



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to the Church – Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 51 NO. 6

APRIL, 2005

WELCOME To The 58th ANNUAL UOL CONVENTION: “Northampton-Style”

Mark your calendars! Begin the countdown! The 58th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention to be held **July 27-31, 2005**, is less than 120 days away! The Junior and Senior UOL Chapters of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Northampton, PA, are eager to welcome you to what promises to be a great convention!



Linda Winters, Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha, and Martha Misko

WEDNESDAY: Plan on Wednesday, July 27, as your travel day. Our convention site, the Holiday Inn at Gateway Center, Bethlehem, PA, is located on major highways and close to the Lehigh Valley International Airport. After checking in to the Holiday Inn, conventioners and hosts will come together for Vespers followed by Northampton hospitality at a Welcome-to-the-Valley Night!

THURSDAY: In harmony with our Convention theme - “For as many as have been baptized, have put on Christ” – Galatians 3:27 - Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on the Feast Day of Vladimir at the Chapel at the Holiday Inn. After Liturgy, a brunch will be served before the Opening Sessions of the 58th Annual UOL Convention. Thursday will be capped off by the BLAST FROM THE PAST Dinner/Dance at the Northampton Community Center. Get ready to “rock-et” to the stars with *Class Act*, the featured 11-member band.

FRIDAY: Business sessions will continue through the day. The evening will be the time to showcase the UOL’s wealth of singing talent. THE KARAOKE KAFE will feature dinner, dancing, Karaoke, and a Ukrainian –American Idol Contest. Limber up those windpipes! The evening is expected to be a “hoot!”

SATURDAY: Sessions will conclude on Saturday. In the afternoon, Juniors will be treated to a Pool Party at the hotel. Workshops are also being scheduled to include “Being a Junior Advisor”, “Death, Dying, and Orthodox Funerals” and Contemporary Orthodox Social Ethics.” The GRAND BANQUET AND BALL will be held Saturday evening at the Holiday Inn’s Ballroom. *Fata Morgana* will provide music for dancing and entertainment.

SUNDAY: The conclusion of a productive and fun Convention will be celebrated with a Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Northampton. Conventioners and hosts will gather together one last time at the FAREWELL BRUNCH that follows.

Registration information will be mailed in early spring. Registration packets with tickets to all events are priced at:

Senior Delegates and Guests	\$185.00
Clergy	\$185.00
Junior Delegates and Guests	\$175.00
Pre-teen	\$ 80.00
Weekend Rate (Friday – Sunday)	\$125.00

Hotel reservations may be made by calling the Holiday Inn at 1-888-222-8512. To receive the discounted rate of \$99.00 a night, guests must mention the **Ukrainian Orthodox League** and call before **June 22, 2005**.

For additional information please contact **Convention Chairs Linda Winters** at (610) 261-1783 or lwint@fast.net and **Martha Misko** at (610) 262-5292 or martha.misko@rcn.com.

**Remember – All roads lead to Northampton!
Come visit with us!**

PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS

Beyond the Borders of Ukraine

Great Lent in the Year of our Lord 2005

*To the venerable clergy and monastics and devout faithful
of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.*

*Peace be to you and love with faith from God the Father
and our Lord Jesus Christ, Who endured suffering for our sake.*

For the observant Orthodox Christian, the period of 40 days set aside prior to Holy Week and Pascha is often spoken of and is in fact a time of personal renewal. To deny this, to reduce the period of Great Lent to a minimal observance, to dilute it by concentrating only on the commercial trappings associated with this time of year - the trappings of a secular Easter season - is to divorce oneself from the healing experience, which these days of Lent provide, the sanctifying experience of Holy Week and the triumph of Pascha.

It is a time, when we are called upon to refocus our attention, to divert it from the cares of this life, to put our trust in God and to concentrate on being those who, according to Saint John the Evangelist, accept Christ, incarnate because of the Father’s love for us. Having accepted Him, we are reborn by His will. Lent reminds us that if we make optimal use of the means provided by the Church during this season - repentance, spiritual healing through sacramental confession, frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist and works of mercy, among others, then our relationship with Christ will take on a new meaning. It will be strengthened and made more profound and intense.

Lent brings home Christ’s message that His Kingdom, of which we became members at our Baptism, is not of this secular world. Every attempt to make the Body of Christ - His Church - His Immaculate Bride - an instrument to further any kind of personal secular ambition, to restructure it to such ambition has, and always will, fail miserably.

Lent, with its emphasis on prayer, fasting, reconciliation and works of mercy rejuvenates our relationship with the living, loving and compassionate Christ, Who welcomes any Zacchaeus among us, accepting and supporting his or her resolve to change. The Son of God singles out our uniqueness as children of the Father and makes it clear that He intends to abide in and with us. Lent brings us into direct contact with a merciful and forgiving Father, Who although gravely disappointed by our conduct, waits patiently for our metanoia - our return. When we finally “come to ourselves”, He sees us from a distance and hurries to meet and embrace us and to restore to us our original baptismal garment, which we have soiled by our many sins of commission and omission.

Lent reminds us of how easy it is for us to be puffed up with pride and self-righteousness, how easy it is to practice in a mechanical and boastful way only the externals of our Faith. Lent reminds us how easy it is to look down upon or judge those who do not meet our particular standards of parish membership or Faith. Lent reminds us, in the counsel of St. John Chrysostom, that purification prior to making our offering at the Holy Table is most necessary. It is a prerequisite and such purification comes about not only through the cleansing waters of ritual washing and reconciliation, but most especially via the cleansing waters of assisting those in need, be that - materially or spiritually.

If we indeed open our hearts and minds to the message of the Lenten Season, - an appeal for renewal echoed by our liturgical prayer life - our participation in the sacramental life of the Church and response to the invitation to personal holiness will mature. Then in the words of the Penitential Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian “**Grant that I may see my own sins and not judge my fellowman**” will regulate our relationship with all others – both those who love us and those who hate us.

Having shared this Lenten meditation with you, our spiritual children, we, your spiritual fathers, in the example of Saint Paul the Apostle, implore you to conduct yourselves in a manner befitting your Orthodox Christian calling. We assure you of our prayers and ask for your fervent prayers so that we might always exercise our stewardship for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Commending you to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and to the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we remain,

Your servants in prayer and love,

+ **Constantine** – Metropolitan,

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

+ **John** – Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ **Antony** – Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

+ **Vsevolod** – Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

+ **Ioan** – Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

+ **Yurij** – Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ **Jeremiah** – Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America
(UOC of USA)

UOL BULLETIN — The official publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States of America. Circulated to all UOL members. Non-member subscription rate - \$20.00
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The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 5th of the prior month. Photos will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the *UOL Bulletin* must be in 12 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

Advertising rates: Please inquire through editorial offices.



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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Christu!

As we prepare for the Resurrection, let us pray to remain focused, keeping vigil so that we are not left outside knocking as the five foolish maidens who were not able to join the wedding fest. I pray that your preparations for the great feast of Pascha are peaceful and full of reflection.

As in the past, the Education Commission is sponsoring the Annual U.O.L. Essay Contest. Please encourage the youth of your parish to participate in the worthwhile activity. Also, don't forget that this contest is open to adults as well. Why not use the essay contest as a time to reflect and prepare for lent by participating in the adult category? Information has been distributed to all parishes.

By now all chapters should have received the 2005 Awards mailing. Please read the documents thoroughly and consider nominating a candidate for the Very Rev. Protopresbyter Stephen. Hallick-Hollutiak Senior Recognition Award, the Metro J. Baran Award or the Distinguished National Service Award. Descriptions of all awards were enclosed in the mailing. Also, it is imperative that all chapters complete the Annual Report Form that was included in the awards mailing. This form allows the National Executive Board and other U.O.L. members to be aware of your chapter's activities. These forms are printed in the Annual Report that is distributed at the convention and is a chapter requirement. The Annual Report Form will be used to determine the Senior U.O.L. Chapter of the Year. The deadline for all paperwork is May 1st.

The Spring Senior and Junior National Executive Board meetings have been scheduled for May 13-15, 2005 at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish in Northampton, PA. The Senior National Executive Board is enthusiastic to participate in the first Battle of the Boards - in which the Senior and Junior boards will compete in a Chapter Challenge-like competition. This event is designed to raise money for Saints Peter and Paul parish in Carnegie, PA. Senior Board members have been preparing for this event and are eager to win this first, and hopefully, annual event. If you are in Northampton area, please consider attending the joint board meetings.

The 58th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League convention will be here before you know it. The Assumption of the Virgin Mary U.O.L. Chapter in Northampton, is working diligently to prepare. I hope you are planning on attending.

I remain,
Yours in Christ,
Melanie A. Nakonachny

UOL EDUCATION COMMISSION ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

- **Kindergarten:** Draw a picture of your family with Christ in the middle.
- **Grades 1 and 2:** What does being BAPTIZED into Christ mean to you?
- **Grades 3 and 4:** Describe how you practice your BAPTISM in daily life?
- **Grades 5 and 6:** Describe how important Christ is in your life?
- **Grades 7 and 8:** One of the prayers of BAPTISM point to the fact that we become children of God's Kingdom. Give at least three examples, showing how we honor this special calling?
- **Grades 9 and 10:** In BAPTISM, we are set aside to witness to Christ. How do we witness to Christ at home, in school and in our neighborhood?
- **Grades 11 and 12:** The principal teachers of Faith, Piety and Morality are our parents. How do your parents share the faith with you and strengthen your faith?
- **Ages 18 and over:** Name the 5 feasts of the Orthodox Church which have BAPTISM as the primary theme? How do they impact upon you as an Orthodox Christian?

Contest Rules and Guidelines

Please read and adhere to the following rules:

Entries must be postmarked by **May 6, 2005**.

No entries will be accepted after that date.

No name on the front of any entry.

All entries must include the following information:

Participant's first and last name; grade and age; name and address of parish including city and state.

Drawings: No names on front of drawings - Please attach a **cover page** or use the **back** of drawing for the information listed above.

Paper no larger than 12" x 18".

Written: Must be on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Include **cover page** with the identifying information listed above. Entries for grades 9 through ages 18 and over must be typed/printed.

All entries will be judged for content, creativity and neatness.

Mail Essay Entries to:

UOL Essay Contest

c/o Anne Bohan

265 King of Prussia Rd., Wayne, PA 19087

All Saints U.O.C. Camp

CAMP CLEAN-UP DAYS SCHEDULED!

The All Saints Camp will be hosting Camp Clean-up Days through out the spring! So join us at All Saints Camp for a weekend of fellowship and service.

Our Spring Clean-up Schedule is as follows:

April 8-9, 2005 (Cabin Painting)

May 6-7, 2005 (Opening of Facilities)

May 20-21, 2005 (Grounds Maintenance)

If you or your group are able to attend one of our weekends please contact:
Camp Administrator Stephen Sheptak (724)712-1364
or allsaintscamp@highstream.net

SPOTLIGHT A JUNIOR CHAPTER

Featuring...

**ST. VLADIMIR CHAPTER,
SOUTHSIDE PITTSBURGH, PA**



Membership
10 members
5 officers,
1 senior advisor,
and 1 Spiritual advisor

Projects

This year, this busy chapter has . . .

- * hosted a spaghetti dinner which raised money to benefit the Nucci-Finney Scholarship Fund
- *hosted "Bring a Friend to Church Day" and had 6 friends attend
- *had members attend the Youngstown lock-in
- *held a game night full of fun and excitement
- *hosted regular monthly coffee hours

Looking to the Future . . .

Before the convention, this lively chapter hopes to . . .

- *make pysanky to be sold at the church
- *hold an Easter bake sale
- *send members to the retreats
- *send care packages to their dearly-missed college students
- *send Junior delegates to the Northampton convention
- *and of course, send many Juniors to ASC and TC camps

It has been an excellent year thus far for this South Side chapter, and they look forward to their Lenten activities, and the busy coming months.

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

ST. VLADIMIR'S JR. UOL CHAPTER NEWS

Southside Pittsburgh, PA

by Jordan Gladys and Lara Haulszczak

On Sunday, February 27, 2005, St. Vladimir's Jr. U.O.L. of Southside Pittsburgh held their Annual Spaghetti Dinner. With the checkered tablecloths and background Italian tunes, the juniors brought a taste of Italy to St. Vladimir's church hall. We served nearly eighty people from our own parish, surrounding churches, and people of the community. This money will be donated to the Nucci-Finney Scholarship Fund in memory of our friend Brandon "Nucci" Chiarelli. This scholarship fund helps seniors from Brandon's high school who demonstrate excellence in service, leadership, and academics to earn money for college.

Towards the conclusion of the Spaghetti Dinner, Jordan Gladys drew the winning ticket for the raffle prize of dinner at the Olive Garden Restaurant and a movie. The winning ticket had a value of \$40.00. The winner of this sweet prize was Mrs. Frances Gebet, a parishioner of St. Vladimir's. Our congratulations to Mrs. Gebet.

Because this event coincided with the Junior UOL's National *Bring A Friend To Church Day*, our juniors had some extra help from friends Amanda, Leah, Alex, Katie, and Melissa who assisted in serving food, selling tickets, and most importantly, cleaning up! Overall, the Spaghetti Dinner was a great success and the juniors of St. Vladimir's are looking forward to the busy spring ahead of them.

(continued pn page 7)

KATYA'S KORNER

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



**Glory to Jesus Christ!
Slava Isusu Christu!**

Hopefully winter has finally moved out for this year, and the spring months will bring some warmer, less-snowy weather. Regardless of the weather, these coming spring months seem to bring many busy activities, including Jr. UOL projects and events. As always, the Lenten season is a time of reflection and spiritual renewal, as we look forward to Pascha.

National Jr. UOL "Bring a Friend to Church Day"- Hopefully, everyone was able to participate in this exciting day of showing friends our Orthodox faith. So far, I have only heard wonderful comments from individual chapters, and it is neat to hear what other chapters did, so I encourage EVERYONE to submit an article to the Bulletin to share your experiences.

Annual Junior UOL Raffle- Don't forget that your raffle tickets and money are due by May 1st to Jordan Gladys if you would like to be eligible for the prize of 100 raffle tickets in your Chapter's name. Also, I urge you to send tickets and money to Jordan when you have them sold as to relieve the raffle sorting and collecting stress at the convention that has happened in the past. You may also consider sending your tickets and money in as you sell them.

Special A-thon Carnegie Relief Fund Project- By now everyone should have received the in-depth information from Mark about this project, and hopefully your 'a-thon' plans are well underway. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me. I truly feel this is a most deserving cause to help a sister parish and pray that everyone will be involved and have a successful 'a-thon'.

The Jr. Executive Board will be involved as well. At our next meeting in Northampton, we will be competing against the Senior Executive Board in 3 rounds of Chapter Challenge. Everyone is welcome to come and see the Junior Board win.

Essay contest- This annual Lenten activity is always a good way to spend some time learning more about our Orthodox faith. I encourage all juniors to do an essay or creative project. Good luck!

The next Jr. UOL National Executive board meeting will be hosted by the Northampton Jr. and Sr. UOL chapters on the weekend of May 13-15, and we will meet in conjunction with the Senior UOL. I encourage anyone in the area to come and participate in our meeting, and weekend activities. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

In Faith, Hope and Love,
Katya Carman

Pysh Travel Grant Pysh Travel Grant



**2005 Convention to Northampton
For Jr. UOL members who require
financial assistance to travel
to the annual UOL Convention**

**Contact Matt Bohem
Email: Nikeplaya2000@msn.com
Address: 265 King of Prussia Rd.
Wayne, PA 19087**

PARMA, OHIO JR. CHAPTER NEWS

Junior U.O.L. Members Share Their Faith

Jr. UOL members of St. Vladimir's Cathedral participated in this year's Second Annual "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday on February 27, 2005. Junior U.O.L. members brought a friend, or in the case of Lesia Mahlay--four friends--to celebrate Divine Liturgy at Saint Vladimir's Cathedral in Parma, Ohio.



*St. Vladimir's Clergy and Jr. UOL Members
with Friends on "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday"*

Visitors were greeted at the church entrance by ushers who pinned "welcome" ribbons to their jackets. Fr. John Nakonachny's sermon taught the guest about Eastern Orthodoxy, its origin, Pentecost and its prominence in the greater Cleveland area. Fr. John also spoke about the gospel reading of the Prodigal Son.

After the Liturgy, the guests congregated in the parish center and enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by members of St. Vladimir's Senior U.O.L. and chaired by Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny. They also received a water bottle, lanyard and icon card to thank them for participating in this event and help them remember their experience at Saint Vladimir's. Guests left enlightened about the Eastern Orthodox faith and Saint Vladimir's parish family. This event would not have been possible if it were not for Bring a Friend to Church chairwomen Oksana Mahlay and Becky Naab.

"Bottles For Babies"

During the advent season, the Junior UOL Chapter of Saint Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Parma, Ohio sponsored a project to support "Zoë for Life", an organization that helps pregnant women make the right decision. This project involved parish youth collecting their spare change in icon clad baby bottles. A large baby bottle was used to collect donations from St. Vladimir's parishioners. The total collection by Junior U.O.L. members and parish donations totaled six hundred and twenty dollars.



*Jr. U.O.L. Members
pose with their baby
bottles*

*Emily Kominko, Oksana Mahlay, Danylo Moysaenko, Lesia Mahlay,
Christy Bohuslawsky, Orest Mahlay, Alex Grossman*

ST. VLADIMIR SR. UOL AMBRIDGE, PA

by Ann Somar, Reporter

The Ambridge, PA Sr. UOL Chapter had a very encouraging year in 2004 by conducting more activities and projects. We are actively seeking new members in addition to our current fourteen members. These fourteen are also involved in other church organizations; church school, choir, dinners, pierogie making and church board.

We started UOL Bagel Sundays at Coffee Hour to contribute to parish fellowship and as a little fundraiser. At times, we have had fruit, and raffles on these Sundays. In May, we sponsored a Bake Sale at the Parish Flea Market. And, in keeping with the UOL mission of . . . *devoted to its youth*, we have contributed items for St. Nicholas, Vacation Church School and light bulbs for the classrooms for Church School.

Jean Papinchak represented our chapter as delegate at the annual UOL Convention that was held in Parma, OH. We have made donations/gifts to the National UOL Project, the parish, Fr. Michael, and the mission trip by Fr. Harvey to Brazil.

In September, we had our first Potluck Dinner with a meeting and Vespers. This very enjoyable evening provided socializing, business and worship. We will be doing this event again. The members have taken up the project of card ministry, providing cards to members for events, special occasions and home-bound parishioners. We have also started e-mailing our Sunday bulletin to students attending college and parishioners who are away from this area.

The UOL Gift Shop is also going through changes. We have added new religious cards and icons. A 25% Off Sale was held in November and new items are being planned. The chapter is also currently planning new fundraisers; a Lenten Potluck Dinner after Pre-sanctified Liturgy, an informational church web-site and a memorial day for recently departed long time member and past National UOL President Joseph Kolarchik.

Our present officers are President, Christine Mills; Vice-President, Ann Rizzo; Secretary, Sam Taylor; Treasurer, Gary Kmit; Reporter, Ann Somar; Auditor, Debbie Kmit and of course our Spiritual Advisor is Fr. Michael Kochis.

RELIGION: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by Fr. John W. Harvey, Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Q: Our parish council has on occasion toyed with the idea of a "Las Vegas Night" as a means of generating some extra funds. Members have cited the fact that other churches in the area have had such functions, which have been quite successful financially. Some of our folks had moral objections and we wouldn't want to do anything that would cause division in our community. This topic always gets a lot of heated debate. So we would appreciate your input as well.

A: The rule for the support of our parish community should be what the Lord Himself suggested. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

This of course pertains to the church members themselves. They should give from the heart without compulsion for this action to be blessed. If we are building (or maintaining) a church complex, the parishioners themselves, should be the ones to contribute. Will God truly bless our efforts, IF all finances and donations are obtained from outsiders and we ourselves do not give? Holding dinners or selling Ukrainian food items provides a real service. We have given of our time to make the varenyky or whatever and the public gladly purchases the food provided through hard work. This form of activity is one, which is blessed. The public truly benefits and funds have been provided through our common efforts.

Going beyond this, the odd 50/50 raffle or raffle of some prizes at an annual picnic or affair is basically not reprehensible. Many of our churches have had a history of Bingo games. In some cases this has become a necessary dependence just to survive. In this case, instead of the congregation themselves providing the necessary funds or providing a service to obtain the funds, a form of gambling wrests monies from outsiders. Sad to say, a dependence on Bingo has led to people being solely dependent on non-parishioners and perhaps non-believers to support the Lord's sanctuary. There is something wrong here! Bingo is like an addiction (many players are similarly addicted) and parishes often have a difficult time of weaning themselves from such a crutch.

The idea of a "Las Vegas Night" runs at cross currents with proper stewardship by parishioners. Should the proceeds from the roulette wheel be what is used to buy a new chalice set? Should the house winnings at a poker table substitute for what should be given by individuals from the heart? Gambling in itself is problematical and the church should not be the one promoting or sponsoring such an event, no matter how praiseworthy the financial goals might be.

We want the Lord Jesus to bless our church, so let us freely give of ourselves in a stewardship that exemplifies our personal input. If we find that we depend totally on others to keep our church in existence, then we must get some instruction on proper Christian stewardship. If we lean on the crutch of bingo, then we should try to wean ourselves from it. "Las Vegas Nights" may be flashy and dreams of croupiers hauling in the cash may be tempting, but it is not the seemly thing for the Church to live off of or even to sponsor.

STS. PETER & PAUL JR. UOL NEWS Youngstown, Ohio

by Marc Senedak, Jr. Chapter Reporter

'05 Youngstown Junior UOL "Lock-In"

On February 20-21, 2005, the Sts. Peter and Paul UOC of Youngstown, Ohio hosted its 14th annual overnighter "Lock-In". We invited the clergy, chaperones, youth and young adults from parishes in Parma, Lakewood, Monesson, Pittsburgh, McKees Rocks, Sharon, Lyndora and Ambridge. Many of the participants donated non-perishable items for our regional "Lock-In" Food Drive. The evening started off with "make your own pizzas".

We were blessed to have Metropolitan Constantine's presence and to hear his wisdom of our faith. He spoke of his visit to Mt. Athos and a number of monasteries on a peninsula in the Aegean Sea in North Eastern Greece. The path that eventually led him to Mt. Athos started with meeting a Ukrainian Orthodox monk and a Catholic priest. His Beatitude was able to view the relics of St. John the Baptist and Panteleimon and said: "It was a profoundly spiritual experience I will never forget".

Metropolitan Constantine also talked about Lent and fasting. He said that "we should put aside all of the commotion in our daily lives and be more spiritual especially during the Lenten season. It is not what you give up during Lent, but what you do during Lent that matters".

Peter Jon Gillquist, a seminarian and musician, gave an excellent concert performance. His songs gave a good message: "God is there for you and God will help you at anytime". After the PJG concert, Mr. Gillquist spoke about demons and how they are always all around us. We were then ready for an evening prayer service with Father Baxter.



Participants in '05 Jr. UOL "Lock-In"

At 6:00 AM, we had a hearty breakfast after pulling an all-nighter. Finally, at 7:00 AM, it was time to say "so long" and depart for home. A big thank you to Sts. Peter and Paul parish and Youth Ministry of Youngstown, Ohio, the Junior UOL of St. Vladimir UOC of Parma, Ohio, the Ohio/Pennsylvania Deanery, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ewanish, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Senedak, and Dr. Joseph Malys for their kind donations toward the event. Mr. Walter Kishton of the SHIRT WIZZARD in Youngstown, Ohio donated 60 t-shirts for all of the participants of the '05-"Lock-In".

St. John's or bust!

The members of the Junior UOL of Sts. Peter and Paul parish were invited to worship and visit the members and youth of St. John parish in Sharon, Pa. After the beautiful Divine Liturgy conducted by Fr. Taras, a brunch was served. The parish members made us feel at home and were so welcoming. It was nice to finally meet the youth of St. John's parish and we hope they will come to Youngstown for a visit soon!



Youngstown and Sharon Jr. Members with Chapter Advisors

"Bring a Friend to Church Day"

Our Sts. Peter and Paul Junior UOL of Youngstown, Ohio participated in the national Junior UOL "Bring a Friend to Church Day". Our friends attended the Divine Liturgy along with us. Then, instead of Sunday School which is normally held in a classroom, the class was conducted by Fr. Baxter in the pews of our church. There was a question and answer period where our guests asked questions about the service and the Icons on the church walls. We had a delicious brunch and the Junior UOL members shared the afternoon with their guests by playing games and enjoying each others company.

Jr. U.O.L. Cultural Committee

Presents . . .

Your ideas from the 58th Annual U.O.L. Convention
in Parma!!

Every year at the Convention, the juniors in the Cultural Committee brainstorm amazing ideas that they would love to see implemented in their own local chapters and churches. Unfortunately, the Jr. U.O.L. cannot make every idea a national one, but we urge you to try to implement your wonderful ideas on a local/ regional level.

Here are some of the great ideas you came up with:

- ◆ Have a special time and date when your chapter can come together and make pysanky. Invite everyone in your church, and maybe even friends!
- ◆ Have a fellow parishioner teach the youth of your church how to make Ukrainian foods during a workshop.
- ◆ Put together a cookbook of recipes for Great Lent and sell it to fellow parishioners.
- ◆ Have a study session for the youth of your parish to learn more about their Ukrainian heritage (i.e., eat Ukrainian food, listen to Ukrainian music, and learn more about our customs and traditions).

Hopefully, many chapters will take advantage of these ideas, and come up with their own original ones.

It's extremely important to have a strong understanding about your cultural background, and to have tons fun while learning too!

Coming soon on a National Level

The Jr. U.O.L. Cultural Contest!!!

Check your mailboxes for a mailing towards the end of March.

Participation is encouraged by anyone who would like to display their appreciation for their Ukrainian heritage!



Jr. Chapter Members with Guests

Current and Planned Chapter Activities

The Junior UOL of Sts. Peter and Paul of Youngstown, Ohio once again volunteered to help bus tables and wash dishes for our church Malanka Dinner Dance. We arrived dressed in white shirts and dark pants looking very professional for the event. We worked excellently with the ladies of the kitchen. When the work was finished we changed into our dress clothes and joined the festivities. The band was awesome! They played the "Kolomyka" and we had fun dancing and mingling with the Malanka crowd.

Some additional activities we have been involved with are monthly meetings, bake sales, 50/50 raffles, ice skating just for fun, pirohy pinching, and fundraising. We were asked to help the Sisterhood of our church roll and pinch pirohy for the Sts. Peter and Paul sale.

Next, our fundraiser breakfast was held to help pay our way to the UOLASC Lenten Retreat in March. We served an egg dish, potatoes, sausage, fruit cocktail and Mrs. Betty Ewanish's famous buttered toast. We raised \$500. We are glad that there is a second retreat in our regional area as the travel distance for the UOL Annual Retreat in Pennsylvania is a problem for the youth of our area. In February, we made and sent Valentine cards to the shut-ins of our church.

Other chapter plans include: planning a huge bake sale to assist with travel expenses to the UOL Convention in July, inviting the Junior UOL members of St. Vladimir, Parma, Ohio, and St. Vladimir and Sts. Peter and Paul of Pittsburgh, PA. to view the Passion Play and also to attend and sing at the 2nd Annual Regional Youth Choir rehearsal to be held at our church in April.

We have two new members: Heather Pupa and Anna Wachuck.

The \$250 Carnegie Challenge

When we heard about the severe rain and flooding that hit the city of Pittsburgh due to Hurricane Ivan, we knew we had to do something to help our friends at Sts. Peter and Paul UOC of Carnegie, Pa. We held a \$250 Carnegie Challenge. We challenged all of the organizations of our parish to meet or beat our donation of \$250. By speaking of the disaster at many of the organizational monthly meetings we have collected \$1,200 for Carnegie's disaster relief. And we are not finished yet.

On a national level, we challenge all of the Junior UOL groups across America to "meet the challenge" by getting the organizations in your parish involved in the Jr. UOL Mission Project Donation to benefit the Sts. Peter and Paul UOC in Carnegie, Pa. Our brothers and sisters in need may do the same good deed for us should we need their help in the future.

CARNEGIE NEWS PARMA HOSTS FUND RAISING LUNCHEON “Hearts Out To Carnegie”

St. Vladimir's (Parma, OH) parishioners hosted a fund raising luncheon on February 13th to raise money to assist with our flood damages. They provided a large variety of delicious breakfast foods that included eggs benedict, cream cheese filled French toast, and lunch foods that included carved ham and beef, an omelet table with juniors as chefs, and a Belgian waffle table.



Peter Osad “the Chef” and Michael Nakonachny “the Carver”

Chef Peter Osad and his assistant, Michael Nakonachny did the carving, while St. Vladimir's UOL members and parishioners provided an atmosphere that was especially inspirational to the twenty-five members from Sts. Peter and Paul Parish who attended Divine Liturgy and the luncheon.



Sts. Peter and Paul Parishioners Say:

**“Thank You Parma . . .
for your Kindness and Generosity”!**

During Divine Liturgy, Bishop Moskal of the Ukrainian Catholic Church presented a donation of \$1,000 (\$500 – Eparchy of Parma and \$500 – St. Josaphat's Cathedral) and Christy Bohuslawsky presented a contribution of \$800.00 from St. Vladimir's Jr. UOL Chapter. The profits from the luncheon are to be donated to the Sts. Peter and Paul Flood Relief Fund.



Parma Juniors and Carnegie Juniors at the Luncheon

BISHOP JERIMIAH VISITS U.S.A. *Seeking Support for St. Nicholas Christian Orphanage*

The St. Nicholas Orphanage is to be built on a vacant lot which sits just outside of the Federal District of Brasilia, Brazil.

Not many services that Americans consider “normal” are in place. Such items as contained septic systems, drilled well for pure unpolluted drinking water, solar panels for minimal electric, play yard, class rooms, garden space, house hen for eggs, small Orthodox chapel and a residential building for the housing of abandoned and neglected children are desperately needed. ***The charitable and social needs of the most vulnerable citizens are overwhelming and taxed to the limit!*** Especially due to:

> The movement of population from the coastal areas to the interior for both cheap land and work which contributes to the fracturing of the immediate and extended family by such demographic shifts.

> The alienation that occurs in the addicted person (alcohol and drugs) and the toxic effects of their addictions upon the family unit.

> The personal and family disintegration that occurs with such practices as prostitution and other more devastating criminal activity.

All too often it is the innocent child, through no fault of his or her own, who eventually suffers due to another person's sin and misdeeds. St. Nicholas Orphanage will not solve all of the world's problems! However, we intend to make a difference in the lives of these abandoned and neglected children—*one diaper at a time.*

**Please join us as we serve the abandoned and neglected children
the Lord has asked us to help.**

St. Nicholas gave his life for the Lord Jesus Christ and for the portion of the People of God that he was given by the Holy Orthodox Church. This orphanage is blessed by His Grace Bishop JEREMIAH and is to become an ongoing ministry of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of South America – Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to the destitute, forgotten and abandoned children of central Brazil.

Your assistance is desperately needed to make this project a reality for the glory of Jesus Christ and His beloved orphaned children.

PLEASE HELP IN EVERY WAY YOU CAN . . .

Hieromonk Joshua, Holy Cross Orthodox Church, (U.O.C. of U.S.A.),
(910) 231-4659, frjoshua@orthodoxcarolina.org

PRAY WHERE YOU ARE *Archimandrite Lev, Holy Trinity Parish, Michigan City, IN*

***You can pray while walking, sitting, reclining,
among people, and in solitude.***

We can pray on our way to work, shopping, pattering in the garden or sitting on the front porch--God is wherever we are. In the Orthodox spiritual life, nothing is simpler than prayer. “Prayer consists not only in standing and bowing before God in body, and in reading written prayers” wrote St. Tichon of Zadonsk, “but even without that it is possible to pray in mind and spirit at all times and in everyplace.” This saintly instructor of Orthodoxy, a gifted teacher of piety, and hierarch, thus encouraged his readers, “You can do it while walking, sitting, reclining, among people and in solitude.” From his own experience he taught “raise up your mind and heart to God, and so beg for mercy and help from Him.” This successor of the apostles shares his discovery, “God is everywhere and in every place, and the doors to Him are ALWAYS open, and it is easy to approach Him, not as with man. And we can approach Him with faith and with our prayer everywhere and at all times, and in every need and circumstance. We can say to Him mentally at any time, *Lord have mercy, Lord help!*” (*Journey to Heaven*, p. 17)

All of us have struggled and yearned to be faithful in prayer. As the holy Elders have taught us, we are not to do prayer, but to be prayerful people. To always seek to be in communion with God. A simple monastic, Brother Lawrence, pointed out that prayer is essentially the “practicing of the presence of God”, a communing with God that offers endless options. It consists of a MINDFULNESS of God's activity in ourselves and in others. (*Practicing the Presence of God*)

The Blessed Staretz (Elder) Silouan (1866-1938) wrote the following concerning pure prayer and mental stillness: “The Lord is glorified in holy temples, while monks and anchorites (hermits) praise God in their hearts. The heart of an anchorite is a temple and his mind an altar, for the Lord loves to dwell in the heart and mind of man.” (*The Monk of Mt. Athos*, p.15)

This statement does not in any way preclude the laity from approaching this same level of purity in prayer. As members of the royal priesthood, all, regardless of their state in life, are called to be prayerful people. (1st Peter 2:9)

As the Psalmist says, “I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works, I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to your Name, O Most High.” (Psalm 9:1)

St. Paul saw the true behavior of Christians as, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, and continuing steadfastly in prayer.” (Romans 12:12) To the church at Philippi he said, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which passes understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6)

Yet, as we have learned through our struggling with prayer life, nothing can appear more difficult. Sometimes we have filled our prayer time with numerous devotions and prayer formulas. Despite the time and effort invested there may

(continued on page 7)

NEWS FROM WILMINGTON, DE SR. CHAPTER

by Jonathan & Sonya Patronik

The Senior UOL chapter, Wilmington, DE, kept busy the second half of 2004 with a variety of fundraising and fun activities.

At the end of June, a charter bus took over 40 people to New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art to see the exhibit of Byzantium. A lively group, including parishioners from Wilmington, Chester, and Philadelphia, spent the day touring the museum and venturing out into the surrounding city area. One of the trip highlights was a side trip to see the site of the 9/11 attacks, after which we stopped for dinner on Manhattan's southern side.

In August, our group banded together to hold an extremely successful chicken barbeque on the front lawn of the parish. Under canopies shading them from the sun, guests dined on lunch which included chicken freshly grilled from the barbeque pit, while a human-size yellow chicken strolling the street in front of the church drew many visitors and much attention to the event.



Wilmington's Yellow Chicken Advertising their Barbeque

Two sons of the parish serve in the US military, so in November we collected foods, toiletries, games, and other assorted items to assemble packages to send to these servicemen. With the help of parishioners' financial assistance, the packages were sent – one to Texas and the other to Iraq.

Also, in November, the chapter had a table at our St. Ann's Sisterhood Christmas bazaar to sell religious items such as books, icons, cards, and jewelry.

Finally, we ended the year with our second Christmas cookie sale. Delicious cookies of various types, shapes, and sizes, all homemade by chapter members and friends of the chapter, were packaged onto trays and sold after Liturgy the next day. One of our most popular activities, it was as if hoards of locusts descended into

our church hall because the trays all sold within minutes of the end of services. Hopefully, next year we'll be able to increase our supply to meet our demand.

We look forward to 2005 being another year of interesting and inspiring activities to serve our church.

PRAY WHERE YOU ARE

(continued from page 6)

not be the satisfaction of being truly faithful to the call of prayer. Our mistake was to believe that prayer was all about us rather than about God.

Deep prayer can happen right in the midst of a busy day!

There was a time when we found our prayers were centered in a certain place or setting, and that can still offer us great solace. But, through struggling, we also have learned that deep prayer can happen right in the midst of a busy day. It occurs at the office desk, at the kitchen sink, in the driver's seat of your car, or relaxing while watching a beautiful sunset. In an article written by Fr. Todeasa, it is revealed that by walking and praying at the same time there can be building up of both body and spirit. In other words, it happens that we discover that God IS with us in the here and now. Yes, so close and so intimate as to be easily overlooked.

There are no secret formulas for prayers.

The recitation of a particular prayer may bring us comfort at times when words fail us, but there are no secret formulas for prayers. We just must be persistent in doing it. In so doing it as a regular part of our life, we discover God is here right now. Suddenly we perceive God's presence as he speaks to us in the ordinary things of life. Of course, this is not always so easy to accept, and 'mindfulness of God' can be difficult in times of anger and confusion, severe hardship, suffering and illness.

Jesus, in His human nature, had much the same reaction. According to the Gospels of Sts. Matthew and Mark, Jesus cried out in pain and bewilderment in His passion, wondering aloud, had God abandoned Him? The truth was that God was with Him, and in truth, while experiencing agony and betrayal by men, He was, in fact, on the throne with the Father and the Spirit. Yet the moment was of PERCEIVED desolation.

Remind yourself often, "God is here." If you feel moved to, you may offer traditional prayers, but there are also times in a deep relationship when keeping silence, as we experience the 'presence', is enough. Being prayerful is accomplished by discovering the movement of God in our own lives, not necessarily by imitating the spiritual lives of others.

Don't plan to pray—but just do it now!

Don't plan to pray, but just do it now. Become spontaneous in calling on the Lord. Hearing a police, fire truck or ambulance siren, may prompt us to momentarily pray for someone in need. The Holy Spirit may even be prompting you to pray for someone undergoing a personal crisis, when you inexplicably think of someone. There are so many opportunities for you to make that connection with your Lord. Be mindful that God is with you at all times and in all places.

NOW is the time and this IS the right place.



The Ukrainian Pysanka Magical and Revered Object – Source of Life

by Elizabeth Mitchell, Staff Writer

In Ukraine, before a woman started to decorate pysanky (*Ukrainian Easter Eggs*), she would bless herself and whisper the prayer "with God's help." With her simple stylus called a "kistka", she wrote on the egg with melted wax dividing the egg into several parts. With a succession of dye baths and the addition of ancient symbols drawn with the wax, the egg took on its powerful magical qualities and became a revered object—a pysanka.

Even by itself, the adorned egg was a magical object. It was the source of life, a symbol of fertility. The pysanka was all the more when representing the sun-god floating in the universe, whose return each spring was a celebrated event. The people of ancient Ukraine worshipped the sun-god, *Dazboh*, literally "the god who gives and the spring (when the earth was reborn)" was the most important festival of the year.

With the advent of Christianity in Ukraine in 988, eggs continued to play a central role in the early celebration of Christ's resurrection. Many symbols of the old sun worship survived and appeared on the eggs in many variations; some as discs and the eight-pointed star symbolize the life-group sun. A rooster's crow announces the daily return of the sun and is represented with the solar symbols. Other birds are also associated with the sun. For example, the swallow is depicted by its outstanding feature, its tail.

The horse, representing the mystical team of eight which pulled the sun's chariot across the sky, is also important. Likewise, the endless line encircling the egg signifies eternity. Such designs were found on ceramic eggs, on the pottery unearthed in the burial mounds of the Neolithic Period (5000-2500 B.C.), and traces of egg shells were also found.

In Ukraine, two types of Easter eggs, *pysanky* and *krashanky*, were most widely known. The term *pysanka* (plural is *pysanky*) comes from the word *pysaty*—to write. Pysanky were never eaten. The *krashanka*, meaning color, is a hard cooked egg dyed a solid brilliant color which can be eaten. The shells can only be disposed by three holy elements: (1) by being buried, (2) burned by fire on Easter Monday, or (3) by being tossed into flowing waters.

Pysanky were made in all parts of Ukraine, but each region and often each village had its own style and colors. While symbols were similar, they were combined in countless different patterns. Rituals and prayers emphasized the importance of writing pysanky.

The ancient art of writing Easter Eggs survives even unto today. *Long live the Ukrainian Pysanka!*

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Condensed from: THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY, "The Ukrainian Pysanka: Truly A Magical Object", Yaroslava Surmach Mills

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



St. Vladimir's Advisors: Melissa Sheptak and Father John

58th Annual U.O.L. Convention

July 27-31, 2005
Northampton, PA
Hosted by the
Senior and Junior UOL Chapters of the
Assumption of the Virgin Mary
Ukrainian Orthodox Church



Registration



Hotel Accommodations

Seniors:	\$185	"Gateway Conference Center" Holiday Inn Rts. 512 & 22 Bethlehem, PA Toll free - 1-888-222-8512 Hotel rate: \$99 / night Make sure to book your reservation for: "Ukrainian Orthodox League"
Clergy:	\$185	
Juniors:	\$175	
Pre-teen (Ages 6-11)	\$ 80	
Deadline for registration: June 20, 2005		
Late registration fee - add \$25.00		

For more convention information contact:
Martha Misko & Linda Winters, Co-Chairs
e-mails: Martha.misko@rcn.com or lwint@fast.net
Phone: (610) 262-5292 or (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

St. Vladimir Sr. UOL,
Ambridge, PA

Occasion

With love, respect and appreciation for Joseph Kolarchik, a special member of our parish, UOL Chapter and past national UOL President. *May his memory be eternal!*

In Memory...
Past UOL Executive Board Members:
JOSEPH KOLARCHIK
JOHN LESKY
Memory Eternal...

May and June
Are the months during which
It would be wonderful to
Remember and honor thy . . .

- * Mother and father
- * Grandmother and Grandfather
- * Aunt and uncle
- * Godmother and godfather
- * Priest and Pani Matka
- * Sunday school teacher
- * Chapter or parish president
- * High school or college graduate
- * Newly engaged or married couple

A Tribute is a big warm smile in an envelope . . .
Ready to beam when opened by the receiver.
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Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of \$ _____
In Honor _____ Memory of _____
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7600 Thistle Ln., Novelty, OH 44072-9500

ALL SAINTS CAMP MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND RETREAT Friday, May 27 - Monday, May 30, 2005

*"For where there are two or three gathered
in my Name, there am I in the midst of them."
(Matthew 18:20)*

Don't know what to do for Memorial Day Weekend?
We have just the thing . . .
All Saints Camp Memorial Day Weekend Retreat!

**THIS WEEKEND IS GUARANTEED TO BE
SPIRITUALLY UPLIFTING, RELAXING,
AND TONS OF FUN!**

And . . . For only \$35.00

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