



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

HOPE IN THE RESSURECTION



Holy Card from the Underground Church

Blessed Vasyl lived his life trusting in the hope of the Resurrection. He knew the ultimate outcome of everything that was happening, yet he continued to do his activities.

Here are some excerpts from those that knew him and were in prison with him..

"To celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the barracks was very dangerous, because in every barrack, there were at least ten spies, who were watching him particularly. Therefore, on important holy days such as

Easter, Christmas, etc. Father celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the mine shaft. He also confessed us before the holy days, although that too was dangerous. When Father Velychkovsky confessed, it was profound. After confession, it always felt easier.

I talked with Father Velychkovsky about myself. After we became well acquainted, we began to share as believing persons, especially on Christian themes. I loved to listen to him. He knew this and he loved to talk with me. I was depressed. I thought that the Soviet Union would be eternal, because it was a great power. They had military weapons. Those, who could do something to change this, were locked up in prisons. The ones, who were living in 'freedom', were the Communists



Boris Mirus

and the KGB. When the Soviet Union fell apart, I remembered his words: "You will still live to see those days, when all will fall apart in one night. I probably will not live that long. Just as they systematically destroyed the churches, threw down the crosses, arrested the priests, so too with enthusiasm will those crosses be put back onto the churches. Many new churches will be built. You shall still visit many holy sites." I argued with him and said: "That is impossible, that I still will be able to travel the world. No one will let me out." When I travelled to Australia, it became clear to me that Father Velychkovsky was a prophet. Behind that barbed wire, I could not even dream that I would go to Australia to see my brother, or to tour Canada.

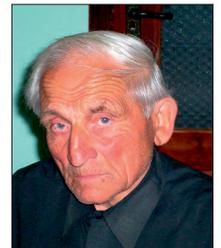
I discussed with Father Velychkovsky and expressed my anger at the KGB and at the Soviet government. He said to me: "Don't curse them and destroy your nerves. Only pray for them as I do." Father Vasyl prayed for us and he prayed for

his torturers. It was strange to me, how one could pray for them. He said, *just like Jesus: "We must pray. May the Lord God forgive them, for they know not what they are doing."*

Father Vasyl knew how to advise and how to calm one down. I do not know where he got that power. He was a very humble person. He didn't do anything for show. He did not advertise his deeds. If a person was an unbeliever, he encouraged them with his quiet words, his philosophical logic, and with his straight talk. Father was approachable for all. He found a common language with ordinary people and also with intellectuals. There were various categories of people. There were those who were enlightened and those who had no culture and were vulgar. It seems to me that all the positive human attributes were found in the person of Father Velychkovsky. Besides this, he had a colossal faith in God and in Christ's Church. Whenever I looked at him, I thought: "**This man would be able to suffer various tortures, just like Christ and be ready to be crucified for the sake of others.**" Boris Mirus

In 1955, Father Vasyl was released to the settlements. Which meant you were still part of the camp. Every morning and evening you checked in to the inspection. Fr. Chezhurak shared, "Whoever was transferred to the settlements, made money and their wives could come to them, to the Lithuanians, Latvians and the Ukrainians.

Before Easter on Saturday evening, in 1955, I gathered 3-4 Ukrainian women and went to Father Velychkovsky's, so that he would bless the Easter food (the paska) for us. Father Vasyl lived with another priest from Lithuania. They were very happy and invited us to their house. Father Vasyl blessed the paskas and wished us a happy Easter. He distributed small black and white holy cards of the Resurrection.



Fr. Vasyl Chezhurak

Father Josaphat Fedoryk had painted the Resurrection in the camp. From that painting, they made holy cards. Father Vasyl, together with the Lithuanian priest, worked in the settlements for the salvation of souls." Fr. Vasyl Chezhurak

When Father Vasyl returned to Ukraine, he discovered that the Ukrainian Catholic Greek Church was declared illegal by the Soviets. This did not deter Father Vasyl, he immediately continued his ministry that he did in prison, to bring the Good News to the most abandoned. Blessed Vasyl lived in the hope of the Resurrection and shared that hope with others.

Pilgrimages to the Shrine



Elizabeth, George, Emily & Andrew Lencyk from Stamford, CT. George's great, great grandfather, Rev. Nicholas Velychkovsky and Blessed Vasyl's great grandfather, Rev. Ivan Chrysostom Velychkovsky, were brothers. Their father was Rev. Ivan Velychkovsky, who was born in 1766.



Missionaries of Charity - Winnipeg



Seminarians with Rector Fr. Julian Bilyj from Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Seminary - Edmonton



Reunion of the Joint Archdiocesan Pilgrimage Group that attended World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal



Young Adult Lenten Retreat



St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church Catechism Class



Alberto, Lucia, Adrian & Ligia Jiménez - San José, Costa Rica



St. Gerard School - Winnipeg



Newly Ordained Deacon Ivas Babick leading a Devotional Service

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 National Martyr's Shrine. Through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl may each of you be blessed. Contributions listed below are from November 22, 2025 until March 17, 2026.

\$1,000 +

In memory of Anne & Paul Bilowus
Robert & Leanna Obirek
Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky
Anonymous
In memory of Sophie & Peter Dohan
Robert & Leanna Obirek
In memory of Volodymyra & Myron Kramarczuk
George & Anna Maria Stefaniuk
Lencyk Family
In memory of Steve & Lillian Sianchuk
Phyllis Sianchuk
In memory of Victoria (Vicki) Tycholis
Edward Tycholis
Don & Karen Solman
In memory of Marlene Solman
Vladimir Solman
People of Ukraine & the Military
Marcel Chartier
Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky
Anonymous

\$500 +

Norman & Sandra Dobson
David Franko
Donna Korban
Joan Korchinski
Adrian & Vera Olenick
Walter & Janet Petryshyn
In memory of Rose Smysnuik
Gerald Smysnuik
In memory of Marlene Solman
Patricia Solman
Health of Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe
Fr. Michael & Dolores Tkachuk
In honour of Tycholis Family
Mark Lloyd & Janice Tycholis-Lloyd
In memory of Bishop Peter Stasiuk, C.Ss.R.
Eugene Woychyshyn

\$100 +

Peter Adams
Michelle Blanchard
Brenda Bohach
Don Boitson & Andrea Gwozd-Boitson
William & Doris Boychuk
Alan & Gabrielle Chanway
Fr. Walter Dudych
Dorilyn Garduque
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Marianne Hobbs
Anna-Marie Konopelny
Phyllis Kwiatkowski
Roland LaFleche
John & Pat Lewak
Natasha Macsymach
Bernadette Mandrusiak
David Newberry

Elizabeth Patzer
Annette Rudyk
Henry & Iris Spilchuk
St. Andrew's UCWLC (Winnipeg)
St. Gerard School
St. Nicholas Men's Club (Winnipeg)
St. Paul's College
Les & Natalie Storozuk
Ihor & Jo-Ann Szelemej
Peter & Joan Washchyshyn

<\$100

Meredith Bacola
Lillian Bequerme
Dr. Kenneth & Josie Bessant
Diana Borys
Guillermo Catalan
Kris Dandurand
Ramon Dator
Marianne Derkach
Jeffrey & Marietta Di Nella
Quennie Fernandez
Doug & Evelyn Gordon
Perry Haakman
Raymond & Jane Honeybun
Chris Kyrzyk
Katherine Leochko
Peter & Nadia Melnycky
Linda Mikolayenko & Douglas Bagwell
Fr. David Misbrener
Kathy Monaster
Richard & Marietta Persian
Allan Prychitko
Julia Saganski
Henry & Judy Snitynsky
Bill Thurmeier
William Vanderven
John Wilczynski & Beatrice Papiz

In Memory Of...

Paraskevia & Wasył Baluta
John & Martha Baluta
Nick Banera & Family
John & Martha Baluta
Don Barrett
Andrzej & Irene Duplak
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk
Marian Moshansky
Bev Rolston
Harry & Marika Szkwarek
Fr. Stefan & Maria Tyrawski
Orest Bashutskyy
Fr. Volodymyr Bashutskyy
Borodey Family
Nicholas & Hazel Borodey
Lillian Boychuk
Marilyn Krawchuk
Regina Branizsa
Donna Krawchuk
Dolores Daniels
Duane & Darlene Dahl

Michael & Natalie Diakiw
Myroslawa Diakiw
Walter Dobush
Darrel & Monica Champagne
Ed Faseruk
Sonia Domitruk
Paul & Wendy Kuzina
Ernest & Veronica Fedorowich
Dave Fedorowich
Josephine Ferniuk
Marian Moshansky
Iris Smellie
Glenn & Valerie Wowryk
Athen Gazdewich
Emily Gazdewich
Metro & Anne Glute
Bob & Darlene Famulak
Ruby Gontowiuk
Rev. Fr. Kolin Berglund
Neil Happychuk
Olga Katerynuk
Olga Hecker
Eduard Hecker
Mike, Alice & Sharon Hood
Dianne Hood
Olga Horunjak
Włodzimierz & Marta Sawka
Stefie Hrabarchuk
Elizabeth Van De Keere
Ollie Humeniuk
Anna Banera
Dennis & Patricia Beyak
Olga Boychuk
Duane & Darlene Dahl
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Frank & Kathy Hrechka
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Phyllis Kwiatkowski
Isabel Lukie
Marian Moshansky
Millie Ogaranko-Wilkie
Steve Prokop
Helen Samorodny
Peter & Mary Samorodny
Phyllis Shindak
Phyllis Sianchuk
Darlene Sidak
Lillian Skazyk
Iris Smellie
Audrey Smith
Helen Stockburn
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe
Lorriane Thomas
Nadia Trafananko
Kathleen Warrenchuk
Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow
Kay Zawortny
Ann Karlicki
William J. Karlicki
Maurice Kindrachuk
Elsie Kindrachuk

Sister Suzanne Kokuruds, SSMI
Peter & Verna Moroz

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Marilyn Krawchuk

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Paul & Wendy Kuzina

Sharon Labine
Joseph Labine

John Lazaruk
Clarence & Helena Demchuk

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Leonard & Catherine Leschyshyn

Stan, Helen & Sandra Malchuk
Sharon Malchuk

Oksana & Blaine Manyuk
John & Martha Baluta

Matwychuk & Galay Family Members
Ernie Matwychuk

Don Melnyk
Iris Smellie

Nadia & Olexa Melnyk
George & Anna Maria Stefaniuk

Anton Michealycia
Marilyn Krawchuk

Karel Moravek
Connie McCorrister-Moravek

Moskal & Spicer Families
Robert J. Moskal

William Oleynik
Mary Oleynik

Osinchuk, Diduch, Controneo Family
Irene Osinchuk

Wasył, Rose, Irene, John, Mary, Osyp
Greg & Mary Papinko

Robbie Jeremy Patrie
Robert & Christine Patrie

Michael & Katherine Petryszyn
Myroslawa Diakiw

Leona Prokopowich
Eugene Nakonechny

John Romance
Marissa Lorenzo

Cres Rozdeba
Emily Gazdewich

Nellie Sadasawan
Donna Krawchuk

Ignazio Scaletta
Salvatora Scaletta

Fr. Mitrat Ihor Shpytkovskyy
John & Martha Baluta

Julia & Wsevolod Shpytkovsky
John & Martha Baluta

Steve & Lillian Sianchuk
Marian Moshansky

Mike Sigurdson
Valerie Stanowski

Olga Skehar
Mary-Anne Skehar

Guyla Smilski
Lillian Skazyk

Morris Smolinski
Iris Smolinski

Rose Smysnuik
Daniel MacLean

Souls in Purgatory
Rose Zegalski

Sr. Theodosia
Bob & Darlene Famulak

Irene Stakiw
Bob & Darlene Famulak

Bishop Peter Stasiuk, C.Ss.R.
Leslie & Caroline Dubowits

Staskiewicz & Czemyrnski Familiiy
Krystyna Czemyrnski

Volodymyr Terebukh
Allen & Mary Marcinkow

John Warrenchuk
Ernie & Diane Mee

Nadia Wasnea
Kathleen Warrenchuk

Nadia Wasnea
Gene & Sylvia Bodnar

Evelyn Zaboroski
Bohdan & Diane Wowczuk

Irene Zurawsky
Anna Banera

In Honour Of...

Thanksgiving
Tom & Julie Abrametz

Deacon Ivas Babick
Sianchuk Family

Don Barrett
Janina Barrett

Luba Beange
Olga Katerynuk

Celeste Krochak
Mark Lloyd & Janice Tycholis-Lloyd

Ariadna Ochrymovych
Augusto Gozzani

Jeannette Pauplis
Marie Gwozd

Janice & Arvid Peterson
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R.
William & Linda Skromeda

Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow

Sisters of St. Joseph
Bob & Darlene Famulak

Marg & John Synyshyn
Alan & Gabrielle Chanway

Elise Tin
Mary Valko

Janice Tycholis-Lloyd & Mark Lloyd
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Christine Warkentin
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Peter Washchyshyn
Garr & Helene Kukura

Peter & Joan Washchyshyn
Les & Natalie Storozuk

Steffie & Dennis Wawrykow
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Health Of...

Wayne & Vivian Andrews
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Margaret & Quinton Antonyshen
Jean Derhak

Anna Banera
John & Martha Baluta

Teodora Bautista
Esmeralda Bautista

Eli James Bueno de Guzman
Mary Ann de Guzman

Natalia Bilynsky
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Jennifer
Robert & Debbie Braid

Chris & Tim Chanway
Alan & Gabrielle Chanway

Czemyrnski & Staskiewicz families
Krystyna Czemyrnski

Francis & Aleisha-May Elbourne
Alan & Gabrielle Chanway

Bob Famulak
Bob & Darlene Famulak

Ann Faseruk
Paul & Wendy Kuzina

St. Joseph's Fathers
John & Mary Hykawy

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk
John & Mary Hykawy

Fedorchuk Family
Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Ron & Marie Gault
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Maria Gawrachynsky
John & Martha Baluta

Curtis, Christine & Emily Gazdewich
Emily Gazdewich

Family Glute
Bob & Darlene Famulak

Children & Grandchildren
Marie Gwozd

Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren
John & Mary Hykawy

Elly Kampen
Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Spencer Katerynuk
Olga Katerynuk

Spencer & Olga Katerynuk
Olga Katerynuk

Mary Kokolski
Diane & Robert Gingera

Fr. Janko, Genka Kolosnjaji & Family
Clarence & Helena Demchuk

Wilma Laboucane
Karen Mayer

Donald Vincent Lussier
Spencer Katerynuk

Dexter, Sophia, Calina, Rosie & Cora Maughan Grandchildren
Douglas & Cona Maughan

Kim Catherine Nenzen
Kay Zawortny

Family Oandasan
Cesar & Lolita Oandasan

John Palaszewski & Family Czemyrnski
Krystyna Czemyrnski

Monica, Brigitte, Derek Patrie
Robert & Christine Patrie

Ryan Paziuk
Elizabeth Paziuk

Anna Pollock
Marie Gwozd

Kaleb Prociuk
Peter & Sonia Prociuk

Riley, Sasha, Kruz Rozdeba
Emily Gazdewich

Tammy Serelo
David & Beverly Hudy

Fr. John Sianchuk
Steve Prokop

Helen Stockburn

Children & Grandchildren
Darlene Sidak

Chris Strome & Denise Gauthier

Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Edward Tycholis

Annette Syrotiuk

Mark Lloyd & Janice Tycholis-Lloyd

Dennis & Steffie Wawrykow

Fr. Frank Szadiak, C.Ss.R.

Bob & Darlene Famulak

Steve Prokop

Helen Stockburn

Vanessa Szustakowski

Zenia Szustakowski

Olga Szutiak

John & Mary Hykawy

Peter & Mary Samorodny

Liam Tagarda

Maria Barcelon

Princess Tagarda

Martha Terlecky

Slofko & Martha Terlecky

Sylvia Todaschuk

Valerie Stanowski

Family Tycholis

Larry & Evelyn Tycholis

Barabara

Douglas & Cona Maughan

Dennis Wawrykow

Orest & Margaret Fedorchuk

Cynthia Wieme & Tom Falgien

Annette Syrotiuk & Nelson Wolfe

Edwin Wong

Chris Winchar

Mary Zimrose

Alex Zimrose

Richard & Verlee

Zulyniak Family Members

Memorial Tribute

The Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine has been built on a foundation of volunteers. In 2002, when the Shrine opened one of the first priorities was to recruit volunteers. This community of volunteers grew quickly within the first 24 months of the opening of the Shrine. There were close to 70 people volunteering their time to ensure that visitors could come during the day and to help with preparation of items to share with the pilgrims.

Over the years as the Shrine established, the number of volunteers have dwindled. Many of the first volunteers have passed on but their legacy of helping and promoting the cause of Blessed Vasyl lives on.

We pay tribute to two volunteers who recently fell asleep in the Lord. They both were a part of the Shrine for many years.



May their memory be eternal!

Josephine Ferniuk
who passed away February
15th at the age of 104.



Ollie Humeniuk
who passed away February
18th at the age of 95.

Devotion to Blessed Vasyl Impacting Lives Today

The Shrine Office is blessed to receive requests from all over the world from people seeking to learn more about Blessed Vasyl. There are also those, who already have a devotion and are reaching out to have prayers placed in the Shrine, or want to share their story of graces and healing through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl.

In September 2024, the Shrine Office received one such request from someone who purchased books about Blessed Vasyl through the online gift shop. Through correspondence confirming the order, we discovered how this person came to know about Blessed Vasyl.



Augusto with his daughter praying before the Holy Relics June 27, 2025

"The way I came to know about Blessed Vasyl is a little curious, even to me. I was writing about the arrest of a Ukrainian Catholic Bishop in the late 60s, for a screenplay (a personal project of mine), and did some research to know if something similar had actually happened. It might be something I heard in my childhood and forgot. Or some inspiration from the Holy Spirit. Blessed Vasyl is certainly connected to a personal project of mine now."

Augusto Gozzani

Since that first meeting, Augusto has responded to a call to share the story of Blessed Vasyl.

Augusto's homeland is Brazil, and he wants those who speak Portuguese to be able to read Blessed Vasyl's story. While working full-time and being a father to 2 young children, he created a project to translate Blessed Vasyl's autobiography. Working in collaboration with the Shrine Office and a publisher in Brazil, Flos Carmeli Edições Ltda. This vision has become a reality.

On March 26th, the Autobiography of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky in Portuguese will be officially launched.

The publication is now available in the Shrine Gift Shop and online.

Prayers through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl have been central to this project. We continue to pray for what may be in store next, to share his story and promote the cause of Blessed Vasyl.

Augusto and his family offer great gratitude to Blessed Vasyl for his intercession on the safe and healthy birth of Joseph Vasyl, born November 15, 2025.



On February 19, the Lviv Theological Seminary dedicated their Center of the Penitentiary Chaplaincy to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky.



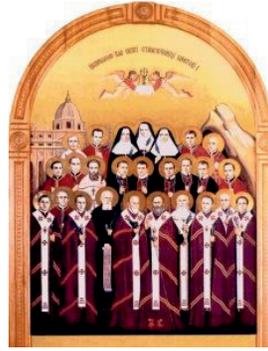
The dedication prayer was led by the Rector of the Seminary, along with the community's Spiritual Director, and the Head of the Pastoral Department in the Penitentiary System of Ukraine.

May the intercession of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, strengthen all who serve prisoners and grant freedom to those who suffer in captivity today.

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 favours/graces received.



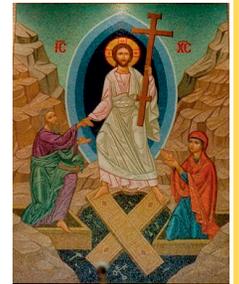
SAVE THE DATE!
June 27, 2026
Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky
Feastday

Commemorating 25 years since the Beatification of Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions

Services will begin in the evening of June 26th with a Pilgrimage Rosary Walk. The Feastday on June 27th will have services and opportunities for Confession and Anointing throughout the day. Details to be in the next Fully Alive Shrine Newsletter.

If you are out of town and would like help to plan your pilgrimage, please contact the Shrine office.

As we approach the end of our Lenten Journey and prepare to celebrate that Christ is Risen, we pray through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl that your Easter be blessed with peace and great joy.



Christ is Risen—Glorify Him
Христос Воскрес—Воистину Воскрес!

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 Devotional Service in Honour of Blessed Vasyl (Acathist or Moleben)

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

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 Services are broadcast every Wednesday - 7 p.m. CDT on



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