



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 64 NO. 4

JANUARY 2018

St. Vladimir Junior UOL Chapter Submitted by Natalie Swan

Since winning the "Chapter of the Year" Award at this year's convention, our Junior UOL has been quite busy! A few weeks ago, we hosted our annual Pancake Flip along with a Fall Festival for the younger kids that attend our church.



We also held a Thanksgiving dinner in our church hall. Some foods served were turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing.

That same weekend, a few of our chapter members visited the Ronald McDonald House and served dinner to the families and played with the children. The Ronald McDonald House was first initiated in Philadelphia to help families with children in the Philadelphia area who require medical treatment.

(Continued on page 5)

Serving Lunch at Eva's Kitchen Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

Thanksgiving is, of course, an annual family celebration of God's bounty and of the blessings we enjoy. The month of November is also a time of memorial and remembrance for the tragic victims of the man-made Holodomor Famine-Genocide in Ukraine during the 1930s. What better way to honor the spirit of both observances than by helping to feed the hungry and less fortunate in our own present-day communities. For the second year in a row, the Holy Ascension UOL Chapter in Maplewood, NJ volunteered to help at Eva's Community Kitchen. The trip on November 1 was organized by Dan Gulak who volunteers every week at Eva's Kitchen throughout the year. Other Maplewood Chapter members who volunteered were Dan's wife Lynne (Holy Ascension Parish President), John Holowko (UOL NEB President), Alex Shevchuk (Maplewood UOL Chapter President and NEB Financial Secretary) and his father George, and Mickey Komichak.

Our crew from Holy Ascension assisted with the lunch service, slicing dozens and dozens of loaves of bread, serving (as listed on the printed menu) hundreds of trays of "Turkey Kielbasi, Pierogies w/ sr cream, and Sauteed cabbage," and pitching-in to clean up. From beginning to end, all of the activities at the Community Kitchen were a model of efficiency. Eva's staff conducted themselves in the most professional manner, quickly serving the hungry crowd with near "military precision." We were glad to help.



Eva's Community Kitchen is part of Eva's Village, a truly remarkable enterprise in Patterson, NJ. Volunteer Coordinator Angela Vance gave us a tour of the entire campus and explained that "Eva's Village is the most comprehensive anti-poverty program in the state of NJ." Among the 20 integrated programs at the Village are: shelters and residences for the homeless and those recovering from addiction or escaping abuse; a comprehensive modern free dental facility; and job training in the culinary arts in a well-equipped professional kitchen that prepares people for careers as chefs.

(Continued on page 4)

"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

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE U.S.A.

Celebrating **100** YEARS OF JOINING US 2018

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, NEW JERSEY

1918 - 2018

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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

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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

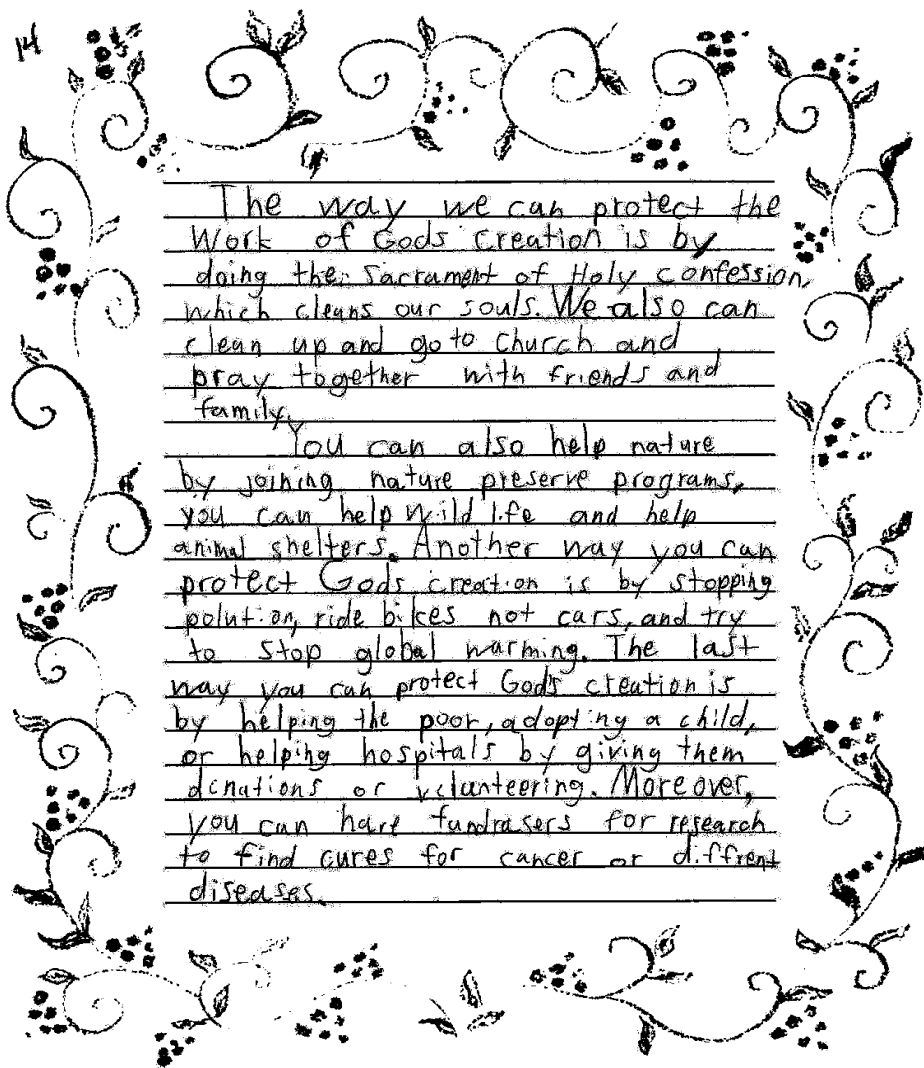


John Holowko

UOL Essay Contest First Place Winners

Antony Sendeha, Sts. Peter and Paul Palos Park IL, UOL Essay contest first place winner for the 5th-6th graders.

The topic for the 5th and 6th graders: 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?



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

I sincerely hope that you and your families are enjoying a Blessed and Happy Nativity Season and have enjoyed your time with your families. You also should know this time of year can be difficult for so many, for many reasons. I hope all of us can be there for someone who needs some kindness.

A Parish acting as one family, being there for another, reaching out, seeing the sadness that sometimes is hidden and misunderstood underneath the tough exterior is needed by all of us. Things are not easy for many of us. Slowing down, taking the time to demonstrate the love of a family to one another; it is just one characteristic of a healthy parish; what better time than Christmas when so many people are in need of it.

With respect to Healthy parishes, we know many of our own parishes are not. It is sad, but the truth. Being part of the Healthy Parishes Committee, our Parishes need to do an honest self-assessment. You will hear more about this in the months ahead, however, there are questions that we should all be asking at home and finding answers and remedies. Is spiritual growth a specific goal of your parish, and are you dedicating the required resources deliberately at all ages? Is our Faith being nurtured? While our active participation in the Divine Liturgy and Holy Eucharist is the expectation, are we providing an environment that is welcoming, and is organized, where it makes one want to return? I could not believe it recently when I heard of a Parish debating the merits of hiring a Choir Director, while they were desperately needing one-thinking of the short term monetary benefit vs. the medium and long-term benefits, spiritually and providing the respect to the words they deserve. Are we drawing visitors? Are we providing opportunities for people to serve? Are we outreaching with our Faith to others and in our local Communities? Is leadership shared effectively in the Parish between the lay people and the Pastor where collegial leadership is practiced? People have different skill sets and talents, are we effectively involving them as a form of stewardship? Is your Pastor receiving the support from parishioners and is not the only one keeping things going? Do parishioners recognize their parish's mission? Have you ever truly discussed it?

Given all of that, a Church can even appear to be healthy on the outside with much activity and a beautiful Divine Liturgy (form over substance), but for it truly to be healthy, parishioners must be growing spiritually as a family. All of us have much to do.

This February 4th, 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 and hosted soup meals. Last year, and we hope this year, we even had Parishes without Chapters participate. Please plan now on participating -just one straightforward way of helping others that need so much. More information is provided within this Bulletin. Regarding the game to be played that night, sorry New York fans, you will need to root for someone else; and for those in Pittsburgh, don't get ahead of yourself (and no reason to mention Cleveland).

Your UOL Board will be meeting in Philadelphia this month on the 13th. 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. Florida is looking very nice right now as I write this, 15 degrees in NJ.

Yours in Christ,

John Holowko

UOL Tribute
Would you like to thank someone or acknowledge a milestone, memorial or accomplishment? Submit a UOL Tribute to honor someone special.
All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin!
 Details about submissions are listed on the back page.

71st Annual UOL Convention

Every little bit helps

Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

The 71st Annual UOL Convention / 57th Annual Junior UOL Convention will be held this summer from Wednesday evening July 25 to Sunday July 29 at the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook (Somerset), New Jersey. The UOL Convention will overlap with the Centennial Celebration of the UOC of USA which is also taking place at the Metropolia Center at the same time. In previous UOL Bulletin articles, I have explained some of the reasons that it is important for you to attend this UOL Convention. I remarked that it is a good occasion for us to introduce the UOC of USA Centennial Celebration attendees to--or reacquaint them with--the UOL's ministry. I also pointed out that the UOL Convention affords Senior UOL members with the opportunity to maintain connections with friends from other parishes, and for Juniors to establish friendships that will keep them connected to the Church when they are off on their own. The connections we have with each other beyond the boundaries of our local parishes that are reinforced at the Annual UOL Convention are vitally important for the well-being of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The UOL Convention has another important purpose for the health of the League. Typically proceeds from the Convention account for as much as 50% of the total annual operating income for the National UOL. However, contrary to what you might expect, the Convention profit does not come from the sale of registration packets. The price of a registration packet is usually set to just cover the actual expenses (meals, activities, etc.) of a delegate. Convention Committees make every effort to keep registration costs affordable so as not to present an undue financial barrier to attendance.

So, if not from registrations, how is the Convention profit generated? Most of the profit from a Convention comes from pre-Convention fundraising by the hosting chapter, from ads placed in the Convention Yearbook, from basket raffles and silent auctions at the Convention, and from miscellaneous donations and sponsorships. This makes this year's Convention especially challenging financially since the 2018 Convention is being organized by a sub-committee of the National Executive Board. As such there is no "hosting chapter."

Therefore, we need your help to make this year's Convention a success and to keep the League financially healthy. Please consider having your Chapter organize a fundraising event for the benefit of this summer's Convention. In addition, remember to place an ad in the Convention Yearbook (personal or business, chapter, and parish ads or memorial tributes). Also let us know if you can donate and bring to the Convention baskets for raffle or items for silent auction. Send us an email at Convention2018@uolnj.org for more information about any of these initiatives.

The 71st Annual UOL Convention Committee is looking forward to seeing you and your children in South Bound Brook next summer. Your attendance is important to the success of the 2018 Convention. Please also help support this year's Convention financially. If each chapter does a little, it will add up to a lot!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2018



Share a bowl of "homemade love" and help the needy.

Sponsor a "Souper Bowl" Fundraiser at your parish or just make a donation!

All proceeds support St Andrew's Society's program for soup kitchens in Ukraine serving the most needy.

Please send your fundraiser proceeds and donations payable to:

"UOL for CCM"

c/o UOL Financial Secretary
Alex Shevchuk

1 Greenbrook Court, Whippany, NJ 07981-2313

For more info, email: soup@uolnj.org



MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Orest Mahlay



Христос Родиться! Christ is Born!

I greet everyone during this Nativity Season, a special season of good will, caring, and giving. Consider making random acts of kindness and taking part in a service project in your parish, community, and workplace. Our Ukrainian Orthodox Church helps us by offering the LUBA program, which provides options of service every month. I encourage everyone to use this resource on the Church's website, uocofusa.org.

This year our Ukrainian Orthodox Church celebrates its 100th Anniversary as a formally established diocese. We look back on all that our Church and the UOL has done for the faithful, the Ukrainian-American community and for Orthodox Christians in the USA. Keeping this in mind, we as the UOL have the unique opportunity of enriching the Church with innovative projects that build on the past, but also encouraging new parishes and individuals to become a part of something bigger as Ukrainian Orthodox.

Great and Holy Lent and our Great Lent Giveaway (GLG) are also coming up very soon and this year's recipient of the GLG collection will be Saint Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society. This project will be coordinated by Madeline Zetick, as well as the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. More information will be released in due time. The Junior National Board will also be meeting very soon and information on events and projects planned for the second half of our operating year will be released.

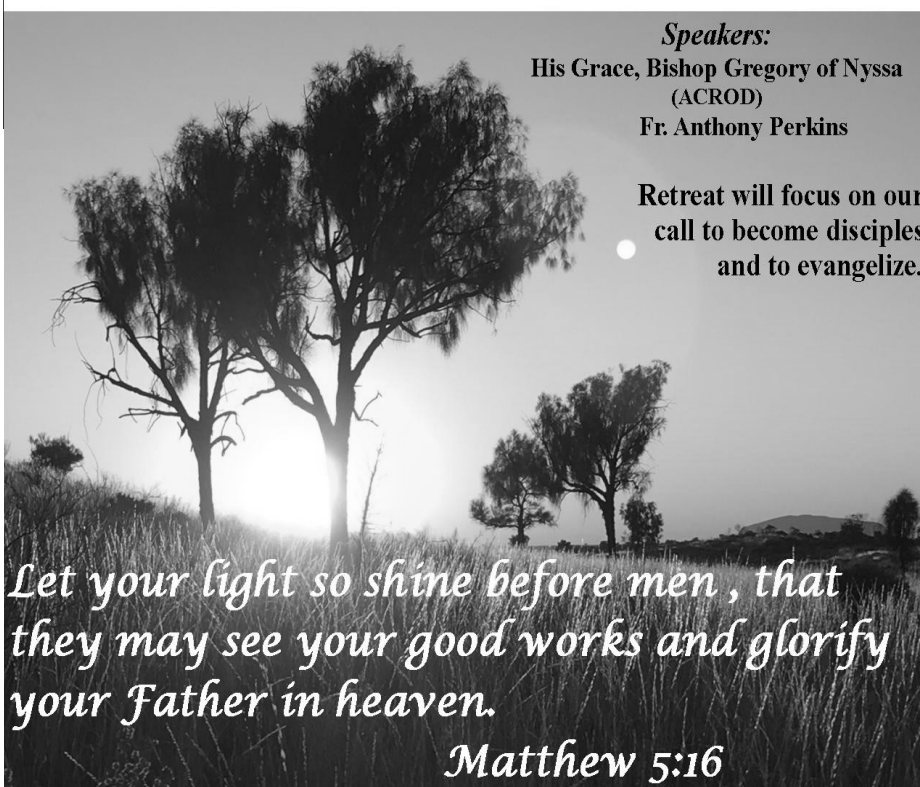
The Junior Board is putting out a friendly reminder that **membership forms / dues** are due to our Financial Secretary, Maddie Zetick (267-406-8231 / juniorfinsec@uolofusa.org). Let me know if you need help completing any of this.

Please feel free to contact me at orest.mahlay@gmail.com or at my number (440) 829-5873.

Yours in Christ,

Orest Mahlay

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**

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.orthodoxus.com>

(Eva's Kitchen - Continued from page 1)



“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” May God bless places like Eva’s Village and those who work there serving those of our neighbors who need a helping hand. And may we never take for granted the blessings that God freely gives us each day.



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

Why do Orthodox fast on Wednesdays and Fridays?

In early Christianity both Wednesday and Friday were meatless days, basically in honour and commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Liturgically speaking these two days are the commemoration of the sacrificial death of Christ and deemed as a time of abstaining from meat. Weekly, Sunday commemorates the Resurrection and hence we stand throughout the Liturgy and normally there is no hint of fasting. The Christian West followed the same regimen for centuries, but eventually dropped Wednesday and in the last century Friday itself. They now only observe such a fast normally on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Some Catholic dioceses recommend the Friday fast, but the people rarely make such an observation. One of the Wesley brothers duly exhorted his Methodist brethren to observe Wednesday and Friday as was done in the undivided church. His exhortation is totally disregarded by today's Methodists and their ministers are embarrassed that their founding fathers would make such a statement.

We Orthodox are alone in abstaining from meat on these days. Jesus Himself said that when the Bridegroom was gone that they should fast, and so we do on these days of commemoration. It should be noted that during the year there are several ‘compact weeks’ when fasting is lifted on these days because we are shortly entering Lenten fasting periods which will take observation throughout the week.



I don't recall attending the Presanctified Liturgy as a child. I was in church all of the time. Is celebrating Presanctified Liturgy in Lent something new?

Presanctified Liturgy has its origins not as early as the other Liturgies that we celebrate, but it does date back to the early centuries. This originated in the Western Church and until recently in the Catholic church was found only on Good Friday. The idea of Communion given in the form of vespers came to the Christian East, but the bare-bones simplicity of the Latin Rite was amplified by the beautiful complexity that only the Byzantines could achieve.

Over the centuries in all Orthodox churches across the globe, Presanctified Liturgy was prescribed for all Wednesdays and Fridays during Great Lent. Certain major feast days occurring in that period would also have this Liturgy used, as for weekdays in the solemn observance of Lent the normal St. John Chrysostom Liturgy was deemed too celebratory.

Now as to why you may not have seen the Presanctified Liturgy in your local parish while growing up, I have this explanation. The Presanctified Liturgy needs the Triodion, which has the changeable parts of EVERY service in the period of Great Lent. When services began to be translated from Church Slavonic language to Ukrainian in the early part of the 20th century, only the major services for Saturday, Sunday and Holy Week got translated. To do a Presanctified Liturgy properly, the texts in Ukrainian or even Slavonic might have been unavailable.

Going back to the 16th Century, the problem of how to do services in hundreds of village churches, which did not possess a compliment of the needed liturgical texts, was solved by a pragmatic solution by St. Petro Mohyla. So that even poor village churches could have something to have as a simple service for Lent, the Passia service was concocted. It is a compilation of parts of the main services in Lent, to tunes which are familiar. A generic service of but a few pages could be printed and distributed widely. As such, the Passia service became popular as it did not need several books or specially trained people to have it properly sung.

When one looks at the wide wealth of poetic and didactic material that one would never experience, if only the Passia was used parochially, the result is a spiritual impoverishment. Passia is nice, but the same material is used time and again for Mission services and for any occasion with no variety.

The Triodion and the Triodion supplement (with all of the weekday services) only became available in English in the 1970s and it is only in the 21st century that such can be had in Ukrainian. With such a late arrival of usable resources, it is no wonder that practical usage in our American parishes ONLY began in the 1980s. The late Metropolitan Constantine popularized this service, by celebrating it in every parish as he made his Lenten pastoral visits. Tying a Lenten pot-luck supper with the Liturgy proved to impress upon the people that this could be a viable family night of worship and fellowship. It is in this way that parishes of our diocese came to favor the Presanctified Liturgy. In many places in the past the service was done in the morning and only retirees could be attracted, which limited its usefulness. The evening celebration has produced the phenomenon of a family oriented gathering combining worship and an agape style meal. If everyone has partaken of Communion it truly becomes a feast of love in which we all bask in the warmth of the presence of Christ! (continued on page 6)

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

**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 winter season to reflect on
Why the UOL is important to you.**

Take a moment now to write your essay.
Please submit your essay to nsufler@aol.com

Jr. UOL Donates to Zoe for Life

Submitted by Orest Mahlay

The Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League, in conjunction with the Youth Ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, facilitates the Great Lent Giveaway, which annually promotes a charitable project during Great Lent. The project for 2017 was the support of Zoe for Life. Zoe is a nonprofit Christ-centered support organization, whose mission is to help women who need confidential, emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies, to assist those seeking adoption, and to provide resources for Pure Living.

The President of the National Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League, Orest Mahlay, presented a check and delivered supplies for the Zoe House in Parma, Ohio. The Junior UOL thanks everyone who took part in this collection during the months of 2017.



(Philadelphia - Continued from page 1)

Our Juniors prepared a wonderful meal with holubtsi, chicken, varenyky and desserts. Jr. UOL also collected canned goods for Philabundance and



helped put together college student care packages. The Junior and Senior UOL went bowling in November.



Great Lent Giveaway 2018

Submitted by Madeline Zetick

As many may know, the Great Lent Giveaway is a collection that gives back to a specific charity during Great Lent. In past years, the Junior UOL has collected items, such as blankets and diapers, for ZOE for Life, and has collected money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

This year we have decided to raise money for the St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society. This society focuses on providing assistance to the needy and supporting church-related projects in Ukraine. They aid orphans, the elderly, and refugees; assist seminarians; and offer religious resources to Ukrainians.

The Junior UOL, as well as the Youth Ministry of the UOC, is still developing a plan for the project and more information will be available soon. Stay tuned!

Although all good things must come to an end, we have many more things to look forward to in the future. In upcoming issues we will write about our annual Cookie Walk, Souper Bowl Sunday and the St. Nicholas Program. Wishing you a blessed Holiday season!!!



**Help Build Something Special!
Become an ASC Booster
Club Member today!**

ALL SAINTS CAMP
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
of the USA

Contact Your Local
Booster Representative

Or
Chris Mills
641 N. Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108
cmills63@comcast.net

A \$25 donation is all that is required to join and receive a "2018 ASC Lucky Calendar" in return! See your local ASC Booster Club Representative, ASC Committee Member or contact Chris Mills for additional information about the ASC Booster Club!

Thank you for supporting
All Saints Camp!

**Update on the Strategic Plan
Submitted by Gayle Woloschak**

During the last month of the Strategic Plan we have had much activity among our teams. I will highlight some of the progress since the last update:

-The healthy parishes team, examining approaches to set the stage for a healthy parish (led by Linda Hnatow and Sonya Lahuta Patronik), has been meeting by phone, discussing best approaches for parish assessments of their healthiness and studying what it takes to make for a healthy parish.

-Fr. Anthony Perkins, who is Task Force Coordinator for the Clergy goals, made a presentation at the Clergy Conference about the goals of the strategic plan to improve clergy wellness and compensation.

-Natalia Honcharenko's team, working with the Administration team, has made significant progress in developing a skills matching list, which provides contact information for members of the Church with different talents and capabilities so that they can be used by parishes to solicit advice on particular issues of need in the parishes (for example, financial consultants, construction advice, etc.).

-The IT group (Task Force Coordinator Eric Senedak) has been working on developing an App that can be used on smart phones and other devices for Church services, music and other capabilities. This will be made available to all members of the UOC and others who might be interested. The App is nearing completion.

-Fr. John Charest has created a facebook page for the Strategic Plan that will provide updated information. We hope this will be up and available in the next month.

This month, more conference calls and plans are progressing for all of the task forces and goal teams. It is exciting to see so many people working for the good of the Church.

At the beginning of the Strategic Planning process, a web portal for all members of the Strategic Plan was created called "Basecamp." We have created a new portion to that portal that has a section where participants can post to anyone. If you are interested in having access to Basecamp and seeing on-going information, please email Dr. Tanja Paunesku (t.paunesku@gmail.com) and ask her to add you to the "Everyone" portion of the portal.

Ask Fr. Harvey - Continued from page 4)



What do the church bestowed titles of Archimandrite and Protopresbyter mean?

In order to understand the awards given to priests for length or quality of priestly service, one must differentiate between the married and the monastic clergy. After a period of several years service in a diocese, the hierarchs may judge to raise a priest to the level of archpriest (protopresbyter in Greek). Beyond this, at the hierarchs' discretion, other honorifics may be bestowed. In our metropolia, one may be declared to have the right to wear a mitre (like a bishop's, but without a cross on top). This is the rank of mitred-archpriest. Those with the top of honorifics have been named as protopresbyters and one possibly can be given the right to wear two crosses. Other honours, such as the right to wear a skuffia, may be given on occasion.

Different Orthodox dioceses have different systems of ranking, such as the Serbians whose advancing levels are ranked by different coloured priestly sashes. The Russian Church has a complex system of gradations and orders given out annually. In all this, the important factor to recognize is that the priest receiving honours and advancement in rank is faithfully serving God and His Church and the award is a token of good and faithful service.

The monastic clergy have their own rankings. A monk who is ordained a priest is a hieromonk. The title of Igumen as well as the title of Archimandrite today, in our Metropolia, are given as honorifics mirroring what is given to the married clergy. We then have the anomaly that a majority of celibate monastic clergy have gained a ranking as an archimandrite, which is akin to an abbot or head of a monastic institution. The anomaly is, that if such clergy were all in a monastery, it would be like having all chiefs and very few Indians. In this century, when, in our diocese, we do not have a monastery, monastic clergy act as parish priests, which in earlier centuries would be limited to the married clergy. I hope this unravels the baffling issue of priestly titles. Always remember that the important thing is service to Jesus Christ and not the acquisition of titles.



When cartons of chicken were delivered by our supplier for a large parish dinner, I noted that the boxes were marked Halal and Tayyib. I think that this is Muslim, should we be eating it?

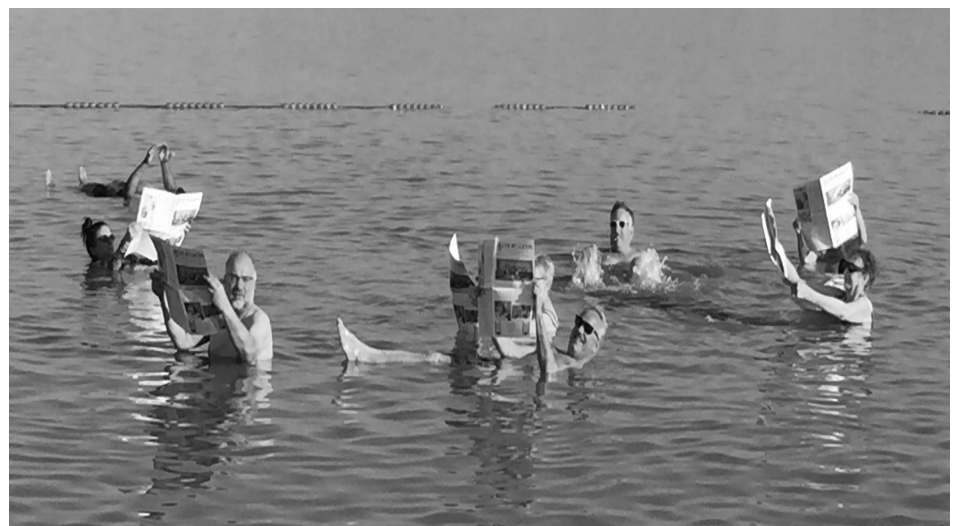
(continued on page 7)

UOL Bulletin Pictures



UOL members enjoy the UOL Bulletin in the Holy Land during the pilgrimage. The UOL Bulletin floats with members on the Dead Sea and sails on the Sea of Galilee.

**Take your UOL Bulletin along and send us your pictures.
E-mail to nsufler@aol.com.**



(Essay winners - continued from page 2)

7th-8th grade first place winner, Madeline Zetick, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA. Essay Topic: 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?

In Genesis 1:28, it says, "Then God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of heaven, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" In our day many times we have heard about issues such as pollution and global warming. God wants us to glorify the gift of earth, not kill it. There are so many ways to do so.

A small thing that almost everyone does, that no matter what, can clean up our earth is recycle. Instead of taking all of our trash and throw it in the beautiful land God provides us with. Another thing that many people do, including me, is make sure I turn out lights and unplug unnecessary items, so not a lot of pollution is made that could have be prevented. I try to spread the message of how important God's earth is, by just leading by example. If friends or family are over, I just show them

(Continued on page 7)

(Essay Winners - continued from page 6)

the importance of saving energy and recycling. Hopefully, if enough people begin to lead by example, then together we can make a change.

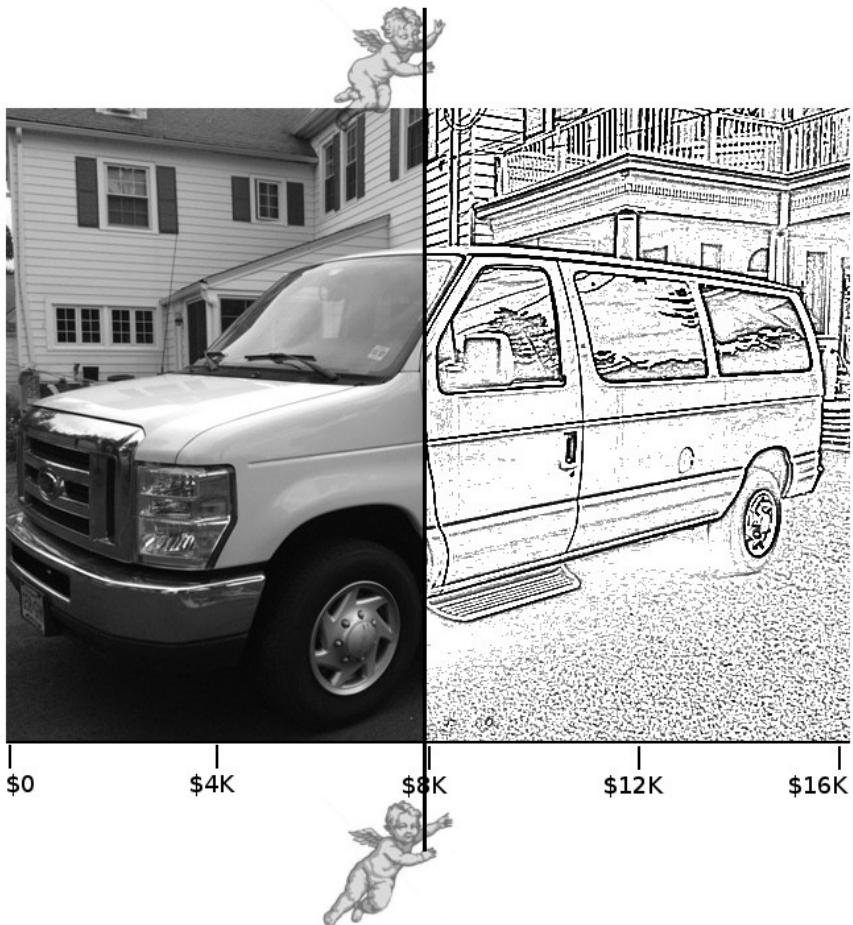
In conclusion, God wants his people to help make earth a cleaner and better place for everyone to live, as shown in Genesis 1:28.

Seminary Van Campaign Needs Your Support

Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

Just before the 2016 UOL Convention, our St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary purchased a much-needed Ford Econoline 12-passenger van. The UOL subsequently launched a national fundraising campaign to reimburse the Seminary for the van's entire \$16,000 purchase price.

If you'd like to help the UOL reach this goal, please send your contributions to: Ukrainian Orthodox League #SSSVan, c/o Alex Shevchuk, UOL Financial Secretary, 1 Glenbrook Court, Whippany, NJ 07981-2313. You can also make your donation online via the UOL Paypal account at uolofusa.org/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 our donors!



Do you enjoy reading the UOL Bulletin?

Consider making a donation to defray the cost of printing and mailing.

We thank you in advance for your consideration

Make check payable to UOL and send to;



(Ask Fr. Harvey—continued from page 6)

In olden times, food was often offered to idols and then given to the people to eat and Christians were warned about that. Such eating would be a form of communing or worshipping the pagan deity.

Now as to halal meat, this all has been slaughtered according to Islamic dietary laws. For a Muslim. Even meat from acceptable animals, such as beef, lamb, goat and fowl such as chicken is haram or forbidden. To be able to eat such food at all, it must be slaughtered according to correct Islamic ritual. Strictly speaking, if an observant Muslim were to be driving down the road, he should not order a double stack burger at Wendys because the meat is not certified halal.

What then is tayyib? Meat may be slaughtered by a Muslim butcher according to the prescribed ritual, but for many Muslims this is not enough. Many unscrupulous purveyors of feed for animals include meat by products (perhaps even from pork) or the animals may have been raised in an unhealthy environment. For halal meat to get the added certification of tayyib, Muslim authorities must stringently check out the type of feed used to ascertain that the herd has been raised in a healthy environment.

What does this all mean for us Orthodox Christians? For example, if you go to a restaurant, chances are that you will never know the source of their meat. Muslim restaurants, such as Pakistani, Arab or Afghan will post that their meat is halal to reassure their Muslim clientele. As we usually do not know, it is always best for us to bless and thank God for our food before we consume it as Christians.

Face it, we live in an increasingly Islamicized America and we should bless all of our food before any meal. Most people only have their food blessed when the priest does so at parish dinners. So, when you take some meat loaf or lasagne out of the refrigerator, even for an informal lunch, one should thank God for it.

In a secularized society it may take an effort to start and maintain a healthy Christian habit of always blessing and thanking God when we eat. Another note is that we may be kept healthy by God, if even the food could cause us distress. Be on the safe side thank God when you eat.



Living in retirement in Florida, I have come to the point of making pre-arrangement for funeral. Through a friend, I have come to the realization that due to certain situations I might no longer be allowed to be buried in the family plot of our church cemetery up north. Aren't there any sweeping diocesan regulations that are in effect that can modify arcane cemetery regulations?

In point of fact, each of our parishes, each having its own cemetery, have different regulations in their parish constitutions and cemetery by-laws that vary widely from place to place. The truth of the matter is that whatever strange or seemingly antiquated regulations are enshrined in their by-laws, they are all legally enforceable.

When parish cemeteries were constituted, say in the 1920s or 1930s a whole different world existed. In these tightly closed ethnic communities, the idea was to preserve the cemetery only for duly constituted dues-paying members and the regulations reflect that stance. Who thought of making provision for a non-Orthodox spouse or children.

In Depression years, who envisioned retirement in Florida or that offspring would seek jobs in Georgia or Colorado. Most parishes have a list of spiritual and financial obligations, which had to be fulfilled before burial would be permitted. For example, non-payment of "dues" might necessitate payment of such back at least five years.

Moving away, without dues payment and continuous membership might be enough to rescind right to burial in plots purchased decades ago. Even though plots were seemingly "bought" like a piece of land for real estate, the cemetery plots often have contingencies involved wherein the use of said plots can be forfeited and returned to the parish for resale if certain conditions are not met.

Let the buyer beware! It is always good to seek out the regulations of your home parish regarding burial in their cemetery. It is better to know ahead and comply then to have the necessity of a funeral arise and find that there is a rude surprise awaiting.

As cemeteries and the regulations regarding their use are totally under the purview of the parish authorities, the diocese does not enter in except the regulation of the burial of suicides. What remains is that it is totally up to you to ascertain what you need to do to be compliant with your home parish's cemetery regulations.



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February 23-24, 2018

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18150 Bethany Center Drive
Lutz, FL 33558



Sunday, February 25, 2018

Holy Protection Orthodox Church
3820 Moores Lake Road
Dover, FL 33527



Registration required for Friday and Saturday sessions. (Lodging available)

Friday, February 23	4:30-7:00	Presanctified Liturgy, Dinner, Keynote	\$40. pp
Saturday, February 24	8:00-6:00	Breakfast, Lunch, Retreat Sessions	\$45. pp
	6:00-7:00	Dinner, Fellowship	\$35. pp
Sunday, February 25	10:00	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, Luncheon	n/c

Retreat Leaders & Speakers:

Retreat Leaders:

His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

His Eminence Archbishop DANIEL
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Retreat Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Gregory Edwards: Asst. Prof. at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Priest at St. George Parish in New Port Richey (GOArch), and former Priest and Deacon of the Orthodox Church of Greece.

Very Rev. Dr. Harry Linsinbigler: Canonist of the UOC of the USA, Adjunct Professor of Theology at St. Sophia Seminary, Consistory Director of Religious Education, Dean of the Florida Deanery, Parish Priest of Holy Protection in Dover (UOC of the USA)

Rev. Fr. Joseph Ciarcagliano, priest of St Philip Orthodox Church and Attorney at Law.

Rev. Fr. Athanasios Haros: Proistamenos of St Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs.



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More information and registration form available on our websites:

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UOL Retreats

March 3, 2018 Villa Maria, PA

March 24, 2018 Bethlehem, PA

More details in this issue

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In Loving memory of my wife, mother and and grandmother, great grandmother Pani Matka Dorothy Sundland on her recent repose. In loving memory from her children Walter Myros, Mark Myros, Barbara Galvan and Raymond T. Sundland and their spouses, her seven grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren. Although a convert to Orthodoxy, Dorothy was faithful and hard working in her faith serving in many capacities In the parishes she attended, especially the youth, and served along with her spouse Fr. Raymond Sundland.

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