and the fact that we are not alone. The Moleben and Acathist have become etched in our minds and entrenched in our hearts summarized in our daily prayer, "Blessed Vasyi, intercede to God for us!"
Robert and Lydia Sliva and Family
Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Having Blessed Vasyi so close to us in Winnipeg has been and continues to be a very real, tangible blessing. As our family has gone through life, with its challenges and crosses, being able to really converse with a saint has helped us to continue on our life's journey. The example of Blessed Vasyi has helped us to see that, being saintly, is very much something we as Catholics in Canada can do. Crosses that come our way can be carried. Hope is always to be found under the mantle of Our Lady – as we are taught by the example of Blessed Vasyi.
Jason and Stacie Sliva
Winnipeg, Manitoba

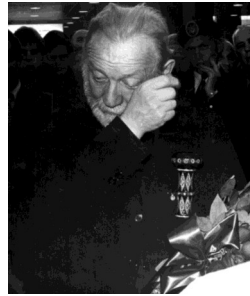
We appreciated the opportunity to visit the Shrine of Bishop Velychkovsky. Mom said many prayers



(l to r) Larry & Cynthia, Brenda Kitz, photo taken by Greg Kitz

requesting Bishop Vasyi's assistance with our brother, Laurie's double lung transplant, and her prayers were answered! He is in year 12 following the surgery and living a very good quality of life. Before she, passed, mom insisted that we visit the Shrine and show our appreciation.

*Cynthia & Larry Gabrush
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*



What first attracted me to Blessed Vasyi was the photograph of him when he arrived in Winnipeg after his terrible ordeal as bishop and witness to the faith in hostile territory. I believe the photograph was taken at the airport. Blessed Vasyi was brushing tears away from his eyes. When I contacted the Shrine, I was so impressed by

the warm and informative reception that I got that I have been supporting the Shrine ever since. I keep a relic of Blessed Vasyi along with some blessed oil from the Shrine at home and read the Shrine newsletters regularly.

About my friend, when she was diagnosed with a deadly form of cancer (roughly 10 years ago), I immediately decided to commend her cause to Blessed Vasyi and told her I was doing this. She was grateful and enthusiastic. I cannot recall specifically which type of cancer she had, but think it was either ovarian or uterine or both. I know it was extremely serious. She was in her sixties at that time and I had heard that many women do not survive such a diagnosis. I prayed and prayed to Blessed Vasyi and told him that if he helped my friend I would be sure to report the favour to the Shrine.

My friend underwent grueling treatments of every kind, including chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. She remained positive and cheerful throughout. We kept in close touch. After a couple of years, she was cancer-free. The doctors warned her that there was always a chance of recurrence, and that, if that happened, there was very little else they could do for her.

To my amazement, she is alive and well to this day. She gets great joy out of life, especially from her grandchildren and her garden. Every time I see her, I say a silent prayer of thanksgiving to Blessed Vasyi.

*Lise Anglin
Toronto, Ontario*

While growing up in Ukraine, I heard the name Vasyi Velychkovsky a few times. I knew that he was one of the underground bishops in our Ukrainian Catholic Church. In 2001, when Pope John Paul II announced the names of New Ukrainian Martyrs, amongst whom was the name of Blessed. Vasyi Velychkovsky. My initial reaction was: "What did Vasyi Velychkovsky do that his name is on the list? Why we didn't hear anything about his extraordinary life?" Over twenty years have passed since that day, and all I can say is that I encountered Blessed Vasyi Velychkovsky as an ordinary man with extraordinary faith and trust in God. He embraced himself, his humanity, and his vocation and let Jesus use him as his instrument in touching those around him in ordinary, human ways. May Blessed Vasyi help us to encounter Jesus and become witnesses of the plentiful Redemption to the wounded world.

*Seminarian Ivan Mark Dzshur, C.Ss.R.
Currently serving his pastoral year in Newfoundland*

BLESSED VASYL MINISTRY IN UKRAINE



Rosary that was broadcast on Zhyve TV with Plast in the former cell where Blessed Vasyl was imprisoned in Chortkiv.

Weekly Moleben before the Blessed Vasyl Altar led by Very Rev. Andriy Rak, C.Ss.R. Provincial Superior, Lviv



Presentation about Blessed Vasyl to the Brotherhood of the Mother of Perpetual Help in St. Demetrius Church, Lviv



Moleben for healing in the museum-apartment of Blessed Vasyl, Lviv



VISITORS TO THE SHRINE

Many visitors stopped by the Shrine over the summer to pray and learn more about Blessed Vasyl. Here are a few of the pilgrims.



Joshua, Samantha, Scarlett, and Juniper Hrynchyshyn (Alberta)

Michael and Carmen Leung (Vancouver, BC)



Fr. John Mack, VP for Formation, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (Hales Cornets, WI)
Deacon Oliver Omega (Winnipeg)

Chris and Laura Kyrzyk (Edmonton Alberta) and Karl Toews (Burgessville Ontario)



NEW SHRINE & MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR



We welcome Lesia Sianchuk as the new Shrine and Museum Administrator. Lesia has been involved in the Shrine ministry from the very beginning. She helped organize the Enshrinement event in 2002. Since that time she has participated in our weekly devotional services, cantoring for them. For the past number of decades, she has been the Executor Director for many non-profit organizations including hospitals and schools. Her most recent post was the Executive Director of Lubov SSMI Foundation. We welcome her to this new ministry as she promotes knowledge and devotion of our Blessed Martyr. May Blessed Vasyl bless her and guide her in this ministry.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE

The Shrine is introducing a new ministry. Occasionally we receive time sensitive emergency prayer requests which call forth a concerted community response.

"You have given us the grace to pray together in harmony and have promised to grant the request of two or three who join their voice in Your name."

(Third Antiphon Prayer)

We are establishing a Prayer Circle to intercede for these important requests. This is not a group that will meet in person, rather the prayer partners will be praying individually for the same request. If you are interested in being a part of the Blessed Vasyl Prayer Circle please contact the office at 204-338-7321 or email info@bvmartyrshrine.com

THANK YOU!!!

Your generous donations make it possible to conduct the ministry of the Shrine and promote the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl throughout the world. Thank you. 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 June 1st until August 31, 2022

+ 1000

In memory of Anne Gulenchin

Mary Anne Piercy

Donald Lamour

+100

Lise Anglin

Josephine Draganiuk

Dave Fedorowich

Fr. Shyshkovich K of C Council #8925

Walter & Mary Melnyk

Dr. Joe S. & Janice Mezibroski

Romeo Miniano

Tetyana Pokeza

Rayner Agencies LTD.

Philip Sieklicki

Henry & Iris Spilchuk

St. Joseph's U.C.W.L.C.

Fred Stoyka

100<

Peter Adams

Maria Barcelon

Alan Chanway

Leslie & Caroline Dubowits

Guy Furet

Barbara Gardner

Catherine Holmes

Ed Jelinski

W. Scott Jenken

Lawrence & Isabel Kruk

Michael & Carmen Leung

Jack & Karen Moroz

Richard & Marietta Persian

Myroslava Polyakova

Theodore Reznowski

Manuela Rubio

Iris Smellie

William Vandervan

Pamela Winkler

Alex & Mary Zemrose

In Memory Of...

Virgilio & Kenneth Abrenica

Clarita Abrenica

Ron Aftanas

Heather Kergen

Vasyl Balan

Tetyana Pokeza

Petro & Olena Berezny

Taras Berezny

William Berezny

Mary Zulynik

Florence Blanchard

Rick & Cynthia Bryant

Mary Hamm

John & Dora Byskalo

Mary Kuzminski

Mac & Rose Bzdel

Leonard & Carol Bzdel

Sonia Ilnyckyj

Oksana Baluta

Geraldine Koban

Ione Doddie Abrametz

Jean & Danny Kowbel

Cathy Kowbel

June Michalchuk

Duane & Darlene Dahl

Helen & Jacob Nechwediuk

William J. Karlicki

Helen Patterson

Mary Kohut

Veronica Rawlyk

Michael Rawlyk

Eric Richards

Myrna Richards

John Romance

Marissa Lorenzo

Jean Shymko

Helen Jakimeczko

Emile & Sylvia Picklyk

Olga Skehar

Mary-Anne Skehar

Doug Taylor

Marilyn Krawchuk

Uchach Family

Jean Uchach

George Zawortny

Kay Zawortny

Zegalski-Lysyshyn-Senyk-

Zimmerson

Rose Zegalski

Vivian Zelenewich

Darlene Sidak

Yvonne Zeleny

Susan Zeleny

In Honor Of

Ukraine

Ewen & Stephanie Brenycz

Paul & Adeline Carbotte

Paul & Adeline Carbotte

Children & grandchildren

Darlene Sidak

Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R.

Marie Gwozd

Peace in Ukraine

Olga Boychuk

Robert & Lydia Sliva

For the Health Of

John & Elsie Baryluk

John & Elsie Baryluk

Bob & Debbie, Kevin & Roberta & Spouses

Robert & Debbie Braid

Brenycz Family & Friends

Ewen & Stephanie Brenycz

Little Spencer

Lawrence & Nettie Chuckree

Theresa Hlus

Olga Hlus

William Katerynuk

Bill & Olga Katerynuk

Hazel & Mike Kiernicki

Edward & Anne Faseruk

Sveta, Vita, Vitalik, Nastya, Bogdan

Yaroslava Kitasz

Valerie Kohut

Sonia Domitruk

Edward & Anne Faseruk

Phyllis Shindak

Edward Tycholis

Kristin, Chanse & Daryna Rose

Mary Kokolski

Dana Lesiuak

Clarence & Helena Demchuk

Jacklyn Moroz

Jack & Karen Moroz

Allan Morris

Allan & Genevieve Morris

Rose Mydyski

Rose Mydyski

Ariadna Ochrymovych

Ariadna Ochrymovych

Sliva Family

Robert & Lydia Sliva

Princess Tagarda

Princess Tagarda

Jean & Julian Warwaruk

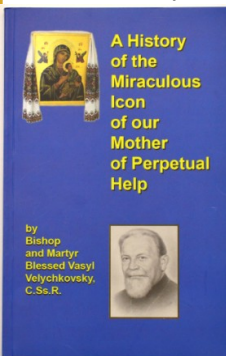
Phyllis Shindak

**Help Acknowledge 20 years
and enable the Shrine
ministry to continue for
many more years.**

When planning your charitable donations, remember to include the Blessed Vasyl National Martyr's Shrine. All gifts are used for the upkeep of the Shrine and Museum, and for the ministry to promote the knowledge of and devotion to Blessed Vasyl. Donations can be made online through the website. Thank you

October the Month Devoted to the Rosary

Devotion to the Mother of God and praying the Rosary was a faithful part of daily life for Blessed Vasyl. At the age of seven, during a retreat, at his grandfather's parish, his mother requested the missionary priest to dedicate the little child Vasyl to the Mother of God. Belonging to the Mother of God was a life long commitment. His dedication was affirmed again by joining the monastery of the Most Holy Redeemer—the Redemptorists, where the Mother of Perpetual Help is the greatest patroness.



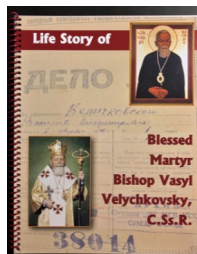
This October, we encourage you to pray the Rosary daily. We invite you also to read a special book—

A History of the Miraculous Icon of our Mother of Perpetual Help, written by Blessed Vasyl during the time of the underground Church.

The book is a history of this famous icon and testimonies of graces received. The Ukrainian original is translated into English,

and both versions are available for purchase at the Shrine Gift Shop or online.

TEACHING MATERIAL AVAILABLE NOW



This Kit is ideal for Grade 4 - 5 students who learn about saints as part of their religion curriculum. It can also be used in Catechism classes, home school programs or even for Adult Religious Education.

Included in the Kit:

Booklet presenting Blessed Vasyl's life through 28 lessons. Workbook for Students including questions and answers, puzzles, games and more. Digital copy of all the materials and an icon. Kits are available for purchase at the Shrine Gift Shop or online. For more information call 204-338-7321.



Call in Prayer Requests

For a special intention or prayer request you may phone, email or submit through our website. Your prayer request will be placed in the Shrine and remembered in prayer every Wednesday evening after the service in honour of Blessed Vasyl and during the morning Divine Liturgy in the Shrine.

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.*

ONLINE MINISTRY

Pray before the Holy Relics

The Rosary

The Blessed Vasyl Chaplet

all are available at anytime on the Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine YouTube Channel.

LIVE STREAMING of the Devotional Liturgical Services are broadcast every Wednesday at 7 p.m. CDT on



SHRINE SCHEDULE

Monday:	Shrine is closed
Tuesday to Friday:	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday:	10:00 am to 1:00 pm

The Shrine is open after weekend Liturgies. Group tours are available, to make arrangements contact the Shrine Office

Join us EVERY WEDNESDAY at 7:00 pm
For a Liturgical Service in Honour of Blessed Vasyl
(Acathist or Moleben)

For more information: **204-338-7321**
e-mail: info@bvmartyrshrine.com

Blessed Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine
250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R2V 0M6
Tel: 204-338-7321 Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com
Website: www.bvmartyrshrine.com