



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 64 NO. 3

NOVEMBER 2017

Sts. Peter and Paul Youngstown UOL Chapter Sponsors Community Dinner- Submitted by Anna Anderson

Youngstown UOL Chapter hosted their bi-monthly community dinner on September 27, 2017. Over 150 people were served.

A lovely baked chicken dinner was served along with mashed potatoes, fresh sauteed vegetables, fruit and a variety of desserts including ice cream. Lunches were also given to attendees so they could have a meal for the next day, too.

A table of toiletries was made available and free blood pressure checks were given. Parishioners along with community volunteers donated and prepared the food. Parishioners are on hand to greet the guests as they enter the doors.

The Youngstown UOL Chapter has been hosting this community outreach project for over two years. The chapter decided to sponsor this dinner on the last Tuesday of the month as a community outreach project.

Several years ago the chapter was deciding what to do for a community outreach project. Dr. Dinah Fedyna spearheads the dinners. She gets donations and organizes workers.



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

71st UOL CONVENTION

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

You are cordially invited to...
The 71st Annual U.O.L. Convention
South Bound Brook, New Jersey
July 25-29, 2018

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

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UOL BULLETIN - The official publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States of America. Circulated to all UOL Members.

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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 11 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

John Holowko



Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

Many of us will start thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas soon, if not already. But what better way of living our Faith than helping others? Making a difference in someone's life. After some consideration, under the Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission umbrella, we thought rather than initiate a separate national program, the UOL would work to encourage our chapters and its members to become actively involved in a program initiated by our UOC of USA called *LUBA: Let Us Be Attentive!* Each month a different charity or cause is identified and information about the charity or cause is disseminated via flyer along with a few suggestions as to what your parish community might do to help at a local level as a family. We encourage all chapters and parishes to consider increasing their participation and thereby leading their parish's involvement in this wonderful Christian care and outreach effort. Please, bring it up at a local level, as I know many of you seek to be pro-active locally in this area. This time of year, it is especially challenging to many of us for a variety of reasons, your kindness can touch someone without even knowing it or simply remind you of how fortunate most of us really are.

Speaking of which, Christmas at the Seminary is December 2, 2017. Much is needed. Is your Parish, Chapter or you doing anything? If you are local, I hope you can attend. I truly think you will be surprised by the enjoyable time you will have, if you just come and encourage our students by your attendance and help in some of the most basic of ways. More information is included in this month's Bulletin, elsewhere. Thank you.

On a related topic of kindness and being pro-active. I am one of several members of the *Healthy Parish* Task Force of the Strategic Plan. Much of what we are focusing on and trying to do is to put "some meat on the bones" or organization and approach regarding our parishes acting as a true spiritual family; being outreaching to others less fortunate or troubled; effective and relevant communication and education in today's times across generational lines; and simply caring, respecting and taking true responsibility over a Parish's future. As this work continues, I see no reason why local Parish families cannot be focusing on such things now. If coming to Church seems to be more of a chore than enjoyable and fulfilling, why? What should change? Do you simply feel like you are going through the motions? One does not need to wait for a Strategic Plan developed at a National level to address these issues. All too often, I think we have focused on, or are focusing on the wrong things at a local level in very inefficient or ineffective ways. Are you focusing on the right things? Are you having discussions relevant to today's issues where people can intellectually or emotionally relate or engage with? Are you educating? Helping each other? All considered cumulatively, it can seem overwhelming; however, one thing changed and done well can make a difference. I even mention efficiency here. How often have you gone to a Church Board Meeting that goes in circles without anything getting done and no one taking ownership? It can be frustrating and disheartening; change it for the betterment of the Parish and for your family. Change the topics. Be more effective rather than repetitive. Get the right people involved. Start with one thing and make it better.

As noted previously, with November here, the beginning of the 85th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor of 1932-1933 begins. Yes, there are larger planned commemorations in New York City and Washington, D.C., but what are we doing at a local parish level; even the simple basics? Are we educating our youth as to what occurred? The cause? Are we discussing at all the *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine* by Anne Applebaum? Are we having a Memorial Service? A coffee hour to possibly watch *Harvest of Despair*? Do we discuss why this happened and why Stalin set out to destroy the Ukrainians? Do we discuss the economic term "agricultural collectivization" and what in the truest sense it caused in terms of genocide? We have come a long way, and many of you know the answers, but if we don't continue to teach it, even at a basic level, will this history simply be lost or altered by others?

One more ordination in October, Deacon Richard Francis Jendras. Axios! Axios! Axios, Deacon "Richie"! The Ukrainian Orthodox League sends our prayers and warmest wishes to you as you continue your journey.

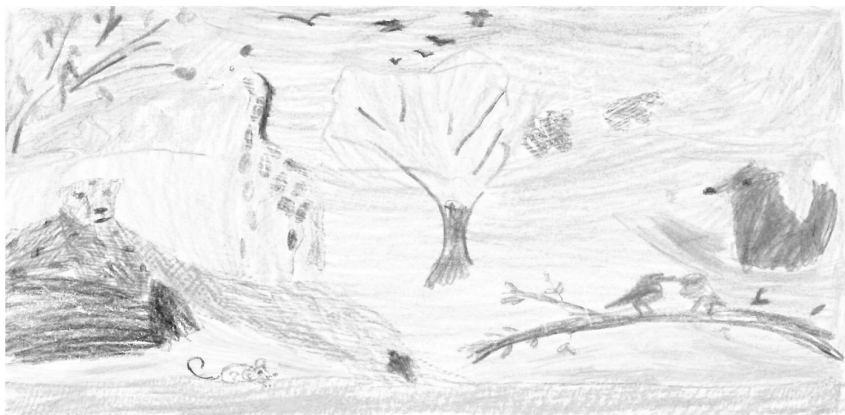
At the end of September, we had our 1st quarterly NEB meeting in Youngstown, Ohio. It was great to be there. Thank you to Fr. John Harvey and the entire Chapter for your warmth and hosting us.

Yours in Christ,

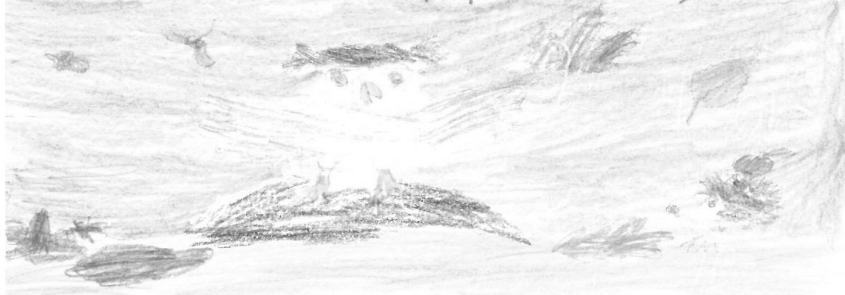
John Holowko

UOL Essay Contest First Place Winners

Kateryna Ilkiv Sts. Peter and Paul Palos Park, IL. 1st Place Grades 1 and 2. Topic: Draw a picture and write 2 to 3 sentences describing your favorite of all of God's work in nature.



My favorite of all of God's work in nature are animals. I think so, because animals are very cute, they make our hearts happy. Animals can help people and each other like partners. They are sincere and faithful and animals unlike people never betray.



Qorey Carter St. Demetrius Carteret, NJ. 1st place Grades 3 and 4. Topic: Write a paragraph (7 to 10 sentences) about how you give thanks and praise to God.

How I Give Thanks and Praise to God

I think the best way to give thanks and praise to God is by praying. Through my prayers I can thank Him for everything He has given me especially life. When I pray I can talk to God about anything and I know He listens to me. In church I serve as an altar boy and that makes me feel closer to God. Before I go to sleep at night I thank and praise God for watching over me and keeping me and my family safe. Also when I pray to God it is my way to thank and praise Him for loving me and leading me to always do good deeds. Each day I give thanks and praise to God for another great day.

71st Annual UOL Convention

...Devoted to its Youth

Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

The Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League has a history almost as long as the (Senior) UOL, which has a history almost as long as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA itself. From the very early days of the UOL, everyone recognized the need to expand membership in the UOL to include children as well as adults. The Junior UOL was formed in 1961—thirteen years after the founding of the UOL—to promote the growth of our Church and to teach the skills necessary for our youth to assume the responsibilities of being the future leaders of our Church. While the attention of the (Senior) UOL is usually focused on the near- and mid-term needs of the Church, the Junior UOL is a clear investment in our future.

Local Junior UOL Chapters certainly help incorporate children into the day-to-day life of our local parishes. However, to fully prepare our young people to be good stewards of the larger Church—that is, the entire family of parishes that comprise the UOC of USA—it is important that our Juniors participate in activities that bring them into contact with people their own age from other parishes across the country.

This year the 57th Annual Convention of the Junior UOL will be held from Wednesday July 25 to Sunday July 29, 2018 at the Metropolia Center of the UOC of USA in South Bound Brook / Somerset, New Jersey. The Junior UOL Convention will be held in conjunction with the 71st Annual Senior UOL Convention. Thus, in addition to interacting with their peers, Junior Convention delegates will mingle with Senior delegates and with clergy from other UOC parishes and with our Hierarchs. The Junior attendees will see firsthand that they are part of a larger, national Ukrainian Orthodox Church family. This is an aspect of their upbringing that they simply cannot otherwise experience if their Church life is limited solely to their local parish and Junior Chapter. Moreover, the 2018 Convention will be held in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of the UOC of USA. The Juniors who attend next summer's Convention will participate in this historic event—one which they will surely remember for the rest of their lives.

As the Holy Scriptures instruct us: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Bring your children to the 2018 Convention with you next summer! If you cannot attend yourself, make arrangements for your children to attend. Allow them to build the friendships within the Church that they will carry into adulthood. The high school years pass by very quickly and before you know it, today's teenagers are off to college tomorrow. Will they have the personal connections that encourage them to stay in the Church and the tools and skills to be good stewards?

The 71st Annual UOL Convention Committee is looking forward to seeing all of you in South Bound Brook next summer. Come to Convention in 2018... and bring your children with you!

MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT Orest Mahlay



Слава Ісусу Христу! Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is now November and the national executive board of the Junior UOL is working on different programs for this upcoming year. The Juniors are facilitating the Thanksgiving Tithing, together with the Seniors, which encourages all local chapters and parishes in collecting canned foods for food shelters in remembrance of the victims of the Holodomor (the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933). The Juniors are also working on encouraging a "Lenten Lock-In" for chapters later in the year. The Junior UOL is also collaborating with Ginny Ulbricht from the senior board in creating the new UOL website by supplying content so that the UOL becomes more visible online.

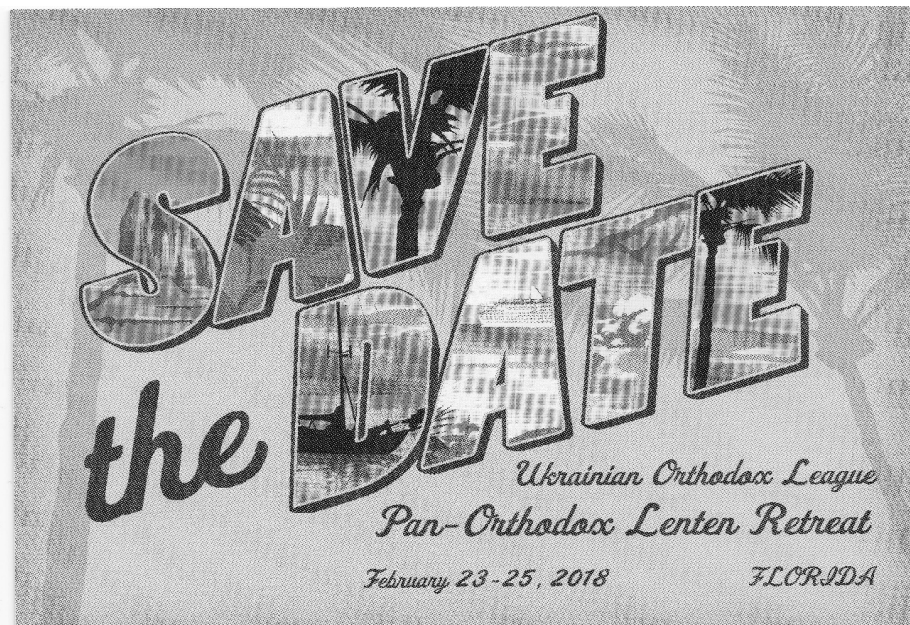
One concept that the Junior Convention body developed (during the Annual Convention) was that the national Junior UOL should aid local chapters by sending out local project ideas in order to encourage more activity throughout the year. The Convention Body proposed a few ideas (such as hosting bake sales, Lock-Ins, coffee hours, etc.) and the Board will continue to brainstorm projects for chapters to select and implement locally. Chapters will receive a "How-To" handout that will explain these projects and guide the Juniors in hosting their own activities.

I am taking this opportunity to remind everyone that **membership forms / dues** are due to our Financial Secretary, Maddie Zetick (267-406-8231 / juniorfinsec@uolofusa.org). Contact me if you need to acquire one of these forms.

Finally, I ask that everyone encourage their parish youth to become more active locally and nationally if they are not already. Please feel free to contact me (orest.mahlay@gmail.com / (440) 829-5873) if you have any interest in creating a Junior chapter at your parish or if you would like to become more involved with the organization.

Yours in Christ,

Orest Mahlay



"Need for Repentance in an Unsorry World"

Sponsored by the
Ukrainian Orthodox League and
Holy Protection Orthodox Church

February 23-24, 2018

Bethany Center
Lutz, FL

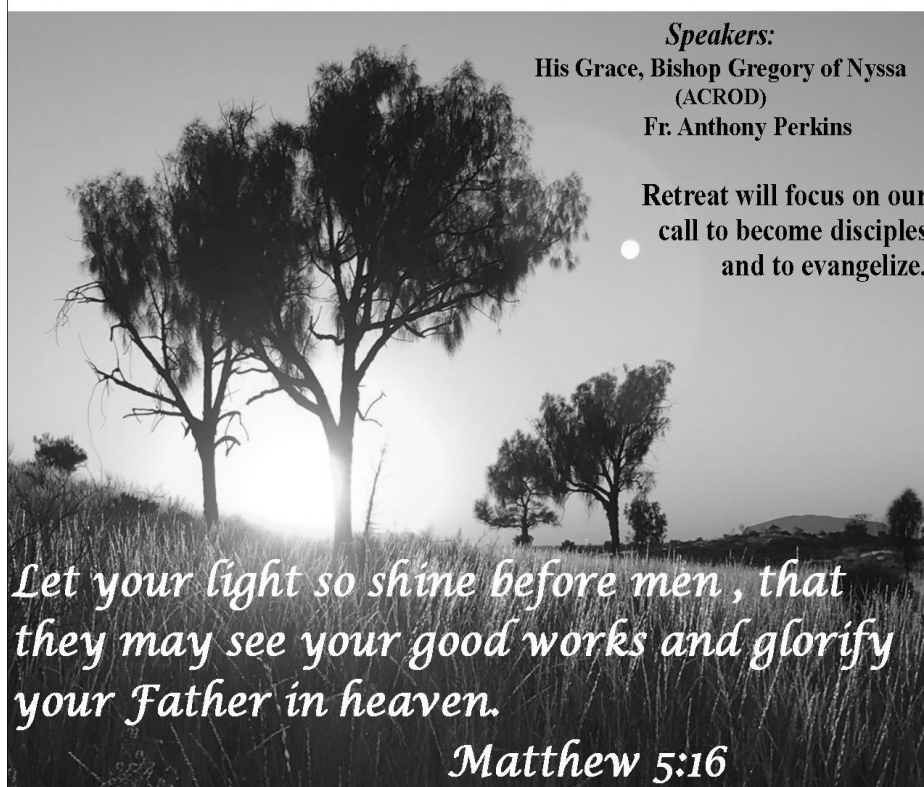
Sunday, February 25, 2018

Holy Protection Orthodox Church
Dover, FL

"Come, and let us return to the Lord, for He has torn,
but He will heal us;
He has stricken, but He will bind us up...
that we may live in His sight."
(Hosea 6.1-2)

More details will be available
on our website: www.HolyOrthodox.org

Lenten Retreat - March 24, 2018



Speakers:

His Grace, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa
(ACROD)
Fr. Anthony Perkins

Retreat will focus on our
call to become disciples
and to evangelize.

Let your light so shine before men, that
they may see your good works and glorify
your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

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

Retreat registration: Adults \$45 (late fee \$10)
Adolescents \$20 (late fee \$10)
Children (under 12) \$7

Registration includes all meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner.
For more information contact: Oleh or Natalie Bilynsky at
nsufler@aol.com call - 610-892-7315

What Makes an Orthodox Christian Leader? Submitted by Andrew Estocin

Discussions about leadership appear everywhere in the Orthodox Church. Today, there are countless paid professionals, webinars, and conferences that all claim to improve Orthodox Christian leadership. Despite these efforts and countless dollars spent, the Church is experiencing a leadership crisis. The Church in America is more bureaucratic than ever before and leadership in the Orthodox Church is marked more by secular success than fidelity to the Gospel. The result is that we often confuse worldly accomplishments with Orthodox Christian leadership. Today's answer to the question "What makes an Orthodox Christian leader?" would baffle the earliest disciples, not to mention the countless saints who have shaped Orthodoxy through the centuries.

No Orthodox community is immune to these leadership problems. Local parishes experience leadership problems when they elect parish council members who seldom take part in the liturgical life of the Church. Dioceses experience leadership problems when they mistake political and financial influence for Gospel leadership. Archdioceses and national organizations experience leadership problems when they honor leaders based on their office, social status, or material wealth. How many times have Orthodox Christians encountered a parish council member who seldom attends Church or a leader being celebrated whose choices conflict with Orthodox Christian Tradition? It is no surprise that people wonder if the Church lives what it teaches.

St. Benedict of Nursia was fond of saying, "Pruned, it grows." He could not be more correct. Orthodox Christians in America need to prune the tree of leadership so it can return to health and grow. This means removing some branches to allow others to flourish. The Church needs to return to a liturgical model of leadership. We can do this by making it a priority to reflect the liturgical life and teachings of the Church in all aspects of our lives. More than ever, the Church needs fewer secular leaders and more liturgical leaders so it can live its vocation as Christ intended.

What is a liturgical leader? Here are a few ways to recognize one:

Liturgical Leaders Attend Church Services. The Church always works and Orthodox Christians are always working. However, the Church is more than meetings, committees, and social events. It is foremost about Jesus Christ and the gift of liturgy. This is the most important work of the Church. No matter how busy he or she is, an Orthodox leader makes time to attend liturgy and to be shaped by the liturgical life of the Church. Liturgical leaders are attentive and allow themselves to be formed by the Church's teachings. They make it a priority to live the liturgy in their daily lives with humility and mercy. Liturgical leaders conform to the Church and do not ask the Church to conform to them. Blessed Theophylact reminds us that "Merely to hear the word of God saves no one and is instead a condemnation. After hearing, one must do."

Liturgical Leaders Are Moral Leaders. St. Dorotheos of Gaza writes that "By the keeping of the Commandments the soul is purified and the mind too is enlightened, and they start functioning as was intended." Orthodox Christianity calls those who embrace it to live differently and to embrace a moral worldview. Liturgical leaders recognize this clearly. They understand right and do not make excuses for wrong. They live chastely and do not compromise their faith for accolades. They honor every human person as created in the image and likeness of God, and they believe that the Church's moral teachings are neither a form of bigotry nor a straight-jacket that restricts our lives. They are instead a roadmap to human happiness. Liturgical leaders know that they must lead themselves before taking the responsibility of leading others.

Liturgical Leaders Serve the Weakest Among Us. "A healthy parish serves the needs of the community — a dying parish expects the community to serve its needs." These words from Fr. Bohdan Hladio point to the heart of liturgical leadership. Liturgical leadership is servant leadership. The mission of the church is not inward-focusing nostalgia but outward-focusing evangelism. A liturgical leader helps the Church serve the community—especially those who are weak and vulnerable. He gives to the Church without honor or recognition seeking the good of his neighbor above all else. A liturgical leader understands that the true wealth of the Church is not in its buildings or bank accounts, but in the lives it transforms.

Wealth, social status, and political power are not what makes an Orthodox Christian leader. They are in many ways the opposite of what Christ looks for in those He calls to lead. He demonstrated as much when He called the Apostles. And much like the Apostles, every Orthodox Christian — however ordinary — can be transformed by Christ to witness to the Gospel and change the lives of those around us. No Orthodox Christian is ever worthy to be a leader, but every Orthodox Christian can become a liturgical leader who lives the Church's teachings with joy, compassion, and courage. The first step is to have the humility to allow Christ -The Master Gardener — to prune our lives as He sees fit. This way we may truly grow to be the people God intended us to be.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta says it best: "God doesn't ask that we succeed in everything, but that we are *faithful*."

Andrew Estocin is a past recipient of the LSSK Scholarship. His writing has been featured in a variety of Orthodox Christian Publications. Andrew is a featured writer on the Orthodox Christian Network (www.myocn.net) where this essay first appeared.

Saturday, March 3, 2018

2018 Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat
Senior/Junior Retreat Program and Activities
(Ohio/Western, Pennsylvania & Beyond)

Forgiveness

The Path to Healing, Wholeness and Holiness (Practical Applications for Daily Living)

His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Fr. Aleksa Pavichevich

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, North Canton, Ohio

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM: Morning Prayers, Registration, Continental Breakfast, Lectures/Discussion, Snacks, Lunch, Vespers, Pizza and Refreshments, Departure. Registration Fees will be announced in late November.

Overnight accommodations available at Villa Maria (Single Room w/Bath \$48.00; Double Room w/Communal Bathroom \$20.00 per/person Double Occupancy) for long-distance travelers and others. Rates are subject to change.

Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center

2067 Evergreen Road • P.O. Box 424 • Villa Maria, PA 16155 •
Phone: 724-964-8886

"Turn not away Thy face from Thy servant, for I am afflicted; hear me speedily: hearken unto my soul, and deliver it."



The Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

Dedicated to our Church – Devoted to its Youth
<http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com>

Be a part of UOL History! Participate in the UOL History Project

When we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in 2018, we plan to have a collection of essays from UOL members answering the question, "Why is the UOL important to me?"

Take sometime during this Thanksgiving season to reflect on
Why the UOL is important to you.

Take a moment now to write your essay.
Please submit your essay to nsuffler@aol.com
by December 31, 2017.

Annual Fund Drive

Submitted by Alexander Shevchuk

We are now well into the fall season, which means that in addition to our changing wardrobes, we are starting to prepare for the holiday season. While we will be enjoying the company of our friends and family, I also ask that this year we remember our Annual Fund Drive, and all those who benefit from the great good it does.

Most are familiar with the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship and the Metropolitan John Scholarship. These two scholarships are a vital pillar in our community, that support both our clergy and our youth. Their continued existence is solely based on the generous contributions from individuals all across the diocese.

Our UOL Projects category is yet another vital part of our organization. This category of our fund drive completely goes to the support and the continuation of our Bulletin, outreach programs, education projects, public relations, and the support of our youth, just to name a few.

Each of us is called to serve Christ in different ways, some with our time, some with our talents, and some with our treasure. Please find enclosed our Annual Fund Drive envelope, and consider contributing this year to the continuation of this community and our Church.

Convention Reflections

Submitted by Charles Ames

The UOL Convention provides a truly wholesome and God filled experience that will forever yield positive influence in all of our life choices and daily activities. The 2017 UOL Convention was for myself a crowning achievement, sanctioned by all of your trust and faith in my abilities.

The scope of the entire event served to reinforce the path of education for us - of which I am totally dedicated. Equally so, the Convention instilled and reinforced self-confidence in me of my own capabilities. To this I owe everyone a heartfelt expression of gratitude and thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving and may God bless us all!



UOL Website

Submitted by Ginny Ulbricht

After careful editing and collaboration with Orthodox Web Solutions, our UOL Website is complete! I am very excited to have our website more accessible to everyone. The website is now compatible with mobile devices and tablets. Because the website is newly formatted we are reaching out to all Ukrainian Orthodox League Chapters to submit information about your chapter's upcoming events. This is a fantastic way to help spread the word about your chapter's events and advertise. When submitting information to be added to the UOL's Website Calendar please send all information to: pr@uolofusa.org.

Attention UOL Chapters

Calling for
submissions of
chapter events for
the UOL Website

Let others know
what your
chapter is doing.
Great for
advertising events
and fundraisers!



To submit
information,
please send to
Ginny Ulbricht:
pr@uolofusa.org

Holodomor Food Drive

Submitted by Orest Mahlay

The Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League invites all chapters and parishes to hold food drives at a local level during the month of November in order to address the issue of hunger in our communities and to bring awareness to the Holodomor, the man-made famine in Ukraine under Soviet rule due to forced collectivization. The Junior UOL encourages all chapters to join this effort and find a local food bank, homeless shelter, or food pantry that needs the collected foods. This effort is also a part of a larger effort by the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness to inform Ukrainians and the general public about the Holodomor. If you or your parish need help setting up such a collection, feel free to contact juniorPres@uolofusa.org or juniorlad@uolofusa.org.

St. Vladimir Cathedral Recognizes Altar Servers

Submitted by Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny

On Sunday, September 17, 2017, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Parma, Ohio, joyfully continued the tradition of welcoming new altar boys at the altar.

Following special prayers and vesting in their robes, they were presented with icons from the parish's Ukrainian Orthodox League Senior chapter, as well as Certificates of Recognition of their first day as Altar Servers.

Graduating altar servers were honored for their years of service with a plaque of recognition.

St. Vladimir currently has 15 altar servers who regularly serve at the two Sunday Divine Liturgies.



Pictured, left to right, are: Michael Parfejewiec, Matthew Greaves & Sevryn Kushmeliuk. Also pictured are Fr. John Nakonachny, pastor, and Fr. Michael Hontaruk, assistant pastor.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Landon Mrocza, Kyrilo Mahlay & Tyler Widmor.

Fall Junior UOL Executive Board Meeting

Submitted by Orest Mahlay

The Junior National Executive Board held their first meeting of the year in Youngstown, Ohio on September 23, 2017. On Saturday morning the entire Junior and Senior boards met for morning prayers and breakfast.

The meeting discussions included evaluations on the ongoing Annual UOL Raffle, the Pysh Travel Grant, and Great Lent Giveaway. We talked about how the raffle could be improved next year by reaching out to a new audience at the Convention in South Bound Brook, NJ, as there will be many non-members who will see the UOL Convention for the first time. We will also make the Raffle more successful by communicating more directly with the chapters to have a higher turn-in rate. The Pysh Travel Grant, which is financial aid for people who travel to the annual Convention, was used this past year for the chapter in Allentown, as this was their first Convention since they reactivated their chapter. We will continue to encourage chapters to use these funds so that we can bring new chapters and members to our Convention. Great Lent Giveaway (GLG) was also briefly discussed as the Junior Board has appointed a coordinator for this year. Maddie Zetick will be leading this service project for the 2017-2018 year. The Convention Body offered a few suggestions for GLG for this upcoming year to aid the coordinator in choosing the recipient.

There was also discussion about membership and the status of the Junior chapters across the US. The Junior UOL is working on strengthening already active chapters with communication through liaisons and project suggestions coming from the national board. Last year, the Junior UOL welcomed Allentown, PA back into the Junior UOL, while West Islip, NY joined the Junior UOL as they began to host various activities for their youth. We have already begun the process of creating new chapters in parishes that are interested in having more activities for the youth. The Junior UOL will continue to help these chapters in organizing and offering suggestions regarding programs.

The Board also made a plan of action for a "Lenten Lock-In," which will encourage chapters to host local "Lock-Ins" during the Lenten months. The Junior Board is also working on creating a "How-To" handout that will explain projects and activities that chapters could choose from and implement at their parishes.

Finally, Ginny Ulbricht from the Senior board spoke to us about the new website for the UOL. This website will be a platform for both national and local activities for the whole Ukrainian Orthodox League. This website will include official materials, retreat information, convention materials, photos, calendar dates, and other content. It is important that chapters contribute information so that the UOL can share the good work that chapters do and share details about future projects that are in the works.

The Junior Board would like to thank the Youngstown UOL Chapter for hosting the meeting and for their warm hospitality. The meeting was a good start in our efforts and helped us create a plan for the upcoming year.

Update on the Strategic Plan

Submitted by Gayle Woloschak

The Strategic Plan of the UOC of USA was initiated a year ago at the Sobor of the Church and started in January of this year. Where are we now in this process? For each of the major Task Forces for the plan we have Coordinators in place, and they have been working hard to coordinate the on-going work of the various teams. Task Force Coordinators are as follows:

Administration: Daria Pishko Komichak

Clergy: Fr. Anthony Perkins

Communications: Elizabeth Symonenko

Education: Mark Host

Family and Youth: George Cepynsky

Healthy Parishes: Fr. Deacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay

Outreach and Evangelism: Jeremy Oryhon

Stewardship: Cindy Charest

This group of people has been working with goal captains for each of their goals to meet the tasks of the Strategic Plan (available in Ukrainian and English on the uocofusa.org website).

How is progress so far? About half of the goals are on-target with regard to time-frame and tasks, and while some of the others are a little behind, many were initiated after the start dates because of difficulties recruiting qualified goal captains or because of time constraints faced by some of the team members. Much work has been accomplished in each of these major goals, and in the coming months we will have UOL Bulletin articles devoted to each of these goals. Each of the teams has been having conference calls, email discussions, and even in some cases meetings in person to discuss questions and goals of the work.

Several teams have developed surveys that have gone out to parish priests and parish champions. We have parish champions listed for approximately 30 parishes at this point; if your parish has not yet submitted the contact information for a parish champion, please encourage this in your parish as it will enhance communication from the Strategic Planning team to your parish community.

If you are interested in being on a particular task force (topics are listed above) or working on a particular goal (listed in the Strategic Plan document), please contact me (gayle.woloschak@gmail.com). One hope of the plan is to involve every member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the workings of the Strategic Plan. Many times, volunteers have a passion to work in a particular area and have chosen goals that revolve around those interests. In other cases, volunteers have selected to work on teams for which they have professional interests or skills. We encourage all UOC members to volunteer for these tasks and thank the many that have.

UOL Bulletin Pictures

National Executive Board members take a break from the meeting and read the UOL Bulletin!



Take your UOL Bulletin along and send us your pictures.

E-mail to nsufler@aol.com.

Annual Fund Drive

Please support the Ukrainian Orthodox League's Annual Drive for UOL Projects, Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship, and

Metropolitan John Scholarship Funds

Donations to UOL Projects will be used for:

- *Publication of the *UOL BULLETIN*
- *Supporting the Youth Commission's activities
- *Outreach through the Christian Care-Giving and Missions Commission
- *Continuation of the Education Commission projects and services
- *Public Relations and other administrative necessities

Donations to the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship fund will:

- *Provide Scholarships to current or former Junior UOL members who are leaders in their parishes and communities and committed to their faith
- *Nurture the future leaders of our Church
- *Foster the UOL's motto: "Devoted to its Youth"

Donations to the MJSF Scholarship Fund will:

- *Provide tuition assistance to seminarians at our St. Sophia's Seminary
- *Encourage candidates to the Holy Priesthood
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St. Vladimir Philadelphia, PA

Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

Our Philadelphia chapter typically has a busy schedule for the fall and winter, so during the summer we like to plan events that bring us closer together as a family. This summer we had our Wednesday evening get togethers. Every Wednesday we plan a potluck dinner and plan an event or activity to get together as one family. This year we decided to watch the series Journey to Fullness so that we could learn more about our faith. On Wednesday evenings we prepare dinner, break bread together and catch up. It is a wonderful time to hear what everyone has planned for the summer and just to enjoy each other's company. It was particularly nice to watch the videos and to talk about faith. The videos are wonderful and it was decided that the program would be used for our Juniors as part of their religious education.

The Philadelphia Junior and Senior Chapters were in full force at the UOL Convention in Woonsocket and truly enjoyed spending time together.

Our last hurrah for the summer was attending a Trenton Thunder baseball game. We had forty adults and children present for the game. It was particularly fun because parishioner Tom Shinn, who is a radio broadcaster, was announcing events between innings. The game is smaller than a major league one and very family friendly. Several of our group also participated in contests. It was fun to see our own parishioners on the jumbo game screen. It was wonderful to enjoy an evening together, to laugh, to talk, to be a family in Christ.

We also would like to tell you about one of our most rewarding initiatives. At one of our Chapter meetings we decided that we would create a morning prayer group. Starting on the first day of Great Lent we called into a Conference call phone number and had a designated reader for morning prayers. So Monday through Friday at 7:15 we phone into our number and pray together. We read morning prayers and pray for those who are ill, and have prayed for those injured in recent natural disasters and attacks. It has been wonderful and we have grown together as a family. If you are interested in joining our prayer group, please contact Natalie at nsufler@aol.com, we welcome everyone to join our prayer group. If you are interested in setting a different time and want suggestions about how to set-up the prayer group email.



Our fall projects started with our traditional Pot-luck dinner and meeting. There we planned our schedule for the next year. In October our chapter had a memorial luncheon for Olga Sawchuk of Blessed Memory on the first anniversary of her repose. As part of the luncheon we collected donations and made a donation in memory of Mrs. Sawchuk to the LSSK scholarship fund. May her memory and the memory of Lynn and Sharon be eternal. Vichnaya Pamyat!



*Ask Fr. Harvey
Questions answered by
Fr. John W. Harvey*

I have noted that in some Orthodox churches both in Ukrainian and other jurisdictions, there are differences in the Liturgy. For example, Great Entrance going around the church perimeter and with Ukrainians, kissing the Gospel at the Little Entrance. Are such variations acceptable and how do such traditions have their origin?

One would think that throughout the Church that there would be some semblance of uniformity, but the reality is otherwise. In the 19th century, the noted liturgist and scholar Nikolsky wrote a large and exhaustive tome about the Liturgy and the sacraments in the widespread Russian Empire of the time. In the footnotes of the thorough study of the Liturgy one finds a tremendous amount of minor differences and customs, often very localized, that had episcopal approval. In most cases, the text of the service remained unchanged, but there were variations in how the service was performed. Some were local customs limited to certain cities, cathedrals or monasteries, while some were regional in effect as done in Maly Rus (Ukraine), for example. Such local variations usually had their inception for pastoral reasons arising out of local circumstance.

The late Metropolitan Constantine cited a tradition of Kyiv in which the Pre-sanctified Liturgy was permitted to be celebrated on all weekdays of Great Lent, not just Wednesday and Friday. He utilized this established tradition to be used in our Metropolia, which allowed our Hierarchs on a Lenten pastoral journey in a Deanery to serve this daily in each parish. This precedent reflects a logical solution to genuine pastoral needs.

The Sabbath morning service in the Jewish synagogue was the template for the first part of our Orthodox Liturgy. Towards the end of that service, the torah scrolls are brought around the synagogue in procession in preparation for the readings from scripture. All pious Jews seek to touch and kiss the torah out of profound reverence for the word of God. Somehow in parts of Ukraine (though certainly not a universal custom) the Little Entrance with the Gospel afforded a similar moment in which the Gospel could be duly venerated by the faithful. This was deemed as a pastoral plus involving action by the faithful.

Archbishop Daniel revived the greeting of the kiss of peace between members of the congregation. Usually, in modern practice this is done solely between members of the clergy. An active participation by the parishioners has true pastoral benefit. Locally, our custom is that the priest proclaims "Christ is in our midst" while the people loudly answer "He is and ever shall be!" The proclamation and mutual greeting by the people is fervently expressed. Such a custom fulfills a spiritual need and promotes an active and spontaneous participation of the faithful and is a real plus.

The Great Entrance around the church is prevalent among Greeks and Antiochians and represents an ancient Byzantine custom. This is generally unknown by Ukrainians, yet some Bukovinians do this as they share contact with the Byzantine tradition through Romania.

Local traditions are not just some willy-nilly concoction of a priest, but arise out of a local pastoral need that finds expression. Clearly the text of services is not changed, but the actions surrounding it have the possibility of a varied usage. If in time some local tradition does not pass episcopal approval, it may always be officially suppressed.



What is the stand of the church today on plastic surgery?

The church has high praise for medical advances, but as a rule of thumb would make some reservations about certain uses of plastic surgery. For physical deformities or tragic deforming results of traffic accidents such operations can be a true blessing. Those with a deformity or such a condition as a cleft lip, plastic surgery represents the opportunity to mix in society as a normal looking person.

The church would CAUTION against some procedures, such as operations aimed at radical breast or butt enhancement. Such procedures to make one more sexy are an example of narcissistic vanity and certainly are not wholesome. An operation, to regain a normal look after a mastectomy is compassionate, as it helps regain the person's self-respect. Plastic surgery can be positive or it can be negative depending on the purpose or result of such procedure. Face lifts and tucks can be either positive or negative and one must be cognizant that even aging and wrinkling are natural and can give one character. Again, the rule of thumb is to consider whether this is an action to satisfy one's narcissistic vanity.



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