



FULLY ALIVE

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine

BLESSED for 25 YEARS!

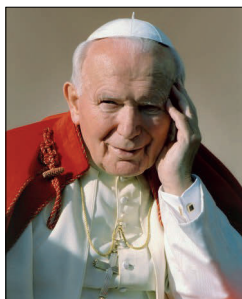
A historical event took place 25 years ago on June 27th. The faithful gathered in the Hippodrome in Lviv, Ukraine where Saint John Paul II, Pope of Rome, beatified a number of martyrs for the Church. Among these martyrs was Mykola (Nicholas) Charnetsky and 24 Companions. Included in this group was Blessed Vasyl Vsevolod Velychkovsky whose holy relics are enshrined in Winnipeg. In his homily Pope John Paul II said: *"These brothers and sisters of ours are the representatives that are known out of a multitude of anonymous heroes (men and women, husbands and wives, priests and consecrated men and women, young*



We heard biographies of Mykola Charnetsky and 24 Companion Martyrs (bishops, diocesan priests, religious and a lay person all killed between 1935 and 1973); Teodor Romzha, Bishop and Martyr (1911-1947); Omelian Kovch, Priest and Martyr (1884-1944) and Josaphata Hordashevaska, co-founder of the Congregation of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate (1869-1919). All of these lives were very informative and inspiring. It set the tone for the morning in which we witnessed a marvellous event.

As Pope John Paul II arrived at the Hippodrome in his pope mobile, a three-hundred-voice choir sang "Welcome"-

"Vitayemo" over and over as the people cheered. Patriarch Lubomyr Husar rode with the Pope.



people and old) who in the course of the twentieth century, the 'century of martyrdom', underwent persecution, violence and death rather than renounce their faith."

I was blessed to be at this historic event, the first papal visit to Ukraine. Pope John Paul II made his pastoral visit from June 23 – 27, 2001. On June 25, I attended the Divine Liturgy at the Chayka Airport in Kyiv, where the Pontiff celebrated before some 250,000 faithful.

The next evening, the Pope met with the young people from Ukraine in Lviv, before the Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God. As the program was happening that evening, it was raining. Pope John Paul II interrupted the program and began to sing a folk song in Polish, which asked the rain to go away. He just finished this short, beautiful song, and the rain stopped. The clouds parted, and the evening sun appeared, drying us. The next morning, over a million people gathered in the Hippodrome in Lviv, where the Pope celebrated the Divine Liturgy.

As we waited in the Hippodrome for the Pope to arrive for the 10 am Divine Liturgy, there was an introductory program. The life stories of each person who was to be beatified that day were read. I listened particularly to the short reading of Blessed Vasyl's life.



Before the Liturgy, His Beatitude welcomed the Pontiff. Besides all of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Bishops, some Roman Catholic hierarchy were also present. There were at least a thousand priests vested in identical vestments.

I shared this experience with Father Yaroslav Dybka, C.Ss.R. and



Pope John Paul II with Patriarch Lubomyr Husar



Fr. John with Fr. Yaroslav

Fr. John Fetsco, C.Ss.R. from our Yorkton Redemptorist Province in Canada.

The Divine Liturgy was glorious. Both the choir and the million people present sang together.

The beatifications took place after the Little Entrance with the Gospel book and before the troparion. Patriarch Husar presented the request to the Pope to beatify the four above-mentioned



beatifications, reading a brief life of each.

Then the Pope as the head of the Universal Church pronounced the Beatification.

“Fulfilling the requests of our brothers Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, the

Major Archbishop of Lviv for the Ukrainians ... and many other brothers in the episcopacy and many faithful, and having heard the opinion of the Congregation of Saints, with Our Apostolic Authority **We proclaim that from now and in the future** the Servants of God Mykola Charnetsky and twenty-four Companion martyrs, Theodore Romzha, Omelian Kovch, and Josaphata Hordashevska **be honoured as Blessed** and the Feast Days are to be celebrated yearly according to church directives. ... Mykola Charnetsky and 24 Companion Martyrs on June 27th.... In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” The choir and the faithful responded with three “Amens” and

three “Alleluias.” As the icons of the Blessed were being carried into the sanctuary, the choir and the faithful solemnly sang the Exaltation: “We extol you, holy Martyrs, and we honour your suffering, which you bore for the sake of Christ.”

The ceremony was personally very moving. It was the first time I experienced the Apostolic Authority of the Pope being exercised. In the name of the apostles and of the whole Church, Pope John Paul II had the authority to elevate these holy ones to the rank of Blessed. Through his words, they shall be known both on earth and in heaven by this title. The Pope offered them and their lives to the Church for inspiration, as witnesses of Christ for the faithful and as fellow pilgrims on the road to sanctity. The Blessed now pray with us and for us so that we too may be with them in the glory of the kingdom.

We are so blessed that here in Winnipeg, God so ordained, one of these martyrs Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, is physically present to us through his holy relics, a fully intact body. His life and faithfulness in the face of persecution are an Inspiration for us all. His powerful prayer before the Throne of Grace has brought upon those who put trust in him many blessings, healings and graces.



Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl, pray for us!

Fr. John Sianchuk, C.Ss.R. - Director of the Shrine

BLESSED VASYL MINISTRY IN UKRAINE - TODAY



Presentations in the Drohobych Region



Students visit the Blessed Vasyl Apartment/Museum in Lviv, Ukraine



Presentation in Deliatyn Nadrivna Region Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast

PILGRIMS VISITING THE SHRINE



Divine Liturgy in the Shrine Chapel with Fr. Michael Winn, Fr. Yevhen Zadorozhnyi visitors Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak (Archeparchy of Philadelphia), Bishop Bryan Bayda (Eparchy of Toronto & Eastern Canada), Fr. John Sianchuk



Koren Hrizai (Archdioceses of St. Boniface Catechetical Coordinator) with Julia Dezelski Associate Director for Marriage and Family Life at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC)



Dobrodijka Ana & Father Janko Herbut, Linda & Randy Dudar visitors from St. Stephen the Protomartyr Parish, Calgary



Former Vicar at Church of England Rev. Simon & Mary Foster from Seaford, England



Delegates from the meeting of the Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue of Canada



Christ the King Catholic Parish 1st Communion Class

St. Emile's Catholic Parish Confirmation Class

The Shrine is a place for pilgrims to come and learn about 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.

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 18 to May 27, 2026.*

\$1,000 +

Alan & Gabrielle Chanway
In memory of Patricia Kreklewetz
Anonymous

\$100 +

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Michelle Blanchard
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Helen Byskal
Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak
Jean-Marc & Karol Guenette
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Adela Zatwarnitski

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Robert & Debbie Braid

Czemerynski Family
Krystyna Czemerynski

Darlene & Duane Dahl
Hazel Kiernicki

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Anne Faseruk

Romelito Jose Galvan Galsim
His Sister

Gene & Liz, Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren
Gene & Elizabeth Happychuk

Lesley Heinrichs
Joseph & Elizabeth Senderewich

Claire, Lindsay & Kristin
Mary Kokolski

Mavis Kaluzny
Betty Soloway

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Adela Zatwarnitski

Roman & Olga Zubach
Rick & Jeannette Kendall

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

- *welcoming pilgrims, providing prayer support and promoting the knowledge of Blessed Vasyl*
- *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

About one year ago, Tony experienced ringing in his ears – loud and irritated. For about 3 to 4 weeks, he endured constant ringing. When he came to pray with his family, before the Relics of Blessed Vasyl, they stayed for about one hour, praying for healing. Already as they traveled back home to the south side of the city, he noticed the ringing was gone. He has not experienced it again.

Arya came to know Blessed Vasyl through Jesus Youth Movement and St. Jude Parish. Arya and Tony come to visit often and bring guests and other family members.

Recently their father Antony was visiting from Niagara Falls and wanted to share how he too has experienced graces through the intercession of Blessed Vasyl. Antony had a skin allergy on his left leg. It was very itchy, purple in colour and was leaking. His wife suggested he apply the Blessed Vasyl Holy Oil. He did and prayed for healing. After applying a small amount of oil every morning, he noticed some improvement each day and within 1 week, it was completely healed. This happened in October 2023. He has never experienced the condition again.

The family feels very peaceful when they come. They are very thankful for the healing and blessing of Blessed Vasyl.

*The family of Tony & Arya Jolly
- Winnipeg (May 2026)*



Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine
Divine Liturgy with anointing for Healing

1st Wednesday of every month
7:00 p.m.
Confession available
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine at
St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church
250 Jefferson Ave.—Winnipeg, MB
Ph# 204-338-7321
Email: info@bvmartyrshrine.com
Website: bvmartyrshrine.com



Note: There will be a Service on Canada Day - July 1st

Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine



Blessed for 25 years

*On June 27, 2001, Saint John Paul II, Pope of Rome
proclaimed*

*Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky and 24 Companions
Blessed Martyrs
amongst them was Blessed Vasyl*

Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky FEASTDAY

A time for prayer reflection and fellowship

Guest Homilist: Fr. Jay Korban

Friday June 26th

6:00 pm **Vespers followed by a
Rosary Pilgrimage Procession**

Saturday June 27th

9:00 am **Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian)**

10:30 am **Rosary**

10:30 am **New—Children's Program (parish hall)**

11:00 am **Moleben in Honour of Blessed Martyrs
Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions**

12:00 pm **Lunch**

Presentation - 25 years ago in Lviv, Ukraine

2:00 pm **Acathist in Honour of Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky**

5:00 pm **Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian)
Anointing after each service**

*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
Website: bvmartyrshrine.com

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



Times Listed in Central Daylight Time (CDT)

**This Summer.... we invite you to plan a pilgrimage to the Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyrs Shrine.
We are open daily to welcome you and your family, friends and visitors...**

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.

FAMILIES—Let us know you are coming and we can plan something special for your children.

**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