



# Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

## Consistory Circular

### September-November- 2014

Office of the Consistory President

### *The Beginning of the New Year...*

On this day, September 1/14, we begin the new ecclesiastical year in the blessed anticipation of the saving and wondrous works that will be accomplished by God in the days and months before us. Each new annual cycle of worship and ministry in our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church offers opportunities for our spiritual growth, for transformation in the lives of those who find faith and hope, for fellowship with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, and for compassionate service offered to those in need.

The beginning of every "New Year" experience finds many people making resolutions to improve their lives. Some people make a resolution to strengthen their financial or professional standing. Others resolve to lose weight or stop a bad habit. And there are many people who express the desire to improve their relationships with their families or coworkers, to help the needy, or to pursue some other lofty goal in life.

While it is natural to make such resolutions at the beginning of a secular new year, it is also more often than not the case that, within a few weeks, such resolutions are broken or forgotten. Life returns to "normal," to the "status quo." During the subsequent months, little attention is paid to broken resolutions which, by the end of the year, have been thoroughly forgotten.

The very heart of the Gospel may be summed up into a single word: *repent!* To be a follower of Christ means to resolve to change our minds, our hearts, and our lives, resolving to discern not our own wills and desires, but the Lord's.

Resolving to live according to God's will and the example we have been given by Our Lord, Jesus Christ, is something that is not restricted to the beginning of a new year, but faces us every day of our lives as Orthodox Christians. We are continually challenged to embrace change by growing stronger in our faith, by participating more regularly in the life of the Church, and by reaching out to others with compassion and love. As we begin every new day, we pray that our repentance will bring us into a more intense relationship with God, with others, and even with ourselves, seeking to accomplish not our own wills, but the will of our Heavenly Father.

The beginning of the new Ecclesiastical year offers us an opportunity to make a resolution that matters, that transcends

the goals inherent in so many "new year's resolutions" and offers us a foretaste of the very Kingdom of God that, while yet to be fully revealed, is already fully present in the life of the Church. It affords us an opportunity to pursue a new beginning, to transform our commitment and words into conviction and action, and to put our spiritual households into order, not only during the coming year but for the remainder of our lives. Ultimately, making the resolution to repent is not something restricted to the beginning of a new year; rather, it is the challenge - the Gospel's challenge - to be renewed in body and soul every day of our lives, to change our focus and direction in our pursuit of holiness rather than our own trivial pursuits.

Our commemoration of the beginning of the ecclesiastical year must be more than a formality. Our observance of the new Church year must be joined to our love for the divine services. Celebrating the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, we are to discover yet again the gift of liturgical worship and the great responsibility that is ours in making this gift available to all. Entering upon a new year of salvation, and a new chapter in the history of our Church, let us share the gift of the Church's liturgical worship and through it offer to all the Gospel of new and eternal life.

We are blessed by God with the beginning of this new ecclesiastical year. In thanksgiving, let us make our resolution one of repentance and interior change, aimed at "*the one thing needful*" - pursuing our lives in accordance with the will of God and the example of our Savior. Let us "lay aside all earth cares" - and "resolutions" - replacing them with a firm commitment to seek renewal in the Lord. And let us resolve to remain vigilant in fulfilling this resolution, especially in times of temptation or distress - times when Our Lord is quick to hear our prayers for help, guidance, and direction. In so doing, we will discover that indeed the Lord is with us at every moment and in every circumstance, giving us the resolve to grow in and with Him now and in the days to come.

*With prayers for each and every one of you,*

**+ Daniel**

*Your bishop and brother in Christ*

## **PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX BISHOPS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE**

*Annual Meeting set for Clearwater, FL - 8-11 September*

The Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops beyond the Borders of Ukraine (PCB) was founded in 1995 out of deep concern for the continued development and spiritual growth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church both in Ukraine and beyond her borders in the USA, Canada, Europe, South America and Australia/New Zealand. Each year the Conference meets in a different country to consider the current ecclesiastical conditions in Ukraine and how the Churches in Diaspora can assist our brothers and sisters during very difficult economic, social and political times.

The hosts for the 2014 meeting of the PCB will be the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Please see the next issue of the UOW for meeting resolutions and decisions.

## **UOC OF USA ASSISTS UKRAINE IN THE TIME OF WAR**

In the recent Statement of the Council of Bishops of the UOC of the USA regarding the tragic war related events in Ukraine, the hierarchs stated: "...We remain in solidarity with our Orthodox, Catholic and other Faith leaders in Ukraine who have proved their devotion to their flocks in their steadfast prayer and ministry to those who sat on the cold cobble-stoned Maidan. We have personally delivered material support to the hospitals caring for the injured and the families of those murdered. Today, however, we call upon all our brother Hierarchs of Orthodox Churches throughout the world to utilize their God-give authority, including those in Russia itself, to call for the cessation of the attack of Orthodox brothers against their own in the Faith! We call upon Christians of other denominations and adherents of all religious Faiths around the world to urge their followers to speak up and help to avoid a cataclysm for a nation that has endured far more such cataclysms than it should have been able to endure..."

The Consistory of the Church, fulfilling the mandate of the Council of Bishops and the Appeal for Financial Aid from St. Andrew Society (central organization of the UOC of the USA), reached out to the refugees, survivors and relatives of the fallen Maidan victims, as well as the wounded soldiers and provided material assistance of over **\$110,000.00**, which was donated by the faithful and friends of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

With the blessing of Metropolitan Antony, Bishop Daniel has traveled four times to Ukraine and personally met with the refugees, wounded soldiers and family members of the Maidan victims and soldiers - providing all of them with the financial assistance from the Church.

For more information on the distribution of funds, please visit [www.uocofusa.org](http://www.uocofusa.org) to read articles in the official publication of the Church - Ukrainian Orthodox Word from the May/June, July/August and the upcoming Sept/Oct issues.

## **AUDIT COMMISSION COMPLETES WORK**

The Audit Commission, elected at each Sobor has completed its work in examining the 2013 financial records of the Consistory and Church Organizations. Hanya Cherniak, St. Andrew Parish, Silver Spring, MD chairs the Commission and members are: V. Rev. Oleh Hucul, Ascension of our Lord parish, Maplewood NJ, Rev. Michael Danczak, St. George Parish, Minersville, PA, Mr. Geoffrey Greenleaf, St. Vladimir Cathedral, Parma, OH and Mr. Michael Dobransky, St. John the Baptist Parish, Johnson City, NY.

The Auditors met with the Consistory President - His Grace Bishop Daniel, Very Rev. Robert Holet, Treasurer and Natalia Honcharenko, Assistant Treasurer who offered the Audit Committee an overview of the financial status of the Church and about ongoing work of the Finance Advisory Committee, which was appointed by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony.

The Auditors found all financial records to be in excellent and accurate condition and commended the work of Emil Skocypec, past Treasurer and Very Rev. Fr. Robert Holet - present Treasurer and Director of the Office of Financial Affairs and Assistant Treasurer, Natalia Honcharenko, for their outstanding performance.

## **FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH BEGINS ITS WORK**

The Finance Committee of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (FAC), which was formed at the directive of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and under the authority of the Council of Metropolia of the UOC of the USA, began its work as an advisory Committee to the Consistory of the Church. in the Fall of 2013. Among various projects that the FAC has already begun studying and completing are: the review of the Investment and Reimbursement Policies, Conflict of Interest and Best Financial Practices Policy of the Consistory administration..

Following the lengthy consideration of our Church's current financial management firm, the FAC determined that this management could be improved and began interviewing new management firms. One particular firm stood out way above the others and at the recommendation of the FAC, the Consistory has contracted the services of Candor Wealth Financial Advisors.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony appointed the following individuals to serve on the FAC: Geoffrey Greenleaf, Very Rev. Wolodymyr Wronsky, Daria Pishko-Komichak, Gregory Misko and Larry Kopp - all individuals with extensive financial management or development experience. Bishop Daniel, Consistory President, Very Rev. Robert Holet, Treasurer, Natalia Honcharenko, Assistant Treasurer and Joshua Oryhon, Development Officer also participate in FAC meetings as necessary to provide any information needed by the FAC members and to later provide the Consistory members with FAC recommendations to aide in decision making about financial matters. We are most grateful to the FAC volunteers for their enormously important contributions of time and effort.

## ST SOPHIA SEMINARY RECEIVES SEVIS RECERTIFICATION

In the fall of 2013, the administration of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary was contacted by SEVIS - the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System of the US Department of Homeland Security about the recertification process that each higher education institution in USA that educates foreign students must undergo. The lengthy process, which required the submission of over 380 pages of evidence documentation was completed by His Grace Bishop Daniel, PDSO (*Principal Designated School Official to SEVIS*) and Rev. Francis Rella, Assistant Academic Dean.

On August 8, 2014 - St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary was once again formally approved to welcome students from other countries to receive theological training in the US. Presently, our Seminary educates 5 full time foreign students and about 11 part-time students.

## NEWS FROM ST.SOPHIA SEMINARY LIBRARY

Larissa Bulya, Librarian - [library@uocofusa.org](mailto:library@uocofusa.org)

The end of summer usually signals return to school studies. Our Seminary students will also be resuming their studies and with the beginning of new semester the library will provide an expanded collection for their use.

Recently we were very fortunate to obtain several hundred theological publications from private collections of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, His Grace Bishop Daniel and Protodeacon Sviatoslav Nowytski. These include currently-published sources on Bible studies, Bible atlases, art books on icons and others in both English and Ukrainian languages. We are grateful to all the donors for their generosity in enriching our collection. Also we extend our thanks to the Consistory employees for their effort in transporting the numerous boxes to the library.

Our library has an online catalog accessible to all through the UOC of USA site. To access the catalog : go to UOCofUSA.org site, choose "Institutions"- St. Sophia Seminary Library" and click on "Our Library Catalogue Online". There are several search options: Simple search (any keyword), Browse search ( title or author ) and Advanced search (Title + author ).

## MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION RESUMES

Through the extensive generosity of several new donors construction on the Patriarch Mstyslav Ukrainian Museum of NJ - the center piece of the UOC History and Education Complex - has resumed with some of the most important and complex portions of construction - the final electric, HVAC, security, environmental control, lighting, sprinkler fire protection, audio/video media, elevator, etc. - all the "behind the wall and unseen" and vital installations. Following these efforts, the bulding will be ready for interior finishes, which will begin as finances become available. This present construction is basically the heart of the bulding operations. The construction proces is continuously overseen by Metropolitan Antony, Natalia Honcharenko, Museum Director and Property Manag-

# Our Ancestors



Photo: Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center Archives

## Family History Group 2014 Conference

- Galicia: An Introduction
- Ukrainian Vital Records
- The L'viv Central State Historical Archives
- DNA and Eastern European Ancestry
- Q&A Panel: Breaking Down Your Brick Wall Ancestor

**Saturday, October 25**

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Ukrainian Cultural Center  
135 Davidson Avenue  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
\$55 (\$45 by October 3)

Register online: [www.UkrHEC.org/family-history-group](http://www.UkrHEC.org/family-history-group)

[genealogy@UkrHEC.org](mailto:genealogy@UkrHEC.org)

732-356-0090

## The Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center



### MUSEUM...con'd

ers Emil Skocypec and Petro Rudyy.

Over the next several months efforts will further expended toward the appointment of a HEC Board of Trustees, the writing of By-Laws, application for 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status and a new Fund Raising Committee.

A particular fund-raising project will be a walkway with stones available to commemorate loved ones for any reason, but with particular emphasis on those who were the victims of Stalin's genocidal Holodomor. A permanent exhibit about the Holodomor will be a prominent part of the Museum.

## Consistory Circular 4

### ORYCIA FEDERWICZ AND NATALIA DEDELUK ORPHANAGE PROGRAM CONTINUES IN UKRAINE

Thanks to a most generous \$40,000 donation from sisters Orycia Federwicz and Natalie Dedeluk, two parishioners from the parish of St. Volodymyr in Los Angeles, California, our Church has conducted a cooperative program of assistance with the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) in adopting three orphanages in Zaluchia, Puhachiv and Znamianka Ukraine with for the past fifteen years. The CCRF, which ceased its existence two years ago was widely acknowledged both in Ukraine and by governmental and charitable organizations here in Diaspora as one of the most effective and trustworthy aide organizations operating in and for the benefit of Ukraine. Founders of the CCRF, Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, often met with administration of the UOC of the USA to report on progress made with our Church's grants in aid to the orphanages over the past years. Since the dissolution of the CCRF our Church has carried on the program alone.

Our commitment to the orphanage adoption program was for at least fifteen years has been very strong and judging by the support we have received, that commitment will go on for many years to come - particularly when our young college and high school students are eager to travel to work with the children on summer vacation missions organized by our Consistory Offices of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Christian Charity.

During the most recent Diapers appeal to the parishes and faithful of the Church, we collected over \$15,000, in addition to a few hundred extra large boxes of already purchased Diapers that were mailed directly to Znamianka orphanage by parishes of the UOC of the USA or shipped to the Consistory for delivery to the orphanage.

As in the past a principal part of our effort has been concentrated on building renovations where the children God has given to us live. This year approximately a quarter of our grants went toward replacing additional windows/doors in the aging buildings, as well as the installation of air-conditioning units in the hallways of the orphanage. The largest portion of the grants, however, went go to significant programs to improve the quality of their mental and physical life. We have equipped a physical therapy room in the Znamianka Orphanage and staff it with additional full-time physical therapists. Moreover, we have completed the construction and the fully furnished the very first Montessori school at Puhachiv orphanage and we cover the salaries of the school's teachers. Further, we sponsor additional full-time teachers with training in caring for children with special needs and also two liaison personnel who will serve under the auspices of the RAZOM Kyiv Charityoffice for better observation of how our programs are progressing.

You will certainly see much more information about our adopted orphanages and the programs we have developed for them in upcoming issues of the UOW. We express our deepest gratitude to all who have contributed thus far, to this work in Christ's Name.

### APPOINTMENTS & TRANSITIONS

*With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA announces the following Appointments and Transitions:*

1. **Very Rev. Steven Hutnick** awarded the miter on the occasion of the parish feast day at Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Wilmington, DE
2. **Very Rev. Andrew Rogers** awarded jeweled cross on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Dearborn, MI
3. **Very Rev. Dennis Kristof** is relieved from his pastoral duties of St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Lorain, OH
4. **Very Rev. Dmitri Belenki** is appointed as pastor of St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Lorain, OH
5. **Rev. Vasyl Dovgan** is relieved from his duties at the Consistory of the UOC of the USA
6. **Rev. Vasyl Dovgan** is appointed as pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Troy, NY
7. **Very Rev. Mykola Andrushkiv** is received into the ranks of clergy of the UOC of the USA
8. **Very Rev. Andrew Rogers** is relieved from his duties as pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Dearborn, MI and attached to the Protection of the Mother of God Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Southfield, MI
9. **Rev. Francis Rella** is granted Leave of Absence from active pastoral ministry of the UOC of the USA
10. **Rev. Paul Szwczuk** is relieved from his pastoral duties of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Troy, NY and deposed from the ranks of Holy priesthood and returned to lay status
11. Upon the request of parish membership - **Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Dearborn, MI** ceased its ministry and dissolved

### UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

**10-13 October, 2014** - "Follow Me..." - Youth Pilgrimage to the Metropolia of the UOC of the USA

**10-22 November, 2014** - Holy Land and Constantinople Pilgrimage with His Grace Bishop Daniel

**19-29 December, 2014** - St. Nicholas Winter Mission Trip to Znamianka Orphanage in Ukraine

### FAQ...Frequently asked questions:

1. *Why is my family's Baptism, Wedding or Funeral Service not listed as part of the Vital Statistics in the UOW?* The obvious answer 99.9% of the time is that we have not received them! The Consistory has provided special books as addendums to the regular parish record books to make the reporting process easier. The added benefit of sending the statistics in is that a back-up record is maintained in the central church archive.
2. *Why don't I receive the Ukrainian Orthodox Word?* The UOW is sent to individual church members listed on parish address lists, which are supposed to be updated annually. Some parish boards refuse to send at all, let alone update. We must refer all such questions to individual parish boards if an individual's name is not included.