



# THE BRANDON CHAPTER OF THE BISHOP VELYCHKOVSKY PRAYER GROUP

The first Chapter of the Bishop Velychkovsky prayer group in Canada, was formed on Friday, 11 August 2006 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brandon, Manitoba. Elsie Makwaychuk was chosen as leader of the prayer group. Rev. Fr. Michael Tkachuk, pastor of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church became their Spiritual Director. The following were the first members of the prayer group:

Elsie Makwaychuk  
Emily Romanik  
Eileen Sawchuk  
Fran Perchaluk  
Beverly Litkovich  
Peter Litkovich  
Evelyn Kozun

A mission statement and statutes were then drawn up, as follows, and presented to the Metropolitan for approval. His Excellency, Bishop David Motiuk gave approval of the formation of the prayer group on behalf of His Grace Metropolitan Lawrence.

## **Mission Statement:**

**Our mission is to pray for important and pressing needs in our country, community, and Parish, and to be a source of charity for all.**

## **STATUTES:**

- 1. Meet on the first Friday of each month for a Divine Liturgy.**
- 2. Each member is expected to go to confession prior to the Divine Liturgy.**
- 3. Rosary will be said one-half hour prior to the Divine Liturgy.**
- 4. Prayer group responsible for providing a stipend for the Divine Liturgy intentions.**
- 5. Intentions will be decided by the convened group prior to the next meeting.**
- 6. Any Catholic (male or female) of the Eastern or Western Rite may belong to this prayer group.**
- 7. Prayer group to make at least one pilgrimage to the Bishop Velychkovsky Shrine at St. Joseph's in Winnipeg each year.**
- 8. Assure that at least two members of the prayer group are present at the daily Liturgy during the week.**

- 9. Leader of the prayer group will assure that sufficient funds are available for the Divine Liturgy by requesting donations from the convened body.**
- 10. The Icon of Bishop Velychkovsky to be displayed on the tetrapod during the Divine Liturgy.**
- 11. Each member should attempt to bring in at least one new member to the group each year.**
- 12. Business meeting will be conducted prior to the Divine Liturgy.**
- 13. A one-half hour Bible study session should follow the Divine Liturgy.**
- 14. A leader of the Prayer Group to be elected each year from the convening body by secret ballot.**
- 15. The Prayer Groups is to be in full harmony with the Church's hierarchical structure. Each group is to have a Priest Spiritual Director and the guarantor of the Group's spiritual formation and adherence to the doctrine and directives of the Magisterium of the Church.**
- 16. The Prayer Group has to distinguish themselves for their faithfulness to the Catholic Church, to the Pope, and to the Bishops. They must aim at basic Christian formation through prayer and generous charity towards the suffering.**

On Friday, June 6, 2008, the Prayer group made their first pilgrimage to the Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine in Winnipeg. After a conducted tour of the Shrine by Mary Jane Kalenchuk, Reverend Father John Sianchuk had a Molebyn with the prayer group pilgrims at the Shrine. Following the Molebyn, Fr. John presented Fr. Michael with a class one relic that will be prominently displayed at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brandon.

The following parishioners made the pilgrimage:

Fr. Michael Tkachuk  
Dolores Tkachuk  
Elsie Makwaychuk  
Lawrence Makwaychuk  
Emily Romanik  
Evelyn Kozun  
Fran Perchaluk  
Orest Perchaluk  
Eileen Sawchuk  
Hilliard Sawchuk  
Nestor Zemliak  
Beverly Litkovich  
Peter Litkovich  
Robert MacKalski – absent  
Marlene MacKalski – absent

A delicious lunch was prepared and served to the payer group pilgrims. Elsie Makwaychuk, the leader of the prayer group, thanked Fr. John and the tour guides for the tour, and the lunch. She then presented Mary Jane Kalenchuk, our tour guide, with a donation to the Martyr's Shrine.