



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to the Church – Devoted to its Youth*

VOL. 52 NO. 4

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2007

## WE'RE GOING BACK TO JOHNSON CITY IN 2008!



*Alexis Oryhon and Pam Scannell*

St. John's UOL Chapters will host the 61st Annual UOL Convention in Johnson City/Binghamton, NY in 2008. Pam Scannell will serve as Convention Chairperson and Alexis Oryhon will serve as Convention Co-Chair. Johnson City hosted memorable conventions in 1958 and 1981 during a period when their chapter was a model chapter, then they were somewhat inactive for a number of years.

However, "JC" has reorganized with renewed vigor and enthusiasm, combining the exuberance of a new generation of UOL members with the wonderful experience of the matured generation.

**Plan for Johnson City in 2008... but go to Carnegie in 2007.**

### The Ukrainian Orthodox League Lenten Retreat March 18-20, 2007

**"Grant me to see my own sins and  
not to judge my brother"**  
-Prayer of Saint Ephraim



#### All Saints Camp Millennium Building

**Retreat Speakers:**

Metropolitan Constantine ~ Rev. John Haluszczak  
~ Rev. John Nakonachny

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Enjoy inspirational and thought provoking discussion, lodging,  
missionary work and all meals.  
\$90.00 - UOL Members  
\$100.00 - Non-UOL members  
\$60.00 Young Adult & Jr. UOL members who apply for a subsidy  
Day rate \$30.00 (Saturday only)

## OUR TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS GREETING...

*by Hieromonk Gregory Woolfenden, St. Mary's Parish, New Britain, CT*

### **Christ is Born! Give Him Glory!**

We are all familiar with those words as our traditional Christmas greeting and its reply, but how many of us realize that they are the first words of the Canon of Matins for Christmas? Not many, I fear, because few of us ever have the opportunity to attend Matins, and it is rare for the canon to be used otherwise. So why bother about it at all?

Some writers wax lyrical about the richness of the Liturgical services of the Orthodox Church, but much of that richness is to be found in the services of Vespers and Matins, which means that most Orthodox people in the USA can only nurture their spiritual lives on a very restricted diet. Some might say that the Liturgy is all we need, but taking advantage of the richer fare available in our liturgical books is not like over-indulgence in food and drink; you can't get fat on Orthodox worship, but you might get spiritually wealthier!

The canon of Matins was originally a series of nine Biblical canticles sung between dawn and sunrise. As the years passed, short responses to these canticles became longer and turned into *troparia*. The *troparia* were read between the verses, and each series began with a stanza called the *irmos*. The *irmos* is now the only verse that is sung rather than recited, and gives the theme of the feast, often linking it in some way with the theme of the canticle. The first *irmos* at Christmas reads:

*Christ is born, give ye glory. Christ comes from heaven, meet ye Him.  
Christ is on earth, be ye excited. O all the earth sing unto the lord, and  
Sing praises in gladness, O ye people, for He has been glorified" (i)*

The canticle that this verse accompanied was from Exodus 15, from Moses and the people at their delivery from Pharaoh's armies at the Red Sea. The words "For He has been glorified" are repeated in each *troparion* of the first canon and may remind a few people that these words are heard when the canticle is sung on Holy Saturday morning. All this means that Christmas and Easter are closely connected in God's plan for salvation, for "... now the wise Creator fashions him anew: for He has been glorified."

The Fifth Ode was the canticle of Isaiah 26:9; "My soul yearns for thee in the night." Again, the biblical text is reflected in the *irmos*:

*From the night of deeds or error, in our darkness we keep watch,  
'And sing to you, O Christ, as to our Benefactor:  
'Come to us and grant forgiveness, Make the pathway easy for us,  
'Whereby we may ascend, and so attain glory. (ii)*

The *irmos* is taken from the second canon which was composed in iambic verse, and in one of the *troparia* links this text with another one from Isaiah 9:6 that we associate with Christmas:

*The people that in darkness dwelt before  
Saw in broad day light from a beacon fire  
On high. The Son to God as heritage  
Brings nations; grace ineffable bestows  
Where sin once flourished more abundantly.*

In these hymns there is no danger of our getting lost in a sentimental picture of the birth of Christ. The poetry always holds before our eyes the world-shattering truth of the Incarnation.

A particularly good example of this interplay of Nativity and Resurrection themes is in the first canon of Ode 6. The Biblical canticle is the song of Jonah from within the sea monster, "I called to the Lord our of my distress..." The *Irmos* reads:

*The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a  
babe from the womb; while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin  
and taken flesh, came forth from her and yet kept her incorrupt . . .  
And the first troparion even more explicitly links this to the birth of Christ:  
Christ our God, whom the Father begat from the womb before  
the morning star, has come, made flesh . . .*

The ancient Christian tradition of seeing Jonah's three days in the sea monster as a foreshadowing of Christ's resurrection is here seen as also foretelling His birth. Once again Incarnation and Resurrection are both essential parts of God's desire to save His people through Jesus Christ.

One could go on giving examples of these wonderful and theologically rich texts, but there is no space. If some ask: How can we make these texts a reality in our parishes, one custom found here and there is to have the choir sing the *irmosy* during the priest's communion at the Liturgy. Let us not lose that theological richness that is the joy of the Orthodox liturgical tradition, especially at great feasts such as Christmas.

#### REFERENCES:

- (i) First Canon from *The Festal Menaion*, eds. Mother Mary and Archmandrite Kallistos (re-print South Canaan: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1998), pp. 269-284.  
(ii) The second canon is taken from the website of Fr. Ephrem (Iash), <http://web.lukonline.co.uk/ephrem/>, August 5, 2005

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The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

## A 59<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION HIGHLIGHT: *Hierarchs and Clergy Attend UOL Convention, Coatesville, PA*

A special highlight of the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual UOL Convention, was the presence and counsel of our hierarchs and clergy that included:

His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine  
His Eminence Archbishop Antony  
His Eminence Archbishop Vsevolod  
Fr. Anthony Ugolnik and Pani Matka Elaine; Coatesville, PA  
Fr. John Nakonachny and Pani Matka Mary Ann, Parma OH  
Fr. George Bazylevsky & Pani Matka, Whitestone, NY  
Fr. Stephen Repa, Carnegie, PA  
Fr. Myron Oryhon and Pani Matka Linda, Allentown, PA  
Fr. Jakiw Norton, Clifton, NJ  
Fr. Oleh Hucul and Pani Matka Lidia, Maplewood, NJ  
Hieromonk Daniel, South Bound Brook, NJ  
Fr. Zenoviy Zharskiy, Johnson City, NY  
Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha, Northampton, PA  
Fr. Frank Estocin, Philadelphia, PA  
Rev. Deacon Ihor Mahlay, Parma, OH  
Rev. Deacon Nikolay Shapoval, Lincoln, NE  
Sub-Deacon Richard Jendras, Clifton, NJ

*Thank you for joining us.*

### Ukrainian Orthodox League 2006 - 2007 Fiscal Year and Deadlines

<b>January</b>	15	Essay Contest - first mailing	
	27	National Executive Board Winter meeting, PARMA, OH	
	30	Annual Fund Drive mailing	
<b>February</b>	1	<i>UOL Bulletin</i> submission deadline Annual Fund Drive mailing (chapters & parishes) LSSK applications mailed (chapters)	
	<b>March</b>	1	<i>UOL Bulletin</i> submission deadline UOL Awards Applications mailing
		10	Essay Contest - second mailing
<b>April</b>	30	Chapter Election and Delegate forms mailed	
	1	Annual Fund Drive reminder/postcard mailing	
		30	DEADLINE: CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE: CHAPTER PROJECT DONATION DEADLINE: UOL AWARDS APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: ESSAY CONTEST ENTRIES Convention registration forms mailed
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<b>May</b>	1	<i>UOL Bulletin</i> submission deadline	
	31	End of fiscal year DEADLINE: LSSK applications	
		1	Start of new fiscal year
<b>JUNE</b>	1	DEADLINE: ANNUAL REPORTS—Nat'l. Exec. Bd and Jr. Exec. Bd.—Due to Corresponding Secretary	
	9	Nat'l. Executive Bd. Spring meeting, CARNEGIE, PA	
	15	DEADLINE: Delegate Forms due to Financial Secretary DEADLINE: CONVENTION REGISTRATION PAYMENT	
<b>JULY</b>	25-29	60 <sup>th</sup> ANNUAL UOL CONVENTION, CARNEGIE, PA	



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

***Christ is Born!  
Chrystos Razdayetsya!***

***God is with us! Understand all ye nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!***  
~Great Compline

One of my favorite times of the year occurs on Christmas Eve, Sviat Vechir. The pews are full, the lights are low and candlelight fills the church. Then the choir sings these words, "God is with us! Understand all ye nations, and submit yourselves, for God is with us!" In English or Ukrainian, these words are beautiful, they provide us comfort, encouragement and hope for the future. We are not alone, for God is with us! I pray that you and your family have a blessed Nativity season full of happiness in the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual U. O. L. Convention was emphatic that the organization commit to the fundraising for the iconography and appointments of the All Saints Camp Chapel. The project was kicked-off in October and committee members have been working tirelessly to raise funds for this worthwhile project. Every U. O. L. member and parish received information sent directly to their house concerning the sponsorship of icons. Many icons have already been sponsored but many are still available. Please consider sponsoring an icon as a family, chapter, parish organization or parish family. More information about sponsorship is available in the advertisement located in this edition of the Bulletin.

I must give a most sincere thank you to the chapters of Holy Ascension in Maplewood and Clifton, NJ for hosting the first and hopefully annual, U. O. L. Fall Retreat. This retreat, which focused on *Time Management in the 21st Century*, was spiritually enlightening and allowed for the participants to step away from their everyday lives. The event was a tremendous success and will hopefully continue for many years to come.

I pray that your Thanksgiving season was full of family and friends. With Thanksgiving well behind us and Christmas just around the corner the Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission is wrapping-up the Tithing Program. Many chapters and individuals have already made donations to this annual project, which will this year benefit the Eastern Orthodox Foundation of Indiana, PA. It is still not too late to make a contribution to this project. Anyone willing to contribute should send donations directly to U. O. L. financial secretary Oleh Bilynsky. Also, information is on the way to your chapter concerning the upcoming Souper Bowl Sunday project, which will raise funds to benefit St. Andrew Society's soup kitchens in Ukraine. During the past two years the project has raised more than \$6,000 for the less fortunate. Please plan on once again participating in this year's project and helping to ensure that it is a success.

Materials for the 2007 U. O. L. Essay Contest will be in the mail to chapters and parishes shortly. Please encourage all parishioners to participate in this annual event. This contest is not limited to U. O. L. members. For additional information please contact Education Commission Chairwoman Anne Bohan.

The National Executive Boards of the Senior and Junior U. O. L. have planned their board meetings for the remainder of the year. The winter board meeting will be held in Parma, Ohio January 26-28, 2007. The spring board meeting will be held in the hosting convention city of Carnegie, PA June 8-10. If you live in the vicinity of these cities and are able to attend either or both of these meetings, I strongly encourage you to do so. It is important that our membership remains active in the League not only on a local but a national level as well.

In a few short weeks you, your family and loved ones will gather together to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Feast days and other milestones in our lives are commonly celebrated with those that we care about. This year the Ukrainian Orthodox League will be celebrating a milestone...it's 60<sup>th</sup> year of existence. Plan on celebrating this event with family, loved ones and friends. I hope that you are making plans now to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention, which will be held July 26-29, 2007. The Junior and Senior Chapters of Saints Peter and Paul in Carnegie, PA are eager to host us as we celebrate this important anniversary of the League.

I remain...

Yours in Christ,  
Melanie A. Nakonachny

# NEWS FROM JOHNSON CITY JUNIORS

by William Ferrante



*Greetings from St. Johns, Johnson City, NY!*

This year is going to be exciting! Our officers are as follows :

- Patrick Scannell- President
- Lauren Hatala- Vice President
- Adam Hatala- Treasurer
- Molly Hatala- Secretary
- William Ferrante and Mikayla Klym- Reporters

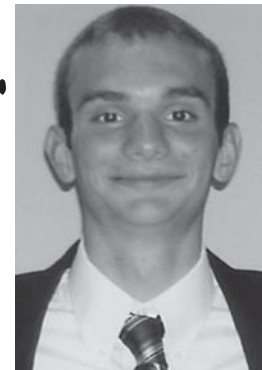
We enjoyed hosting the Jr. and Sr. UOL National Executive boards in October. This year we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of our church. As part of our church iconography project, our chapter is donating an icon of Saint Mark (the lion). To achieve this goal, we held a pancake breakfast and a car-wash. We raised approximately half of our goal, and we hope to continue our successful efforts! Members of our chapter volunteered at the local Buddy Walk for Downs Syndrome awareness. The Jr. UOL had a booth at the annual Sisterhood Holiday Bake Sale where we sold hot dogs, pizza and soda. In December, we are making the 8-pointed star that we will use when we go Christmas caroling.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2008 UOL Convention!

Yours in Christ,  
William Ferrante

# A MESSAGE FROM MARK...

Mark Meschisen, Jr. U.O.L. President



## Christ is Born!

I pray that your Thanksgiving was a joyous occasion spent with loved ones. Around this time of year, I find myself reflecting on all the blessings our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has bestowed upon me over the past year. As 2006 comes to a close, I am extremely thankful for a great multitude of things. I am thankful that our Lord has seen me through to my senior year in high school, because without him I would have never made it out of freshman year. I am thankful for the growing of my family, with my sister giving birth to a beautiful baby girl this past August. I am of course grateful for the opportunity to serve our Lord through the Junior U.O.L. so I may thank him for his blessings.

At the joint Junior and Senior Board meeting this past October the juniors decided to raise money to sponsor the Chapel at the All Saints Camp Ground. This will be the **Great Lent Giveaway** this year and the Junior U.O.L. will work in conjunction with the Office of Youth Ministry. Hopefully your chapter can participate in the fundraising if it has not already done so.

I encourage all juniors to participate in the **2007 U.O.L. Essay Contest**. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate your religious understanding to the Ukrainian Orthodox Community.

Also if you know of a potential chapter or potential members-at-large, please encourage them to contact the National Board. Or if they are shy and need some help please contact the National Board with a means of getting in touch with the person or chapter so we can introduce them to the Junior U.O.L. The U.O.L. is the sum of all its parts and the parts are the chapters of Orthodox faithful who make it work. Help that sum grow, by assisting the National Board in our quest to improve membership of the Junior U.O.L.

I hope to see some of you at the two retreats this coming March, so be sure to look farther into those wonderful events. Contact Senior Financial Secretary Oleh Bilynsky, Junior Recording Secretary Emily Kominko or Junior Corresponding Secretary Natasha Walewski for more information about the retreats.

I pray for a blessed Nativity for you and yours, and I humbly remain,

Yours in Christ,  
Mark Meschisen

# CARNEGIE JR U.O.L. CHAPTER NEWS

## "The Site of the 60th UOL Convention — 2007"

by Danielle Walewski, Reporter

The month of October was a busy month for our chapters, especially our juniors. We started off with our Jr. UOL Pancake Breakfast on the 15th. We had pancakes, sausage, eggs and ham. Everyone loved it! And, we helped our advisors do the cooking, and we did the dish washing and clean-up.

All of the kids are enjoying Church School this year; we even had an exciting field trip. We traveled to a monastery in Saxonburg, PA, which is not too far from Carnegie, on November 11th. We left our church at noon, ate lunch around 2:00, and at 3:00 we attended a presentation, then attended the service of Great Vespers at 6:00 and then left for home shortly after that.

The weekend of October 28th was a busy one for our entire parish. We started with the ordination into the priesthood of Fr. Deacon Paisius on Saturday. Fr. Paisius had been serving at the Eastern Orthodox Foundation in Indiana, PA. There were eighteen priests, and of course Metropolitan Constantine, present at this special occasion. Our Jr. UOL Chapter sends congratulations to Fr. Paisius!

After the ordination, we all headed down to our parish hall for lunch. Right after lunch, our Jr. Chapter held its annual Masquerade Party. Everyone was dressed up in their costumes. We had food, games, and tons of fun. We thank all who attended the party.

The next day, after church, we all stayed for a Spaghetti Dinner that was held to raise money for the Saxonburg Monastery. The church school students traveled to the monastery to present the money that was made at the dinner.



*Victoria, Anna, Mikaela, and Kristy inspect nut rolls baked for the 2006 Cookie Walk by member of St. Matrona Society*

Then, in November we helped with the Thanksgiving Dinner and helped with the baking for the St. Matrona Society Cookie Walk that was held on Saturday, December 9th. And Chris, Anastasia, and Natasha are working with the 60th Convention Committee making plans for our convention.

Overall, October and November were great months in Carnegie!

## "FROM THE CHILDREN OF PALOS PARK – TO THE CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD"

by Fr. Taras Naumenko, Sts. Peter & Paul Church



Building a "Bridge of Love" to nations around the world is an important venture of our lives. Teaching that to our children will perhaps make the future a little more kind. That is why Church School and Jr. UOL chapter of Palos Park dedicated the month of September to the **OCMC School Kit Drive**.

Many supplies were donated by the youth of Sts. Peter & Paul. Under direction of Church School director, Janet Milton, and with the help of other church school teachers, supplies were stored in canvas bags to be distributed to the children that are poor, needy and victims of tragedies and natural disasters around the world.

This is one of many OCMC projects that Sts. Peter & Paul has supported throughout the years.



### *Autumn Events in Palos Park*

On Sunday, October 8th, following Divine Liturgy and a delicious lunch prepared by two of our teachers, our Church School children, parents and chaperones headed to Bengston's Pumpkin Farm for a delightful afternoon of fall fun. The children enjoyed the fun barn, the animals, the corn maze, the hayride to the pumpkin field and the pig races. It was a perfect autumn day with 38 children and adults joining in the fun.

### *"Issues Facing Orthodox Christian Families in Today's World"*

While children were at the outing, Sr. UOL chapter sponsored an open discussion on "Issues facing Orthodox Christian Families in Today's World". The wine and hors d'oeuvres reception held at the Memorial Church Hall was attended by 30 parents and grandparents with a pleasant surprise visit from His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine.

All shared their concerns, views, experience and suggestions on subjects like: "My Space" and other internet safety, school activities, etc. It's great to know that we as a parish family can all relate, learn from one another and get support from each other and the Church on daily issues facing our families.

## NEWS FROM CARNEGIE SR. U.O.L.

*Preparing for the 60th Convention,  
Cookie Walk, and MORE!*



*Baking for the St. Matrona Society Cookie Walk*

### *St. Matrona Society Cookie Walk*

Senior and Junior UOL members helped the St. Matrona Society prepare for its Annual Cookie Walk on December 9th. Baking has been an ongoing process since September. Alexis Sawchuk, President of the Society and Stephanie Swindle, Cookie Walk Chairperson (aka "the cookie nut"), were the chief architects for this major undertaking. Irene Garbera shared her special nut roll recipe and gave instructions. It is projected that 3,000 dozen of cookies will be ready for the 9th and then be sold at \$ 8.00 per pound. All proceeds are eventually donated to Sts. Peter and Paul Church projects.

### *Preparing for the 60th Annual UOL Convention*

In addition to preparing for the convention, chapter members continue to provide leadership and helping hands for UOL and church activities: Weekly Senior Coffee Hour; St. Matrona Society; Church Board; Kitchen Pierogie Workers; Church Choir, Church School Teachers, Kiev Dance Ensemble; Sunday Church Bulletin, Sunday Convention 50:50 raffle; Flood Restoration; Salvation Army Bag Lunches for the homeless and needy of Pittsburgh; Scholarships to college students; and all aspects of our faith community.

### *Sneak Preview of the 60th UOL Convention Program...*

All convention committees are diligently preparing for a very enjoyable and productive convention:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Wednesday: | Carnegie's Hospitality Night   |
| Thursday:  | Executive Breakfast Buffet<br>"A Little Ukraine" - Buffet dinner & entertainment |
| Friday:    | Dinner-Cruise on the Monongahela River<br>Johnson City's Hospitality Night       |
| Saturday:  | Juniors Play Day Afternoon<br>Banquet & Ball ( <i>Na Zdorov'ya</i> Band)         |
| Sunday:    | Farewell Luncheon  |

And don't forget; free parking at the Embassy Suites Hotel, free transportation from the airport, and daily social hour (free).

**Make your plans NOW!**

It was truly an educational and enjoyable experience in a relaxed atmosphere. We thank everyone involved in making this such a successful event.



## "HOMECOMING PICNIC"

*Sts. Peter & Paul of Youngstown, Ohio*

*by Diane Senedak*



This fall, our parish celebrated its 1st "Homecoming Picnic". Flyers were mailed to the parish body and there were 120 members in attendance! The Sts. Peter & Paul Social Committee organized and bought items for the event and adorned the church pavilion with brightly colored decorations. Our church provided the meat and drink and each member brought a "pot luck" food item. We had a huge assortment of delectable foods to share. The pungent smell of smoked meat filled the air with a delicious aroma from the near-by smoker cooker outdoors!

Excitement and anticipation arose as we collected for four raffles: a 50/50 raffle, 8 fall mum plant raffles, a lottery wreath raffle, and a Ukrainian collectable raffle. There were 12 awesome prizes in all!

Many thanks to our parish and all of our parish members who participated, the Sts. Peter & Paul Social Committee, and the men's "Meat Smoker Society" who started cooking the meat at 5:00 AM that morning! It was a wonderful day to share, giving all of us a warm and fuzzy feeling for all of the wonderful blessings God has given us!

### 16th Annual Y-Town Jr. UOL "LOCK-IN"

President's Day Weekend  
Sunday, February 18th and  
Monday, February 19th

*Junior U.O.L. Members Ages 13 and Up!*

Details and information:

Diane Senedak  
(330) 792-6699  
Dkssenny@aol.com

**The Ukrainian Orthodox League**  
Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission

*Help Make a Difference*

**"Souper Bowl" Collection**

*Make a donation to help St. Andrew's Society  
Soup Kitchens in Ukraine*



Forward donations to: U.O.L. Financial Secretary  
Oleh Bilynsky, 703 Pine Ridge Road, Wallingford, PA 19086

**Questions?**

Please contact Christian Caregiving and Missions  
Chairwomen:

Melanie Nakonachny, [MelanieNak@aol.com](mailto:MelanieNak@aol.com) or  
Emily Kominko [cutelilcheesebal@aol.com](mailto:cutelilcheesebal@aol.com)

## A MISSION TRIP TO A UKRAINE ORPHANAGE

*by Marc Senedak, Youngstown, OH*

It was August 3rd, and finally the trip was to begin. On a clear and sunny day, the "Ohio" Mission Team consisting of my two brothers Jason and Eric, my good friend Michael Nakonachny and myself left for the long drive to South Bound Brook, NJ. I was excited to travel to the Ukrainian motherland with my brothers and friends. As we approached the Consistory, I wasn't sure what to expect of the trip. Unlike my brothers, I had never endured a long overseas flight and also never had an overwhelming experience working with special needs children. Once at South Bound Brook, the entire Mission Team reviewed the demanding schedule with the directors and talked about the trip awaiting us.

When we arrived at the airport, it was crazy. I had never seen so many people run to catch their flight! Nine hours later, we landed in Kyiv, Ukraine. At first look, it reminded me of America. But, as we drove further and further away, approaching the orphanage, it looked less and less like my American homeland.

Then, we arrived at the orphanage. It looked like an old farm. After touring the building, I started to feel more and more thankful for what I had at home. The material items I had collected over the years seemed trivial. I am most thankful for a loving family, a home and my Holy Orthodox Faith that will never let me down. The team members and I tried to help ease the orphans suffering, to forget their problems, if but for a short while. We played with them when ever we had free time. We passed out toys and treats. The children loved them, they cherished those toys! You could tell by the look in their eyes that they loved us being there. And we were glad to aid and comfort them, sharing the love of Christ. Although I cannot speak Ukrainian, I found other ways to communicate with the children. Playing games, singing songs and just holding them made the children content. I felt that I was really doing something special in answering some of their needs. They enjoyed the attention that they so crave. We helped feed the children, repaired the building, and provided religious services daily for the children and workers. We painted two rooms to brighten up the spaces. One room was painted in a circus theme for bedridden children and the other was painted in a garden theme for the older girls of the orphanage.

The director and a very limited staff are trying to do the best they can to help these orphans. We plan our lives a week ahead, a month ahead, a year ahead. These children live day to day. This is why we must continue not only with our prayers but with our monetary support and other donations that the children so desperately deserve. Through you we are making a difference! I am extremely proud and grateful of my mission group members for encouraging and helping me through the tough times during our stay. And for this I thank Jason S., Eric S., Laryssa T, Mike N., Joe L, Nurse Lisa, Fr. Taras C. and PM Maryanne. I love you guys!



Thank you to Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Youngstown, Ohio for allowing us to undergo this life changing experience through our fundraising and your monetary contributions. The life lessons that I have learned from this mission trip are that we as Orthodox Christians are put on this earth to spread the faith and help the needy. Which, in a small way I feel we have. To be able to touch a child's life makes you feel so good that you want to keep giving more of yourself. I hope I will be able to attend the 2007 Mission Trip to Ukraine so I can once again return to see the children and make them smile.

In Christ, Marc Senedak

## NEWS FROM JOHNSON CITY, NY

by Melodye Onysko, Sr. U.O.L. Reporter



*Jr. and Sr. UOL Members/Walk Participants*

The Sr. UOL and the Jr. UOL have been very busy this year supporting our Honorary Sr. UOL member **Sgt. Michael Onysko** and the Marines in his platoon by buying cooling bandanas, batteries, and socks for the Marines to patrol the streets of Fallujah, Iraq.

In August, we had a flood relief luncheon to raise money for our own flood victims in our parish who needed help in replacing items lost, or repairing damage to their homes. In July, we sent our invites to our shut-ins to offer rides to our Patron Saint Day Celebration, which was attended by Archbishop Antony.

Pictured above are some of the seniors and juniors who participated in the BUDDY WALK in October for DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY. On October 6-8, we were very excited to host the national executive board of our UOL. The UOL participants had a weekend filled with productive meetings, good food, and much fun.

### “God Bless Michael”



*Robert Onysko, Sr., Sgt. Michael Onysko, and Melodye Onysko*

St. John's Parish welcomed home Sgt. Michael Onysko USMC from Iraq. Michael completed his second tour of duty in Fallujah, Iraq during the past seven months. He was welcomed home on October 2006 with a blessing from Fr. Zinovi with special prayers to thank God for protecting Michael while he was at war. The commemoration of his Guardian Angel icon was also offered at that time.

Michael and his family are very grateful to all of the hierarchs, priests, and parishes in our Holy Orthodox Church who prayed for Michael, and who will continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ while they are at war.

*May God speed peace to all nations.*

## ALL SAINTS CHAPEL FUND DRIVE

### UOL Fund to Furnish Chapel

**General Fund...** By now, you may have seen the list of individual icons and appointments included in the design of the chapel's interior, and several have already been sponsored. However, please don't allow this list to over-shadow the great need for donations to the fund in general, especially in these early months of our fund raising campaign.

**Every donation** is greatly appreciated, and will be acknowledged in the same spirit it is given... to the glory of God and His Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church!

**Hey 2006 Campers!** Have you been collecting your Chapel Change? If you have been, then your jars must be pretty full! With the holidays coming, it can be quite a temptation to “dip in” for Christmas shopping. Here's how to avoid that problem:

1. Convert your change to a check or money order payable to “Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA.
2. Mark the memo “Chapel Change” and your encampment (TC, DCSC, etc.).
3. Mail it to: **Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny, 3201 Marioncliffe Dr., Parma, OH 44134 Phone: 440.885.1509 Email: Nackos3201@aol.com**
4. Start filling your jar again, and remember to ask your family to help!

### WE'LL KEEP TRACK OF THE DONATIONS FROM EACH ENCAMPMENT

#### PLEDGE CARD INFORMATION

For a complete list of icons and items, or general information on the UOL Chapel Interior Fund Drive contact:

**Diane Senedak, 330-792-6699, dkssenny@aol.com**

**P.M. Mary Anne Nakonachny, 440.885.1509, Nackos3201@aol.com**

**Irene Carman, 315.785.9089, iccrph@twcny.rr.com**



*(Artists rendering of completed chapel)*

“Dedicated to our Church ..  .. Devoted to its Youth”

#### PLEDGE CARD

*U.O.L. Fund—All Saints Camp Chapel*

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as payment toward my/our total

Pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please identify icon/item/general fund)

Additional payment(s) of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ will be made  
\_\_\_\_\_ monthly, \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ in total.

I/we understand that the entire pledge is to be satisfied by  
March 30, 2008.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed pledge card, with check payable to:

**Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA, Pani Matka Mary Anne**

**Nakonachny, 3201 Maioncliffe Dr., Parma, OH 44134**

**Phone: 440.885.1509, Email: Nackos3201@aol.com**

## UOL SPONSORS SUCCESSFUL FALL RETREAT

by Daria Pishko Komichak

A beautiful Victorian Library surrounded by windows overlooking meticulously manicured lawns filled with trees ablaze with the color of fall foliage was the setting of the UOL's Fall Retreat --"Time Management in the 21st Century: Managing our day with prayer." Thirty participants gathered on the campus of the St. Francis Residential Community to take pause in their secular lives to focus on strengthening an important aspect of our spiritual lives; prayer.

The retreat was hosted by the Holy Ascension Chapters of Clifton and Maplewood, NJ and included participation in the Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hours services, motivating speakers, ice breaker games and even a "Chapter Challenge" for all members. Protopresbyter Taras Chubenko opened the conference with a motivating address entitled "The Cost of Prayer". After a rousing round of "ice breakers" to enable the participants to get to know one another, Very Rev. Jakiw Norton offered his thoughts entitled "Prayer—Worship". The afternoon program culminated in a panel discussion entitled "Pray without ceasing—Is it possible?". Very Rev. Oleh Hucul, served as the panel moderator and guided the panel members, Fr. Chubenko and Fr. Norton through a maze of questions provided by the participants culminating in a stimulating and thought provoking afternoon.

Thanks to the efforts of Clifton Chapter President Rich Jendras, each participant headed home with their own copies of the Services of the Hours and the daily and weekly Tropars and Kondaks to be used in their daily and weekly prayer cycle.

The retreat was sponsored by the National UOL and received support from the Pysh Fund to benefit the Young Adults and Junior participants, and the Kulyk Education Fund which subsidized the cost of the program materials and content. The participants expressed their unanimous support for future retreats and were most appreciative to the UOL and its effort to increase programming in this area.

## NEWS FROM THE PARMA JUNIORS!

by Oksana Mahlay

St. Vladimir's Junior U.O.L. Chapter in Parma, Ohio has been working hard and at the same time have fun! Last May, the Juniors elected the officers for the 2006-2007 year, and they are: Oksana Mahlay--President, Emily Kominko--Vice President, Melanie Hlahol--Recording Secretary and Historian, Lesia Mahlay--Treasurer and Sunshine, and Michelle Naab--Corresponding Secretary. Our advisors are Mrs. Kominko and Mrs. Samijlenko.

Our entire chapter has worked really hard so far; we had a very successful Pumpkin Party in October where we bobbed for apples, painted pumpkins, had a pumpkin themed craft and cracked open a piñata! Now the Juniors are busy preparing for the upcoming Christmas Craft Fair. Our table is always filled with delicious baked goods, including peppermint bark, homemade chocolates, Upside-down Pineapple Cake, and hot chocolate mix.

We also have fun activities planned for the winter season— so join us if you can. We are going to Cleveland Metroparks for "December Days at the Zoo" on Saturday, December 30th and our second annual "Family Night" sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry at our parish is on December 27th.

We are hoping to finish off 2006 with a BANG! and go into the new year stronger than ever!

## LIBBY'S CULTURE CORNER...

by Elizabeth Mitchell, Staff Writer

### CAROLS: Oldest Group of Ukrainian Folk Songs



During the Nativity Eve services, the sounds of Christmas resound with the singing of BOH PREDVICHNI ("God Eternal"). In some churches, carols are sung following services and then enjoyed outdoors. The faithful join in the singing while snowflakes lighten the night creating a beautiful Ukrainian moment.

Carols have their origin in antiquity as do many other Christmas traditions. There are two groups of Ukrainian carols: **KOLIADKY** sung during Christmas; and **SCHEDRIVKY** sung during the Feast of Epiphany. The very popular "Carol of the Bells" in its originality is a **SCHEDRIVKA** and tells of a swallow that has come to the home of the landowner and asks him to come out to see how rich he is, how many cattle he has, and so forth.

The themes of Ukrainian Christmas songs vary. Some deal with the birth of Christ, while others contain purely mythical pagans, and mythological elements, while still another group deals with Ninth and Twelfth Century Ukrainian history. One of the largest groups of carols are songs glorifying the landowner, the farmer, his wife, and every member of his family.

Whether you sing carols in Ukrainian or English, raise your voice in song glorifying God from His birth to His baptism at Theophany

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

REFERENCES: The Ukrainian Museum; <http://www.Brama.com/art/Christmas.html>

## RELIGION: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by Fr. John W. Harvey, St. Michael's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

### Who Qualifies for a Church Council Position?

**Q:** At coffee hour recently, a number of us got into a lively discussion about *who could seek office on the parish council*. Some said any parish member was acceptable, but others said that lack of sacramental participation was but one of a number of things which could be an impediment to serving in the parish leadership. Does the church delineate some standards in this regard?

**A Parish Officer Must be Self-Controlled  
and Must Have a Firm Grasp of the Faith!**

**A:** An officer of a parish is a representative of not only the individual parish but is a face of Orthodoxy to the outside world. It is not unreasonable that the church does have sacramental participation as a basic standard for those who would seek to lead. How can one lead IF one does not show by their very actions that they actually believe? The church is not just a business, which even a practical non-believer can direct, for it is a holy thing. Yes, the church does business in the world, but its character is as a sanctuary where we experience salvation and through which we meet God. Would the president of a company be believable if he does not stand by and use the products he is asking others to purchase and use?

Our present parish councils arise out of the elders, who are mentioned in the New Testament and it is here that we have the paradigm for acceptable parochial leaders. St. Paul in his epistle to Titus 1:5-9 *delineates in no uncertain terms just who is and who isn't acceptable to hold office, which is a holy thing*. St. Paul stresses that to be in such a position, one is God's representative and so a long list of acceptable and unacceptable traits are listed. No only one must be married but once, but (again to be a believable representative) even his children must be believers. Being arrogant, a heavy drinker or hot tempered leaves one out of the running. Besides being a self-controlled individual, the candidate must also know and have a firm grasp of the faith and be capable of expounding and defending it. Just because one has a gift or desire to administer, one is not automatically a viable candidate.

Holding office in the Elks Lodge, the Rotary or some sports association may give good experience, but these are purely worldly affairs and being a leader in God's church, His household, requires spiritual standards. It also goes without question that a candidate for parish office supports the hierarchs, his pastor and the church and diocesan canons and by-laws. The quote from St. Paul is most telling as it sets the bar for service as an elder (officer) right to Apostolic times.

# REJOICE IN THE LORD!

Annual JUNIOR- SENIOR  
U.O.L. RETREAT  
March 9-11, 2007

Retreat will focus on the Major Feast Days of  
the Orthodox Church

Speakers include:

His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine  
His Eminence Archbishop Antony

St. Francis Retreat House  
Bethlehem, PA

Weekend rate includes retreat, lodging and meals –  
\$90 for UOL Members and \$100 for non-UOL members (\$60  
for Young Adult and Junior UOL members who apply for a  
subsidy). Late registration additional \$15  
Day rate (Saturday only) - \$30 (late rate registration  
additional \$10)

For more information contact: Oleh or Natalie Bilynsky at  
[nsufler@aol.com](mailto:nsufler@aol.com) call – 610-892-7315



*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

Helen & Geof Greenleaf

Walter & Nina Samijlenko

Helen & Geof Greenleaf

### Occasion

In Blessed Memory of Sam Bury on the  
one-year anniversary of his falling asleep  
in the Lord, December 6, 2005.  
**Memory Eternal!**

In Memory of David Warbel.  
**Memory Eternal!**

In Blessed Memory of Debbie Burgan.  
With deep and heartfelt sympathy to  
Jerry, her children and extended family.  
**Memory Eternal!**

### *... in Memory*

**DEBRA BURGAN**

(December 2, 2006)

Holy Ascension Church  
Clifton, NJ

Debbie was active in her UOL Chapter; Co-Director of the UOC Of-  
fice of Family and Adult Ministry; Coordinator of the UOL All Saints  
Chapel Fund Drive; Co-Founder of All Saints Camp Family Fest;  
Co-Director of "Mommy and Me, Daddy and Me"; and Counselor for  
many years at the Teenage Conference and Diocese Church Camp.

"Dedicated to our Church ... **60th U.O.L. Convention - July 25-29, 2007** ... Devoted to its Youth"



St. Peter & St. Paul Sr. & Jr. U.O.L. Chapters, Carnegie, PA  
"COME FOLLOW ME"

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 5.19)

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Steve Sivulich, Chairman 412-276-1130 Fr. Steve Repa, Spiritual Advisor 412-400-9782

[ssivulich1@juno.com](mailto:ssivulich1@juno.com)



### "50th Anniversary of TC"

Do You Know Who They Are? Where Are They?



If you can identify anyone from TC at  
Camp Kon-O-Kwee send info to: [ssivulich1@juno.com](mailto:ssivulich1@juno.com)  
"Let's invite them back to the 50th Celebration"

### U.O.L. ARCHIVES WANTED!

"National UOL Historical Materials Needed"  
Historical records, material from past National  
UOL Officers & committees, convention yearbooks, etc.  
Forward to: UOL Archives (Attn: Denise Spoganetz)  
P.O. Box 495, S. Bound Brook, NJ 08880

Sts. Peter & Paul  
Ukrainian Orthodox G.C. Church  
c/o Dr. Stephen Sivulich  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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