



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 63 NO. 4

JANUARY 2017

UOL Receives High Award Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

On Thursday October 20 at the Grand Banquet of the XXI Regular Sobor, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony presented the "Great Benefactor (Blahodiynyk) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA" award to the Ukrainian Orthodox League. The Council of Bishops established this award in 2013 to recognize a lifetime of service and dedication to our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The beautiful medallion bears the likeness of St. Andrew, the First-Called Apostle and founder of Christ's Church in Ukraine. Metropolitan Antony



noted that this is the first time that an organization has been chosen to receive this honor. In his remarks, His Eminence stated that "This central organization of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA has served our faithful for 70 years." Accepting the award on behalf of the UOL were John Holowko, President of the Senior National Executive Board (NEB), and Orest Mahlay, President of the Junior NEB. President Holowko said that the League was "truly honored to be selected to receive this award."



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Sobor: An Inspiring Call to Action Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

The XXIst Regular Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA convened at the Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ from October 19 to 22, 2016. This past July, the delegates to the 69th UOL Convention in Coatesville, PA chose me to be the League's delegate to the Sobor. Below I highlight a few aspects of the Sobor of particular relevance to us in the UOL.

The theme of the Sobor was "Called by Christ, Gifted by the Holy Spirit," and the appropriateness of this theme was demonstrated over and over again at the Sobor.

As is customary for all ministries of the UOC of USA, the UOL provided a written report of its status and activities since the previous Sobor. In verbal remarks to the Sobor and in a written letter of greeting provided to the delegates, UOL National Executive Board President John Holowko, who serves as a member of the Council of the Metropolia, explained the unique role the UOL plays in connecting individuals to the greater Church beyond the boundaries of their local parishes. He stressed how the UOL promotes individual involvement in the life of the Church on both a local and a national scale.

President Holowko's description of the value of the UOL coupled with the UOL's report on its accomplishments since the last Sobor spoke directly to the main order of business of this Sobor, which was the adoption of a Strategic Plan for the UOC of USA. With our established organizational structure already in place, our long track record of selfless service to our Church, the professional skills of our members, and the enthusiasm of our Juniors, the UOL is indeed a "strength" of our Church "well-equipped to do whatever is necessary to ensure the success of this Plan."

At the Sobor, Bishop Daniel was nominated by Metropolitan Antony for elevation to Archbishop, to which the delegates whole-heartedly gave their approval. Bill Marianes, who spoke at this past summer's UOL Convention, gave a remarkable and inspiring presentation at the Sobor on the Strategic Plan. Among the many capable individuals participating in the Sobor, Archbishop-elect Daniel and Bill Marianes particularly stood out as embodying the theme of the gathering. As everyone would attest, both of them have truly been "Called by Christ," and both have been extraordinarily "Gifted by the Holy Spirit." They both provide shining examples for all of us to follow. Axios!

For more comprehensive reports of the Sobor's overall proceedings I encourage you to read other widely available accounts, including: the article posted at uocofusa.org/news_161024_1.html; the summary published in the November 19 issue of the Ukrainian Weekly; and information in the Ukrainian Orthodox Word.

The full text of the UOL's Sobor report is available online at uol.orthodoxws.com. I believe you will be favorably impressed by all that the UOL has achieved recently, and be encouraged knowing that our organization and your participation in it is indeed critical to the well-being of our Church. As the business of this Sobor demonstrated, there is always so much more to be done. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to volunteer to help implement the Strategic Plan at uocofusa.org/strategy.html. The experience of this Sobor should inspire us to work hard to strengthen the League and our Church. May we heed the "Call" and apply our "Gifts" to worthily meet the challenges of our time and achieve the vision set forth in the Plan.



**Rhode Island.....the biggest little state in the Union
Cordially invites you to:
The 70th Annual U.O.L. Convention
July 26-30, 2017
Hosted by St. Michael the Archangel UOC
Woonsocket, RI
Declare Among the Nations, His Works! (Psalm 104:1)
Find us on Facebook "2017 UOL Convention"**



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The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 1st of the prior month. Photos will not be returned.

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 12 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. (Submit to: nsufler@aol.com). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consents for photos to be included in the UOL Bulletin.

The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

**UOL History Project
Why is the UOL Important to Me?
Essay Collection
Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky**

As we prepare to commemorate UOL Sunday, I hope that every UOL Chapter member considers writing an essay answering the question "why is the UOL important to me?" We will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in 2018. We plan to have a collection of essays from members across the entire UOL.

I encourage every UOL member to write an essay, so that we have a book of essays in 2018.

I encourage everyone to write an essay. This collection of essays would have everyone's thoughts as to what the UOL means to them.

I encourage everyone to take up this challenge and submit an essay. Also, please encourage other UOL members to write an essay. It will be wonderful to have a collection of essays outlining the importance of the UOL. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

While we have time to collect these essays, and there is no upcoming deadline, I encourage individuals to write these essays now. To submit your essay, please email it to Natalie Bilynsky at nsufler@aol.com. You can also send a hard copy to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

**Saint Vladimir (Philadelphia, PA) &
Saint Mary (Allentown, PA)
Submitted by Alexis Naumenko**

The St. Vladimir Jr. UOL Chapter in Philadelphia has been hard at work this Nativity season. They have 21 active members aged 10-18 that help contribute to numerous activities. Some activities include sponsoring their Church School Fall Fest, helping serve at their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, sending "greeting" and "get well" cards to shut-ins and parishioners, and collecting canned goods for a local food bank. The chapter has multiple upcoming events as well, such as: putting together and sending college students Christmas care packages, a St. Nicholas Cookie Walk and helping at various parish events.

St. Mary's Jr. UOL Chapter in Allentown, PA, has recently reactivated their Jr. UOL chapter! They currently have 8 members ranging from 10 to 17. The chapter has held meetings, visited a Greek Monastery and took a trip to a trampoline park. I look forward to working with their chapter, hearing about their new activities, and assisting them in keeping their youth active.

**Saint Peter and Paul (Youngstown, OH) &
Saint Vladimir (Parma, OH)
Submitted by Sophia Dobronos**

I am very excited for all of the creative projects and ideas these chapters have been brainstorming and carrying out this year! The Parma chapter has held coffee hours weekly, a pumpkin party, made donations to the church, and has helped out with activities at church. They are planning a movie night and baking strudels and other treats for their craft fair.

The Youngstown chapter has made buckeyes and cookies, performed a play, and made baskets for a raffle. I encourage all chapters to keep up the good work and to continue to come up with new ideas for your chapter. Feel free to contact me with any questions or help with new projects!

**MESSAGE FROM THE
SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT**

John Holowko



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

I sincerely hope that you and your families have enjoyed a blessed and happy Christmas and enjoyed the time with your families. You also know that this time of year can be difficult for so many, for so many reasons. I hope all of us can be there for someone who needs some kindness. While we are devoted to our Youth, we are there for all.

I wish it was as simple as the movie "Pay It Forward" or the novel of the same name, a story about a young boy who did three good deeds for others in need. In return, all that the child wanted was that they pass on the good deed to three other people and keep the cycle going. One good deed might not seem like much, but if everyone did something good for someone else, then the cycle of kindness can spark us to become better people and how good you would feel for doing it. We are all stewards of God. We have that responsibility of kindness to one another, but are we worthy?

As you all know, the 21st SOBOR was held this past October. As the current President of the UOL, seeing how many of those delegates were UOL members was a wonderful feeling. The Church needs its UOL members to be engaged locally as the Strategic Plan rolls out. Yes, there is a Strategic Plan, executing it, however, will be much more difficult as we try and make a better future. There is much work to do; many different skill sets needed; and ample opportunities to help. If you have not done so already, you should be asking questions at your Annual Parish meetings, so engage. The Plan is there for all to see on our Church website. Your delegates have it. You likely have parishioners already working on it.

To our Grace, Archbishop-Elect Daniel. Axios! Axios! Axios! We continue to pray for you in your service to our Lord as one of our Shepherds and as Your Grace continues to undertake additional responsibilities.

At the banquet of the Sobor, Metropolitan Antony presented to the UOL the "Great Benefactor Award of the UOC of USA" in honor and tribute to its service to the Church over the last 70 years: "Dedicated to our Church—Devoted to its Youth." It is a credit to each of you and to all that have preceded us for all the work to our Church and League. Three of those individuals, all past UOL Presidents, also received the award; Mrs. Helen Greenleaf, Dr. Steven Sivulich and Dr. Gayle Woloschak. Thank you for your many years of service. Please see the related article.

70 years? There are many people that should be thanked. Right here, I would like to note some of the people that were charged and asked to assist in organizing what became known as the UOL at our 7th SOBOR: Fr. Walter Bukata, Fr. Stephen Holutiak, Fr. Michael Zaparyniuk, Mr. Walter Berestecki of Boston Mass., Mr. Joseph Worobetz of Newark, NJ (now Maplewood), Mrs. Ann Kalakuniak of Philadelphia, PA, Mrs. Olga Redchuk, of New York, NY., Mr. Walter Sosonka, of Passaic, NJ., and Mrs. Luba Korolishin, of Pittsburgh, PA. Countless thanks go to them for their dedication and all the good works that have come from their efforts. They and others are one more reason to take on at the local level the Ukrainian Church Records Project. Please see the related article.

I am sure many of you have memories of the core group. I have very special memories of Mr. Worobetz always being kind to the Altar Servers - I remember him being happy, warm and going out of his way to be very encouraging - I was not the best Alter Server, I know, no surprise.

To Father Phillip J. Harendza who was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, December 10, 2016. Axios! Axios! Axios! Father Phillip has been



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**UOL Convention 2017 - Woonsocket, RI
July 26-30, 2017**

Submitted by Patricia Bougery

If you haven't heard, Woonsocket, Rhode Island is gearing up for an exciting and memorable 2017 U.O.L. Convention! Newport will be one of the stops during your stay with us here in Rhode Island. Once the summer residence of America's wealthiest families, today it is a popular year-round destination for many New Englanders. Mansions are synonymous with Newport, and we'd like to invite you to join us on an adventure back in time to the Gilded Age.

The mansions are one of the most popular tourist attractions in Rhode Island with over 800,000 visitors a year! We've planned a guided tour through the summer retreat of coal magnate Edward Berwind and his wife Herminie, an opulent 48 room "house" called The Elms. Modeled after a French chateau outside Paris, we're taking you behind the scenes to hear how the other half lived on the "Servant Life Tour." This will be a fascinating glimpse into the Gilded Age extravagance from the perspective of the people who worked to service the social whirl of the time. From there we'll take you downtown to the waterfront and Thames Street, one of Newport's original two streets. It is the primary street in the downtown area and runs parallel to the waterfront. Nestled along the cobblestone streets are a wide variety of shops for those of you looking for souvenirs to remember your time in Rhode Island. Or you can sit back, relax and enjoy all the waterfront has to offer. This experience will be a day you'll not soon forget!

For more information about next year's convention, visit and like our Facebook Page "2017 UOL Convention." You can also find more information about our church at www.stmichaeluoc.org. We're excited and can't wait to see you all in July 2017!

Brush up on your Rhode Islandese before your visit! Here's "How to talk like a Rhode Islander" #3:

Bubbla (bubbler)- A drinking fountain as in, "I'm really thirsty, let me get a drink from the bubbla."

Jeet? - The translation is "Have you eaten yet?" The appropriate response (assuming you haven't eaten) is "No, joo?"

Road Trip - For most people a road trip means a lengthy journey in a car across several states. In Rhode Island, this means a trip that takes longer than a half hour. Yes, you can drive across our whole state in an hour, but if that's the plan, we're packing an overnight bag!

More to come...

**NEWS FROM THE
JUNIOR UOL
PRESIDENT
Orest Mahlay**



Glory to Jesus Christ!

I greet everyone this Nativity Season! As Christians, especially during this time of the year, consider making a random act of kindness to someone who you know that may be struggling or going through a hard time.

I would like to thank everyone that approached me and spoke to me during the Sobor last October. I was able to discuss potential chapters, projects, and collaborations during that time and I was able to experience the inner workings of the Church. Saint Mary in Allentown, PA officially reactivated their chapter and other chapters may be joining us in the next couple of months. I would like to thank all of the interested pastors and laity who have communicated with me during and after the Sobor. These discussions have produced some new ideas for the Junior UOL to implement in the near future.

Great Lent Giveaway is also coming up very soon so be ready for an announcement and project information in the near future. Also coming up later in the year is the Junior UOL apparel item that will be decided on by the National Executive Board. More information on events and projects planned for the second half of our operating year will be released after our upcoming board meeting.

The Junior Board is putting out a friendly reminder that **election forms** are to be submitted to our Secretary, Alexis Naumenko (alexistarfish@gmail.com / 215-290-7878), and **membership forms/dues** are due to our Financial Secretary, Sophia Dobronos (smdobronos@aol.com / 216-789-4129). Let me know if you need help completing any of this.

Please feel free to contact me at orest.mahlay@gmail.com or at my number (440) 829-5873. I request that people directly contact me to give their thoughts on what the Junior UOL could do to support the youth in their parishes during the rest of the year.

Yours in Christ,
Orest Mahlay

2017 UOL LENTEN RETREAT (WEST)

*With The Right Rev. Daniel, Bishop (UOC of USA)
The Very Rev. Protopresbyter Dr. Kenneth Bachofsky (ACROD)*

"Lo, I am with you always..."

FROM PASCHA TO PENTECOST

*Sowing and Growing, Living and Giving,
Arriving and Thriving*

What is YOUR PLAN for Yourself? Your family?
Your Church Community?

Saturday, March 18, 2017

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

(Junior and Senior Retreat Tracks)

Adult Registration Fee \$35.00 – Adults
Registration Fee \$20.00 (Ages 19 – 25)
Registration Fee Free (Ages 10 – 18)

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w/Communal Bathroom \$20.00 per/person Double Occupancy
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Stephanie Rimedio @ OhioWestPARetreat@outlook.com



UOC Strategic Plan and the UOL By Co-Head Coaches Lisa Ryan and Gayle Woloschak

What was the Process for Developing the Strategic Plan?

The Metropolitan Council discussed issues of long-range planning for many years, and finally in 2015, a decision was made to develop a 3-year Strategic Plan for the entire Church. Our hierarchs had been communicating with Bill Marianes (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese) and they approved his engagement as the facilitator for the plan. Remarkably, Bill volunteered to work with the Church and guided us through the process from inception to implementation. This involved conducting a broad SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the Church by soliciting information from as many members as possible and then conducting two retreats (with approximately 70 participants in each) representing all demographic groups in the Church. The UOL membership was included in all aspects of this with members being asked to provide SWOT information and a significant number of UOL members invited to each of the two retreats. In the first retreat, the major categories of action needed for development of the strategic plan were generated, and in the second, the specific plan with steps for implementation was developed. Between these two retreats, committees worked on conference calls and by email to develop SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound) goals for each category of action.

After the retreats, the hierarchs working with the two Head Coaches (Gayle Woloschak, Lisa Ryan) and our facilitator Bill set out to appoint a series of Task Force Coordinators for each major Category and a Goal Captain (or in some cases co-captains) for each goal. The entire plan was presented to the 21st Sobor with unanimous approval of the program. It should be noted that about one-third of the Task Force Coordinators and Goal Captains are taken from UOL leadership and general membership.

How is this plan different from what we have been doing in the Church?

What makes this plan different from everything we have done before in planning strategically for the Church? There are several aspects of this process that are very different from what has been done in the past: First of all, the planning phase included representatives of every major demographic group in the Church—young, middle-aged, old, married, single, divorced, old immigration, new immigration, newest immigration, priests, deacons, laity, male, female, etc. This meant that decision-making could be more broad-ranging than had been done at Sobors or meetings of the Council of the Metropolia in the past. Secondly, the process involved a thorough study of the SWOT analysis and aimed at considering all aspects of strengths and weaknesses of the Metropolia. Thirdly, the plan was developed as an integrated whole and not piece-meal, so that goals feed into each other, and if one goal is removed, the weaknesses of the Church are not adequately addressed. Finally, the plan was designed in such a way that it could mobilize all faithful within the UOC of USA...and even some outside the Church who have left but have been “watching” to see how the Church responds to today’s challenges.

What is the role of the UOL in the Strategic Plan?

The recruitment component of the Plan is now taking place. Our goal is to have every person who wants to work for the Church within the Strategic Plan to be engaged in the goal of their choosing. Each person (and here we can reach outside of the UOC of USA) can “shop” for the goal he/she is most interested in working on and can submit their name to the Head Coaches (Gayle Woloschak, gayle.woloschak@gmail.com; Lisa Ryan, liralex@gmail.com). A full pdf copy of the UOC of USA Strategic Plan is available either in English or in Ukrainian at <http://www.uocofusa.org/under the section about the Strategic Plan>.

UOL members bring several very significant strengths to the Church that will enhance the Strategic Planning process: (1) The UOL has been involved in leadership training since its inception, and the leadership needed for implementation of the plan will benefit greatly from the UOL’s experience. (2) The UOL is associated with working across multiple different parishes, and that is an important aspect of the Strategic Plan where teams will be pulled together from all parishes in the diocese. (3) The UOL is used to working across many different demographic groups (different ages, immigrations, etc.) which is an essential component of the strategic plan. All of these and more will be of great importance in insuring the success of the plan. We hope all UOL members will be involved and use their experience to benefit the Church in the strategic planning implementation as they have done in aspects of Church life over the years.

Why should you be part of the Strategic Plan Implementation Team?

You should be involved in the plan if you care about the future of the Church, if you believe that you have skills and talents that can be of benefit to the Church, if you want to see the Church grow. Bill Marianes has provided strong arguments for why strategic planning is based in the gospels and is part

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Why All Saints Camp? Submitted by Michael Nakonachny

The idea for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camp stems back to the early 1970s. At this time the Western Pennsylvania Region of the Ukrainian Orthodox League was renting outside facilities to host weekend retreats for the Junior U.O.L. and week-long Teenage Conference encampments. In 1976 the Western Pennsylvania Region of the U.O.L., which had established a Campgrounds Fund several years earlier, determined that they would need their own camp in order to achieve their aims for the youth of the Church.

Since the 70’s a lot has changed within the world we live in. Sports have become a driving force separating our youth from the Church and constant obsession with social media has had a serious impact on how teenagers interact in person. These are just a couple of huge changes that have happened since the camp was purchased.

Why All Saints Camp Now?

We retain the youth of our Church at a higher rate because of the encampments at All Saints Camp. We can see the youth starting out at Mommy Me / Daddy Me before transitioning into Diocesan Church School camp which subsequently leads to participation in Teenage Conference. That effect is then carried outside of the gates of All Saints Camp. Every year we see the youth of our Church building friendships at camp and then this motivates them to participate in other church activities such as Jr. UOL National events. Additionally, we see these former campers joining the Mission teams that travel to the orphanages in Ukraine. Yes, we have seen a decrease in numbers across our Church as a whole and that is why it is so very important now to push the youth to attend the encampments at All Saints Camp. Over 80% of the parishes that make up the UOC of USA are within an 8-hour drive of All Saints Camp. I firmly believe that the success of our Church and our youth starts at All Saints Camp.

An investment in All Saints Camp is an investment in the future of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. As the camp committee looks toward the future we need your support. We are in the process of raising funds for much needed improvements to the camp property. Our first of many projects is the remodeling of the Millennium Building basement. This structure, designed and built by volunteers over the course of a number of years, is in need of some repair and renovation. Restrooms, sleeping rooms and laundry facilities are in dire need of upgrading. With the help of volunteers, the camp committee has completed drawings which have been sent out to contractors for bids. Our hope is for this work to be completed by the spring of 2018.

The camp committee is currently looking for individuals to be as brave as the delegates to the 8th Sobor and the Ukrainian Orthodox League who came together in 1977 to approve the purchase of the camp. We hope that everyone will dedicate time and/or funds to help preserve and improve our camp so that our Church can utilize it for generations to come.

Peace be with you all!

Lenten Retreat

*Sponsored by the Ukrainian
Orthodox League*



April 1, 2017

**Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha
and**

Fr. Anthony Perkins

*will explain the elements of the Divine Liturgy
using a video to explain the beauty of our
Divine Liturgy.*

Open to Adults and Adolescents

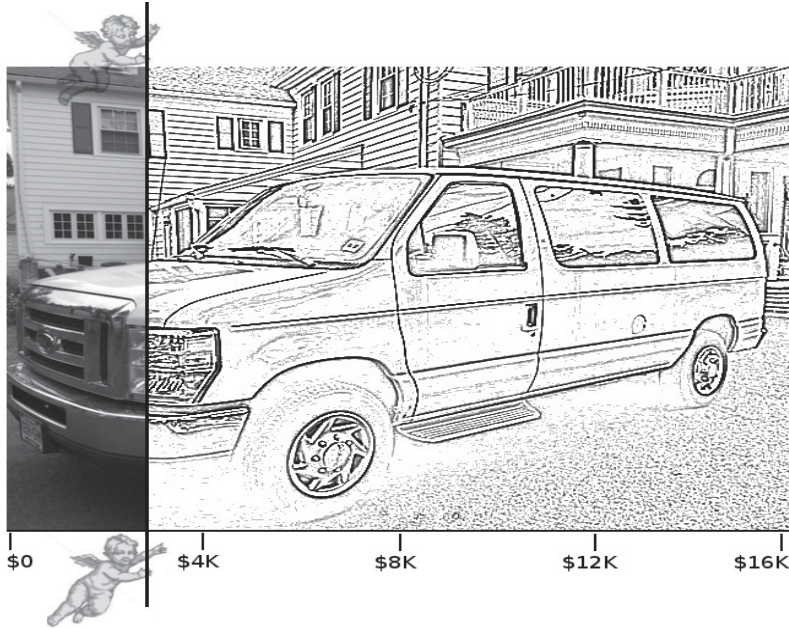
*St. Francis Center for Renewal
395 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA*

*Retreat registration rate \$45 (late fee \$10)
Registration includes all meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner.
For more information contact: Oleh or Natalie Bilynsky at
nsufler@aol.com call - 610-592-7315*

Seminary Van Fund Gets a Boost Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

The UOL's campaign to raise \$16,000 to pay for the new St. Sophia Seminary Van got a big boost in October as the result of a donation matching challenge during the Sobor. Every dollar donated by Sobor attendees was generously matched by a supporter of the project. We received \$1020 as individual donations from attendees. This amount, combined with the matching donation, resulted in \$2040 raised for the Van Fund!

We have often heard that people are more motivated to make a contribution when they know their dollars are going to a specific item or cause. The Seminary Van Fund is just such a tangible and targeted effort. Please consider organizing a Chapter fund raising event to support this worthy cause.



Whether as an individual contribution or as a chapter donation, your support is greatly appreciated. Please send your contributions to: Ukrainian Orthodox League #SSSVan, c/o Monica O'Donnell, UOL Financial Secretary, 720 Koonce Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148. You can also make your donation online via the UOL Paypal account at uol.orthodoxws.com/donate.html. Just be sure to click on "Project / In Memory of / To Honor" and specify that your donation is for the Van Fund Drive. Many thanks to all of you who have donated to this important project!

(President- Continued from page 2)



a longstanding UOL member and a Family Fest regular attendee, along with his family. The Ukrainian Orthodox League sends warm wishes to him and his family and our prayers as he embarks on his new, humbling and fulfilling journey and associated

responsibilities.

Congratulations also go out to the parents of one of our newest UOL members, David Dovgan. Congratulations to Father Vasyl, Pani, Big Sister and David and the entire family on David's Baptism and Chrismation.

This February 5th, the UOL will once again be sponsoring its annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" to benefit St. Andrew's Society, an important part of the ministry of our Archdiocese that provides humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. Your generous support of the UOL's "Souper Bowl Sunday" will have a positive impact on the lives of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Since 2006, chapters of the UOL and individual faithful have participated in and hosted soup meals. Over \$60,000 has been raised during the last ten years. Please plan now on participating –just one simple way of helping others that need so much. More information is provided within this Bulletin. Regarding the game to be played that night, sorry Cleveland and Chicago fans, you will need to root for someone else.

Your UOL Board will be meeting in Philadelphia this month on the 21st. Please, if you have any ideas or matters that you believe should be brought to the Board's attention, please contact one of us.

Lastly, please start thinking about attending one of the Lenten retreats you have or will read about.

Yours in Christ,
John Holowko

(Strategic Plan - Continued from page 4)

of a Christian approach to leadership (see stewardshipcalling.org). I think most of us can look around at our Church and see problems that need to be fixed—lack of education among our faithful, youth that have left the Church and not returned, and more. The strategic plan works to correct the root causes that gave rise to the problem by developing new educational programs, by sponsoring new approaches to outreach, by focusing on stewardship of time, talent and treasure, and so much more. Every member of the Church should see this as an opportunity to contribute their talents to the Church in a meaningful and strategic way.

Christ's parable of the talents (Matt. 24: 14-30; Luke 19: 12-27) talks about servants who were left in charge of goods (talents) by their master; while he is away two of the servants take what is given and make it multiply while one of them merely buries it in the ground. When the master returns, he rewards the servants who have multiplied the talents but punishes the one who has done nothing but bury the talent. Christ is the Master here, and we are all the servants called to take whatever Christ has given us and make it multiply. We are accountable to Christ for what we do with our talents. What will you say at the awesome judgement seat?

The GO Challenge Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

So here we are and it is already January. Time for resolutions and making commitments. Have you been able to stick with the Go challenge. If yes, that is wonderful, reach out to your five people. The Nativity season is a time to reach out and invite people to events at the parish and within your chapter. I am always encouraged to read about the wonderful events that occur in parishes and chapters during the Nativity Season. This year, when there are individuals whom you have not seen in a while, make a concerted effort to talk to them. Ask how they are doing? Invite them to the parish theophany events, invite them to the malanka. Let them know that you miss them.

I recently asked an individual who had been away from the church for a significant amount of time, if there is anything that would have encouraged him to come more often to church. He stated that during the feast days when he did come, for Christmas and Pascha, he might have come at other times if someone talked to him. Be that person who reaches out.

So, if you are the person who accepted the Go challenge, but then forgot. No worries, join back with our Go Challenge. Reach out to your five people and talk to them during this Nativity season. This is the time when individuals are more likely to come to church. If your five people do not attend services for Nativity, reach out and let them know that you wish them a Blessed Nativity, Happy New Year and that you miss them.

Just think that if every member in our parishes reached out to 5 people, and 1 person responded (only 20%), we would double our parishes.

So, if you were the person who read about the Go challenge and scoffed, or said I don't really have the time, or simply forgot. There still is time to make a difference. Right now, before you forget, write down five names. People who have not attended church recently or dropped out of your chapter. Send out 5 emails, or make 5 calls, reach out to them right now. Get up and Go!

(UOL Award - Continued from page 1)

His Eminence also presented the Great Benefactor award individually to: Helen Greenleaf, Dr. Stephen Sivulich, and Dr. Gayle Woloschak — all past Presidents and officers of the UOL; UOL members Olya Coffey and Protopresbyter Taras Chubenko; and Michael Heretz, past President and a founder of the St. Andrew Society.



The individual awards from this Sobor reinforce the specific honor conferred upon the League as a whole, confirming the great value of the UOL to our Church. While UOL members and Chapters comprise a relatively small proportion of the UOC of USA, it is precisely from these ranks that so many of our Church's foremost leaders have emerged. It is reasonable to expect that among the younger members of today's UOL can be found tomorrow's "Great Benefactors." Of this the League and all of its members can be justifiably proud.

UOL ESSAY CONTEST 2017

Topics for the 2017 Essay contest have been decided. So start thinking about what you would like to do. The deadline for this year's contest is Saturday, April 29, 2017. I will be sending submission information to your parish priests and to the UOL presidents in January. I will also put the information in the next Bulletin. I look forward to getting lots of entries! Teresa Linck-essay contest chairperson.

The Theme for this year's UOL convention in Woonsocket RI is "Declare among the nations His works" – Psalms 104:1

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Each day we see examples of the works of God. Remember that God created all in nature. Draw a picture of some of these works that you see every day.

Grades 1 and 2

Draw a picture and write 2 to 3 sentences describing your favorite of all of God's works in nature.

Grades 3 and 4

Write a paragraph (7 to 10 sentences) about how you give thanks and praise to God.

Grades 5 and 6

Write 50 to 125 words. In Psalm 100:3 it says "Know that the Lord is God! It is He that made us." We are a work of God. What should we be doing to protect this work of God?

Grades 7 and 8

Write 100 to 200 words. Some of the large problems happening in the God's world today are global warming and pollution. What are you doing to help God's work and the Earth get better? How do you get your message to the rest of God's people?

Grades 9 and 10

Write 200 to 300 words. In Psalm 96:3 it says, "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!" What do you do to declare God's glory among His people?

Grades 11 and 12

Write 300 to 500 words. The goal of the high school mission trips is to do God's work and help others. In the past, missionaries have cleaned up the cemetery at our Metropolia Center, helped restore shrines, helped at homeless shelters in Philadelphia, New York and St. Augustine (to name a few), and many other works to help our fellow man. What would you suggest as future projects for the high schoolers and why do you feel these are important?

Adults 18 and over

Write a minimum of 500 words. In these times of political correctness, it is thought to be not politically correct to sing praises to God in public in the chance that we may offend someone. How do we as Orthodox Christians "Declare among the nations His works" in this time of political correctness?

Saint Vladimir - Southside, Pittsburgh PA

Submitted by Cyril Sheptak

Saint Vladimir's Junior UOL chapter has had two meetings since the convention. At the first meeting, they held elections and elected Hrystyna Pytrylo as their President and Damen Witkowski as Vice President. The juniors have helped at church events and fundraisers such as the parish's annual fall festival. At the festival, they helped set up, run booths, and clean up around the church.

Early last month the juniors packed up paper, crayons, markers and other school supplies that they are going to be sending to Ukraine. As of now, they are also planning other fun activities and events for the juniors to engage in and to encourage others to become active in the church.

Maplewood Fall Activities Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

Throughout November and into December, the Holy Ascension UOL Chapter in Maplewood, NJ has been very busy. November began with the annual St. Demetrius dinner on Sunday the 6th, when we commemorated our departed parishioners and family members and the victims of the Ukrainian Holodomor



Famine - Genocide of 1932-33. In addition to our usual favorites (green bean cassrole and baked ham), this year we were treated to fried fish and French fries. Marlene Piasecki donated 125 frozen fish fillets for the dinner. Marlene caught all of this

fish on her vacation in the Florida Keys in September. Marlene and Gary Markovich breaded the fillets and, with the assistance of Daria Pishko, Aleksandra and PM Lidia Hucul, and other Chapter members, they deep fried the fish for our dinner.

The following weekend, the UOL organized a cleanup day to prepare the church for the holiday season. One particularly important task was removing wax drippings from the carpet using the traditional hot-iron-and-paper bag method. Among those helping with the task were John Holowko, Patricia Walton, Dan and Lynne Gulak, and Alex Shevchuk.

The Chapter's annual Cookie Walk fundraiser was held this year on Wednesday November 30 at a large Christmas Craft Bazaar at Birchwood Manor in



Whippany, NJ. The day-long event attracted hundreds of visitors from the surrounding area. The cookies were all baked by our Chapter members in their home kitchens and during an intensive session at the church on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. On the day of the sale our booth was staffed by: Dan and Lynne Gulak; Alex, George, and Halya Shevchuk; Marlene Piasecki; and Mickey Komichak. We sold nearly 50 pounds of our homemade cookies at the event.

Finally, on the first Sunday in December the UOL treated all parishioners to a brunch as part of our annual "UOL Sunday" observance. Since the event falls in the midst of the Nativity Fast (also known as Pylypivka, or St. Philip's Fast), the meatless brunch featured homemade egg casseroles and French toast. Aleksandra and Elizabeth Hucul and Khrystyna Chorniy led the kitchen, serving, and cleanup effort.

All of our activities are, of course, open to all and are for the benefit of the entire parish. We are blessed that everyone in our parish supports our Chapter and our events, whether they are UOL members or not.

Many thanks to all those who helped make these activities a success! Our chapter expects to be even busier in the upcoming holiday season. It's a lot of work, but we all enjoy working together for our church as one UOL family!



Archives Project Submitted by John Holowko

Do you know who the first president of the National UOL was? Do you know who was charged with organizing the UOL 70 years ago?

This past convention we discussed and agreed all our Chapters would be taking a leading role in in the Ukrainian Church records project. This includes the history of your local chapters and the history of your local Church.

Are you? If not the League, who else will do it at a local level?



At our National Cultural Center in South Bound Brook the UOL has an Archives room - many drawers filled with folders and papers - our goal will be to save this information digitally and to make sure this history is preserved properly. At some point, the actual information will properly be displayed at our

Ukrainian Historical and Education Center. You need to do the same - not because we ask you to -but for purposes of remembering and knowing our history -whether it be League or Parish.

I have been a member of the Maplewood Parish for over 50 years (but I am still 39 - you figure that out), but I get sad at times thinking of the many people that passed through the doors, sat in our pews, prayed with us, built our Church and that no one of our present membership remembers - I miss those people from our local family - Mr. Worobetz, Mrs. Guy, Mrs. Prisco, Mr. Samchuk, Mrs. Yurow, just to name a few, that made my younger years easier and helped make Church a second home for me. Our walls of our Parish Hall are filled with pictures over the last 30 years, I wish we had more. The Maplewood parish (formerly of Newark) will be 100 soon, but much is missing.

The Nashi Predky project will help you at a local and national level preserve that history digitally, but maybe you can also do something locally that preserves and educates you and your current parishioners about the history of Your Church visually or in written form. I visit the Troy parish often. They have a wonderful museum that does not let you forget and educates you about their past.

All of us have an opportunity here. I encourage you to take advantage of it. With respect to organizing your records and efficient archiving at the Historical and Education Center contact them at <https://www.ukrhec.org/contact> or 732-356-0132.

Oh yes - First president? Mr. Alex Palazey of Trenton, NJ. Who was charged with organizing what became known as the UOL? Mr. Walter Berestecki of Boston, Massachusetts, chairing a committee with Father Walter Bukuta as spiritual Advisor and with several members mentioned elsewhere in this Bulletin issue.

UOL Retreat - Bethlehem, PA April 1, 2017

When you participate in Divine Liturgy do you have questions about specific prayers or the meaning of different aspects of the Liturgy? The UOL Retreat is the place to get these questions answered.

The UOL Retreat Committee is thrilled to announce that the 2017 UOL Retreat in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania will focus on the Divine Liturgy. Over a decade ago the retreat had a similar focus and we hope that this current retreat will answer your questions about the Divine Liturgy.

The retreat will include a video of a Divine Liturgy with Fr. Anthony and Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha explaining each component of the Liturgy. As with all retreats we will also have a Question and Answer session where your questions about the Divine Liturgy can be answered.

The UOL Retreat is scheduled for Saturday April 1st. Registration materials will be mailed out in early January. If you want to be part of the mailing list or to receive registration material via email, please let us know at nsufler@aol.com.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to learn more about your faith. We hope to see you in Bethlehem on April 1st.

Join the Strategic Plan Goal 7.1 Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

Have you been thinking about the future of our church and your parish? Are you looking to work to build our church and your parish? Have you heard about the Strategic Plan of the UOC of USA and are thinking about how you can be involved? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are being called at this moment.

I am very excited to be the goal captain for Outreach and Evangelism Goal 7.1 – to create an outreach and evangelism ministry that provides parishes with the tools and training necessary to grow.

I am looking for individuals to commit to this goal. As part of our process we will need individuals for various assignments: 1) reviewing systems used by other churches for outreach and evangelism, 2) talking to people and collecting information and data about strategies that have been effective within our parishes, 3) collecting data about the diversity within our parishes and identifying strategies that have been effective in reaching out to our diverse UOC community, 4) developing a comprehensive model that incorporates these strategies, and/or 5) becoming a trainer and working with local parishes.

Individuals can volunteer to serve on our task force or to help with a specific assignment within the task force. You are being called at this very moment, to help with the strategic plan for our Church. Take the time to read the strategic plan (it is on our UOC of USA website). Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the task force for Goal 7.1. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested please email me (nsufler@aol.com) and let me know. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the task force or assisting with a task by February 1st.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Orthodox Christian Witness Corner The World Series

Submitted by Nina James

But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

This was the year of victory for the Chicago Cubs baseball team! After all the years of falling short, disappointments, heartaches, weaknesses, lack of courage and or wisdom, it was the late Harry Cary quote of “Holy Cow” when the team turned the situation around.

Yet, when all else fails - God is still with you. When you lack courage, wisdom and strength or insights - God will prevail. When you've given up on your efforts and feel you are falling short - God hears your desperate prayers. And when you are weak - God is at His very best. You may have a heavy load to bear, just now. Perhaps you've received bad news from the doctor. Maybe you've been rejected by the school to which you applied. Maybe you're worried about a child. Perhaps the bank turned down your loan request. Or maybe you've been struck by depression.

Jesus' friends were depressed the day before Easter. It was a Saturday filled with disappointment, discouragement, depression and despair. They were whipped. But what a difference a day made! He lives, we can rest in His promises, knowing that the best is yet to come.

How is it, that the die hard Cub fans (who never lost faith in the team) could diligently year after year fill the stadiums, in hopes that, that particular year would be the year that was going to lead them to victory? And yet we as Christ's followers are “ye of little faith?”



My prayers go out to each and everyone, for continued faith in Christ and to follow the example of this World Series.

Please share your stories, we are All in this together.

The Ukrainian Orthodox League
Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission

"Souper Bowl" Sunday ~ February 5, 2017

It's NOT about football!

It is about feeding the hungry!

Help Make A Difference.



Make a Donation to help Saint Andrew's Society

Forward Donations to:

U.O.L. Financial Secretary

Monica O'Donnell

720 Koonce Rd

Hermitage, PA 16148



Please Contact the Christian Caregiving and Missions' Chairs with any questions:

Senior UOL Chair PM Olenka Sendeha olenka55@yahoo.com

Junior UOL Chair Sophia Dobronos smdobronos@aol.com

UOL LENTEN RETREATS

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 18,
2017
VILLA MARIA,
PA**



**SATURDAY
APRIL 1, 2017
BETHLEHEM, PA**

U O L T R I B U T E S

UOL Tribute

A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group.

Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

Donor	Occasion/Tribute
Steve and Alice Sivulich	In memory of a great lady and our long-time friend Olga Sawchuk. Memory Eternal!

Have you been wanting to honor or thank someone special?

The tribute fund is the ideal way to honor someone or commemorate a special event!

It is very easy to submit a Tribute.

Don't put it off -- send your tribute today!!

To submit your Tribute:

Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), and the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent.

For a contribution of \$20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:

Natalie Bilynsky
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063.

Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

UOL Bulletin
c/o Natalie Bilynsky
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Media, PA 19063

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