



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

VOL. 65 NO. 1

OCTOBER 2018



**71st UOL Convention - Centennial of the UOC of USA - South Bound Brook, New Jersey**

This year the UOL Convention was unique as it was celebrated in conjunction with the centennial of the UOC of USA, and the Convention was intertwined with the centennial celebrations. The 71st Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention was truly a celebration of our UOC of USA.

UOL members gathered in our Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook on Wednesday and were greeted by our registration chairperson Pam Scannell. The lobby of the Cultural Center was filled with gift baskets and a shop to purchase religious and cultural items.

The Convention was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> by UOL President John Holowko. Following the Invocation offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the Pledge of Allegiance to the USA flag and the singing of the USA National Anthem, opening remarks and greetings were expressed by Senior and Junior UOL National Executive Board Presidents John Holowko and Orest Mahlay. Convention Spiritual Advisor Fr. Wasyl Pasakas and Sr. Convention Committee Chairman Mickey Komichak welcomed all to the UOL Convention. The first business session of the day included approval of the formal Agenda, Minutes, Financial Records and Audit Reports and review of Annual Reports.

Following evening prayers, members gathered for a hospitality night. It was a time to catch up with old friends and rekindle UOL bonds. It is wonderful to see families come to the Convention year after year. The hospitality night was prepared and hosted by the St. Demetrius UOL Chapter in Carteret, NJ.



The next day all UOL members gathered in St. Andrew Memorial Church for Divine Liturgy. Following Divine Liturgy the entire Convention body enjoyed a delicious brunch in the Cultural Center.

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You are cordially invited to the...  
**72nd ANNUAL UOL CONVENTION** at **ALL SAINTS CAMP**  
 Emlenton, Pennsylvania

**AUGUST 1-4, 2019**

**1-4 СЕРПНЯ, 2019**

“Train up a child in the way he should go:  
 and when he is old,  
 he will not depart from it.”  
 Proverbs 22:6



“Привчай юнака до  
 дороги його, і він,  
 як постаріється,  
 не уступиться з неї.”  
 Приповісті 22:6

Ласкаво запрошуємо вас...  
**72-гу ЩОРІЧНУ КОНВЕНЦІЮ УЛЛ на ОСЕЛІ ВСІХ СВЯТИХ**  
 Емлентон, Пенсільванія

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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.

(Convention - continued from page 1)



Business sessions started and there were two very productive workgroups. One was led by Fr. Taras Naumenko and Fr. John Charest and focused on youth and ways to encourage youth to participate in our Church and our UOL. The second group focused on communication within the Church and UOL, and this group was led by Daria Pishko Komichak. Both Juniors and Seniors participated in the Youth group and focused on strategies to increase youth participation in the Church. Several group members reported that this was one of the most lively and inspirational discussions of past conventions. Each delegate had the opportunity to participate in both discussions with members switching between the two groups.

President John Holowko presented Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, President of St. Andrew Society, a check from the UOL "Souper Bowl Sunday" project in the amount of \$7000. Accepting the donation, Protodeacon Ihor spoke of the great part that the UOL has played in helping St. Andrew's Society in the past 25 years of St. Andrew Society's ministry.



(Continued on page 4)

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT



### John Holowko

Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

It is with great humility that I greet you again as the re-elected President of the Senior Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA. I sincerely thank you for this opportunity. As I write this article, approximately one month has passed since our 71<sup>st</sup> Convention and the 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Celebration at our Metropolia Center. Overcoming unique challenges, the history of our Church was discussed, productive dialogue occurred regarding challenges facing the League and the Church and new "bridges" were built.

One of the highlights of this Convention was the address presented by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony regarding the history of the first 100 years. Many of us have had various questions as to the different waves of Ukrainian immigration and why there are such contrasts between such waves. **For those who could not attend we invite you to see the presentation on uolofusa.org.** to understand this further and the challenges our relatives had, and getting a better insight as to their motivations as they immigrated here to USA. We encourage you to view the presentation, it is worth your time.

The Centennial brought together our Churches from various countries including but not limited to Australia, Canada, Great Britain and South America. For me, it provided a greater appreciation of the leadership role our Church here in the USA has across the globe. The clergy and lay people present at our Celebration provided all of us an opportunity to form bonds and bridges that made our family a little larger. For me, words cannot describe the unexpected relationships I formed and warmth I found, including a young man named Mathew who will now remain in my prayers along with his family. Father Michael, Father Bohdan, Father Vasyl, Father Ivan, Father Taras, thank you. A special thank you to His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy for leading us through a challenging time.

To His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, as you know, our prayers are with you as you recover from your accident and continue through your rehabilitation process. To His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, words cannot express our gratitude for your accelerated return from Ukraine, we needed you and you were there.

Giving respect to all of the aforementioned, we are now in our 101<sup>st</sup> year. There are many challenges to overcome, one at a time, if we truly care about the future of our Church. We need to be smarter, we need to do better, we need to make better use of resources while overcoming insecurity and continuing ineffective methods of teaching or leadership, preventing effective change. If we are sincere in providing a strong foundation in our Faith to our Children—and truly care about our Faith, not an individual structure, not an individual agenda or individual insecurities, we will do so with a sincere and caring heart while changing for the better.

The Assembly of Bishops has designated the first Sunday of October, in conjunction with OCF's [Orthodox Awareness Month](#), as the date for College Student Sunday. For 2018, this falls on Sunday, October 7th. The OCF provides fellowship; further education; the opportunity to work on service projects; and opportunity to worship together. Do your college students know about it? [www.ocf.net](#) **You can easily provide information about your student to the OCF through the site.** We talk about not losing touch with our Youth during their college years—this is just one more opportunity to assist them and even provide them an additional social network.

With great sadness, we pray for the soul of V. Rev. John Harvey of our Youngstown, Ohio parish and Dean of the Penn-Ohio Deanery. As most of you know or should know, Father John served our Church in many valuable ways, but especially in serving as Spiritual Advisor at many of our All Saints Camp encampments; TC for many years. His contributions to the Bulletin and to our Lenten retreats will also be a loss. He will not only be missed by his family and parish, but also by the many lives he touched through All Saints Camp, the Seminary and the UOL. May his Memory be Eternal! Our prayerful

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**Sts. Peter & Paul Carnegie Chapter of 2018**  
**Submitted by Alexander Shevchuk**

The Senior UOL Chapter Achievement Award for 2018 was presented at the 71st Annual UOL Convention to Sts. Peter & Paul Carnegie, PA chapter. This award is presented to the Senior Chapter that has shown the greatest achievement in terms of accomplishing the aims and purposes of the UOL, during a one-year period of time. The winner of this award is selected based upon the Annual Report submitted by each chapter, by the established deadline.



Sts. Peter & Paul Senior UOL Chapter held numerous fundraising events, including their 51st Annual Pysanky Sale, that raised \$17,000. They sponsored an open house, providing free tours of the church and church museum. Chapter members participated in the St. John and St. Martin Closet drive, by donating various clothing. They also sponsored a free Thanksgiving Dinner to the community of Carnegie, to help ensure those in need have a Thanksgiving meal, and are not alone.



The Chapter's Pastor wrote, "Our Sr. UOL Chapter members are dedicated to not only fellowship within our church, but also within our community. Each member brings a strength that is uniquely theirs, to make our Chapter diverse in skills and knowledge. Above all, their true strength is their faith and kindness."

Congratulations to Sts. Peter & Paul Chapter in Carnegie!



Senior National Executive Board

2018-2019

**MESSAGE**  
**FROM THE JUNIOR**  
**UOL PRESIDENT**

**Alexis Naumenko**



Слава Ісусу Христу! Glory to Jesus Christ!

On behalf of the Jr. National UOL Board and all the youth participants of the 71st UOL Convention, I would like to extend sincere gratitude to the convention chair, Michael Komichak, for the time and effort he dedicated to make this year's UOL Convention a success. Our heartfelt thank you goes out to our spiritual father, Fr. John Haluszczak, and Jr. UOL advisor, Fr. John Charest. Without your guidance and spiritual support we would be lost, and so we thank you for the inspiration and love that you bestow upon us. Thank you to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel for playing a vital role in the life of UOL and for their continuous, unprecedented support. On behalf of the Board, we extend our get well wishes to Metropolitan Antony post-automobile accident.

I would also like to take this opportunity and thank the outgoing members of the Junior National Board, Orest Mahlay and Charles Ames, and all graduating Jr. UOL members. Thank you for your service and we wish you much success in your future endeavors. Whether you have graduated to the Senior UOL or remain as a junior, we hope you will join us again next year for the 72nd UOL Convention at All Saints Camp.

Congratulations to the newly elected National Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League. I am honored to be a part of such a strong and dynamic group. The National Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League for the 2018-2019 year consists of the following individuals:

- President: Alexis Naumenko - Philadelphia, PA
- Vice President: Cyril Sheptak - Pittsburgh, PA
- Secretary: Natalie Hrytsay - Philadelphia, PA
- Financial Secretary: Maddie Zetick - Philadelphia, PA
- Treasurer: Anna Swindle - Arnold, PA
- Advisor: Father John Charest - Carnegie, PA
- Spiritual Advisor: Father John Haluszczak - Pittsburgh, PA

As a National Board, we are here to help you and your chapter. I encourage YOU and all our youth to take an active part in your parish life and become a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. We will work hard on strengthening the League and getting our youth involved and the entire Junior Board is very excited about this mission. As we start a new year for the UOL, I pray that this year will be a productive and rejuvenating year for our UOL and for the Church as a whole.

If you should have any questions, concerns, or comments about the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League in this coming year, please feel free to contact me, Alexis Naumenko, at [alexisnaumenko20@gmail.com](mailto:alexisnaumenko20@gmail.com) or via telephone (215) 290 -7878.

In Christ,  
 Alexis Naumenko

(President column - continued from page 2)

We also pray for V. Rev. John and Pani MaryAnne Nakonachny. Both are recovering from health issues this past summer. You are in our Prayers.

The following appointments to Commissions and Committees have been approved. We have much to do, not just on a stand-alone committee or commission basis, but together, with the guidance of our Senior Board's Spiritual Advisor, V. Rev. Taras Naumenko.

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Commissions:</b>             |                    |
| Christian Caregiving & Missions | Karen Ferraro      |
| Education                       | Teresa Linck       |
| Public Relations                | Michael Nakonachny |
| Vocations & Clergy Support      | Jack Roditski      |
| Youth                           | Oleh Bilynsky      |
| Ways & Means                    | Patricia Walton    |

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Committees</b>                  |                       |
| 72 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention | Michael Nakonachny    |
| All Saints Committee Delegate      | John Holowko          |
| Annual Fund Drive                  | Patricia Walton       |
| Archives                           | John Holowko          |
| Awards                             | Anna Anderson         |
| Chapter Development                | Daria Pishko-Komichak |
| Constitution/Handbook              | Natalie Bilynsky      |
| Educational Seminars               | Teresa Linck          |
| Essay Contest                      | Teresa Linck          |
| LSSK                               | Anna Anderson         |

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(Convention - continued from page 2)



Michael Nakonachny, chairperson of the 72<sup>nd</sup> UOL Convention, spoke about the plans to have the UOL Convention at All Saints Camp in Emlenton, PA. He also spoke about upcoming work weekends.

Both Senior and Junior UOL Convention bodies elected their Executive Boards:

The 2018-19 Senior UOL Executive Board:

- President - John Holowko, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ;
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Oleh Bilynsky, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Teresa Linck, St. Mary, New Britain, CT;
- Corresponding Secretary – Patricia Walton, St. Nicholas, Troy, NY;
- Recording Secretary – Anna Anderson, Sts. Peter and Paul, Youngstown, OH;
- Financial Secretary – Jack Roditski, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ;
- Treasurer – Daria Pishko-Komichak, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ;
- Auditor – Karen Ferraro, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA

The 2018-19 National Junior UOL Executive Board:

- President – Alexis Naumenko, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA;
- Vice President – Cyril Sheptak, St. Vladimir, Pittsburgh, PA;
- Treasurer – Anna Swindle, Protection of Holy Virgin, Arnold, PA;
- Financial Secretary – Madeline Zetick, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA;
- Recording/Corresponding Secretary – Natalie Hrytsay, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA.

President John Holowko adjourned the 71<sup>st</sup> UOL Convention and Juniors and Seniors ended the convention with a closing prayer and singing of the Ukrainian National Anthem. Following the close of sessions, the group gathered for the annual picture.

Thursday evening Convention delegates enjoyed a barbecue dinner and had the opportunity to participate in the UOC Strategic Planning Update meeting. Also members viewed the Centennial display that focused on the history of the UOC of USA.

Friday morning began with the Akathist Service in front of the icon of Pochaiv Mother of God. The chanters from various parishes and chapters



joined in singing the uplifting praises to the Mother of God served by Very Rev. Taras Naumenko.

This year was unique in that the UOL hosted a conference for all members of the UOC of USA. The morning started with inspirational words from His Eminence Metropolitan Antony. His words were inspirational as he described the history of the UOC of USA. In the afternoon, Joseph Kormos spoke to the conference participants about building a healthy parish.

On Friday evening the UOL delegates joined the Centennial Celebration and enjoyed a fabulous concert. Following the concert the 72<sup>nd</sup> Convention Committee hosted a hospitality night.



(Continued on page 5)



(Convention—continued from page 4)



Saturday morning on the Feast Day dedicated to St. Volodymyr over 100 clergy and over 500 faithful celebrated the Centennial of the UOC of USA. Members gathered in front of the Cultural Center for a procession to the St. Andrew Memorial Church. UOL members were part of the procession with Junior UOL members carrying the UOL banner.

The celebration was dampened by the fact that His Eminence Metropolitan Antony was unable to join us as he was in a car accident on Friday evening. He was sorely missed. The hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Metropolitan Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. Liturgy was celebrated on the steps of the Memorial Church and in a large tent. Responses were sung by a combined choir with members from multiple choirs across the United States.



Following Divine Liturgy over 500 people participated in the official Centennial Banquet. The hall was beautifully decorated and at each seat there was a lovely book with a history of all of the UOC of USA parishes and a 3-D card of St. Andrew's Memorial Church.



UOL President John Holowko greeted the banquet and presented a generous gift of \$10,000 to the Church. Also Michael Komichak announced the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund scholarships.



Following the banquet members had some time to relax before the UOL awards ceremony and dance.

Awards were presented including Chapter of the Year to Carnegie, PA. (An article about the Carnegie chapter is in this issue). Junior UOL President



Orest Mahlay presented the Junior UOL Chapter of the year to Youngstown, OH. Anna Anderson, LSSK Scholarship Chairperson, presented LSSK scholarships to Orest Mahlay and Jeffrey Senediak (Details about Junior UOL winners and Scholarship recipients will be in the November issue of the UOL



Teresa Linck, Chairperson for the UOL Essay Contest, reported that there were over --- entries. She announced and presented the UOL Essay Contest Awards. Essay winners will be listed in the next issue of the UOL Bulletin.



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(Convention - continued from page 5)



The 71st Annual UOL Convention came to a formal conclusion on Sunday, July 29, 2018, as the delegates gathered at St. Andrew's Memorial Church for Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel. The parish President along with the Senior UOL President John Holowko, outgoing Junior UOL President Orest Mahlay and newly elected Junior UOL President Alexis Naumenko greeted Archbishop Daniel (who travelled overnight to join the UOL Convention).

At the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, the newly elected executive boards of the Senior and Junior UOL were called to come forward for formal induction into their service in the UOL and the Church.



Following Divine Liturgy, everyone was invited to participate in a wonderful brunch at the Pokrova Sisterhood Hall. Special thanks to Convention Chairperson Mickey Komichak and Spiritual Advisor Fr. Wasyl Pasakas for all of their hard work. Their labor of love in planning this convention truly serves as an inspiration.

Mickey, please stay in good health, as you are slated as the chairperson for the 171<sup>st</sup> Convention and the Bicentennial of our UOC of USA. Mnohaya Lita!



# UOL Bulletin Pictures



Karen Ferraro reads her UOL Bulletin at Bryce National Park in Utah and at the Four Corners Monument where New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado meet.

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](mailto:nsufler@aol.com)

## Donation of \$6000 to Seminary Van Fund In Memory of Paul Chebiniak

At the UOL Convention, President John Holowko read the following letter:

"In memory of my father Paul Chebiniak, I would like to donate \$6000.00 to the Seminary Van Fund. My father recently passed away on July 7, 2018. He was the national UOL President in 1974 and 1975, and was a member of the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Johnson City, NY. He loved God, he loved his church and he loved the UOL!

As a child I remember hosting many UOL members and Seminarians at our home and going to many conventions as a family. My parents Zenna Mihovan and Paul Chebiniak met at the Boston Convention in 1958 and were married a year later, they had 4 children. If it were not for the UOL I would not be here today.

Enclosed are two articles my father wrote as the national president. As I read them over I was impressed with the vision he had for our Church, the League and the Seminary. This is why I am donating to the Seminary Van Fund, it would have pleased my father to help the future priests of our church.

Please remember my father Paul in your prayers, May his memory be eternal!

Yours In Christ,

Tamara Chebiniak"

Excerpts from the article (greeting from the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention):

"Probably one of the most exciting aspects of the Convention will be your participation in the proceedings. You, the Convention delegate will have the great responsibility of bringing forth your ideas .. on how the operation of the League can be made more efficient.. more effective .. more productive.. more sensitive to the needs of our members. If the Convention is to be a success, the problems which confront your chapters at home need to be discussed. There can not be genuine progressive action unless the needs of our membership are known. The UOL must be responsive to those needs."

"The one important thing which each League member must remember if he wants a more dynamic viable League, is that he must be willing to volunteer his particular talents toward achieving this goal."

Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

*It is with a heavy heart that we publish these answers from Fr. John Harvey. Fr. John served as Spiritual Editor of the UOL Bulletin for decades. He prepared answers to questions to be published in the Bulletin. All of the articles he wrote will be published in the Bulletin to honor his memory. Fr. John will be sorely missed! Our deepest condolences to Pani Debbie and Irena.*

*Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!*



### *Questions answered by*

### *Fr. John Harvey of Blessed Memory*

*Why are Orthodox so obsessed by praying for and remembering the deceased?*

Our prayer for the dead comes from the Jewish practice of remembering the dead. Cited in the Book of Maccabees are the words "it is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for the dead." Close to the coming of Christ, the Jews already had the idea of an eventual resurrection, but all was vague. We see St. Paul contrasting the Sadducees, who did not believe in a future for the departed with the Pharisees who definitely did. As the death and victorious Resurrection of Christ was not accepted by the Jews, they could not have realized that death is now destroyed and heaven again is open to man. Whatever their beliefs were about the afterlife, they still followed faithfully the directive to pray for the dead, and do so even unto this day. They do not know just what their prayers will accomplish, BUT God asked them to do it and they do it without question.

Coming to Christian times, we find that the dead are always remembered in prayer, be it at the burial, the 40<sup>th</sup> day, the yearly anniversary or other times, Christians have always prayed for the dead. The underlying theme is always "Lord have mercy."

As the Roman Church opened itself to speculative thinking as a base for explaining things not made clear in the Scriptures, this way of thinking led to odd concepts regarding the dead, including the unacceptable postulation of a place called purgatory. This place is where departed souls suffered punishment for things in life, even if forgiven in Confession. Catholics have been obsessed with the idea of crime necessitating punishment both in the civil world as well as the spiritual. Even if sins are forgiven, the idea is that one must suffer punishment for the offences. After death we are out of time, as we know it, but Catholics think of a punishment in time. Masses for the dead provide merit and can shorten the time of purgatory. Remember all this comes from mental speculation and has no basis in scripture.

All that we know from scripture is that our works will be tried by fire. Note!!! It is works that we are speaking about and NOT individuals being touched by the supposed purgatory.

If we do not have purgatory, or the necessity of praying people out of such a place of torment, then why do the Orthodox have so many Panachydas and commemorations in the Divine Liturgy? Like the Jews we follow the dictum to pray for the dead. No explanation was given to the Jews and we have none either. For the Jews prayer for the departed formed a continuity of existence before the throne of God and as we remember the departed we pray that their memory be eternal. In other words that they continue to exist in the presence of God. Our continual prayers for the departed are a sign of solidarity with the deceased. We have God's servants alive on earth and we identify with the beloved departed servants of God, who are now in God's eternal presence having passed from life to death and to life hereafter.

The underlying prayer, not only for ourselves but for them, is "Lord have mercy." What our prayers accomplish exactly we do not know, but scriptures tell us that the prayer of a righteous believer availeth much.

Do you see the difference in mindset? Catholics seek definite answers and will go to syllogistic methods to explain the imponderable. In doing so, the Catholics have themselves gone out on a proverbial limb and have accepted some untenable conclusions as doctrinaire. The Orthodox do not attempt to explain what is not told in Scripture or was held in Apostolic tradition. Hence, we pray for the dead and hope that those for whom we pray receive God's mercy and will be with us in the heavenly courts. We just pray "Lord have mercy" and we trust in the Lord not seeking explanations, but leaving them as mysteries. God did not see fit to give us all the details, so we do not pry any further.



*I was recently at the funeral of a middle aged (Non-Orthodox) man and as I approached the casket to pay my respects I noticed that the casket was filled with all sorts of stuff. There was a six-pack of beer, pictures of his super-charged car, poker chips and a pile of sports memorabilia, all of which I felt was quite inappropriate. Even in contemporary Orthodox funerals, I have found that caskets often contain a strange collection of stuff. Please comment on these new trends.*

Upon death, the funeral should be something serious, reflecting the life long focus of a Christian on his salvation and union and communion with Jesus, his Saviour. For an Orthodox Christian, in the casket there is usually a wall cross to be blessed and given to the family, with the deceased person's prayer book in their hands. Dependent on the parish, it is also common to place the absolution prayer in their hands and a band portraying Christ on their forehead, for the faithful to venerate. As the casket is opened in the church for the funeral service, there really should be no other "things" in the casket. The casket is open in the place where the deceased communed with the chalice with Christ.

For the secular world, a totally Christ-centered funeral is foreign. For such folks, the hobbies and memories of this life take precedence. It is much like the old pagan way of thinking. The ancient Egyptian pharaohs filled their funeral pyramids with images of servants, food and all that would be necessary to make the next life comfortable. It may seem cute and apropos to have Aunt Sue's knitting needles and last project in the casket along with stuff from her frequent trips to the casino. Believe me, a Bingo dauber did not save her soul and certainly will not be needed in eternity! Even filling the casket with cameo pictures of grandchildren is not the thing to bring into church.

God has promised that He is preparing a place for us (we will need nothing from here) and we will have the eternal banquet. Our love for our spouse engendered here is projected into the kingdom of heaven, but we will not marry or engage in the marriage act there. What we experience in heaven for eternity is totally beyond our comprehension, but it will be positive beyond all dreams and expectations.

Sports teams may seem all important now, but are meaningless beyond the grave. If your total focus in life was not Christ at all, but rather something else, you may find that your outcome may not be Heaven. Don't utilize the funeral for an expression of totally secular and ultimately irrelevant memories. Christ should be the center of our life both now, here in the body, and for eternity. The funeral home will provide a space to display family photos and other relevant memories of the deceased, but please refrain from letting the casket be littered with "stuff."



*My uncle was buried directly from the funeral home to the cemetery, with no service in the church. It is true that he did not come to the church for many years, but he was a nice man. Was this an arbitrary act by the priest?*

All Orthodox Christians may have access to funeral services by an Orthodox priest even if their lack of participation in church life was an established fact. As they had at least been baptized as an Orthodox, burial is granted as a mercy. As to whether the body should be taken to church for services is the call of the priest. If a person is active with a regular presence in church and participates in the sacraments, the church is proven already to be his spiritual home. On the contrary, if a person never comes to church nor participates in the Eucharist, his presence before the altar is a bit awkward. In this case why should he be brought where in life he would not normally go? In fact, many parishes would limit burial from the church to those who were current with their sacramental life and who have fulfilled some sort of financial obligation to the parish.

Whether the funeral service is conducted in the funeral home or in the parish church, the means is the same. The whole service is rendered for the faithful one equally as well as for the one who has been lax and for whom it is chanted as a mercy. As for being a nice person, salvation does not come from being nice. There are good, nice and affable people among agnostics, atheists, Muslims and folks of every sect imaginable.

One who is Orthodox in name only, but not in practice, though being a "nice" person still cannot presume that he will be buried from the church. What he can assume is that active or not he will be afforded the same prayers that are chanted for the most regular of parishioners.



*As you read these wonderful answers please remember Fr. John Harvey of Blessed Memory in your prayers. Vichnaya Pamyat!*

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**UOL Tribute**

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

Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

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

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Donator	Tribute
Oryhon, Lenczuk, Schumacher Families	Happy 90th Birthday to Jennie Arson! Mnohaya Lita from your family and and your great grandbaby!
His dedicated Pupils	In memory of Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha, and humble acknowledgement of his dedication to the UOC of the USA and the UOL.
Lisa Ryan	In memory of Millie Good from Carnegie, PA. Memory Eternal!
Karen and Alan Ferraro	In memory of Protopresbyter Frank and Pani Matka Irene Estocin. Vichnaya Pamyat! Memory Eternal!

**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

Retreats  
The ABC's of my Church  
UOL Bulletin Editor  
UOL Tribute Fund  
Young Adults

Teresa Linck  
Patricia Walton  
Natalie Bilynsky  
Natalie Bilynsky  
Oleh Bilynsky

**For further information please refer to our Site, uolofusa.org or Facebook-we would love for you to post your local events!**

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those that served this past year, especially Pani Ginny as she and Father Volodymyr have moved west and taken on their first Parish at St. John the Baptist Parish in Portland, Oregon.

Finally, sincere congratulations are extended to the 2018-2019 Junior UOL National Executive Board guided by Alexis Naumenko as President, Junior Advisor Father John Charest and Spiritual Advisor Very Rev. John Haluszczak.

In Christ's Love,  
John Holowko

**Consider Hosting the UOL Convention and Your Chapter Can Fill in the Blank**



2019 Convention All Saints Camp  
2020 Philadelphia  
2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
2022 Pittsburgh-Carnegie

Your Chapter can host the 2021 UOL Convention!



**What is happening in your Chapter or Parish Community?  
Tell us about your projects and ideas!  
Send your pictures!  
Share information about your events!  
Please share with us all!**

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