



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth*

VOL. 64 NO. 6

JUNE 2018

## UOL Lenten Retreat Ohio/WPA

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

Submitted by Marianne Carmack

On Saturday, March 3, 2018, the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA held the Ohio/Western Pennsylvania Annual Lenten Retreat at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA. Over 45 participants from Orthodox Churches in the surrounding area, including SS. Peter & Paul (Youngstown, Ohio), SS. Peter & Paul (Lyndora, PA), St. Vladimir (Pittsburgh, PA), SS. Peter & Paul (Carnegie, PA), St. Mary's (McKees Rocks, PA), and St. John the Baptist (Sharon, PA) gathered for the day's activities.



The day proved to be a blessing despite last minute challenges. Excellent speakers, love and fellowship, warm hospitality, beautiful singing, great food, combined to deliver a day worthy of celebration. Many thanks to Fr. Aleksa Pavichevich who delivered his workshop via Facebook live from New York City, Fr. Paisius McGrath for his exceptional session and exegesis linking the content of the first presentation to our journey through Great Lent beginning with "Forgiveness Sunday," Fr. Gregory Becker for his beautiful singing and timely talk on the link between forgiveness and confession, and to our beloved Fr. John Harvey who powered through the side-effects of his Thursday chemotherapy treatment to be with us and share his great wisdom and understanding. So courageous and loving. In addition to our speakers, we welcomed Fr. Andrew Gall, Fr. Daniel Rohan, and John Holowko, President of the UOL.

There was, of course, the major northeast snow storm that marooned Fr. Deacon Paul Cherkas and Pani Mary Ann and their granddaughter on I-81 and proved to be challenging to John Holowko and Patricia Walton. John and Patricia finally arrived mid-Saturday afternoon. We were so glad they were all safe and admired their persistence.

This year's retreat, presided over by The Very Rev. John Harvey, Dean of the Penn/Ohio Deanery, marked the 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UOL's Retreat platform—an expansion of its Educational programming designed to provide enriching experiences fostering Orthodox spiritual growth. The theme of the very first retreat, held February 15-17, 2002, at the Jesuit Retreat Center,

(Continued on page 4)

## Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat...in Sunny Florida!

Submitted by Daria Pishko Komichak

The "Need for Repentance in an Unsorry World" was the theme of a Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat hosted by Holy Protection Orthodox Church of Dover, Florida under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. The Lenten Retreat was held at Bethany Center in Lutz, Florida just north of Tampa on Friday February 23 and Saturday February 24, 2018.



His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the UOC of USA, was in attendance at the sessions and provided the overall spiritual guidance for the Retreat. The Retreat featured enlightening, thought-provoking, and often entertaining presentations by four esteemed clergy:

- V. Rev. Dr. Harry Linsinbigler (Assistant Professor of Theology at St. Sophia Seminary; Priest at Holy Protection Orthodox Church; Canonist and Consistory Director of Religious Education for the UOC of USA; Faculty member for the Denver College of Nursing in Ethics and Critical Thinking)
- Rev. Fr. Joseph Ciarciaolino (Pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL; a US Army Veteran and highly experienced Attorney at Law; founder of a clinic in Uganda in cooperation with the OCMC and the Orthodox Church of Uganda, Patriarchate of Alexandria)
- Rev. Fr. Dr. Gregory Edwards (Assistant Professor of Missiology at St. Vladimir's Seminary; Presiding Priest at St. George Parish in New Port Richey, FL; translator and editor of numerous scholarly and faith publications; formerly a priest of the Church of Greece)
- Protopresbyter Athanasios Haros (founder of "Be Transfigured Ministries," an Internet ministry which produces, publishes, and promotes online Orthodox Christian ministries including Bible studies; Dean of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs)



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"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

1918 - 2018

SOUTH BOUND BROOK NEW JERSEY

July 25-29, 2018

JOINTUS 2018

100 Years

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE U.S.A.

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**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.

Non-members subscription rate \$30.00 Canada \$40.00

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UOL Bulletin - Published seven times annually - September, October, November, MARCH/February, March, April /May and June.

**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.

### Support Our Seminarians Submitted by Michael Komichak

This May marked the 47th anniversary of the repose in the Lord of His Beatitude Metropolitan-Archbishop John, the first Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop of the USA. For over 50 years, the UOL's Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund has helped to financially support the education of our seminarians and clergy, whether they be full-time or part-time students. Everyone knows that a good college education is very expensive these days. A great way to help our seminarians achieve their goals is to contribute to the UOL's Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. Your generous financial support for MJSF helps ensure a bright future for our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church. You can send your donation to Alex Shevchuk, UOL Financial Secretary, 1 Glenbrook Court, Whippany, NJ 07981-2313, or you can contribute online using PayPal at uolo-fusa.org/donate.html. Please note the purpose of your donation as "MJSF."

Below are brief profiles of four members of this year's resident class at our St. Sophia Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ. When you attend this summer's UOL Convention in South Bound Brook you can meet these and other students at St. Sophia and get to know them better. We are indeed blessed to have such dedicated, high-quality students at our Seminary.

**Subdeacon Oleh Kravchenko** "I am originally from the city of Dubno (Rivne region) approximately 100 miles northeast of Lviv. The story of my calling to priestly ministry begins in childhood. According to my parents, at the age of three years old I predicted that I would become a priest when I grew up. Reflecting on everything in my life, I see the bright prophetic hand of God guiding me to the priesthood. After graduating from theological seminary in Kyiv and getting married, I continued to follow God's call which led me to St. Sophia Seminary in the US. During the short time that I have been living and studying here, I have already gained valuable experience from the special spiritual life of our Seminary. The educational environment here is active and engaging, with real-world training provided by frequent visits to many different parishes where, one day, I hope to serve.



I thank Metropolitan Anthony and Archbishop Daniel, as well as the teachers and the administration of St. Sophia Seminary, for giving me the opportunity to get an education here in the USA and to learn new things at this wonderful institution."

**Subdeacon Ivan Venhryn** "I am a first-year student at St. Sophia Orthodox Seminary. I was born in 1994 in the village of Poberezhne (Horodok district, Lviv region). My father Yaroslav is a priest, and from my childhood my parents instilled in me a love for the Orthodox Church and the beauty of its worship. From 2000 to 2009 I studied at a general educational school and was also an altar server at the Holy Dormition Church in the village of Komarov. In 2009 I enrolled in the Lviv Theological Seminary, from which I graduated in 2013. While I was there I helped serve in the Church of St. John Chrysostom. From 2013 until 2015 I continued my studies at the Lviv Orthodox Theological Academy. In 2017, with the blessing of our hierarchs

Metropolitan Anthony and Archbishop Daniel, I enrolled at the St. Sophia Orthodox Seminary of the UOC of USA. I was tonsured as a Subdeacon by Archbishop Daniel on February 12, 2018 at the liturgy celebrating the Patronal Feast of the Seminary's Three Holy Hierarchs Chapel. I am grateful to all who teach and support me on this path of service to the Church and all people."

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# MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

## John Holowko



Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

As I did last year, one of the best things I did this past year was to attend several Lenten retreats. Thank you to all that helped arrange, coordinate and manage the retreats. This year included our first in Florida. The Ohio/WPA retreat which I had the pleasure of driving to twice-long story, and last, but not least, Bethlehem, PA. The Pan Orthodox Structure provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people from our Sister Churches. In addition to sharing much together, we can learn a great deal from one another. Plans are under way to have an Advent retreat next year and an additional Lenten Retreat in the Capital Region of New York next year. In Bethlehem this year where we discussed Evangelization and Outreach, the Lead speaker was His Grace, Bishop Gregory of ACROD. Of the many things His Grace spoke about, one was the importance of demonstrating to others our vulnerability and love as we look to others to trust us and to build healthy homes and Parishes. We also thank His Grace for discussing the use of the word "awe." Anyone having attended will understand.

With great sadness, we pray for the soul of **V. Rev. Bazyl Zawierucha** of our Northampton, PA parish. As most know or should know, Father Bazyl was also former Rector, Provost and a Professor of our Seminary, St. Sophia's. "Fr. Baz" served our Church in so many valuable ways. To say he will be missed is an understatement; his warmth, wisdom, and wit, is a loss felt by many. May his Memory be Eternal! Our prayerful condolences to Pani Anna and Fr. Bazyl's children Oliver and his family, Anastasia and Sebastian and the Northampton family.

To His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel, who celebrated the tenth anniversary of his consecration as Bishop on May 12th – and the 17th anniversary of his priestly ordination; and to Father Volodymyr Yavorskyi who was ordained on May 5<sup>th</sup> to the Priesthood, Axios! Axios! Axios! The Ukrainian Orthodox League sends our love, prayers and warmest wishes to you. We are here to assist you, in any way we can.

**I hope you and your Parishes strongly consider sending your children to ASC, even if it is just for a week.** Wanting and needing to get away as a family is wonderful, needed, as well as a challenge for all with many things to balance. I continue to believe All Saints Camp (ASC) is one of our jewels that can offer your children so much for a small investment. It is minor in costs, as compared to sports or other camps. I hope Parish Boards, not just families, ask if their children can go and even help with the investment. Is it not the responsibility of our Church Boards to be pastoral and planning for the future? Again, it is an investment in your Parish children and should our Boards not be focused on our children? Recently I was speaking to one our Priests who was hesitant about sending his child there for fear of not fitting in. Perhaps, I had some of those same hesitations some 16 years ago at the very first "Mommy and Daddy and Me." However, over those 16 years, I cannot begin to describe what ASC has meant to my four children and family, and the countless bonds they have built within the Church or the peace we find when there. At times, to this day, I am still surprised about how many people know so little about ASC or even our Church, beyond the Church they regularly attend. Back then, this parent had some of those same hesitations; it turns out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Our Convention and the Centennial Celebration are less than two months away at our Metropolia Center - please read our articles about it. **June 15<sup>th</sup>** is the cutoff for Early Registration. After senior sessions conclude on Thursday, Friday will begin with His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony discussing the history and formation of our Church here in the USA. Did you know the Church here was first established as the American-Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA? There really is so much to understand, if not simply to learn about our history and roots. With our Overarching Convention Theme being from **Jeremiah 29:11**; "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," Friday afternoon will be dedicated to an exchange of ideas facilitated by guest speaker, Joe Kormos focusing on parish revitalization and

(continued on page 4)

## 71st Annual UOL Convention

*For I know the plans I have for you...to give you hope and a future.*

Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

With a long winter behind us, summer is finally close at hand, and the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual UOL Convention / 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior UOL Convention is just around the corner. We have planned a very full program of events, with time set aside from Wednesday July 25 to Sunday July 29 for business, celebration, fellowship, worship, and education for personal and organizational growth. Now it is time for you to make your plans to attend.

Participation in the Annual UOL Convention requires the investment of significant time and money by all who attend. An additional consideration this year is the similar investment to attend the main celebration marking the Centennial Anniversary of the establishment of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church here in the United States. Through careful coordination between the Convention and Centennial Committees, we have enabled attendance at both of these major events in a single trip, saving time and money for all participants.

If you are planning to come to the UOL Convention, you will want to attend all of the Centennial events as well. One of these events--a Centennial Concert--will take place on Friday evening July 27 featuring the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, the Ukrainian Chorus Dumka, and the recently established Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America. This is entertainment at a professional level far beyond what we traditionally are able to offer during a UOL Convention. For a taste of what to expect, visit [banduristka.org](http://banduristka.org) and play the audio clip on the home page. Whether you understand the Ukrainian lyrics or not, this is music that will stir your soul.

If you know of others who are planning to come just to the Centennial Celebration, encourage them to participate in some of our Convention events as well--whether they are UOL members or not. In particular, our Friday conference *Learning from Our Past to Prepare for Our Future* will be of interest to anyone who wants to help their parish grow and to pass on a healthy and vibrant Ukrainian Orthodox Church to future generations. We will begin with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony recounting the history of our Church in the United States, which will set the context for who we are today. Then, Joseph Kormos, who is a leading expert on parish growth and revitalization, will speak to the topic of where we want to be tomorrow. Anyone who attends this inspiring day-long event will be excited to return to their home parish with fresh ideas that they will want to put into practice.

The Senior UOL Convention packet includes all events organized by the UOL. Please note that this does not include the Friday evening Centennial Concert or the Saturday afternoon Centennial Banquet. Tickets for these two Centennial events must be purchased separately. However, by special arrangement with the Centennial Committee, we are able to include all UOL and all Centennial events in the Junior Convention packet. This ensures that our Juniors are able to fully experience this once-in-a-lifetime Convention and Centennial Celebration.

This will be a busy, historic, enjoyable, and enlightening Convention, and you and your family will want to be a part of it. The 71st Annual UOL Convention Committee is looking forward to seeing you in South Bound Brook this summer!

## MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

**Orest Mahlay**



Слава Ісусу Христу! Glory to Jesus Christ!

Gratitude is extended to the Consistory and the UOL chapters in the New Jersey area for hosting our last meeting in South Bound Brook, NJ. We thank the Consistory for letting us use their work space and for preparing us for the upcoming Centennial Celebration of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

As we approach the Annual Convention, the Junior UOL is continuing to collect for the Great Lent Giveaway, which this year is helping the *Saint Andrew's Society*, who are giving educational scholarships to teenagers / young adults who lost their parents during the military conflict in Ukraine. Maddie Zetick (267-406-8231 / [juniorfinsec@uolofusa.org](mailto:juniorfinsec@uolofusa.org)) is responsible for coordinating this event with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry ([uocyouth@aol.com](mailto:uocyouth@aol.com)). We hope that everyone is able to contribute to this important charitable cause.

The Junior UOL raffle tickets are also on sale now. Tickets were distributed by the liaisons and will be collected before the drawing at the Convention in July. Please send all of your tickets and payments to our Vice President, Charles Ames. If you need more tickets or have any questions feel free to contact Charles at 330-787-1887 or [juniorvp@uolofusa.org](mailto:juniorvp@uolofusa.org). We would also like to remind everyone about the Pysh Travel Grant that is available to the chapters. This grant helps cover the costs of travelling to the Convention in July. Please consider applying for this grant so that you can join us for this special gathering. Feel free to contact me for more information about this grant. Finally, the Junior UOL invites everyone to the Annual Convention as well as the Centennial Celebration of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, NJ in July.

Please feel free to contact me at [orest.mahlay@gmail.com](mailto:orest.mahlay@gmail.com) or at my number (440) 829-5873. Let me know how I can help with the youth at your parish.  
Yours in Christ,  
Orest Mahlay

### Sponsor a Seminarian to Attend Convention!

At past UOL Conventions, we have enjoyed the participation of our St. Sophia Seminarians, made possible by the generous donations of several of our UOL Chapters and members who have heard the call for assistance. This year, the aggregate cost for all of our full-time resident Seminarians to attend comes to nearly \$2000. We again ask for your help: whether as an individual or as a Chapter, please consider Sponsoring a Seminarian to attend the Convention. For a suggested donation of \$250 you will ensure that one of our Seminarians is able to fully participate in all of the UOL's programs and activities at the Convention at no cost to them or the Seminary. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated! Please send your donation to Pam Scannell, Registration Chair, 2000 Clover Dr, Vestal, NY 13850-2670. You can also contribute online using PayPal at [uolofusa.org/donate.html](http://uolofusa.org/donate.html). Please note the purpose of your donation as "Convention Seminarian Sponsorship." Thank you!

### News from the Education Commission Submitted by Teresa Linck

There was a recommendation at the last convention to have more educational materials and seminars. A video series was presented on Saturday of St. Thomas weekend in South Bound Brook. Three videos were presented. The first about Iconography which discussed the history of icons in the church, the importance of certain icons, a discussion on why praying in front of icons is not against the teachings of the church and the importance of the placement of the icons on the Iconostas in the church. The second was "Vested in Grace," which explained each article of the vestments for the Deacon, Priest and Bishop. It also explained the presence of similar articles at each level and then additional ones as the rank became elevated. Along with the explanation of each article was the prayer that accompanied the addition of each garment. The final one was on Women's role in the church past and present. It went into detail on the role of the Deaconess in the church. The attendance was small but enjoyed by all who attended. Many questions were asked if we will continue. We hope to continue these and create similar seminars in the future.

### Basket Raffle at Convention 2018

We invite all individuals and chapters to create and donate a basket of goodies (value of \$50.00 or more) to be raffled at the Convention. Some ideas for Basket themes are: Wine lover's basket; Chocolate dream basket; School supplies basket; Bath and body products basket; Italian meal basket. Please let Martha Misko know by July 4 [martha.misko@rcn.com](mailto:martha.misko@rcn.com) 610-262-5292

SEEKING ALL WILLING SERVANTS OF CHRIST

The Church



needs your help!



Christ has built the world,  
and set the foundation of  
His Church.

It is our duty to build upon that foundation,  
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Thursday - July 26, 2018 - 7 PM

Ukrainian Cultural Center

135 Davidson Ave. - Somerset, NJ 08873



For more information, contact Dr. Gayle Woloschak - [gayle.woloschak@gmail.com](mailto:gayle.woloschak@gmail.com) - 630-842-5060

(Western PA Retreat - continued from page 1)

Parma, Ohio, was “Meeting the LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE.” At that very first retreat, Father John Nakonachny, Fr. Dennis Kristoff, and Fr. Deacon Ihor Mahlay delivered an inspiring message and facilitated thought provoking discussions. That retreat was organized by Natalie Kapeluck Nixon.

In his presentation, Fr. Aleksa, our main speaker, focused on what our faith teaches us about forgiveness. He asked participants to examine our emotions and responses to deliberately inflicted pain (emotional, psychological, physical); and, to reflect on how difficult it can be to forgive someone who has *really* hurt us, stating that “it can seem like only a miracle would permit that kind of love and change and forgiveness to take place.”

Fr. Aleksa emphasized that forgiveness is not easy – yet it is something that, for anyone who would be a follower of Christ – is not only *essential* to our spiritual lives, but required by God. It is something that, as we attempt to do it, requires us to invite Christ into the process. The presentation then explored substitutes for genuine forgiveness: Denial (fake forgiveness), SIN (seeking revenge or some form of retribution, getting even), rationalizing why we can’t forgive, and making forgiveness conditional. And, finally what we can do to free ourselves from the negative effects of our failure to forgive by doing the following:

**Keep it real** – forgiveness is a journey, one that we undertake with guidance and help from our Church, from our Lord. If we struggle with it, we bring that to God, and to our Spiritual Father, and we recognize it ourselves in confession.

**Ask God to forgive us** – it can be so easy to get so caught up in the sins committed against us that we forget that we, too, err... we, too, need a Savior – Jesus Christ – to lift us out of bondage to our sin. As we become prisoners to all the sins committed against us, we can forget that we commit our own sins and we NEED God’s loving forgiveness. Do we struggle with forgiveness? Start looking at all the ways in which we need Jesus Christ as our Savior to



forgive US.

**Pray for those who have done us wrong** – again, I confess that I have not had such a horror in my past and that such a thing is easy to say. But there is a truth. Christ calls us in Matthew 5:44 to ‘love [our] enemies and pray for



those who persecute [us].’ If we do something as simple as praying for another person – that they find peace before God; that they get the help they need; that God have mercy on them... and if we do that often enough, over time, we are actively expressing a type of love for them. And even if our spirit has trouble matching our prayers, over time – and through the Grace of Christ – the spirit and the action can and will come closer together.

**Mark your Calendars**  
**2019 UOL Ohio/Western Pennsylvania**  
**Lenten Retreat**  
**Saturday, March 30, 2019**

(Florida Retreat - continued from page 1)

The speakers offered their unique perspectives on the Lenten Journey in general and on the Retreat theme in particular. The program finished with a Q&A panel discussion, after which Metropolitan Antony offered closing thoughts. His Eminence thanked the speakers and observed that all of them in their own way had fed his spirit during this remarkable and inspiring event.

In addition to the sessions, the Retreat featured several opportunities for communal prayer and fellowship. At the outset on Friday evening, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony celebrated a Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in the Beth-



any Center’s St. James Chapel. The Chapel is in an especially picturesque Florida setting, with expansive views of Lake Mary directly behind the altar. Saturday began with morning prayers in the lecture room, and concluded with Vespers in the Chapel celebrated by Fr. Harry with Metropolitan Antony in attendance. His Eminence was the main celebrant at a Divine Liturgy at Holy Protection in Dover, Florida on Sunday morning, which, as the first Sunday of the Great Fast, commemorates the Triumph of Orthodoxy. All of these services were spiritually uplifting and especially meaningful given the prayerful and reflective nature of the whole Retreat weekend.

The Bethany Center provided hearty Lenten meals on Friday and Saturday. After Liturgy on Sunday, the Holy Protection Parish hosted a delicious Lenten lunch in the church hall for all attendees.

Over the course of the weekend, approximately 35 people attended this Lenten Retreat at the Bethany Center. While most participants were from the local Tampa area, several people took advantage of the occasion to escape the wintry weather in the Northeast and enjoy the summer-like weather of Florida: Pam Scannell from St. John the Baptist Parish in Johnson City was there with her father Dr. Peter Hatala; Lynne and Dan Gulak, and Daria Pishko and Michael Komichak made the trip from Holy Ascension Parish in Maplewood, NJ; and Janice Meschisen travelled from St. Michael Parish in Woonsocket, RI.

Thanks to all who made this Retreat such a great success. Fr. Harry, Pani Carrie, and the local Holy Protection Retreat committee chaired by Natalie Brennan and Parish Board President Beverly Gursky worked very hard to organize this first Lenten Retreat in their area, and they are looking forward to building on this success next year. If your parish is interested in holding a Lenten Retreat like this in the future, the UOL is ready to help you in that effort. Please contact Education Commission Chair Teresa Linck ([auditor@uolofusa.org](mailto:auditor@uolofusa.org)) or Daria Pishko Komichak ([vp1@uolofusa.org](mailto:vp1@uolofusa.org)) for more information.



(President –continued from page 2)

Healthy parishes. Many of us hear of people now discussing this topic. But what do we *really mean* by the term “healthy parish?” What do “healthy parishes” look and feel like? How do we help every parish get there?

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President these past two years.

Yours in Christ,  
 John Holowko

**SS. Peter & Paul Carnegie, PA**  
**Submitted by Susan Leis**

It has been quite a busy year in Carnegie! Our members have been active working for the good of our church and our community. Most of our members are dedicated to serving on our Church Board, St. Matrona's Sisterhood, teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, and in every other capacity to serve.

We started the year by co-hosting (with the Kitchen Workers) our annual Ukrainian Food Festival in September. It was once again a huge success! Of course we had the wonderful Ukie food that we are known for, but we also had a table full of delicious, yummy baked goods made by many of the bakers in our group. Our basket raffle continues to grow each year. Many people attended, not just for the tantalizing food, but also for the chance to sit and socialize.

November was a month of Thanksgiving. During the Church Anniversary



Dinner, we presented five parishoners with Scholarship monies to pursue their educational studies. We also hosted the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This is open to the homeless, the public, and any parishoner who wishes to attend.

In January we began preparing for our 51st Annual Egg Sale. We worked tirelessly writing pysanky. We had sessions every Sunday after coffee hour. Members brought snacks and enjoyed afternoons creating works of art and enjoying each other's company.

Along with preparing for the actual Pysanky Sale, our chapter hosted several Pysanky Workshops in the Pittsburgh area. The biggest one was held in our hall in March. These have become quite popular in the Pittsburgh community, with many people attending the workshops.

The 51st Annual Pysanky Sale was a huge success. Not only does the Senior Chapter benefit from the sale, but so do other organizations in the church; selling Paskas, kielbasa, baked goods, nut rolls, butter lambs, and a basket raffle. It is truly a team effort with the whole church community! This year was a record year for all of our organizations.

One of our cherished activities is the Annual Lenten Prayer Pal. Before Great Lent begins, those members of the church who wish to participate pull a name and pray for that person throughout Lent. On Easter Sunday, they present their prayer pal with a small token, such as a pysanky, and let them know that they were praying for them. It is a wonderful tradition that brings all of us closer together. It is also a great way for newer members of our church family to get to know each other. Parishoners look forward to this tradition and enjoy the bonding that takes place between them and their Prayer Pal.

Our chapter members enjoy working together throughout the year to help



serve our church family. From running the parish office and publishing the weekly Bulletin, to hosting \$5 lunches every month which benefit local or national charities, we look to help our parishoners and the community, spiritually and physically. We are active participants in manning St. Martin's Closet one Sunday a month. This provides local families the chance to find new and gently used clothing and household items they may need to make their lives better.

As this UOL year is ending, we are looking forward to the Centennial Celebration of the UOC of the USA and the UOL Convention in July. We are looking ahead to another year of fellowship, serving our Lord and our church, and having some fun along the way!

**St. Thomas Weekend in South Bound Brook**  
**Submitted by Michael J. Komichak**

As we have done for many years, the UOL managed the parking at the UOC of USA Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ during the St. Thomas Weekend Pilgrimage. This major two-day event typically draws a big crowd on the weekend following Pascha.

This year, the UOL crew consisted of 14 volunteers from Holy Ascension Maplewood, St. Nicholas Troy, St. Demetrius Carteret, and St. Sophia South Bound Brook. Saturday April 14 was sunny and warm; however, the weather



changed quickly, and the parking staff endured very cold and harsh weather conditions the next day on Sunday. Especially given the weather conditions this year, the task was quite physically

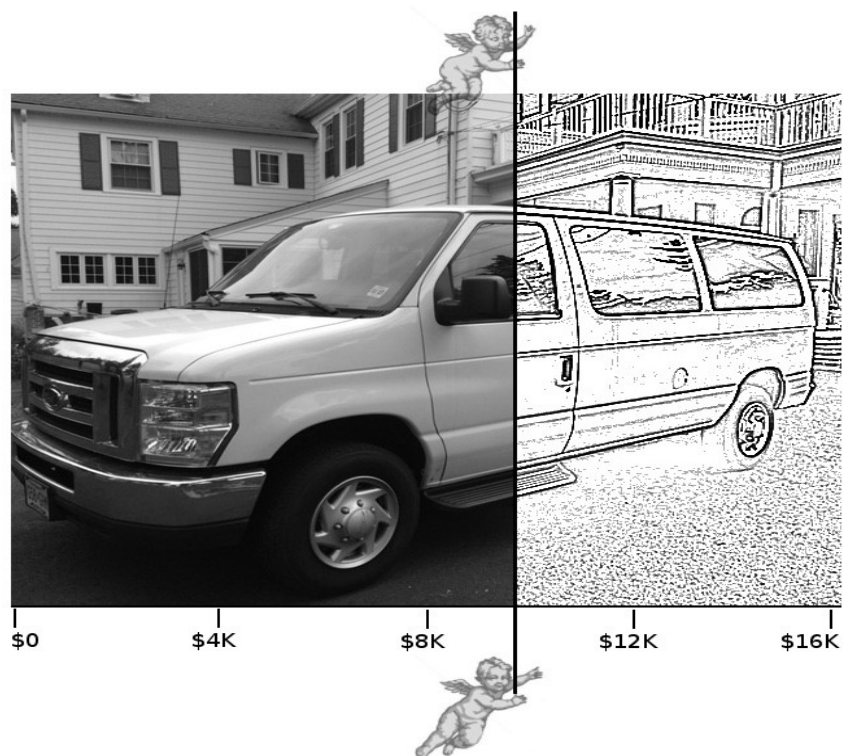
demanding. The dedication of the volunteers to the task was truly remarkable. Over the weekend, the UOL volunteers processed nearly 800 cars to collect just over \$3800 in parking fees, which is used by the UOC of USA to defray the considerable expense of hosting this large event. The volunteers also raised nearly \$1700 from the sale of commemorative ribbons, which will benefit the UOL's Seminary Van Fund.

On Saturday, the St. Sophia UOL Chapter hosted a Meet the Seminarians pic-



nic. This annual event has become quite popular, and its identification with the St. Sophia Chapter is an important link between the Seminary and the UOL. UOL members from Maplewood and Carteret brought some desserts and side dishes to add to the grilled hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the Seminarians. Attendees at the picnic donated \$400 to help cover the costs. After the picnic, the UOL parking crew attached safety pins to about 2000 ribbons in preparation for next year. Sincere thanks go to all the hard-working UOL volunteers who made this year's St. Thomas Weekend Pilgrimage a success.

With the proceeds from St. Thomas weekend, this brings the total raised thus far for the Van Fund to 60% of our \$16,000 goal. If you would like to help the UOL complete this campaign, you can send your donation 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 Paypal at [uolofusa.org/donate.html](http://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. Thanks!



### Seminarians Visit Manhattan Submitted by Michael J. Komichak

On Monday March 12, 2018 several students from St. Sophia Seminary traveled to New York City to view a new movie about the 2014 Maidan revolution and the ensuing war in Ukraine caused by the Russian invasions of Crimea and parts of Eastern Ukraine. The award-winning documentary film "Breaking Point: The War for Democracy in Ukraine" tells the story of these events from the perspective of ordinary people who have endured this historic struggle that tragically has killed thousands and displaced millions as refugees.

This trip to New York by Fr. Myron Korostil; Subdeacons Oleh Kravchenko and Ivan Venhryn; and Seminarians Yaroslav Bilohan and Myroslav Mykytyuk was sponsored by the Holy Ascension UOL Chapter of Maplewood, NJ. The group was treated to lunch at the iconic Ukrainian restaurant Veselka in the East Village before attending the movie. Following visits to the famous New York City landmarks of Times Square and Central Park, the students returned home to St. Sophia. As with the trip by students from St. Sophia to a college football game in Montclair, NJ last October, this New York excursion on a chilly day in March was made possible through the generous financial support of several of the Maplewood UOL Chapter members.

UOL Chapter members Dan Gulak and Lynne Gulak (Holy Ascension Parish President) were the tour guides on-the-ground for the day, along with Father Deacon Richie Jendras (English as a Second Language Instructor at the Seminary). Fr. Dn. Richie also served as chauffeur, transporting the group from St. Sophia in the van that the Ukrainian Orthodox League purchased for the Seminary in 2016. Navigating through the congested streets and dealing with the impossibly scarce parking in Manhattan for a 12-passenger van was quite the challenge, but in the end the valuable educational and cultural learning experience of this "field trip" to New York made it all worthwhile for our Seminarians!



### Spring Junior UOL Executive Board Meeting Submitted by Orest Mahlay

The Junior National Executive Board held their spring meeting at our Church's Consistory in South Bound Brook, NJ on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The day started with both the Senior and Junior boards participating in morning prayers and enjoying breakfast together.

The meeting discussions included the Annual UOL Raffle, the Great Lent Giveaway, and the upcoming UOL Convention. The Annual Raffle is in the process of selling tickets within the various chapters. The liaisons are in charge of distributing the tickets, while Charles Ames (330-787-1887 / juniorvp@uolofusa.org) is in charge of answering any questions and collecting the ticket stubs and money before the Convention. The tickets will also be sold during the Convention in July.

The status of our Great Lent Giveaway (GLG) was discussed as we have begun to collect donations. As the project coordinator, Maddie Zetick will be accepting donations during the weeks before the Annual Convention. These monetary contributions will be going to the *Saint Andrew's Society* as they give out scholarships to young adults / teenagers who lost their parents during the war in Ukraine. Please continue to donate to this worthy cause by sending your donations to Maddie Zetick (267-406-8231 / juniorfinsec@uolofusa.org).

The Junior Board also discussed the future of our organization, and the potential within other parishes. During this discussion, Metropolitan Antony joined us to offer his insight on which parishes have a youth presence and should be looked into for next year. The Metropolitan suggested that the Juniors try to travel to these parishes to spread the message and mission of the UOL to others. The Metropolitan also suggested that some materials and encouragement should be sent to parishes before the upcoming Convention and Centennial Celebration.

## UOL Bulletin Pictures



Fr. Philip, Pani Beth,  
Rachel and Hunter  
Harendza  
reading their  
UOL Bulletins at Disney!

Join in the fun!

Take your UOL Bulletin with  
you and take a picture  
reading your Bulletin.

Submit pictures by sending  
to nsufler@aol.com

(Meet Seminarians - continued from page 2)

**Seminarian Yaroslav Bilohan** "I was born in 1998 in the village of Hlyns'k, in the Zhovkva district of the Lviv region, only 25 miles north of Lviv. As the son of a priest, since my childhood I often helped my father with parish life, performing a variety of duties serving in our local church. After graduating from high school, I decided to embark on the path to the priesthood, entering the Lviv Orthodox Theological Seminary in 2015. After two years of study there, I am now continuing my education at the St. Sophia Theological Seminary of the UOC of USA in South Bound Brook, NJ. I am just in my first year of study here and I find it very interesting. I am excited to experience new things while preparing for the sacred ministry. During the past year, I have visited and assisted in serving in various parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States. This experience has shown me how much responsibility lies on the shoulders of the clergy who help others find the true path to salvation. The Seminary is a place that teaches humility and obedience; it is a place to strengthen one's faith, and most importantly to better know God and to better know yourself. I express my gratitude to St. Sophia Seminary and to all those who make it possible for me to study here. It is very gratifying for us students to have the encouragement and feel the faith of all the people who support our endeavors."



**Seminarian Myroslav Mykytyuk** "I was born in 1991 in a village near Lviv. From an early age I felt at home in our church because my father was a priest and I served there ever since I was a small boy. When I was older I sang in the church choir and read the Epistle during Liturgy. Since the church was such an integral part of my life, I had the desire to become a clergyman.



After high school, I continued my education at the Lviv Polytechnic National University majoring in information security and graduating with honors. Despite my achievements in secular life, I always felt the calling to become a priest. I understood that to achieve this goal would require a lot of work and the

help of experienced mentors who would lead me in spiritual growth on the path to the priesthood. Therefore, I decided to go to study at the St. Sophia Seminary of the UOC of USA. I am confident that here I will be able to grasp the depth of the priesthood that is so necessary for serving God and people.

I especially thank the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States--Metropolitan Anthony and Archbishop Daniel--for their blessing and for giving me the opportunity to study at St. Sophia Seminary. I also thank all the faithful of our Church, whose generous support makes my stay and study possible."



### UOL Retreat 2018 in Bethlehem, PA

On March 24, 2018 we were blessed that one hundred and forty four faithful gathered in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania at the St. Francis Center for Renewal. For over a decade the Ukrainian Orthodox League has been sponsoring a Lenten Retreat in the Bethlehem area. For the second year, the UOL has worked with ACRY and Fr. Peter Paposki to plan a joint retreat.

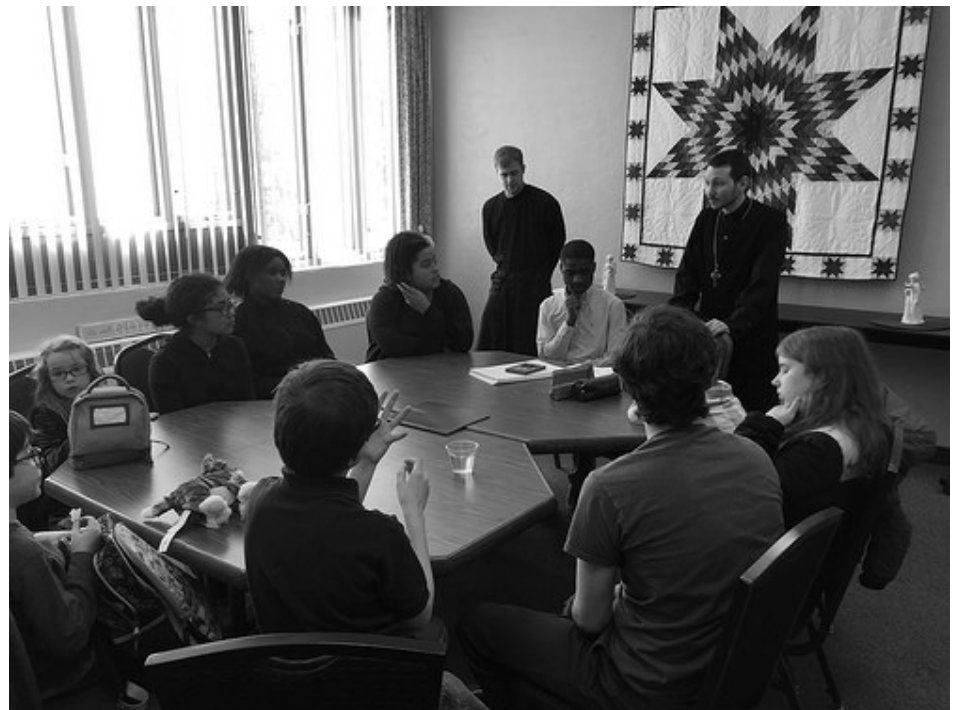
This year the retreat was entitled “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16). The retreat focused on our call to be evangelists. The UOL worked closely with our UOC of USA Strategic Planning group that focuses on evangelism and planned a retreat that focused on the Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.”

The day started with morning prayers and breakfast. Our group was large and our retreat center did a wonderful job accommodating our group. Natalie Bilynsky, co-chairperson, welcomed all participants and provided an introduction to the retreat. As part of the retreat, participants were provided materials to focus on evangelism within their parishes.

We were honored that His Grace Bishop Gregory, Metropolitan of the American Carpatho-Russian Diocese spoke. He started with an inspirational review of his time in Alaska, where saints of our church were true disciples and grew the church in America. He spoke eloquently about being disciples of Christ.

The group enjoyed a delicious Lenten lunch and watched sections of a movie entitled “Becoming Truly Human.” This movie focuses on individuals who identify themselves as “Nones,” that is, individuals who answer the question about religious affiliation with the answer “None.” This movie reviews the path that one individual takes from identifying as a “None” and converting to Orthodoxy.

Fr. Anthony Perkins spoke about the function that the Church has within our lives and how we are called to be disciples. Our focus as disciples of Christ and reaching out to “Nones,” as well as everyone with whom we cross paths, was underscored by Fr. Anthony.



In the afternoon the group had the opportunity to ask questions with a question and answer session with His Grace Bishop Gregory and Fr. Perkins. Our question and answer session was very interesting and varied.

This year, Fr. Matthew Stagon and Sub-deacon Andrew Wythe, clergy from the American Carpatho-Russian Diocese, led a program for children. Approximately ten children participated in a program entitled, “A Day in the Life of Saint Herman.”

We joined together as one family for Vespers. A true pan-Orthodox event our Vespers including chanting in both Ukrainian and Carpatho-Russian chants. This glorious and spiritually uplifting day ended with dinner at the retreat center. It was so evident that everyone enjoyed the day as many remained well past dinner catching up and talking about lessons learned from the retreat.

Mark your calendars the UOL Retreat 2019 is scheduled for April 23, 2019.





The 71st Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention

Hosted by:

The National Ukrainian Orthodox League Board

South Bound Brook, NJ

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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71st UOL Convention  
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Please make checks payable to "Ukrainian Orthodox League"

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2019 UOL Lenten Retreats  
Ohio/Western Pennsylvania  
Saturday, March 30, 2019

Bethlehem  
Saturday, April 23, 2019

UOL Bulletin  
c/o Natalie Bilynsky  
703 Pine Ridge Road  
Media, PA 19063

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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.

**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.

71st Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention  
South Bound Brook, NJ July 25 - July 29, 2018  
"REGISTRATION FORM"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Senior Delegate/Guest \$245                        | Junior Delegate/Guest \$225           |
| Senior Early Registration \$220                    | Junior Early Registration \$195       |
| Clergy \$220                                       | Friday Seminar with lunch \$50        |
| Pre-Junior Registration**\$120                     | Pre-Junior Early Registration** \$100 |
| Weekend (Fri Seminar, Sat Social, Sun Lunch) \$120 |                                       |
| Family Early Registration* \$750                   |                                       |

\*The Family Early Registration packet price is for 2 adults and 2 juniors. Additional Junior family members beyond the two included in the Family Packet are only \$180 each. If ordering a Family Early Registration Packet, please fill out a separate registration form for each attendee.

\*\* Indicate if Pre-Junior will participate in Pre-Junior Program.

**Early Registration Deadline:** Senior, Junior, Pre-Junior and Family Registration payments postmarked by **June 15, 2018** qualify for the Early Registration discounts.

**Make checks payable to: 71<sup>st</sup> UOL Convention**

**Mail completed form with payment to:**  
Pam Scannell 2000 Clover Drive Vestal, NY 13850  
Questions? Call Pam at (607) 760-1671 or e-mail [reg2018@uolnj.org](mailto:reg2018@uolnj.org)

**Hotel Reservations:** FairBridge Hotel and Conference Center, 195 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, New Jersey 08873-4117. Call (732) 356-1700 to reserve your room by June 25, 2018 at the "UOL Convention Rate" of \$89/room/night + tax.

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