



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to the Church – Devoted to its Youth*

VOL. 48 NO. 6

APRIL, 2002

## THE UKRAINIAN HOLOCAUST OF 1932-1933

*“In Memory of the 50 Million Victims of the  
Orthodox Christian Holocaust”*

**Published by the Oklahoma Orthodox Clergy Council**

Sixty-five years ago, between seven and twelve million Ukrainians were systematically and deliberately starved to death in Ukraine, the “Bread Basket of Europe”.

Long before there was a Russia, Kyivan Rus' (Ukraine) was a free and fiercely independent nation. Indeed, it was to Ukraine that Christianity was delivered by St. Andrew—The First-called Apostle—and only much later, from Ukraine, on to Russia. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Kyivan Rus' was decimated by invasions from Asia; and by the time the invaders were driven back, the base of power had shifted North to Muscovy. For centuries thereafter, Ukraine was subjugated to Tsarist Russia. Then in 1918, following the murder of the Tsar and his family by the Communists, the Ukrainians declared Ukraine a free and independent country, just as it was centuries before there even was a Russia.

Communist forces eventually recaptured the land and once again, as in the time of the Tsars, Ukraine would become little more than a part of a larger whole. But as never before in their long history, Ukrainians would be forced to pay a dreadfully high price in their survival as a people. Probably more than other Bolesheviks, Stalin had an exceedingly low opinion of peasants; for he considered them to be incurably conservative and a major barrier to revolutionary change. And because Ukrainians were an overwhelmingly peasant people, among whom native nationalism was on the rise, they were doubly vulnerable to his designs. Ukraine continued to be a land of innumerable villages of peasants working the land, with the Orthodox Church and traditional values dominating their lives. Perhaps most galling for the Bolshevik revolutionaries was the fact that the peasants showed little inclination for sharing their dreams of a Communist utopia.

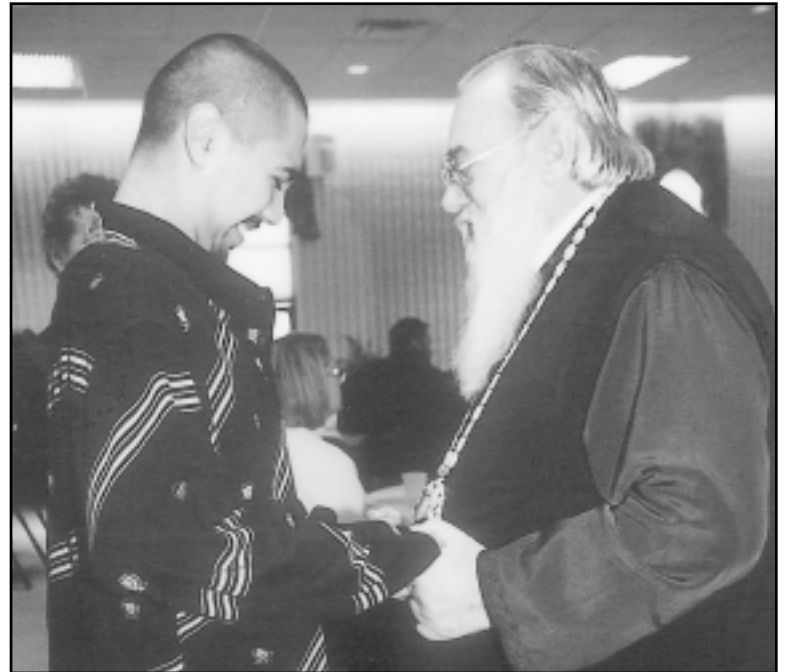
Stalin's plans for industrial expansion were based on the state purchasing cheap grain from the peasants, which would be sold abroad at a profit; the proceeds would then be used to finance the industrialization of the nation. But the prices that the state offered, often at one-eighth of the market price, were so low that the peasants refused to sell their grain. Infuriated by what he called “sabotage”, Stalin ordered an all-out drive for total collectivization. All land and all property, including livestock, were to be taken away from private ownership and given over to the state. Small farms were to be incorporated into huge Collectives. The plan was accompanied by such brutality and horror that it can only be described as a war waged by the regime against the peasantry. It was to be one of the most traumatic events in Ukrainian History.

Those who resisted most stubbornly were shot. Others were deported to forced labor camps in the Arctic and Siberia. The rest were deprived of all their property—including their homes and personal belongings—barred from the collective farms, and told to fend for themselves. In the winter of 1929-30 hundreds of thousands of peasant and their families were dragged from their homes, packed into freight trains, and shipped thousands of miles to the north where they were dumped amidst Arctic wastes, often without food or shelter. In this way a large part of Ukraine's most industrious and efficient farmers ceased to exist.

When even these severe measures failed to have the desired effect, the government dispatched thousands of urban workers to implement its policies in the villages. Their efforts produced pandemonium and outrage; often officials were beaten or shot. The most common form of protest, however, was the slaughter of farm animals. Determined not to let the government have their livestock, peasants preferred to kill their animals instead. Between 1928 and 1932, Ukraine lost about 50% of its livestock. Because of poor facilities, much of the grain which was produced either spoiled or was eaten by rats. Even more serious was the lack of draught animals, many of which had been slaughtered earlier. Government officials were confident, however, that they could provide enough new tractors to replace the missing horses and

*(continued on page 4)*

## ANDY NESWICK - GOOD NEWS!



**Andy Neswick and Archbishop Vsevolod**

News of Andy's recovery is provided by his grandmother, Noreen Neswick of Palos Park, IL.:

“As you may recall, my grandson suffered a serious bullet wound to the head on Good Friday, April 13, 2001. Many people from all of our UOL chapters sent get well wishes and prayers for his recovery. I simply want to share with the League the progress he has made.

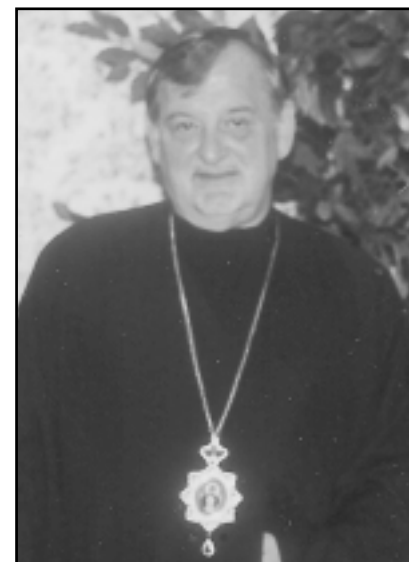
Although Andy's speech has not returned fully, we are grateful that he is able to walk, he is always cheerful, he is able to care for himself, and he continues in rehab for physical, speech and occupational therapy.

Andy returned to school in February and will be doing academic studies as well as therapy as needed. He is truly a “miracle” and we are so grateful to all of the Parishes and League members who remembered him in their prayers. We ask that you continue to remember him as he still has a way to go.

We cannot stress enough our heartfelt thanks to all of the wonderful people who have supported us with their prayers and words of encouragement during this terrible ordeal. May God bless each and every one and keep you all in His care.”

Noreen Neswick, President

Sr. UOL, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Palos Park, IL



**Prayerful Best Wishes!**

**Congratulations Metropolitan CONSTANTINE  
30th ANNIVERSARY OF CONSECRATION**

May 7, 2002

**“Thank you for your spiritual guidance and friendship”**

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<i>Daria A. Pishko</i> UOL President 64 Coleman Avenue Chatham, NJ 07928	<i>Alexis Oryhon</i> Jr. UOL President 264 Lower Stella Ireland Road Binghamton, NY 13905	<i>Dr. Stephen Sivulich</i> UOL Bulletin Editor 206 Christopher Circle Pittsburgh, PA 15205	<i>Father John Harvey</i> UOL Bulletin Spiritual Advisor 74 Harris Avenue Woonsocket, RI 02895
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Special Assistant - *Alice Sivulich*, 206 Christopher Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
Sr. Staff Writer - *Elizabeth Mitchell*, 46 Lexington Court, Carnegie, PA 15106  
Staff Writer - *Joshua Oryhon*, 17 Western, 3rd Floor, Albany, NY 12203  
Distribution - Sts. Peter and Paul Chapters, Carnegie, PA

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

Advertising rates: Please inquire through editorial offices.

## PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS *Beyond the Borders of Ukraine*

† Wasyly, Metropolitan of Canada

† Constantine, Metropolitan of the USA and Diaspora

To the beloved monastics, clergy and faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Communities beyond and within the borders of Ukraine at the season of Great and Holy Lent.

*"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."* Mark 2:17

In reading the Holy Scriptures, we quickly learn that our Lord Jesus Christ was given many names throughout His earthly ministry, but none is more comforting to us who, along with millions of others in this world, bear His Name – "Christian" – than the appellation: "He is a friend of sinners". Of course, those who referred to Him as such in the Gospels were doing so in neither a positive nor a comforted sense, but rather in a negative one, criticizing Him and characterizing Him as *one* of the sinners. In modern society we might hear said of Him: "A man is known by the company he keeps."

The Lord's response to those who would thus criticize Him is that "it is not the healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick". *"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners"*. He was invited to the homes of sinners, but they, in turn received an invitation from Him to accept the love and mercy of God the Father. It is this response that we must consider carefully during this Great Lenten period.

When Christ calls us to repentance, it is not merely a reformation of behavior that He demands, but a real change of character! It is relatively easy for us to *behave* in such a way so as to impress family, friends and neighbors in a transcendent, but superficial, way. It is, however, quite another matter to change our character – for the meaning of repentance is precisely "positive change". Change of character manifests itself in most sincere confession and by its very nature encompasses reformation of behavior. Character change gives evidence to not only fellow man, but also to God Himself, of our sincerity and intention to travel the narrow path in our earthly pilgrimage, toward eternal life.

In changing our character, we prove that we are dealing with the root of our sinfulness rather than with the symptoms alone. Like Zacchaeus we will release ourselves from all that bogs us down so that Christ might be among us – like the Publican we will beat our breasts and beseech the mercy of God – and finally like the Prodigal we will recognize and make every effort to become what we were created to be – CHILDREN OF THE HIGHEST. Only through the Grace of God can this be realized through our devout prayers and abstinence from all passion.

We, who have been called by God to be your Archpastors, most fervently commit ourselves at this holy season to such prayer and abstinence. We beseech the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that not only each of us as individuals, but all of us as the community of Ukrainian Orthodox faithful, might come to a true comprehension of repentance, thereby, seeking complete unity with Christ. This is accomplished by our love for him and for one another. It is only after we respond positively to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's invitation to accept this love first from God the Father that we can hope our Holy Church will become – through us as her sons and daughters – the moral conscience of our Ukrainian nation – in Ukraine or beyond her borders.

Only when we abandon all self-righteousness and judgment or criticism of others can we begin the Great Lenten journey with sincerity and humility - in heart, mind and soul - of our desire to be one with God. Truly the Giver of Life will open the doors that lead to the incredible process of true repentance for all "who are afflicted". As the consequence, we will surely experience, certainly more deeply than ever before, the incomparable Joy, Light and Love of the Resurrection, which will fill our lives and homes, exposing for us the narrow path we must follow.

May the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all on the incredible journey of Great Lent! You, beloved – in good spiritual health – are the seal of success for our Archpastoral ministry. Pray for us as we do incessantly for you.

† Wasyly, Metropolitan – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
† Constantine, Metropolitan – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

† John, Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
† Antony, Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA  
† Vsevolod, Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA  
† Ioan, Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora  
† Yuri, Archbishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
† Jeremiah, Bishop – Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

*Remember Philly's Convention?  
Join Us In Boston for the 55th!*

*"Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God"*  
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

## 55<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention

### BOSTON

July 17th through July 21<sup>st</sup> 2002

### Radisson Hotel Boston

200 Stuart St., Boston, MA 02116

**\*\* Reservations: (617) 482-1800 \*\***

**Hotel rate: \$149 / night**

This special rate will apply 3 days preceding and following convention

**\*\* Reservations must be made by June 20, 2002 \*\***

Make sure to book hotel reservations for:

**"UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE"**

check out the hotel website : [www.radisson.com/bostonma](http://www.radisson.com/bostonma)

Hosted by the Senior and Junior UOL Chapters  
St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Boston, MA

### REGISTRATION PACKET:

Seniors: \$185

Juniors and Clergy: \$175

Pre-teen (ages 6-12): \$75

Deadline for pre-registration: **June 20, 2002**

Late registration - add \$ 25.00

**For more convention information contact:**

**Chairperson: Sandra Kondratiuk**

**Tel: (617) 489-2613**

**e-mail: [skondratiuk@aol.com](mailto:skondratiuk@aol.com)**



## JR. UOL PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*John D. Meschisen*

Glory to Jesus Christ.

Greetings once again. I hope everything is stupendous with you all. Things are peachy with me. (Just in case you were curious.) Well, things are starting to pick up speed in the Jr. UOL. The Jr. Board plans to meet at least two more times in the next three months to finalize the convention plans and to bring business to a close for the year.

Everyone should have their dues and roster forms in to Miss Natalie Beck. If not, please get those in. The Jr. board is also in the developmental stage of producing something that we call "The Travel Grant". This grant would have to be applied for, and would be given to a group of juniors, or an individual, or an existing chapter who does not have the financial means to come to the annual convention. We hope that this will be a way to spread enthusiasm for the Jr. UOL and encourage convention attendance.

Well this is all I have for now, but don't fret next time I will write a ton more!!

Until then, I will remain through Christ most affectionately yours,  
John Meschisen



## A PALOS PARK "MALANKA"



*Parishioners welcome the New Year*

Far away from Ukraine, in Palos Park, Illinois, at the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Ukrainian tradition of "Malanka" is not forgotten.

With every year more and more people join us for this wonderful celebration. And that is not surprising. Why not come and enjoy great food, great music, laughter and dancing. This year's Malanka was the best ever! With over 200 people attending, we all joyously welcomed year 2002.

The Malanka is one of the main fundraisers for our UOL chapter. In preparation for the UOL Convention, which will be held in Chicago in the Summer of 2003, we all are working hard to raise funds for the convention.

This event has drawn many people from other parishes and neighborhoods. The Malanka makes a wonderful evening for our parish members to enjoy the fruits of their hard work that goes into this event.

So...we all danced, sang, and when the clock ticked down to Midnight, we all yelled out "Happy New Year". From everyone at Sts. Peter and Paul, we wish you a happy, safe and year full of hope.

Pani Matka Laura Naumenko

## JOHNSON CITY JR. UOL NEWS

In celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church in October 2001, our youth have been motivated and enlivened into another great year. Our Junior UOL Chapter at St. John Church, Johnson City, NY has been off to a great start and kept busy with chapter projects. In services for our church, we work the coatroom of the parish hall, waitress at banquets, and provide coffee hour every Sunday after church. We also decorated the church for the Nativity, and baked and sent cookies to the college students that belong to our church.

The juniors have also reached out to help others. We held a pancake breakfast at our church to raise money for the Children of Chernobyl Fund. Also, during the Nativity Advent we participated in CHOW (Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse) drive, which collects food for the needy in our area. We took two extra collections in our church. One was to send over seven hundred dollars to help the firemen who have been working since the September 11 attack on America. The second collection was geared toward making the Christmas season brighter for the less fortunate in our community. With over three hundred dollars that we collected, the juniors purchased a great deal of toys to be given to a local organization that would distribute them.

In the near future, we plan on working at local soup kitchens, visiting at nursing homes, and providing lenten dinners after church services.

Megan Scannell

St. John the Baptist Church, Johnson City, New York

## PARMA JR CHAPTER NEWS

*"Snow May Be Cold,  
But Parma's ON FIRE!"*

Forecasters could never have predicted the heat wave that came from Parma this winter. While some people like to stay in and keep warm by the fire, the Parma Jr. UOL Chapter has generated its own heat. They have kept busy with activities spiritual, philanthropic, and social.

The season began in mid-December, with the parish's Annual St. Nicholas celebration. The juniors and Sunday schoolers alike participated in this program, which taught us the ABC's of the Christmas season. But the fun didn't stop there. They shared their knowledge with the rest of the parish at a sing-a-long the Sunday after Christmas. Junior members read passages from the Nativity story and the parish joined together to sign traditional carols.

The chapter wasn't through yet. They were also busy serving the needs of others. With activities such as helping the Senior UOL serve Cviata Vechera to parishioners and raise money for a new roof for St. Herman's House of Hospitality. The needs of St. Herman's were realized when members of the Jr. UOL went to the shelter to help prepare and serve a meal. Two members loved it so much that they hid from departing vehicles and spent an extra hour bonding with Abbot John Henry, and the rest of the men who live there.

Think the chapter has broken into a sweat yet?—not even close! Fr. John

lit a fire underneath seven Jr. UOL members and convinced them to join him for a night of faith, fellowship and fun in Niagara Falls, Canada. The three and a half hour drive easily turned into nine hours as the van ventured through snow, sleet and rain. Many doubted that they would ever arrive at their destination but 75 games of taboo, 32 Ukrainian CD's, and nine hours later they arrived at their destination. The weather in Niagara was not any better and after a night of indoor swimming the gang braved the blizzard once again for a nine-hour trip home. The experience was something not soon to be forgotten.

Eager for the upcoming convention in Boston, the Jr's planned an extremely fun filled and profitable fundraiser. Area youth came to support the chapter at their "Drive-In Movie", where *Shrek* was shown on a big screen and great food was purchased at the concession stand. A total of \$300 was raised to help send the juniors' to Boston.

Heat stroke yet?—No No No, not yet until we spent a day at Laser-X-Team. Juniors and future members united during a day of laser tag, air hockey and winning bouncy balls. The young ones ran wild while the older ones were a little more competitive. Even though Melanie always wins we don't get discouraged because we know it's all fun and games.

Think our fire is extinguished? No way Ihor! The year's not over and we have lots more to do. *Just wait until Spring Fever hits Parma!*

In Faith, Hope and Love,

Nina Aust, Jr. Chapter President and,

Christy Bohuslawsky, Jr. Chapter Vice President

**Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord!**

## UKRAINIAN HOLOCAUST

(continued from page 1)

oxen. But the production of tractors fell badly behind schedule, and a very high percentage of those which were delivered broke down almost immediately. As a result, in 1931 almost one-third of the grain yield was lost during the harvest. To make matters worse, a drought hit southern Ukraine in 1931.

The Ukrainians continued to resist and to dream of a free and independent nation; and since Joseph Stalin could not kill that dream, he first decided to deport all Ukrainians to other parts of the Soviet Union. Discovering that there were too many of them to move, Stalin decided to kill the dreamers instead; and his weapon was a man-made, artificial famine which was designed to eliminate the troublemakers and force the survivors into total, complete submission. The famine which occurred in 1932-33 was to be for Ukrainians what the Holocaust was to the Jews, and what the Massacres of 1915 was for the Armenians. A tragedy of unfathomable proportions, it traumatized the nation, leaving it with deep social, psychological, political and demographic scars that it still carries to this very day. The central fact about the famine is that it did not have to happen. Food was available; but the state confiscated most of it for its own use. All crops were requisitioned by the Soviet government and shipped elsewhere. This confiscation of food included seed which was intended for spring planting. Any man, woman or child caught taking even a handful of grain from a government silo could be, and often was, executed. In Moscow a law was enacted stipulating that no grain could be given to the peasants until the government's full quota had been met. Gangs of party activists conducted brutal house-to-house searches, tearing up floors and delving into wells in search of grain which remained. In fact, if a person did not appear to be starving, he was suspected of hoarding food.

Famine, which had been spreading throughout 1932, hit full force early in 1933. Lacking bread, peasants ate pets, rats, bark, leaves, and the garbage from the well-provisioned kitchens of Communist Party members. Whole villages were erased and people were dying by the tens of thousands. Cannibalism existed. At first cannibals were shot on the spot, but later were thrown into concentration camps. The most terrifying sights were the little children with skeleton limbs dangling from balloon-like abdomens. Cordons of troops prevented peasants from entering cities; those who managed to break through wandered about until they fell in the streets. Such people were loaded onto trucks, together with the corpses, and dumped into pits outside of the city.

With the climbing death rate during the famine, the publication of death statistics was forbidden by the Soviet government. When deaths due to famine took on major proportions in Ukraine in 1932-33, physicians certifying the cause of death were forbidden to name the killer—starvation. The word "holod" (hunger) was decreed as counter-revolutionary, and no one valuing his own life and those of his relatives dared use it publicly. When the results of the census of 1937, for example, revealed shockingly high mortality rates, Stalin had the leading census takers shot.

Elsewhere there was no famine—much of Russia proper barely experienced it—but the borders of Ukraine had been sealed by the secret police; there was no escape. **The Ukrainians had been sentenced to death.** And thus, the greatest genocide in history was systematically accomplished. A noteworthy aspect of the famine was the attempts to erase it from public consciousness; the Soviet position was to deny that it had occurred at all. To curry Stalin's favor, for example, Walter Duranty—the Moscow-based reporter of the *New York Times*, repeatedly denied the existence of a famine in his articles (while privately estimating that about ten million people may have starved to death). For the "profundity, impartiality, sound judgment and exceptional clarity" of his dispatches from the USSR, Duranty received the Pulitzer Prize in 1932.

Yet, even to this very day, there are those who deny the Ukrainian Holocaust to such a degree that it is being referred to a "the hidden holocaust of the twentieth century". In 1984, for example, a documentary film entitled **HARVEST OF DESPAIR** was shown on Canadian television. This film won numerous prizes at World Film Festivals and a 1986 Academy Award Nomination; yet all three top commercial networks in America refused to show it. As recently as 1994, the New Jersey state legislators were being pressured to exclude the Ukrainian Holocaust from Resolution A-589 (The Holocaust Education Bill).

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**We're too blessed to be depressed.**

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**Plan Ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.**

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## RESOLUTION: TO DO MORE FOR OTHERS

***"To Visit Our Sick and Elderly Parishioners – Not Only During Our Lenten Seasons"***

Advent ended and we celebrated the Birth of Christ, coming together in our parishes to unite in His love and enjoy the beauty of the Christmas season. And then we settled back into our daily routines, feeling good that we did so many activities to reach out to the sick and elderly in our parishes. We caroled at nursing homes. We bought presents for our shut-ins. We served Sviata Vechera to parishioners who were alone. And we broadcast our Christmas Divine Liturgy over the radio to people who were unable to celebrate with us.

We'd done our duties, our Christmas traditions, and we felt good! Yet, every year I know that I walk away from this season saying that I am going to not let these beautiful traditions be ones that we only do at Christmas. It's a long time from January 7<sup>th</sup> to November 28<sup>th</sup>, Christmas day to the first day of advent. Think of all the things that we do during those long months. Work, school, vacations, camps, conventions—the list goes on for miles. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to do so many wonderful things throughout the year. Yet frequently, as people age, they are able to do less and less and the months do not go by as quickly.

So this year, along with your resolutions to loose 10 pounds, to eat healthier, to work out more, to watch less television, *let us also resolve to do more for others—to visit our sick and elderly parishioners not only during the advent season but during the entire year.* Let us strive to remember that they were the foundation for our parishes and that we are grateful for all that they have done for us. Let us show our appreciation for them not only during the Christmas season—but all year long.

Melanie Nakonachny, Chairwoman  
Christian Caregiving and Missions

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## UOL BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

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## PARMA JUNIORS AND SENIORS SERVE LUNCH

***St. Herman's House of Hospitality,  
Cleveland, OH***



***Becky Naab, Erica Boyko, Christy Bohuslawsky, Monica Rufails,  
Steve Kisil, and Alex Moysienko***



## THE YOUNGSTOWN JR. UOL



**Annual Lock-In with friends from Parma, Lakewood, and Pittsburgh**

The Youngstown Jr. UOL held our annual all-night lock-in get-together with participants from Parma, Lakewood, and Pittsburgh.

We had a question and answer hour with our guest speaker, Fr. Joshua. We went bowling, played pool, and went out to eat. Next, we returned to our church hall and were "locked-in" until 6:00 AM the next morning. Our group played basketball, ping pong, and had a delicious "make your own sundae" session. All the juniors had fun and fellowship.

A big thanks to the Youth Ministry and our church for sponsoring this event.

In February, we decorated the Omni Nursing Home with the patriotic hearts that we made for Valentine's Day. We also sent Valentine cards to many of our church's disabled members.

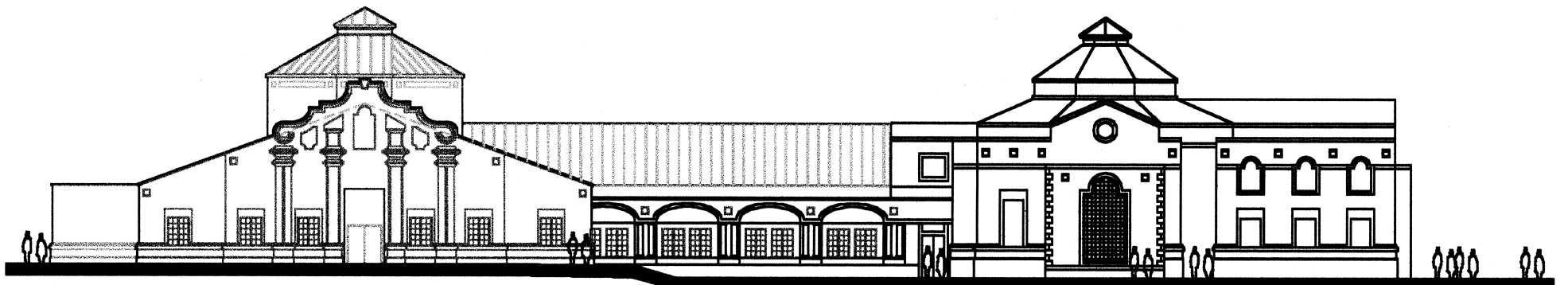
Eric Senedak, Reporter



**Youngstown Jr. UOL members and Sunday School children decorate the Omni Nursing Home**

## UOL HISTORICAL-EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX/MUSEUM General Fund Drive Announced

For Information: UOC Office of Development, Dr. Stephen Sivulich, Director, 206 Christopher Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15205; (412) 389-1723.



**UOL Consistory Offices (Current)**

**Historical-Educational Complex (Proposal)**

## SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

### "Suggested Outreach Programs"

As devout and faithful followers of our Lord and Savior, each one of us has been called to share in the blessings bestowed upon us by the Heavenly Father. The members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League have always been generous in leading the way for the Church in its ministry in *Care Giving and Missions*.

The 2001 UOL Convention, which took place in Philadelphia, PA outlined the goals for this Ministry of Service. Listed below are charitable programs with which our Church has been working:

**St. Andrew's Society** – A network of faithful in the U.S. that supports soup kitchens for the needy and provide scholarships for seminarians in Ukraine.

**United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods** – The coordinating body for our parish sisterhoods which provides scholarships to students throughout the world and sends clothes parcels to the needy.

**Eastern Orthodox Foundation** – A home for the emotionally, physically, and mentally challenged in Indiana, PA.

**St. Herman's Monastery** – A monastery of our Central Eparchy which provides food and shelter to the inner city homeless of Cleveland, OH.

**Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund** – A relief agency to the victims of the nuclear disaster in Ukraine which has implemented our Church's aid program to two orphanages in Ukraine.

**Orthodox Christian Mission Center** – An agency of SCOBA which sends missionaries and mission teams throughout the world. Recently, sent a team to our Church in Brazil.

**ZOE for Life** – An Orthodox organization assisting women in crisis pregnancies.

We are encouraging each UOL Chapter to select an outreach program and organize a fundraiser or solicit funds among the membership and faithful of the parish. We understand that it is much easier to just write a check, but it is much more meaningful to give from the heart!

Fr. Deacon Ihor Mahlay, Director

UOC Office of Missions and Christian Charity

Melanie Nakonachny, Chairperson

UOL Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission

## GREETINGS FROM AMBRIDGE, PA UOL

Another year has passed and it's time to wish all of our UOL Chapter members and Orthodox Christians a Happy New Year. May our Lord bless everyone with good health and happiness. May we continue to work for God, our chapter and fellowmen.

Although we are not a large chapter in numbers, we are busy with various activities for the church and charities. We hosted a brunch for the entire congregation on Orthodox Sunday. In December, we packed 150 lunches for the homeless in Pittsburgh. It's a wonderful feeling, while packing these lunches, knowing that the effort will be greatly appreciated.

St. Nicholas Day is always exciting. The Sunday School children presented a program which was followed by the arrival of St. Nicholas, who knew that they were good all year long.

On January 18th, our UOL Chapter hosted the Theophany Eve dinner. Following the delicious meal and great fellowship, we joined Father Michael for the Theophany services.

Our little Gift Shop, in the corner of the hall, is also doing well. Our president, Ann Rizzo, keeps it well supplied with Ukrainian cards for all occasions along with other gifts. We also hold raffles occasionally to supplement our treasury.

Until you hear from us again, GOD BLESS.

Ann Somar, Reporter



## RELIGION: QUESTION BOX

Fr. John W. Harvey,  
St. Michael Parish, Woonsocket, RI

**QUESTION:** My niece has become a warrior against fur and leather products. Although I think that she is a bit extreme, some of her arguments made sense. Has our church ever expressed an opinion about this subject?

**ANSWER:** Certainly in both Old Testament and New Testament times, only natural products were used. Today, we can use all manner of synthetic materials for clothing, packaging and whatever. In Scripture, wine-skins, fleeces and leather garments are all mentioned. For the Jews, a prayer was said every time an animal was slaughtered for food or other purposes. Life created by God was being taken, but for a specific and plausible purpose, such as food, or being tanned for many uses as a leather product, such slaughtering was a good stewardship usage of the resources of God.

Animals were not wasted for sport. At the turn of the twentieth century almost whole species of birds were wiped out to provide feathers for the women's fashions of the time. This was a frivolous and unnecessary use and certainly quite destructive for nature.

Our church has not made specific pronouncements on this subject (i.e., clubbing of baby seals for the fur industry). The Ecumenical Patriarch does, however, *promote ecology and the sustainable usage of the world materials, because God has made us stewards of his creation.*



*Carnegie Juniors with their "Ideal Advisor" — Alexis Sawchuk*

## WHAT IS A JR. CHAPTER ADVISOR?

*"The Ideal Advisor Is"*

- One who enjoys working with youngsters—a variety of ages.
- One who assists with organizing projects but permits the juniors to learn from the experience.
- One who teaches "Robert's Rules" but doesn't confuse meetings.
- One who monitors the Jr. Chapter's financial records—especially the checkbook and sees that bills are paid.
- One who recruits others to assist with bake sales, coffee hours and preparing food for parish events.
- One who prevents youngsters from climbing ladders to trim the Christmas tree.
- One who walks the five miles in a fund drive.
- One who reminds each officer of his/her duties.
- One who goes bowling and tubing and gets the pizza.

*The ideal advisor is Alexis Sawchuk, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA. She does all of this.*

The Jr. UOL Members were asked to describe Mrs. Sawchuk:

**Natasha:** "She helps organize everything."

**John:** "She helps with meetings and makes sure everything works."

**Zach:** "She helps with fund raising and works with us."

**Corinna:** "She does a lot of nice stuff for us and helps us with everything."

**Natalie:** "Without her help, our chapter would fall apart."

She reminds us what to do. She is really great."

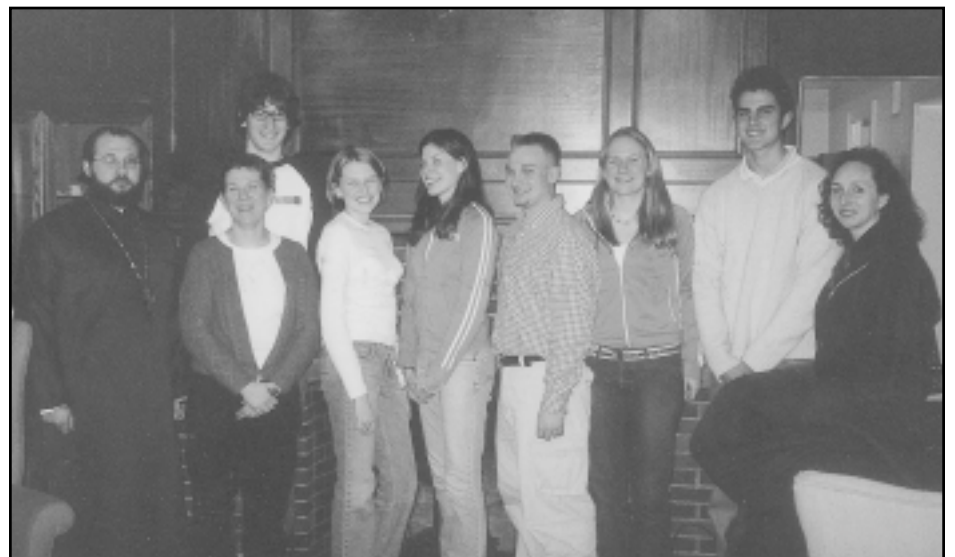
**Chris:** "She gets everything ready for us, and helps a lot."

**Anastasia:** "She does a lot. She organizes and is very helpful."

**Olesia:** "She helps with financial records and statements, makes sure the food is good, and makes sure that everything is done right."

**Steven:** "She tries to get others to join, helps with everything, buys things, pays bills, and helps the Treasurer."

Sts. Peter and Paul Jr. UOL Chapter Members



*Jr. Executive Board Meeting in Boston*

## COATESVILLE CHAPTER NEWS

The Junior UOL Chapter of Holy Ghost Church, Coatesville, PA, attended the 2001 Jr. UOL Convention in Philadelphia last summer. Mark and Diana Tejjaro (seniors) attended with the youth and came back excited and moved. The Holy Spirit had touched their hearts and guided them in organizing a local chapter. Years ago, our church had a very strong chapter and we are fortunate to have several former members rejoin the UOL.

An organizational meeting of our revitalized Ukrainian Orthodox League (UOL) was held recently. We have fourteen (14) charter members: Father and Pani Czumak, Jeanne Eckman, John Kosturos, Tammy Monko, Alexandra Parks, Irene Pashesnick, Katie Peck, Diana and Mark Tejjaro, Avelino and Pen Tejjaro, and Ray and Pru Vito.

New elected chapter officers are: President – Diana Tejjaro, Vice-President – Ray Vito, Recording Secretary – Jeanne Eckman, Corresponding Secretary – Alexandra Parks, and Treasurer – Pani Chris.

For more information on our new chapter, visit our church at: [www.holyghostuoc.org](http://www.holyghostuoc.org).

Jeanne Ruczhak-Eckman, Secretary

## CARNEGIE JUNIORS CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD BANK



*Sts. Peter and Paul Jr. Chapter, Carnegie, PA, sponsored a "Soup Bowl Sunday" — providing soup and sandwiches with profits of \$276 being donated to St. Luke's Food Bank, Carnegie, PA.*

## MISSION TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA

Reflections by Mike Sally: Part III

Sunday, July 15, 2001, I don't know why it was, but I felt I knew something was going to happen today. There was a crackling in the air; the prelude to an eye-opening event of such magnitude as I have never before seen. The feeling lasted throughout Liturgy, held within the large hall of St. Vladimir the Great Parish in Papanduva, Santa Catarina—Bishop Jeremiah's hometown.

At the end of the Liturgy, as the crowd of morning churchgoers was leaving another crowd was entering to participate in baptisms and chrismations. I think this was an awesome sight which that great feeling foretold. We gathered around as close as we could, standing on chairs and benches as the bishop began baptizing the people. When he had finished with the twenty or so baptisms, he announced with arms open, "No more baptisms, now I do chrismations!" And he added at least another 35 people to the Orthodox Church. We were later told that this area once had no congregation. Only recently, within the past ten years, under Bishop Jeremiah's spiritual guidance has the church here grown to over 100 families.

Afterwards, the floor was cleared and tables were rearranged to make room for a grand meal. We enjoyed the lunch to the music of American show tunes sung in Portuguese; such as "New York, New York" and "Maria, Cha, Cha, Cha." We visited the local cemetery in the afternoon as well as the seldom used garage-sized church nearby which was the site of the first officially registered Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Brazil.

When we came back to the site of the morning's Liturgy, we were greeted by a throng of youth—a couple hundred—who had gathered in and around the hall. Most were lured by the free food and drinks but the seminarians commented that hopefully by being in the vicinity of the church, some influence of the spiritual life just might eventually rub off on them.

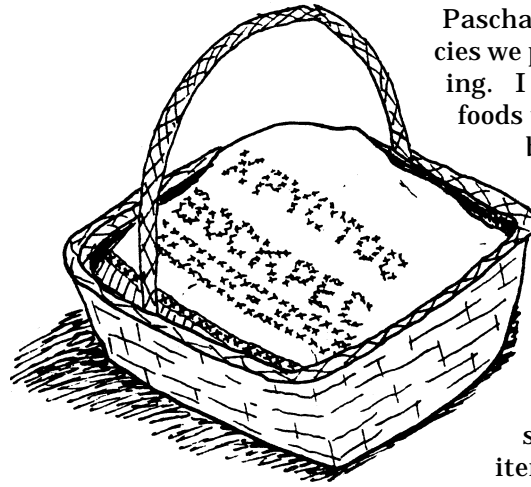
Most of this week was spent at the seminary in Curitiba finishing the scraping, sanding and painting of windows. The end of the week brought about a trip to the beach to get more of a feel of life here as much as to relax and review the last three weeks.

Saturday was the start of the first ever Orthodox Youth Conference, with young people participating from Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. We sat in on the conference all day and thought at times it was hard to follow (mostly when Portuguese was spoken—which was actually 95% of the time!) we all enjoyed being able to talk one-on-one with the youth and give them ideas for projects and fund-raisers.

Yes, I do believe that we accomplished our mission. We did some on the seminary, but a major portion of our time was spent visiting with the people. I truly believe this is primarily what this mission trip was about. That is, becoming aware that there are Orthodox Christians around the world that need to be recognized and supported. Over the last several weeks we made friendships and formed lasting bonds that needed to be experienced to know that we were accomplishing our mission goal. God is amazing in His infinite ability to know exactly when to show us exactly what we need to see when and we need to see it. And I thank God for allowing me to see all that I saw on this mission trip.

## SYMBOLISM OF EASTER FOODS

Elizabeth Mitchell



Pascha brings to mind the many delicacies we place in our Easter basket for blessing. I began to wonder why the specific foods were used and why the basket was brought to church. After searching my cookbooks and various publications, I learned this was an age-old tradition stemming from the Christian community asking God's blessing on the food which would break their Great Lenten fast. But why the same food year after year? To my surprise, I found that each of the items to be blessed has some form of religious symbolism.

**Paska** – is symbolic of Christ and the New Passover of Joy. He is the "Living Bread" who came down from heaven to give eternal life to the world. Bread reminds us of Jesus, who in the Eucharist is the bread of Everlasting Life, and who nourishes our souls and our bodies.

**Meat Products** – represent the animals used in sacrifice whose blood, or life, was shed for life and atonement with God in the Old Testament, especially for Passover. It reminds us of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, who became for us the Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world through His sacrifices. Meats are also a reminder of the story of the fatted calf prepared by the father for his Prodigal Son out of joy in celebration.

**Ham** – is symbolic of the great abundance of Easter and symbolizes our freedom from the Old Testament Law, which did not allow certain kinds of meat. The new law began with the Resurrection bringing joy and freedom of grace.

**Lamb** – symbolizes Jesus, the Pascal Lamb by whose blood we are saved. The Jews sacrificed a lamb and used its blood on their doors so the angel of death would pass over their homes.

**Sausage** (kovbassa) – represents the links of the chains of death which were broken when Christ rose from the dead, descending into Hades filling it with Light and Life. It is indicative of God's favor and generosity.

**Bacon** – is symbolic of the over-abundance of God's mercy to us—the richness of Grace and Eternal Life.

**Butter** – reminds us of the goodness of Christ's love that we should have toward each other and all living things. Butter in the shape of a lamb also reminds us of Jesus, the Paschal Lamb. All dairy products are related to the prophecies, which foretold of the prosperity and peace of the Messianic times. Our new life in the Resurrected Lord is like the Promised Land where Moses led his people after the Old Testament Passover.

**Horseradish** – is symbolic of the sufferings of Christ, the bitterness of His passion to remind us of the sweetness and bitterness that will be encountered in our lives. We should carry our personal cross with faith and humility in the light of Christ's saving passion.

**Salt** – is the reflection of Christ's words: "You are the salt of the earth." Salt is also a symbol of the fast; the self-denial, and our cooperation with God as we grow in the Christian faith.

**Eggs** – are indicative of new life and resurrection. The egg is often likened to the tomb from which Christ rose. It is an ancient symbol of life and birth.

The basket of Easter foods is blessed in anticipation of the joyful celebration of Christ's Defeat of Death and the Gift of Life. As each family in the Old Testament celebrated the Passover, today we gather around the family upon returning from Resurrection services, where we greet the rising sun coming from the darkness to the light, from death to life, from earth to heaven. The blessed food breaks the fast of Lent after we partake of the Eucharist and continue our celebration at home.

May you truly enjoy your Paschal feast even more knowing the symbolism of our traditional Easter food. Smatchnoho! Bon Appetit!

(Special thanks to my pastor, Fr. Steve Repa for his assistance with this article.)

Source: \*Various anonymous articles and pamphlets.

\*Vaughn, Mary Ann Woloch, Ukrainian Easter, Communications Printing, Coralville, IO, 1982.

### Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

#### CAMPING PROGRAMS – 2002

##### Diocesan Church School Camp

Sunday, June 23 - Saturday, July 6 (2-week program)

Sunday, June 23 - Sunday, June 29 (1-week program)

Sunday, June 29 - Saturday, July 6 (1-week program)

Contact: Debbie Burgan, 228 Harding Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011; (973) 340-7586

##### Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me

Monday, July 8 - Friday, July 12 (5-day program)

Contact: Natalie Kapeluck, 1810 Sidney St., Pgh., PA 15203; (412) 488-9664

##### Teenage Conference

Sunday, July 21 - Saturday, August 3 (2-week program)

Sunday, July 21 - Sunday, July 28 (1-week program)

Sunday, July 28 - Saturday, August 4 (1-week program)

Contact: Charissa Martin, 314 Court St., Apt. #1, Brooklyn, NY 11231; (718) 858-7545





*Palos Park Juniors host Coffee Hour*

## UOL DATES AND DEADLINES

- April 30 DEADLINE: Chapter Project Contribution  
30 Convention Registration Forms mailed
- May 5 *UOL Bulletin* Submission Deadline (June Issue)  
15 DEADLINE: Essay/Creative Contest  
15 Awards Deadline  
15 Deadline: Convention Yearbook Ads  
15 Annual Reports Deadline  
25-27 Young Adults Memorial Day Weekend,  
All Saints Camp, Emlenton, PA  
31 LSSK Scholarship Deadline
- July 17-21 55<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention, Boston, MA  
**Radisson Boston Hotel: 617.482.1800**

### *College Students!*

If you know a college student, individual who is away from home, person in the armed service, send his/her name and address to the UOL BULLETIN Editor. We'll add him/her to the mailing list.

***"Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God"***

*(1 Corinthians 10:31)*



**55<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention  
Boston, MA**

**July 17-21, 2002**

**RADISSON HOTEL BOSTON**

**Phone: 617.482.1800**

**Hosted by  
Sr. & Jr. UOL Chapters  
St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
Chairperson: Sandra Kondratiuk  
Phone: 617.489.2613  
E-mail: skondratiuk@aol.com**



## UOL TRIBUTES

***A donation to the Tribute Fund acknowledges Milestones, Accomplishments or Special Recognition of an individual or group and helps the UOL further its mission. The UOL sincerely thanks the following for their recent contribution.***

### CONTRIBUTOR

Helen Greenleaf

Helen Boss

Iris Leschishin

### OCCASION

In honor of Sandra and Len Kondratiuk, Fr. Andriy and the Boston UOL Chapter members with much appreciation for hosting the National Board Meeting, February 1-3, and extending such warm hospitality to us throughout the weekend.

In Memory of Steve Hoshak, Butler, PA who passed away on December 31, 2001.

In Blessed Memory of my good friend, Ann Pagor. February is her birthday month and I miss her.

## MONTHLY BIBLE READINGS *A Resource Guide*

In addition to being listed in the Annual 2002 Church Calendar and Clergy Directory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the **Gospel and Epistle readings for the month** can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.ukrainianorthodoxchurchusa.org/resources/>

An additional resource of interest, on the same page under "Prayers for Orthodox Christians", that page contains a link to a downloadable Menologion.

MENOLOGION 2.0 is a free computer program which Provides an easy way to access the Troparia, Kontakia and Bible Readings of the day, for any day past, present, or future, old or new calendar.

MENOLOGION can also display an Icon next to the associated text. There are 53 Icons included in the main program, with another 380 Icons available in an optional Supplemental Icon Library, containing at least one saint for every day of the year. The program can be downloaded either with or without the Supplemental Icon Library, and the Supplemental Icon Library itself can be downloaded separately.

The software is compatible with all Windows systems. Note that the downloads are fairly large, especially with the full Icon Library.

Jonathan Patronik  
jppuol@attglobal.net

## UOL BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

Sts. Peter & Paul  
Ukrainian Orthodox G.C. Church  
c/o Dr. Stephen Sivilich  
206 Christopher Circle  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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