



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to the Church – Devoted to its Youth

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THE ANNUNCIATION AND THE PASCHAL MYSTERY OF SALVATION

by Fr. Harry Linsinbigler

In the early Church, at least on a “universal scale,” there were only two major feasts, commemorating Christ’s Resurrection together with the entire mystery of salvation. However, in time, in the liturgical order of the Church, there arose an elucidation of the Paschal Mystery of Salvation in its component parts (i.e. Annunciation, Nativity, Theophany, etc.) in what are now known as the Great Feasts of our Lord and accompanying feasts as found in the Menaion (the Book of Liturgical services for feasts fixed to dates). The Liturgical emergence of these “component parts” indeed, showed themselves, not to be a “splintering” of the Tradition, but rather a development of Spiritual growth for the entire Church, since they served a dual function of teaching the people of God while they are liturgizing to God in the deeper mysteries of salvation. Each component feast, from the Annunciation to the Ascension, explains particular aspects of the Paschal Mystery of Salvation while at the same time revealing each component’s connection with this same Paschal Mystery of Salvation. Since it would take some time to go through each Mystery, I will begin at the beginning, which we almost always experience as part of the preparatory period for Pascha (Great Lent), the Holy Annunciation to the Virgin and Conception of our Lord in the Womb of the Virgin (cf. Luke 1.26-38). But what do these “fixed feasts,” the feast of the Annunciation in particular, have to do with the Paschal Mystery, the baptism into Christ, and salvific participation in His holy body?

One evidence that the Annunciation is one of the main “liturgical parts” of the celebration of the Paschal Mystery is the fact that the regular Sunday Resurrection ‘introit’ (O Son of God who is Risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia) according to one usage is changed on Annunciation if it falls on a Sunday to “O Son of God, incarnate of the Virgin, save us who sing unto thee: Alleluia” (*Festal Menaion*, p 462). A primary rule of the Ordo (Liturgical “Consciousness” of the Church) with regard to the Menaion is that nothing supercedes the Resurrection theme on a Sunday (which is always “reckoned as a holiday” according to the Canons), and thus we know that anything which takes the place of a Resurrectional theme is itself of Resurrectional theme in this great Mystery. Nothing is changed save the part of the mystery that is being ‘re-revealed’ and celebrated amongst the people of God. The focus shifts from the aspect of the salvific life of the Paschal Lamb known as His Resurrection to that of his Incarnation.

Now the feast of the Annunciation has such a place of prominence in that it is also the first feast of the Incarnation of our Lord in the Most Holy Virgin’s womb: “Today is the crown of our salvation, and the manifestation of that mystery which is from all eternity. The Son of God becomes the Son of a Virgin...In times of old Adam was once deceived: he sought to become God [Gen. 3.5], but received not his desire. Now God becomes man, that He may make Adam God” (Orthros stichera by Theophanes in Tone 2, *Festal Menaion [tr. Mother Mary and Kallistos Ware]*, 460). As the Church prays to the Lord at the Annunciation: “In the sixth month was an Archangel sent unto the Virgin pure; and when he had said unto her Hail! he announced unto her the glad tidings that from her should come forth the Redeemer. Therefore, having received the salutation [saying ‘behold the handmaiden of the Lord! Let it be done unto me according to your word], she conceived You, the God Who is before the ages, who in an unutterable manner deigned to become man for the salvation of our souls” (Great Compline Aposticha, Tone 4; Menaion, 444). This a clear instance of how the Annunciation is an instantiation of the Paschal Mystery of salvation: “for the Salvation of our souls.”

The salvific Incarnation of Christ who would Rise from the dead and raise Adam and all creation with Him is first declared at the Annunciation: “Today... the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of grace...” (Troparion of the Annunciation; *Menaion*, 445). This “coming of grace” is the same “Grace upon Grace” and “Grace and Truth” that we know we have received in the Paschal Gospel on Pascha during the Divine Liturgy (John 1.16-17). We begin to see then this feast pointing to the mystery of the Holy Trinity among men through the only begotten Son, which is the focus of the Pascha.

continued on page 4

TARAS SHEVCHENKO (1814-1861)

“Bard of Ukraine”

*Writer, Playwright, Painter and Graphic Artist
by Elizabeth Mitchell, Staff Writer*

Taras Shevchenko was born a serf. He lost his mother at the age of seven and his father ten years later. His master-landowner discovered the talented young artist and sent him to Warsaw and St. Petersburg to study painting.

In 1838, Shevchenko was bought out of slavery by a group of cultural leaders. Having the freedom, Taras continued to study painting at the St. Petersburg Academy of Fine Art. As a painter, he was carried away remembering the beauty of Ukraine landscapes, the tragic shadows of Ukrainian hetmans, and his native steppes strewn with high burial mounds.

The young Shevchenko turned to writing poetry; however, he hid his first poetic efforts. His poetry was discovered by a Ukrainian landowner who gave the necessary funds for publication of the first volume of Shevchenko’s poems. His poetry appeared in St. Petersburg in 1840 and published under the title “*Kozbar*.” This volume and those that followed were received with great enthusiasm in Ukraine and made the name of Shevchenko immediately celebrated throughout Ukraine. When he revisited his native country, Taras was received as a celebrated national poet.



Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861)

In 1845, Taras received his diploma from St. Petersburg Academy and was promoted to Instructor of Art at the University of Kyiv. There he made friends with a number of patriots who set themselves the task of disseminating ideals of moral perfection, patriotic, and humanitarian principles, among the young generation. They advocated religious liberty, education of the people and the abolition of serfdom. They were called the *Brotherhood of Sts. Cyril and Methodius*. Being a secret group, the government was soon advised of its existence. In the eyes of the police, it became a seditious and dangerous body. All of the members were arrested and imprisoned. An inquiry was held which was followed closely by Czar Nicholas I. The group was also accused of wishing to separate Ukraine and Russia and overthrowing the autocratic power. Because Shevchenko became popular with his patriotic poetry, he was considered dangerous. He was sentenced to banishment and military service for life in a little garrison hidden in the Asiatic border of Russia. The Czar added to Shevchenko’s sentence the prohibition of all writing and drawing. He spent ten long years in prison, and his greatest torture was the prohibition to write and draw. He spent many months under arrest for making a few sketches of the desolate fortress.

It was only after the death of Czar Nicholas I that Shevchenko obtained his release. He lived only four years before the publication by Czar Alexander II abolished serfdom. Shevchenko spent only 12 years as a free man; but in this short span of time, he left a large artistic legacy numbering over 1,000 works. His early death prevented him the supreme joy of his life’s accomplishments.

Shevchenko is buried on a steep bank of the Dnieper River. He is considered his country’s greatest poet and is revered by Ukrainians throughout the world.

CONDENSED FROM: “T. SHEVCHENKO, BARD OF UKRAINE” – D. Doroshenko, *Ukraine Concise Encyclopedia*, “Fine Arts”.

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Melanie Nakonachny
UOL President
10000 Ridgewood Drive
Apt. #507
Parma Hts., OH 44130

Katya Carman
Jr. UOL President
322 Flower Ave W
Watertown, NY 13601

Dr. Stephen Sivulich
UOL Bulletin Editor
206 Christopher Circle
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Father John Harvey
UOL Bulletin
Spiritual Advisor
74 Harris Avenue
Woonsocket, RI 02895

Special Assistant - *Alice Sivulich*, 206 Christopher Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Sr. Staff Writer - *Elizabeth Mitchell*, 46 Lexington Court, Carnegie, PA 15106
Distribution - Sts. Peter and Paul Chapters, Carnegie, PA

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Advertising rates: Please inquire through editorial offices.



NAKO'S NEWS
Melanie Nakonachny, U.O.L. President

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU!

I hope Christ's birth and baptism brought great joy to your parish, Ukrainian Orthodox League Chapter and family. With several cold winter days still ahead, now would be the perfect time for your chapter to plan a mission project to benefit those less fortunate. International Orthodox Christian Charities is running an outstanding program to help the victims of the tsunami by providing Health Kits. More information concerning this project can be found at www.iocc.org.

The winter meetings of the Junior and Senior National Executive Board were held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania January 21st through the 23rd. Despite the worst snowstorm Philadelphia has seen in nine years, St. Vladimir's U.O.L. Chapters did an excellent job hosting this event. Delayed and cancelled flights truly allowed board members to spend time discussing the U.O.L. and share successful projects and ideas that various chapters have used. It was also nice for board members to spend this unexpected time getting to know each other on a more personal level.



*Winter Meeting of Senior and Junior Executive Board
Philadelphia, PA*

One of the most exciting projects the National Executive Board has been tackling this year is the publication of a book of songs similar to that of the late Protopreysbeter Stephen Hallick. Second Vice President, Dr. Natalie Bilynsky has worked diligently to compile songs and add Ukrainian lyrics. It is our hope that the book will be ready for purchase this summer.

The Ukrainian Orthodox League has been working to help prepare its members for Pascha. This year the U.O.L. is offering two Lenten retreats. The first retreat will be held March 18-20 at All Saints Camp. Participants will be staying in the camp Millennium Building. Metropolitan Constantine will attend and speak at this event. I can't imagine a more perfect way to celebrate Sunday of Orthodox than with fellow U.O.L. members. The second retreat will be held in Bethlehem, PA April 15-17. The retreat's theme is "I Believe-stability in an ever changing world" and will have dynamic speakers such as Archbishop Antony. Consider attending one or both of these events and truly allow yourself to prepare for Christ's resurrection. More information concerning these retreats can be found in this edition of the **U.O.L. BULLETIN**.

Planning for the 58th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League convention is going well. The Assumption of the Virgin Mary U.O.L. Chapter in Northampton, PA is eagerly awaiting our arrival. Make sure the date is marked on your calendars!

I remain...
Yours in Christ,
Melanie A. Nakonachny

IT WILL BE HERE SOONER THAN YOU THINK.... 58TH ANNUAL U.O.L. CONVENTION

JULY 27 - 31, 2005

*Sponsored by the Senior and Junior U.O.L.
Chapters of the Assumption of the
Virgin Mary Northampton, PA*



Hospitality will be held on Wednesday evening at the Holiday Inn. We welcome everyone to come for food, song and fellowship....

Divine Liturgy 8:30 am Thursday – in the Hotel Chapel



Brunch at the Holiday Inn following Divine Liturgy



Thursday night will be a "Blast from the Past", come prepared to dance to music provided by "Class Act"



For Friday night, loosen those vocal cords to enjoy a fun evening at our "Ukrainian Karaoke Kafe"



Saturday evening prepare for a formal affair at the "Banquet & Ball" with music provided by "Fata Morgana"



We welcome you to attend Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM - Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish, in Northampton



Farewell Brunch will be held following Divine Liturgy....

"FOR AS MANY AS HAVE BEEN
BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST, HAVE PUT ON
CHRIST" (GALATIANS 3:27)

**For more information please contact Martha
Misko & Linda Winters, Co-Chairs Phone:
(610) 262-5292 or (610) 261-1783**

SPOTLIGHT A JUNIOR CHAPTER

Featuring . . .

ST. MARYS CHAPTER, ALLENTOWN, PA

Membership

10 members

4 officers, 3 senior advisors, and 1 spiritual advisor

Projects

Although this chapter is just starting, they have:

*hosted 2 coffee hours, and 1 soup day

*helped cook church dinners

*collected money for local food banks, weekly

*had 5 successful meetings

*helped with the Parish Super Bowl festivities, which included a lecture by Rev. Deacon Joseph Kreta

Looking to the Future

*these juniors plan to do several Lenten and Pascha projects to help their parish and community

Since the convention is being hosted not far from their parish, this junior chapter hopes to

*send many junior delegates

*help Northampton in the preparation for the Convention

This newly formed chapter is full of enthusiasm and excitement about their plans for future endeavors! They have been grateful to have a very helpful Spiritual Advisor, and many Senior Advisors. The UOL welcomes the NEW Allentown Jr. Chapter!

Look for another *SPOTLIGHT A JUNIOR CHAPTER* in the next **BULLETIN!**

PARMA JUNIOR U.O.L. MEMBERS SPREAD THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

by Emily Kominko

Living life alone in a house, or homeless on the street, can be extremely lonely. It seems that it would be especially unbearable at Christmas time. The Junior U.O.L. of St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Parma annually remembers the shut-ins of the parish as well as the homeless at St. Herman's House of Hospitality.

On December 24, 2004 Junior U.O.L. members and parents, made their way to St. Herman's House of Hospitality as they do annually, to prepare Christmas Eve lunch. Each year, the Junior U.O.L. members volunteer to prepare a meal for the homeless, as well as serve, clean up and Christmas carol. This trip brings great satisfaction to those visiting St. Herman's as well as St. Vladimir's parishioners who take time to be grateful for all that they have.

This year, on January 2, 2005, Junior U.O.L. members and families dedicated a day to spreading cheer to members of St. Vladimir's who are either shut-in in homes or nursing homes. Members and their families split into groups of carolers who went to different nursing homes and even private homes in Ohio *spreading the joy of Christmas*. Carols were sung and a gift was given to each shut-in. The most special part of the day is seeing the joy in their eyes as the elderly carol along with the Junior U.O.L. members. This experience warms everyone's heart.

The St. Vladimir's Junior U.O.L. and their parents have been volunteering at St. Herman's House of Hospitality and visiting shut-ins for many years. It brings joy to those caroling as well as those enjoying the carols. "Remember, the best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear."

KATYA'S KORNER

Katya Carman, Jr. U.O.L. President



GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

The Jr. UOL National Executive Board was recently hosted by the Junior and Senior UOL Chapters of Philadelphia, PA for our winter Board meeting. While in Philly, we were snowed in by the 'blizzard', but luckily we were able to have a very successful meeting! There are so many projects underway, so I will briefly give an overview of the progress of them:

The UOL Retreats are fast approaching, and the deadline to register is even sooner. Don't forget to sign up-- you will not want to miss either of these spiritually renewing fun-filled weekends!!

Since many previous Convention attendees have suggested that the Jr. UOL make T-shirts, we finally have. This past month we finalized a great design and are ready to begin the t-shirt making process! Chapters will be receiving more detailed information and a picture of the design, along with order forms shortly.

Another highly requested project at the convention each year is a Jr. UOL web site. Currently, the web site is being reviewed by our Jr. UOL Advisors, before it is posted as a link to the Consistory site. Dan McNulty (Dnatty2758@aol.com) is still looking for group pictures of every chapter. Please send them to him as soon as possible. I can't wait to get the Jr. UOL up on the web again!

February 27th was National 'Bring a Friend to Church Day'. I hope this 1st Annual event was successful and I strongly encourage all chapters who participated to submit Bulletin Articles to Dr. Sivulich to share their experiences with everyone!

Don't forget to check out the 'a-thon' project information to benefit the Carnegie Relief Fund Project in this issue.

JR. UOL MEMBERS HONOR ST. NICHOLAS

St. Vladimir's, Parma, OH

On December 12, 2004, eleven Jr. UOL members at St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Parma, OH celebrated the life of St. Nicholas.

For several weeks the youth worked diligently planning how to honor the great Saint Nicholas. The youth decided to research his life and share little known facts about this saint. They also learned the troparion and kondakion to St. Nicholas. Everyone enjoyed learning the tone and how the words they sung told the story of the wonders of this great saint.

The juniors ended their celebration with a gift exchange. In late November, each participant had randomly pulled another participant's name and purchased a gift for that person. The "Secret St. Nick's" gave jewelry, lotion, gift certificates, scarves, and many other fine gifts.

Their singing on the feast of St. Nicholas was so well received that on January 6th, Christmas Eve, the juniors were a part of our youth choir. Christmas Eve compline and matins consisted of two choirs—the regular church choir and the youth choir that sang a litany, the troparion and the prayer to St. Simeon.

It is a joy to see the Junior U.O.L. members being more involved in the life of our parish.

UOL BULLETIN DEADLINE

*The deadline for each edition is the 5th of the prior month:
September, October, November, January/February,
March, April, and June.*

PARMA JUNIOR U.O.L. MEMBERS GIVE THE GIFT OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

by Christy Bohuslawsky

A sense of satisfaction is always gained when doing things for others. As Christ has said, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Of all the many charitable projects St. Vladimir's Jr. U.O.L. in Parma has developed, one of their greatest projects has been the "Bookbag Project".



Parma Juniors Shopping for School Supplies

Throughout the past year St. Vladimir's Junior U.O.L. Chapter raised money to donate school kits to needy children. Nearly a thousand dollars was raised and eighty canvas bookbags were purchased.

Juniors U.O.L. members along with their families, spent an entire evening painting bookbags. After the bags were decorated, members loaded into the Pyroghy van to go shopping for school supplies to fill the bookbags. They had a great time emptying the school supply isles of Kmart and Walmart. Notebooks, glue sticks, scissors, pencils, and erasers – everything a student could ever ask for! Each bag was packed full of supplies and was topped off with a picture of St. Vladimir's Junior U.O.L. chapter.

The completed bookbags were sent to IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities Inc.*) where they will be distributed to needy children around the world. This fun project was very simple to plan and will truly make a difference in the lives of children around the world.

Interested in preparing a school kit for a needy child?

More information on this project can be found at www.IOCC.org/schoolkits

THE ANNUNCIATION AND THE PASCHAL MYSTERY OF SALVATION

continued from page 1

The Orthodox Church certainly understands the Virgin Mary as having been granted the grace of being immaculate, but how she received it is crucial in our understanding of the place of the Annunciation in the Paschal scheme of salvation in Christ. "The descent of the Holy Spirit has purified my soul and sanctified my body: **it has made of me a Temple that contains God, a Tabernacle divinely adorned, a living Sanctuary, and the pure Mother of Life**" (Theotokos, in Canticle 7 of Matins for the Annunciation; *Menaion*, 455). If we celebrate the mystery of the Pascha, the Incarnation, Nativity, Teaching, Suffering, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Sending of the Spirit, the ever-presence, and the Second Advent, of which she was and will be present in a way that no one else could be, how can we separate this from her?

The Annunciation, therefore, is demonstrably a very significant manifestation of this continual Paschal Feast that we know as the Church year, as well as a component part of the foretaste of our own salvation. Therefore "let us go unto the house of the Lord" during the Annunciation and other great feasts and fasts and be examples of what it means to be a Christian immersed in the present liturgical life of the Church; to celebrate the paschal mystery on the ladder of salvation "One rung at a time."

STS. PETER AND PAUL FLOOD UPDATE

Flood restoration throughout Carnegie continues to move slowly with *no funding for churches from government and other sources*. There are many interesting stories about flood insurance coverage and "attempting to receive payment from insurance companies".

We have been fortunate with the restoration and have learned to appreciate furnaces, hot water heaters, electricity, and kitchen equipment and utensils—now that they have all been replaced.

The kitchen has made pierogies on two occasions with little to no problems. The eight-burner stove has been restored. The ovens are finally in, but the exhaust fan has to be replaced. The doors have just begun to be installed, after a variety of delays; "it's an eight week order time for fire safety doors"; another delay because the hardware (hinges, locks, etc.) weren't ordered at the same time as the doors; the carpenter hired to install the doors had chest pains, then on the starting date his snow removal company took precedence. After four days of phone calls without a response #2 carpenter was called, but after three days of no response to phone calls #3 carpenter was called. Finally, after three more days of delays, a fourth carpenter was contacted and he actually arrived at 8:00 AM as indicated. Once the doors are installed, the next step will be refinishing the hall walls, installing flooring in the church school, replacing the wooden steps in the hall, and getting on with "business as usual."

"Libby" Kraftician Donates \$10,000 for Kitchen Restoration

The generosity of so many people from around the country has served as an inspiration to our entire parish. We received a \$10,000 donation for kitchen restoration from Elizabeth "Libby" Kraftician of Wheeling WVA, in memory of her mother, Ann Kraftician, who was a devoted "Pierogie Worker" for many years. Thank you sincerely for your generosity, continued support, and prayers!

JUNIOR UOL "A-THON" PROJECT

WHEN? This spring, 2005 chapters will fundraise by sponsoring an 'a-thon' project in their chapters. **Deadline to turn in donations is May 1, 2005-- so start planning!**

WHAT? An 'a-thon' project may include, but definitely NOT limited to; a bowl-a-thon, a dance-a-thon, a bake-a-thon, etc.

WHY? Proceeds raised by all chapters will be collected by the National Jr. UOL, and given to Sts. Peter and Paul UOC parish, Carnegie, PA, which was devastated by Hurricane Ivan this past fall.

WHO? ALL UOL members are asked to participate! Seniors are encouraged to monetarily sponsor a junior(s) with their "A-thon".

Mark Meschisen is just a call away, (508) 695-6095. Please contact Mark or ANY other board member with any questions!

LOOK FOR YOUR INFO IN THE MAIL TODAY!

YOUNGSTOWN JR. U.O.L. CHAPTER NEWS

by Marc Senedak, Reporter

Trick or “Can” – Autumn Leaves and Pumpkin Pies

The fall activities for our Jr. UOL Chapter have been numerous. Many of our junior members collected canned goods and nonperishable items instead of going *Trick or Treating*. We collected the canned goods to help feed the needy families in our area. It made us feel content to give something back to our community. Another one of our service projects was to rake leaves for the shut-ins of our church. On a warm and sunny autumn day most of our juniors and their parents gathered and bagged about 50 bags of leaves. We worked from noon to dark. It was a lot of work but we had fun working together for a good cause. We all felt that we were doing a good deed by helping those who need help. Mrs. Mary Bury, our parishioner, commented: “In this day and age it is refreshing to see the youth do positive things.” She and others were very thankful for the work we had done for them.



Juniors Take A Break With Mrs. Mary Bury

For Thanksgiving, our group baked pumpkin pies for the Rescue Mission Homeless Shelter in Youngstown, Ohio. We had a pleasurable mid-afternoon creating and baking masterpieces to give as delicious mouthwatering gifts to help make the holiday a bit more enjoyable for the homeless and less fortunate.

Keep the Spirit of Christmas in Your Heart all Year

To start our “jam packed” holiday season, the Jr. UOL members decorated our church for Christmas. We decorated two gigantic Christmas trees, accessorized the choir loft with garland, and adorned the window sills and front doors with wreaths. We remembered our loved ones who were lost over the past year by placing name tags on large angels and attaching them to our church pews. Throughout the holiday season, we placed precious angel’s ornaments on our church Christmas trees in honor of loved ones and to commemorate the deceased family members. Then, the juniors spread holiday cheer by singing Christmas carols at a local nursing home. Our parish choir director, Fr. Becker and a number of parents joined us to sing traditional songs and Ukrainian carols. The residents appeared to enjoy listening to us sing, and many even joined in the caroling.

Our visit to the nursing home filled us with joy to see the smiles on the resident’s faces. Next, we designed Christmas cards for our troops in Iraq. Knowing that they would be away from their families during the holidays, we sent the cards as a “thank you”, and to tell the soldiers that they are missed at home. A miniature candy cane in a paper stocking was sent with each card with the spiritual “*Story of the Candy Cane*”. We also included an “open me” handmade paper snowflake gift that said “*a little bit of snow from O-H-I-O.*” These Christmas greetings made our hearts feel happy—in the tradition of “*It is better to give than to receive.*”



Youngstown Jr. UOL Christmas Party and Work Session

Our chapter also initiated a “Winter Wonderland” Christmas Toy Drive for the less fortunate children of our regional community. Church members donated dozens of toys which made this year one of our most successful toy drives. We also participated in the Annual St. Nicholas Play, our Junior Ukie Orchestra played many delightful holiday songs, and we held a successful Chinese Auction with many items donated by the Jr. UOL and parish members.

In addition to the many service projects, with the theme of “Give of One-self”, we did have a bit of time for Jr. UOL bonding. We went to a movie theater, and then had a “make your own pizza” Christmas Party, and a “gag and good” gift exchange. After the party, we prepared our spiritual “Story of the Candy Cane” flyers and made 110 candy cane ornaments to give as gifts to parishioners on Christmas Eve.

Finally, to add a festive touch, we made holiday luminaries that were lit and placed on our church steps for Christmas Eve. The Jr. UOL members of Sts. Peter and Paul, Youngstown, OH share the “Story of the Candy Cane” with you in hope that you keep the spirit of Christmas in your hearts throughout the year.

Happy 10th Anniversary – Father Baxter!

Metropolitan Constantine came to Youngstown to celebrate Fr. Charles Baxter’s 10th Anniversary of serving at Sts. Peter and Paul Church and served the Divine Liturgy with Fr. Baxter. “The church choir sang like angels”, commented Metropolitan Constantine. After the liturgy, we attended a fellowship luncheon where the juniors welcomed the Metropolitan and Fr. Baxter with the traditional flower bouquets. Our junior chapter congratulated Fr. Baxter on his 10th anniversary and wished him many more years of service with us.



Marc Senedak, Fr. Charles Baxter, Metropolitan Constantine, Fr. Gregory Becker and Mr. Joseph Ewanish

We had also invited other Junior UOL members from the Pittsburgh area. We gathered at my house with Metropolitan Constantine for a fun-filled evening of movies, cards, video games and pleasurable conversation. We always enjoy getting together with our fellow UOL members—and surely enjoyed the presence of the Metropolitan.

Moving Day for Fr. Becker

On a cool, cloudy Saturday afternoon, our Y-Town Jr. UOL members helped our choir director, Fr. Gregory Becker move into his newly remodeled parish choir director’s house. Our job was to unload the moving truck and then position Fr. Becker’s furniture and belongings where he wanted them. We also carried many boxes of books into the house—*he surely has a lot of books!* When the move was completed, Fr. Becker thanked us for our hard work. A couple weeks later, he had an open house and our chapter members welcomed him with a housewarming gift.

CARNEGIE JUNIORS HAVE BEEN BUSY

by Irene Onufrey, Reporter,
and Natasha Walewski, President

The juniors have been very busy the past few months in Carnegie, PA. Of course, the flood has affected us a great deal. Our church school was destroyed and not usable, yet we are holding classes in the upper hall.

Although the hall is open and being used for many activities, the walls are not painted, the paint is chipping off, and seventeen doors need to be replaced. Zachary and Anastasia helped to uncrate our new banquet tables for the church hall, and a number of juniors helped with the scraping of the hall walls.



Juniors With New Doors—Awaiting Installation!

Throughout all of the devastation of our rectory, church school, hall and kitchen, the juniors have kept active. Just this past Sunday (January 30th) we sponsored our Annual “Souper Bowl Sunday” where we served home made soups and sandwiches. We actually made the soups on Saturday; broccoli cream, chicken noodle and beef vegetable; with the help of our advisors and parents. Fr. Steve helped with the cooking and added a meat loaf and birthday cake for his father, Gregory Repa who was celebrating his 80th birthday. We had a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person with all of the profits being donated to the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Food Pantry—which is located here in Carnegie. We also had a Canned Food Drive. If you donated a canned good, you received \$1.00 off of the cost of the suggested donation to our Souper Bowl Sunday luncheon. We are planning to attend the Lock-In in Youngstown in February.

Although our Annual Pysanky Sale is scheduled for March 20th, we hope that we can attend the Camp Retreat at All Saints Camp on Friday and Saturday. Our junior members have been helping to write pysanky and in return the Sr. Chapter makes a financial contribution to our treasury. We also helped with the Sr. Chapter’s French Toast Breakfast that was a fund raiser for St. Andrew’s Society.

Our church members went be going to Parma for the Fund Raising Luncheon (“Hearts Out To Carnegie”) on Sunday, February 13th, which was held to help our parish with flood damages. It’s great to have friends like St. Vladimir’s Cathedral in Parma, Ohio.

We hope to see you at the Youngstown Lock-In and the Camp Retreat.

BATTLE OF THE BOARDS!

*Jr. Executive Board Challenges Sr.
Executive Board*

On May 14th it will be Junior Executive Board versus the Senior Board in the Chapter Challenge. The Junior Executive Board has challenged the Seniors in the first ever Battle of the Boards, with each Board member getting sponsors for each question answered correctly. All money collected will be donated to the flood relief fund of St. Peter and Paul Parish in Carnegie.

Who will win? The Senior team is led by Melanie Nakonachny with years teaching Sunday School. The Junior team led by Katya Carman has more experience in the Chapter Challenge with participation in Convention challenges. Who will be the victor – Junior or Senior? Both teams are studying. Support your Executive Boards by sponsoring them for each correct answer.

Dr. Natalie Sufler Bilynsky
2nd Vice President

(L.S.S.K.) LYNN SAWCHUK-SHARON KUZBYT SCHOLARSHIP “Application Guidelines – 2005”

The L.S.S.K. Scholarship was established in 1975 in memory of Lynn Sawchuk (Philadelphia, PA) and Sharon Kuzbyt (Clifton, NJ). The untimely deaths of two lovely, dynamic and vibrant young women in 1974 and 1975 left an indelible mark in the life of the U.O.L. and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and in the personal lives of their many friends.

Although Lynn and Sharon were only in their teenage years, they had displayed uncanny leadership abilities and were shining examples in dedicating their energies toward the U.O.L. Both were extremely active in the Church and the League. Both abounded in energy, love of life, and love of all with whom they came into contact.

Thus, the U.O.L. established a scholarship to perpetuate their memories with criteria based on their lives:

- A. Be a Jr. UOL member in good standing, or a past Jr. UOL member enrolled in or about to enter a program of advanced education, but not beyond five (5) years from high school graduation.
- B. Demonstrate outstanding performance in the service of the League and Church.
- C. Academic performance in high school.
- D. Involvement in extracurricular and civic activities.
- E. Be of high ethical and moral character.

(Note: A detailed explanation of the LSSK Scholarship is available by contacting Daria A. Pishko, LSSK Scholarship, 64 Coleman Ave., Chatham, NJ 07928.)

APPLICATION/ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. All LSSK scholarship applications must be submitted via CERTIFIED MAIL with RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, or another comparable means (e.g., FedX, UPS, etc) that provides a return receipt or tracking number/process.
2. The Chairperson will notify the applicant via Postal Card if any part of the application has not been submitted.
 - *If an application arrives after the deadline date, the Postal Card will indicate that the application did not meet the deadline and will not be considered for a scholarship.*
3. **Applications are available on the UOL Website** for downloads at <http://www.uocofusa.org>. LSSK information packets have been mailed to Senior Chapter Presidents and Spiritual Advisors.

Requests for applications: Daria A. Pishko, Chairperson,
LSSK Scholarship, 64 Coleman Ave., Chatham, NJ 07928
Phone: (973) 635-8124.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2005

*“L.S.S.K. Scholarships –
Supporting Future Church Leaders”*

L.S.S.K. SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

A special thank-you for the recent donations to the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship Fund:

- | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---|
| \$25.00 | Mrs. Elizabeth Mitchell | In honor of the marriage of
Daria A. Pishko and Michael J. Komichak. |
| \$25.00 | Mr. & Mrs. William Kuzbyt | In memory of Willard Crane. |

U.O.L. ARCHIVES

“National UOL Historical Material Needed”

- Historical records and materials
- Records from past National UOL Officers
- Convention Yearbooks

Forward to: UOL Archives (Attn: S. Sivulich), UOC of USA,
P.O. Box 495, S. Bound Brook, NJ 08880

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Fr. John W. Harvey, Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Q. Approaching confession, I had an experience in which the priest talked to me from the beginning, but at no time was I ever given a chance to tell any sins at all, and before you know it I was absolved. Although there was nothing major, I did want to get something off my chest and I felt that I had the need for some spiritual advice. The result was that I left somewhat unsatisfied. On visiting another parish one Sunday, I approached, but they were only doing "absolutions". In this quick "production line" atmosphere again there was no chance to say anything and again frustration. Your comments please?

A. Over the years there always have been priests, who do not want to hear any of the details, but are interested only in whether you are sorry or want to do better. This, of course, speeds things up, but it is more like visiting a physician and not revealing the physical problems, so that the result is that neither does he discover the true pathology of the situation, nor is he able to postulate a diagnosis or provide a remedy. Jesus Himself said that we are to tell our sins to one another and so without our indiscretions coming to the surface to be revealed and forgiven, we are actually doing ourselves a disservice. Confession then is a revelation from the heart, put into words, which reveals the pathology of our actions and indiscretions. Without an inkling of what is troubling the penitent, how can one give advice or encouragement specific to the problem, if its source is not revealed. One's doubts and fears could easily be allayed and a positive direction given, if only the sins and problems would come to light.

Touching on the practice of general absolutions, one must admit that such practices are ingrained in the life of a number of parishes.

Some priests have introduced "absolutions" so that people will commune more often, but still are under the mistaken notion that confession is needed before each instance of Communion. That may have been considered a bright idea at one time to get people to commune with regularity, BUT it has never had the sanction or explicit blessing of our hierarchs. A periodic confessions of sins is expected from all and if one is preparing and going to communion on a weekly basis, then this could be monthly or at another interval as suggested by the father confessor. A "weekly absolution" is not indicated and there is no theological basis to it. A periodic confession, in which one reveals one's faults and weaknesses verbally, can be quite therapeutic and one thereafter goes back to one's pew with a sense of relief and satisfaction. The experience of the "general absolution", without revelation of any sins or problems, may be "cheap grace" and easy to approach, but is there any true healing? Confession to really be a confession, needs that verbal element. Why be content with a cheap fix when the healing of your present spiritual ills can only come with a real confession, in which the pathology of your ailment is revealed to your spiritual physician, who can then prescribe a remedy on the basis of that knowledge.

CARNEGIE SR. U.O.L. CHAPTER NEWS



Sr. and Jr. UOL Members Working the French Toast Luncheon

The Sr. Chapter sponsored a French Toast Luncheon to host participants of a PanOrthodox Camp Director's Conference that was held in Pittsburgh. The event was designed as a fund raiser to replace UOL supplies that were lost in the flood. A special collection was taken to assist the St. Andrew's Society with their efforts in supporting orphanages in Ukraine.

REFLECTIONS ON: LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

*by Hieromonk Gregory (Woolfenden),
St Nicholas Church, Monessen, PA.*

One of the most characteristic services of the Great Fast must be the Liturgy of the Presanctified. Many people feel it to be one of their favorite services of the whole year, but I suspect that others may find it just puzzling. Nowadays this Liturgy is served on the Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, the first three days of Great and Holy Week, and on some feasts. The Monastery of the Caves in Kyiv used to serve it every weekday in Lent. It was ancient monastic custom to give communion every day, even where there were no priests for a Liturgy. Communion was given before the main meal, which, as in monasteries on Mount Athos today in fasting seasons, is in the evening, after Vespers.

Because many found it difficult to keep the fast until evening, it became common to celebrate the Presanctified in the morning. But a memory of the older habit was preserved by it being preceded by the third, sixth and ninth hours (which are longer in Lent). In some places Matins and the First Hour were celebrated as well, so after three hours or so, you might at least feel you were ending the day! Orthodox churches in Western Europe and America often celebrate some Presanctified Liturgies in the evening, most usually on a Wednesday. So we can experience it as an evening service. I want to look at just four of the many interesting features of this service.

After the first psalm and litany is the Kathisma, that part of the Psalter appointed to be read that evening. Normally, throughout Lent, and during the winter, the psalms, Monday to Friday, are 119 to 133. At other times these are read only on Fridays. Sometimes called 'psalms of ascent', they appear to have been sung by pilgrims to the Temple in Jerusalem, e.g., "I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord." They may once have been sung every day in Christian Jerusalem to inspire awe at the thought of entering into the presence of God. During the psalms, with the doors of the altar closed, the priest takes out the Lamb consecrated on the previous Sunday, and, having incensed the sanctuary, carries it to the table of Preparation. These psalms and preparations help us realize that we are entering into the presence of God.

Later on, after the entry, we hear at least two readings. Until Holy Week, these are from Genesis and Proverbs, part of a series read every night in Lent. They may be relics of a catechetical instruction. The Fathers often used the accounts of creation, the flood and so on, to show how God willed His people to live in love with Him, and although they turned away, God continued to seek them, and showed them how to live, hence the readings from Proverbs that contain much practical wisdom. Between the two readings the priest blesses the people with the censer and a candle saying: "The light of Christ illumines all". This may have been an ancient lamp-lighting ceremony, and possibly warned the instructor that it was time to wind it up. Now we see it as a symbol of Christ's light shown in the Old Testament as in the New.

The third interesting feature follows the second reading, "Let my prayer arise" from Psalm 140. Sung to very beautiful melodies, this duplicates the evening psalms, "Lord, I call upon thee, hear me". In ancient Constantinople this psalm alone was the main evening psalm; whereas now we use psalms 140, 141, 129 and 116 as a group. Psalm 140 was sung to an elaborate chant, and the ancient custom, retained in the Slavic churches, is to let the sweet smelling smoke rise before the altar – the priest simply standing and gently censuring. We kneel and see in the incense smoke symbols of our humble prayer rising to God, and at the same time his healing and cleansing us of our sins.

I have said very little of what many might think was the whole point of celebrating the Liturgy of the Presanctified, namely the Holy Communion from the Presanctified Lamb. The real point of this Liturgy is that it is actually a most rewarding ways of entering into the experience of Lent, a time of renewal and new life, as the word Lent itself implies (it is an old English word for "spring"). But there is a long prayer which the priest reads before Our Father. Here God is addressed as the one who has revealed this liturgy to us, and given us the possibility of offering gifts and sacrifice for sin. This may seem strange because there is no offering of the eucharistic sacrifice. The prayer goes on to speak of the mysteries set forth upon the throne of the cherubim where Christ is seated in glory. This is not the eucharistic offering, but we are still present before Christ, from whom comes the grace that makes us living temples of the Spirit. Through the whole of this multi-layered service we are inspired and strengthened to fight the good fight of the fast (as we read in the prayer behind the Ambo) that we may attain to the Holy Resurrection.

Start Making Your Plans!
U.O.L. RETREATS

"Follow Me"

The retreat will focus on:
"Following the Lord's example in our daily lives."

March 18-20, 2005

All Saints Camp, Emlenton, PA

Retreat Includes: * Metropolitan Constantine
* Rev. John Haluszczak

For Information, Contact:

Diane Senedak, (330) 792-6699,

DKSSenny@aol.com

Melanie Nakonachny, (440) 842-3820

MelanieNak@aol.com

Tracy Galla, (412) 221-1729

TJGalla@aol.com

U.O.L. LENTEN RETREAT

April 15-17, 2005

Retreat Center, Bethlehem, PA

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For Information Contact:

Oleh Bilynsky at nsuffler@aol.com

Enjoy inspirational and thought provoking discussions,

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Day Rate (Saturday ONLY) \$ 30.00

**"For as many as have been baptized
into Christ,
Have put on Christ"**
(Galatians 3:27)

58th Annual U.O.L. Convention
July 27-31, 2005

Hosted by

Senior and Junior U.O.L. Chapters
Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian
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\$ 99.00 singles/doubles

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◆ **Weekend Rate—\$ 125.00**

◆ **Pre-teen—\$ 80.00**

Convention Information Contact:

CoChairs: Martha Misko, (610) 262-5292

Linda Winters (610) 261-1783



UOL Tributes – A donation to the UOL Tribute Fund acknowledges milestones, accomplishments or special recognition of an individual or group that helps the UOL to further its mission. All donations will be published in the UOL BULLETIN. The UOL sincerely thanks the following for their recent contribution.

Contributor

Occasion

Dennis & Alexandra Ritter

Our very best wishes to the new Junior UOL Chapter at St. Mary's UOC in Allentown, PA. *May our Lord Bless and Keep you always!*

St. Mary's Sr. UOL Chapter

Congratulations and best wishes to our newly formed Junior UOL Chapter at St. Mary's UOC in Allentown, PA.
Mnohaya Lita!

Anne & Dale Bailly

In Honor of the birth of Gabrielle Patricia on September 4, 2004, to proud parents Michelle and Ben O'Neil.

Anne & Dale Bailly

Special thanks to Father Jakiw Norton for the spiritual and emotional support he gave us during Kathryn's recent surgery.

Anne & Dale Bailly

Special thanks to Father John Nakonachny for the spiritual and emotional support he gave us during Kathryn's recent surgery.

Helen Greenleaf

In honor of the Philadelphia Sr. UOL chapter members for hosting the winter meeting of the Senior and Junior National Executive Boards the snowy weekend of January 21-23. Heartfelt appreciation and a "blizzard" of thanks especially to Natalie and Oleh Bilynsky, Anne and Mark Bohlen, Daria Danyo, Rebecca and Steve McNulty and Lynn Szafranski!

Sts. Peter & Paul
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