



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

PILGRIMS OF HOPE



During this year of Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope, we are encouraged to seek opportunities to enter more deeply into an encounter with the Lord Jesus. There are various directives given in the *Spes Non Confundit* – Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 prepared by the late Francis Bishop of Rome. Point #24 states “Hope finds its supreme witness in the Mother of God. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naïve optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life.”

Vasyl Velychkovsky was born June 1, 1903 in Stanislaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk), Ukraine. Having been born into a family that was filled with great faith and devotion, Vasyl carried that deep dedication of trusting in God's will throughout his life. He especially had a great devotion to the Mother the God who was a source of hope.

During the month of May 1911, Vasyl attended a mission with his mother at his grandfather's Church in Probizhnia. At his mother's request, the missionary dedicated young Vasyl to the Mother of God. Vasyl placed great importance on this event. Throughout his life he referred to this event as pivotal, since he always sensed himself under the protection of her loving care.

The Mother of God led him to join the Redemptorists in 1924.

Vasyl drove his aunt Sister Maria-Monica to Zboiska to the Redemptorist monastery because she had a spiritual matter to discuss with Fr. Joseph Schrijvers, the Vice-Rector. Shortly after she had her meeting with Father

Joseph, he came outside to where Vasyl was waiting. Father spoke to Vasyl as if they were old acquaintances: “Good, good. I accept you into our monastery. Go home, for a little while, for vacation, and on August 1st come to Holosko for Novitiate.” Vasyl had no words, he did not request to be accepted, yet this invitation left him with a joyful sense that overwhelmed his soul. He would come to realize the grace of this invitation to be a



Mother of Perpetual Help

part of a religious community whose mission included making the Icon of the Mother of Perpetual Help known throughout the world.



Altar where Blessed Vasyl was Dedicated to Mary

Blessed Vasyl's daily choices about what to do or say, would draw on the strength of the Mother of God to bring hope to the situations that he faced.

When the Second World War began and the Soviets first occupied Western Ukraine, Blessed Vasyl was in Stanislaviv, serving in a thriving Redemptorist mission church. His heart went out, especially to the poor country folk that

came to the city to earn a living. In 1940, on the feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, while the city was occupied by the Soviets, Blessed Vasyl dared to have a procession of 20,000 people through the streets of Stanislaviv. After the procession he was arrested.

Fearing the people who were ready to shed their blood for him, the Soviets released Father Vasyl.

On August 7, 1945, the Soviets came to the monastery in Ternopil to arrest him. Father Vasyl decided to escape out the back door into the garden and hid behind the bushes. Even though the place was surrounded, Father Vasyl planned his escape. Ideas, like lightning flashed through his head what to do? With the rosary in his hand he began “Hail Mary...” It became clear to him, return to the house and give yourself into their hands – this will be the best and most honourable. And so he did...

This was the beginning of his long journey of imprisonment, filled with interrogations, potential death in front of a firing squad and ten years of hard labor. But Mary the Mother of Perpetual Help would be his great strength. The Hail Mary was always on his lips and when possible a rosary hidden in his hands.



Procession with the faithful



Blessed Vasyl's Rosary

Father John Sianchuk, met some of those that were imprisoned with Blessed Vasyl. They shared their experiences of how he taught them to pray and to turn to the Mother of God for hope.

When his prison sentence was completed, he was sent to Lviv. Drawing on his faith and strength to minister to others even during his imprisonment, he began to organize the Underground Church. Many were inspired by the leadership, teachings and example of Blessed Vasyl.

One of the helpers of Blessed Vasyl was Sister Anhelina Chayka, OSBM. Blessed Vasyl taught her to always turn to the Mother of God in times of danger. Father John met her several times. Here is a part of her story.



Sister Anhelina Chayka

"Once Father Vasyl said to me: 'I have a very important work for you. Will you manage it?' I answered: 'From childhood, I love the Mother of God and have her as my Helper. She always helps me. She will help me now.'"

"Father Vasyl often gave retreats to the priests, but always in a different house, so that no

one would know about this and he would not get caught. My task was to inform the priests and to bring the priests to the designated house. One time, there were eight priests. I also arranged with them that I would place a flower by the gate of the designated house, where the retreat was to take place. In that way one by one, they all arrived. Father Lemishka, an elderly priest, asked me after the retreat who gave me the idea to do that. I answered him: 'Father, the Mother of God tells me everything. I know nothing by myself.'

Blessed Vasyl was once again arrested in 1969 and sentence to three years of chemical torture, primarily for a book he wrote on the History of the Miraculous Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. This book highlights the history of the icon and also included personal reflections, prayers and stories of miracles.

Here is an excerpt taken from "A History of the Miraculous Icon of the Mother of Perpetual Help" by Bishop and Martyr Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R. - 1969

"Obviously, our only hope before God is our Savior Jesus Christ, his love, his blood, his sacrifice on the cross, through which he paid the debt of our sins to Divine Justice. Nevertheless, Mary, the Mother of God, is also our hope, since she is the most powerful queen, the most loving Mother. When a discouraged soul, overburdened with sins and its unworthy prayers, is unable to raise its eye to God, but has even a little confidence in the Mother of God and turns to her, it will not be disappointed. The Mother of God will accept this poor prayer and attach to it her prayer, and this poor prayer becomes powerful. This poor child of Mary becomes a good child of God."

"She will never abandon you! She stood beneath the cross, suffered with Jesus, but all that time, she loved you. Confide in her, love her, and love Jesus through and with her. She is our Queen, our Mother and our Hope."

"O my Heavenly Queen, my most loving Mother, my sweet Hope! As you always carry me in your immaculate suffering heart, so too, I wish to always carry your name in my unworthy heart until the last moment of my life. Grant me the grace of humility, love and perseverance. Our Mother of Perpetual Help, save us!"



BLESSED VASYL MINISTRY IN UKRAINE—TODAY



Blessed Vasyl Pilgrimage walk at the Mother of God Shrine Monasteryrska, Ternopil Region

The ministry in Ukraine continues to receive pilgrims at Blessed Vasyl's Apartment/Museum in Lviv. In addition the staff continue to visit parishes in Ukraine, sharing Blessed Vasyl's story and praying with the faithful.



Faithful gather for Moleben

Sister Louise Tsiupa, Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate visiting from Rome



Archconfraternity of Our Mother of Perpetual Help



Students from the Ivan Franko National University Lviv

PILGRIMS VISITING THE SHRINE



Pilgrims with Bishop David Motiuk from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton



First Communion Class Pilgrimage from Christ the King Parish Winnipeg



Confirmation Class Pilgrimage from Blessed Sacrament Parish Winnipeg



Pilgrimage from St Gerard Parish Winnipeg



Virgin delos Remedios - Religious Group from several Catholic Parishes Winnipeg



Confirmation Class Pilgrimage from Christ our Saviour Parish Steinbach, Manitoba



Romeo de Luna, Dolores Mancici, Jacqueline Funardez, Rolorio Funandiz & Loyda de Luna



Seminarian Melquisedec Jooquin Espiroze, David & Graciela Turcotte, Fr. Matteo Marinucci from the Diocese of Quebec



Edward Mesina from Toronto Ontario, Rada & Rommel Salta Winnipeg



Parishioners from St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church Winnipeg

THANK YOU!!!

*Thank you to all the contributors to the Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine.
Through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl may each of you be blessed.
Contributions listed below are from March 11 to May 26, 2025.*

\$1,000 +

In memory of Archbishop

Michael Bzdel, C.Ss.R.

Anonymous

Archbishop Albert LeGatt, D.D.

For the health of Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R.

Marcel Chartier

God's Blessings on Canada

Dr. Barbara Ann Mackalski

In honour of Priests for Life Canada

Marlene MacKalski

In memory of:

Eugene & Joseph Danylyshen

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Helen Stockburn

The Shrine relies on the generosity of donors to be able to conduct our ministry of:

- welcoming pilgrims to the Museum and Shrine
- providing prayer support
- leading tours
- promoting the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl throughout the world
- maintaining and operating the Museum & Shrine in Winnipeg
- maintaining and operating the Museum (Blessed Vasyl Apartment) in Lviv, Ukraine

To donate to the **Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine**

Online www.bvmartyrshrine.com

Phone: 204-338-7321

Mail: 250 Jefferson Ave. Winnipeg, MB R2V 0M6

DEVOTION TO BLESSED VASYL IMPACTING LIVES TODAY

Thank you and Blessed Vasyl for interceding for my son. We had a Divine Liturgy said for him. He was hospitalized for 10 days recently as he had been suffering for a very long time with depression. He finally received the answers that there was a cause behind this and is receiving great healing now both physically and psychologically. This was a miraculous healing, things were very serious and we feared the worst. - Received February 2025 from Maria

Since I last wrote, he has also received great spiritual healing and has returned to the faith after 10 years. I am eternally grateful for all the prayers offered at the Shrine. - Update received March 2025

The Shrine is a place for pilgrims to come and offer their prayers before Blessed Vasyl and to spend prayerful time in the presence of his Holy Relics. Many favors, graces and miracles have already occurred through his intercession. You are invited to approach Blessed Martyr Vasyl with confidence that he will intercede for your needs before the Almighty God. If you have received graces, please share your story by contacting the Shrine Office.

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.*



As part of the Jubilee Year
the

**Bishop Velychkovsky
National Martyr's Shrine**

invites you to the

Healing Divine Liturgy

**1st Wednesday of
every month at 7:00 p.m.**

Confession available beginning at 6:30 p.m.

*The Liturgy will include special prayers
and
Anointing with Holy Oil blessed by the
Holy Relics of Blessed Vasyl.*

Bishop Velychkovsky National
Martyr's Shrine at
St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church



Life of Blessed Vasyl - Significant Dates Month of June

June 1, 1903

Born in Stanislaviv, Ukraine

June 15, 1972

Arrived in Canada

June 30, 1973

Fell asleep in the Lord (Winnipeg)

June 27, 2001

Beatified by Pope John Paul II now Saint

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine



Designated Jubilee Site



Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky FEASTDAY *Pilgrims of Hope*

- June 26th** 6:00 pm **Vespers followed by Rosary Pilgrimage Procession & Anointing**
Thursday
Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R. — A time for hope and restoration
- June 27th** 9:00 am **Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian)**
Friday
Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R. — Our call to journey as Pilgrims of Hope
- 10:30 am **Moleben in Honour of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky**
Fr. Yevhen Zadorozhnyi C.Ss.R. — Discovering hope in the signs of the times
- Blessed Vasyl Chaplet & Anointing**
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm **Acathist in Honour of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky & Anointing**
Fr. Larry Kondra, C.Ss.R. — Called to be visible signs of hope for those in need
- 6:30 pm **Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian)**
Fr. Ivan Dzhur, C.Ss.R. — Living our Baptismal Call
- Living Rosary and Anointing**
- Confession available throughout the day.
Tours of the Museum available throughout the day.*

ST. JOSEPH UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY NATIONAL MARTYR'S SHRINE

250 Jefferson Avenue Winnipeg, MB
More information call: 204-338-7321
Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com

All services will be Live Streamed on
Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine



Times Listed in Central Daylight Time (CDT)



The Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire.

(Pope Francis — Letter for the Jubilee 2025)



www.cccb.ca

This Summer....plan your personal pilgrimage to our designated Jubilee site.

The Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyrs Shrine is open daily throughout the summer to welcome pilgrims.

The Shrine and Museum are open:

Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Sunday: Before and After the 10:00 a.m. the Divine Liturgy

Group tours are available. To make arrangements contact the Shrine Office.

Join us EVERY WEDNESDAY at 7:00 pm for a Devotional Service in Honour of Blessed Vasyl (Acathist or Moleben) followed by anointing with Blessed Vasyl Holy Oil.

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