

#### VOL. 60 NO. 4

#### **JANUARY 2014**

#### Young Adults Memorial Day Weekend 2013 Submitted by Kira Senedak

The weekend had near record participation with twenty young adults attending all or part of the weekend. The theme for the weekend coincided with the



theme of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Sobor and UOC of USA camping programs, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

The weekend began on Friday evening and participants gathered in the All Saints Camp Dining Hall. Chilly weather was fended off with a cozy fire as they ate dinner. Following dinner, participants relaxed playing board games and chatting by the fire as they got to know each other.

On Saturday, participants worked on various service projects around the camp, as they do each year. After lunch and a relaxing afternoon, the group listened to a presentation from Subdeacon Paul Abernathy, Director of FOCUS Pittsburgh. He discussed the theme, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" and its relationship to the work FOCUS Pittsburgh does in the Western Pennsylvania Community. The organization provides for the basic needs of residents of some of the most economically depressed areas of the city. They also provide assistance to those who are looking for job training, resume building, and other work related skills. Mr. Abernathy stressed the need to get to know your brothers before being able to truly help them. He also highlighted those young adults and professionals in the community that have taken extraordinary measures to help FOCUS in their work.

The evening speaker, Fr. Dn. John Charest discussed the biblical origination of our theme. He explained that the answer to the question "Am I my brother's keeper" is a fairly obvious yes, but cautioned that it can be easy to feel confident that we have done enough to help our brothers, despite the fact that there are many people who need our help and we have much to give. He challenged the group to not settle for "good enough" when it comes to reaching out to and helping our brothers. The third speaker for the weekend was Fr. Dn. Dennis Lapushansky who also discussed the theme "Am I my brother's keeper" and other biblical ideas about helping others. He opened a dialogue amongst the group about the theme that also led to questions and answers from our participants who were new to Orthodoxy.

### Reflections of the UOL Delegate to the 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Sobor of the UOC of the USA Submitted by Martha X. Misko

It has been two months and more since the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. As I was asked by our Editor to submit an article to this Bulletin on my experience at the Sobor, I answered, "If I remember!" But upon thinking back to October, it came to me that what I mostly took away from the Sobor was the meaning of the Sobor's theme – "Am I my brother's keeper?" and its relationship to the work of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, during his opening remarks to the Sobor participants, defined this theme as measuring "our degree of responsibility" for others besides ourselves. And indeed, upon hearing the various reports of the Church's Offices of Ministry and her central organizations, including that of the UOL, it was evident that each Office and organization does sincerely attempt to work toward this responsibility.

This task is not without its obstacles, however. As was reported by the Consistory Treasurer, finances are always an issue. The various ministries of the Church and the upkeep of the Metropolia Complex are extensive and endlessly in need of funds to operate. And, to be truly "our brother's keeper," our Hierarchs encouraged us to reach out to others to join us in our Faith and spirituality as Orthodox Christians. Although this is not always an easy task, reaching out to those beyond our parish borders may ultimately increase our membership to strengthen our Church and her ministry. We were also reminded that the task of keeping our youth within the Church, and most importantly within our Faith, is another dimension of the responsibility of all of us.

As I was listening to the sessions of the Sobor, I took note that in its own way the UOL, with its motto "Dedicated to our Church, Devoted to its Youth," has taken up the task of being a Keeper. Throughout the Sobor, the UOL had a visible and dynamic presence: the UOL Report to the Sobor; the remarks of the Senior and Junior UOL Presidents to the Sobor body; donating \$2,000 to the fund to benefit the Pokrova Parish of Philadelphia after the devastating fire; a showing of the newly created UOL promotional video; presentation of Epitrakhyl to the newly ordained Reverends Matlak, Dovgan, and Pasakas; and an invitation to all to join us at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual UOL Convention in South Bound Brook.

It was evident that our work is always done with the goal of supporting our Church, but it is also evident that we will need to create new and better avenues for strengthening our UOL, our Church, and the communities around us. We, as members of the UOL, have the responsibility of continually asking ourselves "Am I my brother's keeper?"

#### Have you been wanting to honor or thank someone special?

(contineud on page 5)

The Tribute Fund is the ideal way to honor someone or commemorate a special event! It is very easy to submit a Tribute. Don't put it off -- send your Tribute today!!

More information about how to submit a Tribute on the back page!



# You are cordially invited to...

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual V.O.L. Convention South Bound Brook, New Jersey July 23-27, 2014 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Matthew 5:6



<b>UOL BULLETIN</b> - The official publication of the of America. Circulated to all UOL Members.		Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States Non-members subscription rate \$30.00 Canada \$40.00	
Michael J. Komichak UOL President 64 Coleman Ave Chatham, NJ 07928 mjk@uolnj.org	<i>Kateryna Kocelko</i> Jr. UOL President 1042 Hastie Rd Pittsburgh, PA 15234	<i>Natalie Bilynsky</i> UOL Bulletin Editor 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063 nsufler@aol.com	Father John Harvey UOL Bulletin Spiritual Advisor
JOL Bulletin - Published seven times annually - September, October, November, January/February, March, April and June. Fhe absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 1st of the prior month. Photos will not be			

returned. Note to Contributers: 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. (Submit to: nsufler@aol.com). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consents for photos to be included in the UOL Bulletin.

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

## **\*\*\***

#### ASK FR. HARVEY Questions answered by Fr. John W. Harvey

We are looking forward to the birth of our new niece and expect that the baptism will take place in the coldest part of the winter. As we have a large commodious home we are proposing that the baptism take place here. A nice blazing fire in the fireplace and the perfect place to hold a reception for just our small family circle. Our parish church is a bit chilly and drafty even with the heat, so we would rather not go there. Our home seems to be the perfect venue, but would there be any objections from the parish?

In an emergency, the baptism can take place anywhere and although I know of instances when the sacrament has been administered in a home setting, it is a practice that is to be totally discouraged. I understand your reasoning and it sounds like it would be quite a cozy situation, but listen to what the age-old wisdom of the church is on this subject.

The Baptism/Chrismation and Communion of the child is not just a private family ceremony, but rather is the integration of the baptized into the saved church family of the family of the parish. Not only is the sacrament open to be attended by those prayerfully gathered of that family, but all the instances in the service are geared to expression in a church building. Exorcism prayers at the entrance, then a procession in the church proper, the candles, the anointing, the blessing of the font and the baptism itself all bespeak of a movement in the sacred space, which finds meaningful expression only in a church setting. In the church venue, you are surrounded by icons, a real feeling of the presence of God and His heavenly host in a consecrated place. Again it is a place where the wider church family meets both on happy occasions, such as a baptism, but also for funerals and memorial services. What is stressed is the unity of the whole community present in prayer rather than something which is exclusively private. Yes, Father could bring his little kit and christen, tonsure, chrismate and commune the child, but it is all makeshift at best.

It is only in a mission church situation, where a place for liturgy is only contracted on Sunday, that a home baptism even makes sense, due to the transient nature of being a makeshift and inconvenient setting.

All sacraments are geared to a public expression in the church proper rather than being some private ceremony. Even confession, although private between you and God with the priest as a witness, takes place in the front of the church in full view of all. Although private, to an extent, one is being reconciled not only to God, but to the surrounding community as well. Sorry to dissuade you from your plans, but it is for good reason that the church stresses that

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT



## Michael J. Komichak

"Lord, when did we see you hungry ...?"

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

As we experience the hopefulness that comes with the start of a New Year, I trust that you and your families have enjoyed a blessed and happy Christmas. But even as we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, we pause to remember those who have suffered from great evil in this sinful world and those among us even today who need our help.

This past November, Ukrainians throughout the world marked the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, the monstrous genocidal famine engineered by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin that purposely starved to death upwards of 10 million people in Ukraine. At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, His Grace Bishop Daniel, and His Grace Bishop Paul Chomnytsky led a Memorial Panakhyda to pray for the repose of the souls of those killed during the Holodomor. A few weeks later, hundreds gathered in Washington, DC to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a memorial in our nation's capital commemorating the Holodomor. Once again our hierarchs Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel, along with the Most Reverend Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka, led the participants in a ceremony to bless the endeavor. Among those participating in this important and historic event were ambassadors to the US from Ukraine and several Eastern European countries, former ambassadors from the US to Ukraine, and two current members of Congress.

Even as we are compelled to remember the past, our attention is drawn to current events. Ukraine finds itself in turmoil as hundreds of thousands of protestors have gathered daily in the aftermath of the current Ukrainian government's decision not to enter into an association agreement with the European Union. On several occasions, violent confrontations between the demonstrators and police have resulted in injuries, prompting our hierarchs to issue a statement condemning the use of force and violence to resolve political issues and directing the clergy and parishes of the UOC of the USA to serve a special Moleben service to pray for Ukraine. His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew also issued a statement praying for peace in Ukraine, invoking "St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, who is celebrated for pacifying stormy seas."

What can we as UOL members and as Orthodox Christians do in light of current circumstances? Recall the theme of the 20th Regular Sobor of the UOC of USA, which reminds us that we are indeed "our brother's keeper."

It is not hard to imagine how the ranks of the neediest members of Ukrainian society might swell in such turbulent times as these. This February, the UOL will once again be sponsoring its annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" to benefit the St. Andrew Society, an important part of the ministry of our Archdiocese that provides humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. Your generous support of the UOL's "Souper Bowl Sunday" in February will have a positive impact

sacraments be done in the church proper.

## **\*\*\***

An Evangelical Protestant relative stayed with us recently and came to a couple of services with us. On the whole, she recognized a great deal of biblical content in the words of our services, but one thing she found really objectionable. The phrase was "most holy Birthgiver of God, save us." I didn't have the knowledge to explain or defend our usage, except that it was of ancient origin.

Protestants have a difficult time in dealing with Mary at best. Holding that Jesus is our sole Savior and going to the extreme that only He intercedes for us makes a quote, such of ours, totally inconceivable and non-biblical. For example, Lutherans have the assumption of Mary on their liturgical calendar, but because of the restraints in their theology, they have no cogent explanation for it or any explanation of Mary's position in the Church.

(continued on page 3)

on the lives of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

In memory of those who perished in the Holodomor, the UOL has collected \$250 in donations for City Harvest, an organization in New York City that provides daily meals for thousands of families. You can still donate to City Harvest through the UOL either online at uol.orthodoxws.com or by sending a check payable to the UOL to Lauren Bentley, UOL Financial Secretary, 818 Barley Sheaf Road, Coatesville, PA 19320.

"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." While we strengthen our own personal faith through our fellowship in the UOL, we combine and multiply our individual efforts through the UOL to do God's work and alleviate human suffering. Let us pray for peace in Ukraine, and let us continue to support the efforts of organizations like our own St. Andrew Society who care for the least of our brethren, the forgotten among us who our Lord demands we must not forget.

Yours in Christ,

Michael J. Komichak

#### 67th Annual UOL Convention Update Submitted by Martha X. Misko

Check the calendar lately? It's 2014! And although winter winds are blowing now, in a few short months the weather will be warm and July will be here! Turn your calendar to the July page and circle July 23-27 – the dates of the **67<sup>th</sup> Annual UOL Convention** to be held in South Bound Brook, NJ!

The Convention Committee, that includes members of the surrounding UOL chapters of Northampton, Allentown, Carteret, Maplewood, and South Bound Brook with support from Philadelphia, Coatesville and Wilmington have been planning a great variety of spiritual and social events. Lodging accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn, Somerset at a remarkable and very reasonable rate of \$89.00 per night. Business sessions and evening activities will be held at the UOC Cultural Center.

After checking into the hotel on Wednesday evening, join fellow UOL'ers at a Hospitality Evening hosted by our Maplewood UOL Chapter. The Convention officially begins on Thursday morning as we gather at St. Andrew's Memorial Church to pray together during Divine Liturgy. Business sessions will begin Thursday afternoon following a brunch at the Cultural Center.

Get your investigative skills tuned up! Thursday evening will be the time for an interactive and, probably hilarious, Mystery Dinner Theater!

Friday's schedule includes business sessions and a wonderful Cultural Evening. And during the day on Friday, a very special service project is being planned to assist those in the area who are less fortunate. Stay tuned for more details!

Business sessions will wrap up on Saturday morning and will be followed by a Hospitality Picnic hosted by the Assumption of the Virgin Mary UOL Chapter of Northampton. The Northampton chapter will be the hosts of the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual UOL Convention to be held in July 2015. And as has been our tradition, the UOL Grand Banquet and Ball is scheduled for Saturday evening.

The 67<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention will conclude with a Hierarchal Divine Liturgy and Farewell Luncheon on Sunday, July 27.

The theme of this Convention – "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be fulfilled" – inspires us to work together for the good of our Church, her Faithful, and all mankind. The Convention Committee hopes that the time spent during July 23-27 will help us focus on furthering the goals of the UOL and enjoy fellowship at the same time!

## **\*\*\*\***

(Ask Fr. Harvey - continued from page 2)

For us Orthodox, Jesus is the ONLY source of salvation, worked out in the sacrifice and death on the cross and the triumph of His Resurrection. Scripturally, although Jesus did save us all, it yet says that we must work out our salvation daily. Let us put this in perspective. God freely gave us our salvation, but we are expected to do something as well. We struggle with Satan and can make definite choices to follow the enemy, thus compromising our salvation. There is a possibility, though saved by Jesus, that we might reject and lose such salvation. When we say "most holy, Birthgiver of God, Save us," we are not saying that she is THE ONE who saves us, but here is the nuance, rather that through her prayers and intercessions we will have a change of mind and heart and will return to the path of salvation. Taken in this light and with this explanation, Mary helps us in our daily battle, but she is not the one who ultimately wrought salvation for us.

There is an evolution of doctrine that has been accepted within the Roman Catholic Church that we do not agree with. Some within that church are pushing that Mary be named Co-Redemptrix, which means we are saved through both Jesus and Mary. This we find totally objectionable as it puts the Theotokos in almost a goddess state and removes her from the human family. Protestants may think that we are going down that path, but my explanation of the nuance listed above should correct that gross misinterpretation.



## NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Kateryna Kocelko

Christ is Born!

I hope and pray that everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. The holiday season is a time for us to step back and be thankful for everything we have. We must always remember how fortunate we are and to share the blessings that God has bestowed upon us and our families.

It is with this mindset that the Junior UOL members embark upon all of the upcoming events of this New Year.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 everyone should participate in the annual "Bring a Friend to Church Day." It gives you the chance to expose your religion and traditions to your friends. You never know how much one event could impact their lives. You might want to consider scheduling an outing event such as a movie day or bowling event so everyone can get to know each other. Just as Christ told the Apostles, we should "Go forth and make disciples of all nations" and help expose your friends to the traditions of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, we ask that all of the chapters around the country participate in the annual "Souper" Bowl Sunday fundraiser. All of the proceeds that the chapters make go to Saint Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society which supports soup kitchens for needy elderly and orphans in Ukraine.

It's never too early to start preparing for Great Lent. With Lent coming up, that means the 2014 "Great Lent Giveaway" is coming up also. Each year we ask our Junior UOL members to concentrate their efforts to support a very worthy cause. This year we will be focusing on FOCUS North America as our worthy organization. We ask you take the time this Lent to give back by supporting this great cause, while growing in our Orthodox faith. If you have any questions about the 2014 GLG please do not hesitate to contact either Katherine Anderson at kitty2882@gmail.com or Mrs. Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon at uocyouth@aol.com.

Last but not least, there is the annual Jr. UOL Raffle, which is the Jr. UOL's largest fundraiser throughout the year. We ask that everyone participate by buying and selling tickets. The tickets will be sent out a little earlier than usual, so that gives everyone a little extra time to sell all your tickets.

Our next Junior UOL National Executive board meeting will be held in Maplewood, New Jersey on February 8, 2014. The entire National Executive Board could not be more excited to get together to plan the remainder of the year for everyone.

Please don't forget to turn in your chapter dues and membership forms. They were due back in September so please make sure you get them to our Financial Secretary, Sarah Hershey, as soon as possible. Also I expect that all of the Election Report forms are in and if they aren't please also get those in as soon as possible to our Corresponding Secretary, Betsy Abrahamson. Having updated

#### 

In reading through the New Testament, I was struck by the powerful and poignant story about Annas and Sapphira. What lesson should this give in our modern world?

The story about Annas and Sapphira is not a parable or made up story for effect, but it is about real people and a real sin. God allowed such a thing to happen as a strong object lesson for all succeeding ages. Now Annas and Sapphira were going to freely hand over the proceeds from a property sale

(continued on page 4)

information from all of the chapters is very crucial so we can keep all of the chapters involved and up to date on all of the information and upcoming events.

The National Executive Board sends their best wishes on the coming year and we pray that this year be fruitful for your chapter and your family. We also ask that you continue to pray for us and that God continues to give us the strength to lead the UOL.

Yours in Christ,

Kateryna Kocelko

Make your plans for

Bring a Friend to Church Day!

January 26, 2014

### 

#### (Ask Fr. Harvey- continued from page 3)

for the benefit of the local church. God loves a cheerful giver as the Scripture so tells us. In this case, this couple was not pressured or prevailed upon to give this financial gift, it was their own offer from the start. When the sale took place, monies were held back and only a certain portion given, as if that was the total profit. Annas lies about this and so drops dead. Later Sapphira arrives and gives the same story as Annas had and so she drops dead as well. What we have here is that the couple made a solemn pledge to the church, like a direct promise to God. It was not as if the sale did not go through or they did not get their money. Receiving their due profits they reneged on a pledge, a promise to God, and then they lied about it. Holding back on what they promised to God was their downfall. God certainly does not slay all who make a vow or pledge to God and then renege on it, but it shows there is a consequence. The dissimilitude about shortchanging what had been a freewill offering and pledge to God points out that weaseling out of a freely given vow to God sets up an indebtedness. Had they not gotten their price, but had been open and transparent about it, the situation would have been different. If we are so moved to give a financial donation, we should honour what we have solemnly pledged to do and then be truthful and open.

#### 

My baba has an enthusiasm for the devotion to the Sacred Heart and she insists that our church has lost a lot by not fostering it. She pointed out an old stained glass window at church that depicts it and so certifies that this is a genuine Ukrainian tradition which is being lost. What am I to make of this?

To put this into focus, one must go back into history and root out the origins of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Certainly the prototypes of these devotions did not appear before the 13<sup>th</sup> century in the Latin Roman Catholic West. This sort of devotion never had a counterpart in the Orthodox East and certainly Byzantine hymnology never entertained any such themes.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a physical personification of the enduring divine love and compassion for mankind with the worship of the heart as a symbol of this outpouring of mercy. The Immaculate Heart of Mary is a devotion that arose out of the interest in the seven dolors or sufferings of the Holy Virgin. Certainly the advancement of the Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception furthered this faddish element of worship. Interest in the Sacred Heart blossomed further with the purported visions of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Catholic nun, Marguerite Mary Alaquoque, who in time became a canonized RC saint. Religious orders and societies like the Jesuits championed these devotions, which were backed up by support from the popes, especially Pope Pius XII.

How did Ukrainians of the Byzantine rite take on such devotions that are completely foreign to Orthodox theology? The Polish Jesuits, through their Greek Catholic surrogate, the Basilian Fathers order, spread such devotions, usually in the form of molebens. It is part of our history that Greek Catholic priests always aped the latest worship fad that had become popular in Polish Catholic churches. Whatever they fancied, from stations of the cross, sacred hearts or suuplicatija. They took a totally alien western devotion and disguised it in a vaguely "Byzantine" form and after a generation or two it became entrenched as "old" Ukrainian tradition.

As our churches left Catholicism for Orthodoxy, old habits remained and many Orthodox folks had close Ukrainian Catholic friends who frequented Molebens to the Sacred Heart in a neighbouring church The memory of such in our own Ukrainian Orthodox parishes has, by now, almost completely faded, yet some babas keep this nostalgia alive. The old stained glass window mentioned is certainly a throwback to when the church was Uniate, or still under its influence.

#### **Resolutions 2013 from the 66th Annual UOL Convention**

#### INTRODUCTION

Once again we are ever mindful that the grace of God has called together the officers and members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA, gathered with our God-loving bishops: His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, and His Grace Bishop Daniel and express thankful appreciation for their inspiration, guidance, and spiritual direction. May God bless all of our bishops with good health and fill them with grace for many blessed years.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. We affirm our filial love, profound esteem and prayers for His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of New Rome – Constantinople the Mother Church, from which Rus-Ukraine accepted the totality of the Orthodox Christian Faith and Order 1025 years ago during the reign of Prince St. Volodymyr Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles.

2. We offer prayerful support to our Hierarchs in all efforts, through the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to unite the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine and strongly encourage His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew to intensify efforts to establish a local autocephalous Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

3. We express our support of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America in their efforts to create a unity through which all of Orthodoxy may speak with a single voice about issues of life, whether ecclesiastical or temporal, in order to bring Holy Orthodoxy out of the shadows of American Society and into the mainstream life of our nation. We are proud of the fact that our Metropolitan Antony serves as the Treasurer of the Assembly and Chairman of the Committee for Financial Affairs, while Bishop Daniel serves as Chairman of the Committee for Legal Affairs.

We continue to be deeply aware of the chronic shortage of clergy in our 4. Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and truly appreciate the efforts of the St. Sophia Seminary staff in attempting to meet these needs. We acknowledge with profound gratitude the vital ministry of the Staff of Saint Sophia Theological Seminary in the sacred task of priestly formation and education. We rejoice at the good news that there will be two new full time resident students for the 2013-2014 Academic Year - Volodymyr Sukanetz from Ukraine and Eduardo-Mouro Gonsalves from Brazil. And we greet the new students of the current academic year who are present at our convention - Rev. Fr. Vasyl Dmytryshyn, Volodymyr Sukanetz (the older cousin of the same name above) and Volodymyr Yavorskyi, all from Ukraine. We also greet another student present at the convention: Subdeacon Ivan Chopko, and two additional students who are unable to be with us: Subdeacon Adrian Mazur, who is visiting a monastery and relatives in his native Romania following participation in the annual college student mission team to our adopted orphanages, and Subdeacon Yurij Andreiko, who also participated in the mission team, but during a visit with family he developed a physical problem which required immediate surgery. We offer sincere prayer to our Lord for a rapid healing following surgery.

5. We honor the Blessed Memory of the ten million men, women and children who perished during the insidious genocide created by Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Government, which ravaged Ukraine from 1932 to 1933. We strongly urge the United Nations to finally declare this horror to be the genocidal act that it was, not bowing to the revisionist history written and being currently written about this time.

6. We applaud the ongoing construction of the Ukrainian Museum of New Jersey – History and Education Complex in Memory of His Holiness Patriarch Mstyslav I (HEC) – on the grounds of our Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook/Somerset, New Jersey. We urge the faithful of our Holy Ukrainian

Our liturgical hymnography does often focus upon the all-compassionate love of God for us, which has resulted in our salvation. The icon used in Holy Week depicting the crucified Lord descending into the tomb is called kenosis, referring to the divine emptying of the Godhead , a freely accepted humiliation done for our sakes. The Holy Theotokos is duly lauded in all of our services and her icon of the Protection of the Holy Virgin (Pokrov), bespeaks of her enduring love and intercession for the human race. All of this is done without resorting to the exaggerated worship of a human organ, a heart, as a symbol of divine love and compassion. Such emotional and saccharine forms of worship find no place in our church. Our Catholic friends have seen proper liturgical services, such as vespers, be completely supplanted by these fadlike paraliturgical manifestations, such as novenas. To our way of thinking, Catholic theology, which has been skewed during the millennium of separation from us, is further deformed by these faddish enthusiasms.

It probably is too late to change your baba's conceptions, but personally become enlightened and discerning about your Orthodox faith and its content.

Orthodox Church to cooperate in and financially support the completion of this construction.

7. We enthusiastically reaffirm in the 66th year of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA our motto - "*Dedicated to our Church and Devoted to its Youth,*" - and recognize that the fulfillment of this motto is only possible through an intimate relationship with Christ and through a life commensurate with His Holy Gospel, which we accept and live without reservation.

8. We extend special gratitude and appreciation to the members of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (Parma, Ohio) and the Senior and Junior Chapters of the Ukrainian Orthodox League for their dedicated efforts in hosting this 66th Annual UOL Convention—2013. May God bless them for their dedication and devoted efforts for the benefit of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

9. We express our most sincere appreciation to those officers who served faithfully on the Senior and Junior National Executive Boards of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA during 2012-2013. May God bless them for their efforts. (continued on page 6)

#### (Young Adults - Continued from page 1)

The rest of the weekend was quiet and relaxing. The group played volleyball, swam, and socialized on the dining hall porch. The iron chef cook off was a success once again, and we congratulate the winner, Michelle Bryan, for her fantastic Strawberry Pizza dessert.



Before heading home, the group wrote supportive messages in journals that were given to the members of the UOC of USA College Age Mission Trip, to send thoughts and prayers as the Mission Team members travelled to take care of our "brothers" in Ukraine.

We look forward to continued growth at this event!



### Sts. Peter & St. Paul Sr. UOL, Carnegie PA

### Submitted by Pat Dorning, Carnegie Sr. UOL Reporter

Sr. UOL Scholarships & Thanksgiving Day Open House

Sts. Peter and St. Paul Sr. UOL awarded scholarships to the following students attending college:

\*Gregory Markiw, attending University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Finance

\*Justina Mills, attending CCAC, majoring in Business

\*Brandi Rohal, attending Waynesburg University, majoring in Criminal Justice

\*Nicholas Wachnowsky, attending Penn State University, majoring in Accounting

\*Danielle Walewski, attending University of Denver, majoring in Business \*John Walewski, attending Ohio State University, majoring in Political Science & Economics

The scholarships were awarded at the  $110^{\text{th}}$ Anniv. Dinner of the Parish on 11/2/13. The Sr. Chapter established the scholarship program in 1991 presenting them to Parish college students. Congratulations to all the students!



We also hosted our 24th Annual Thanksgiving Day Open House. After a noon prayer service, we served 100+ free, delicious, homemade, 7-course dinners with dessert to parishioners and community participants. We delivered meals to approximately 30 shut-ins appreciated our who charitable hospitality. Our No Charge, All Are Welcome Thanksgiving Dinners have become widely known throughout the area. Even the mayor of Carnegie, Jack Kobistek, joined in the festivities and assisted in meal delivery. Fr. Steve Repa began

this community outreach program 24 years ago as a potluck Thanksgiving Dinner. It has since expanded into what it is now thanks to the generous donations of our parishioners. Howard and Lynda West have chaired these Dinners for the past 15 years putting much of their effort and resources into this charitable event. We give thanks to the Lord for uniting our Parish to provide this wonderful event for so many years. See the pics!

12th Annual UOL Lenten Retreat

"Well done, good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:23

Retreat will focus on vocations and using your talents







## SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ANTONY HIS GRACE BISHOP DANIEL FR. ANTHONY PERKINS

> St. Francis Center for Renewal 395 Bridle Path Road Bethlehem, PA

Retreat registration \$40 (late fee \$10). Retreat is one full day including all meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. For more information contact: Oleh or Natalie Bilynsky at nsufler@aol.com call – 610-892-7315

## Western PA - Ohio UOL RETREAT

## Join the UOL for the Lenten Retreat Saturday March 29, 2014

## Villa Maria Retreat Center

For more information contact Christine Mills 412-716-0562 cmills63@comcast.net Tracey Sally 412-983-0438 Twin\_21@hotmail.com

## (Resolutions - continued from page 4)

10. We encourage all parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to establish UOL Chapters with encouragement from our hierarchs and local clergy. We strongly encourage all parishes to expend great efforts and provide support for Senior and Junior UOL Chapters and all UOL programs and activities.

11. We share the joy of our clergy who were ordained to the Holy Deaconate and Priesthood during the past year: Fr. Vasyl Dovgan, Fr. Andrij Matlak, Fr. Vasyl Pasakas and Dn. Philip Harendza – all graduates of St. Sophia Seminary in May of 2013.

12. We celebrate and greatly appreciate All Saints Camp staff and volunteers under the direction of Camp Manager, Eric Senedak and of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camping Programs - Teenage Conference, Diocesan Church School Camp, and Mommy/Daddy and Me Camp - all under the direction of the Consistory Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director, Natalie Kapeluck Nixon - for their dedicated efforts with the youth and families of our Church. We encourage all parishes, UOL Chapters and faithful to learn more about these ministry programs so that they can enthusiastically support and promote them through prayer, material support and active participation.

13. We as Orthodox Christians repeat our firm belief in the sanctity of life - from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. Our Lord offered the ultimate sacrifice of love - His very own life on the Cross - for the sake of human life - the crown of His creation. No attempt to destroy life - at any point - can possibly be interpreted as the Will of God. We call for the return of the members of our Ukrainian Orthodox League, the faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and all Orthodox Christians to prayer and respect for the sanctity of life, which is threatened and destroyed by the anti-Christian secularization of our American society. The example set by true Orthodox Christians for the rest of society can work miracles.

14. We encourage all UOL Chapters to reach out to people of their local communities, including new immigrants from Ukraine and Eastern Europe, inviting them to become faithful and active members of our Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

15. We continue to encourage all UOL Chapters to adopt a nursing home and/or other institutions in their communities spending time each month visiting the residents-especially those bound to their rooms.

16. We recommend that the Council of the Metropolia of the UOC of the USA inform all parishes about plans for: (a) increasing the spiritual growth of our Church, (b) promoting the education of our Orthodox faithful, and (c) addressing current fiscal challenges, in order to encourage parish participation in such endeavors.

17. We abhor the senseless destruction of human life which occurs so frequently in our society today as exemplified by the murders committed by the Boston Marathon bombers and daily violent murder of our young in the inner cities in our country. We must question all forms of media, including television, movie industry, video gaming and internet, among others that seem to provoke this violent behavior on the part of sick individuals.

18. We abhor and condemn the senseless death of innocent people in Syria, Egypt and other countries and pray for the resolution of conflicts. We question how our United States government can support rebels in Syria and other countries who place videos of the decapitation of Orthodox Christian Clergy on their websites and who kidnap two Coptic Orthodox and Catholic Khmelnytsky, Chernivtsi, Ternopil and Chernihiv. hierarchs and their clergy assistants, leaving their fate unknown for several

The Ukrainian Orthodox League Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission "Souper Bowl" Sunday

February 2, 2014



It's NOT about football! It is about feeding the hungry!

Help Make A Difference!

# Make a Donation to help Saint Andrew's Society

Forward Donations to: **U.O.L.** Financial Secretary Lauren Bentley 818 Barley Sheaf Road Coatesville, PA 19320-2216.

Please Contact the Christian Caregiving and Missions Chairs with any questions:

Senior UOL Chair Mark Meschisen MarcusMesh29@gmail.com Junior UOL Chair Katherine Anderson kitty2882@gmail.com

## St. Andrew Society Souper Bowl Sunday **Submitted by Michael Komichak**

For the past 23 years the St. Andrew Society has delivered critical assistance to those in need in Ukraine. In just the past three years the Society has provided nearly \$50,000 to aid soup kitchens and orphanages in Ukraine. As a major ministry of the UOC of USA, the society supports soup kitchens that provide food parcels and hot meals to the elderly in the cities of Kyiv, Pereyaslave-

months as of this convention.

19. We proclaim our demand for the religious freedom throughout the world, especially for our Holy Orthodox Church and total support for all efforts to this end. In particular, we express our support for the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the entire Patriarchate of Constantinople, which continually As in years past, the UOL encourages all UOC of USA parishes to become part suffers discrimination and terroristic threat in the nation of Turkey.

## JUNIOR UOL HOLODOMOR COMMEMORATIONS Submitted by Sarah Hershey



Chapters throughout the country to participate in commemorating the Holodomor. Your chapter could do something small like having could do something big like a report or presentation. We are asking that your chapter send us the project or send us a picture of what you did as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact Sarah Hershey at shershey19@gmail.com.

This year the St. Andrew Society established a relationship with LOGOS center, a homeless shelter in Kyiv. The Society helped LOGOS expand temporary housing for the homeless and contributed \$5000 toward the construction of a new rehabilitation center and soup kitchen.

of the work of the St. Andrew Society by organizing a "Souper Bowl Sunday" fundraising event during the month of February. During your weekly fellowship following Divine Liturgy serve some hot soup, explain the important work of the St. Andrew Society, and encourage your fellow parishioners to make a contribution to help the needy in Ukraine.

The National Executive Board of the Junior UOL is asking all the Please forward your donations to UOL Financial Secretary Lauren Bentley. While the national UOL consolidates the donations from the individual parishes, a parish does not need to have a UOL chapter to help with this effort. We ask all a service to remember the innocent people that we lost, or you UOC of USA parishes to support the St. Andrew Society and its humanitarian mission in Ukraine by holding a Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser this February.

#### St. Demetrius Jr. UOL Chapter

We have been very busy this new business year. We have held coffee hours after Divine Liturgy and even had a Halloween cupcake sale.

We are starting our plans for our annual Senior Citizens luncheon where we prepare a buffet luncheon for all the seniors of our parish (and any guests they wish to bring). We are also sending Christmas cards to our servicemen overseas.



At our parish's annual St. Demetrius celebration, the entire Jr. Chapter presented a check for the St. Sophia's Seminary Fund to Metropolitan Antony.

## St. Vladimir Senior UOL Chapter Thanksgiving Projects

This November for the first time our Senior UOL Chapter sponsored a special Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner was held the week before Thanksgiving and Pani Laura Naumenko was the chairperson. The event was sponsored to benefit a young woman who had a significant spinal cord injury. Chapter members decided to sponsor a classic Thanksgiving Dinner with turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and cranberry. We were thrilled that we were able to raise over \$1700 to benefit the young woman.

As part of our Thanksgiving tithing project our chapters (both Junior and Senior) designated all of our proceeds from coffee hours during the month of November to benefit the UOL Thanksgiving Tithing Project.



As part of our Thanksgiving Tithing we also held a special Thanksgiving event. Our chapter made small packages with cookies and candies. The packets also had a small note where individuals could thank someone. All of the profits from the sale of these packets were donated to our Thanksgiving Tithing project. This project was



wonderful for it allowed chapter members and also members of the parish to take a moment to think of the individuals whom they would like to thank and to honor them with a small token of appreciation.

On behalf of all Lynn Sawchuk/Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship recipients and donors, we extend our deepest sympathies to the family of **William Kuzbyt, Sr.** 

May his Memory Be Eternal!



(picture from 2012 Convention)

Recent Donations Made in Memory of Mr. Kuzbyt:



You are cordially invited to the first Mid-Atlantic Deanery event! On January 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. members of the Mid-Atlantic Deanery will be gathering at St. Vladimir's in Philadelphia, Pa for our first ever Nativity Carol Sing-A-Long

Ms. Catherine Shaffer St. Demetrius Senior Chapter Mr. and Mrs. Michael Heretz Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kaes Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Skawinski Mr. Richard Jendras Mrs. Marion Jendras Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Smolen Mrs. Barbara Smith Ms. Rene A. Zipfel Mr. and Mrs. Michael Komichak Mr. and Mrs. John Demillo

Donations graciously accepted: Lauren Bentley 818 Barley Sheaf Rd Coatesville, PA 19320



We invite you to bring music for carols that you sing within your parish and join us for a sing-a-long. Not a concert, but rather a time to get together and rejoice in song, celebrating the Nativity of our Lord. We will gather at St. Vladimir's, Philadelphia, share carols, and enjoy light refreshments.

For more information contact – Natalie Bilynsky nsufler@aol.com 610-892-7315 Please RSVP by January 19th U

L

1

Just a reminder to make plans for UOL Lenten Retreats

> Bethlehem, PA March 22, 2014

Villa Maria Retreat Center Villa Maria, PA March 29, 2014

(more information about retreats on page 5)

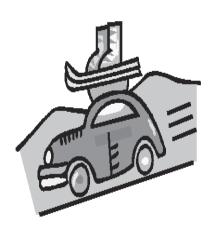
You are cordially invited to the St. Vladimir's Senior UOL Chapter, Philadelphia, Pa Annual Malanka Saturday, January 25, 2014 dancing, dinner and fun, fun, fun

for more information contact nsufler@aol.com



## The Ukrainian Orthodox League Young Adults Committee Winter Weekend Getaway Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania February 7-9, 2014

Come and Catch Up With Old Friends and Make New Ones!



Ski, Snowboard, Snowtube, Shop, or just sit by the fire. A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group.

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

r R	Donor Andrew Serray	<b>Occasion/Tribute</b> <sup>-</sup> In honor of the UOL Bulletin - an excellent publication.
	Steve and Alice Sivulich	In memory of our long time friend Bill Kuzbyt.
B U C	Jordan and Joshua Oryhon	Sincere thanks to our family and friends who used their voices to glorify God during the Sacrament of Marriage on October 13 especially Deborah, Daria and Mickey for all of their hard work beforehand!
E	Marilyn Druash	In memory of Paul Pihota, St. Nicholas UOC Parish President, Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

## To submit your Tribute:

Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), and the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent.

For a contribution of \$20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:

Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

UOL Bulletin c/o Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION US POSTAGE PAID NEW BRUNSWICK NJ PERMIT NO 1186

\$20.00 registration covers breakfast and dinner! The first 15 registrants will get free housing!

Questions?

Emily Kominko, kominkea@gmail.com

Kira Senedak, ksenedak@gmail.com

