



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Consistory Circular

April - September 2015

Office of the Consistory President

AID TO UKRAINE RELIEF FUND

Our Council of Bishops has issued a continued appeal to all the faithful of our Holy Church for contributions to aid the victims of the ongoing war conflict in Ukraine, which devastated much of the Eastern part of Ukraine:

"...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, and care for the wounded soldiers on the front-line in Eastern Ukraine and at the same time care for the refugees.

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-given 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. But, endure it did! Only by the Grace of God was Ukraine reborn over these 24 years - in spite of weak and fractured leadership at all levels - political, social, ecclesiastical, and more. The time has come to allow her to blossom, as she has begun to - without being a threat to any of her neighbors and without abandoning millennium old international relationships.

Ukraine and her people were for a significant and vital period of time, the very epicenter of world Orthodoxy. She and her people have proven themselves by their incredible faith in our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. She has submitted herself to hope in the Holy Trinity and to the Protection of the Mother of God. We, as the Hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America, beg for the sincere and endless prayers of all who read these words or hear them spoken. We especially appeal to those monastic communities around the world, who pray continuously for mankind to place Ukraine and her people in their hearts and minds during all their prayers.

We continue to appeal to the faithful of the Church to contribute financially in support of our brethren in Faith. We are issuing this urgent appeal for contributions, which will be delivered in person to the proper individuals, for the medical care of the hundreds of people who have been injured, some very severely, during the difficult days of this ongoing war. Your contribution may be the primary reason that another human being receives the treatment necessary for recovery.

Our goal is to get these contributions into the hands of those who need them as soon as possible!

The most expedient method for making such donations for this cause would be to utilize our secure online donation at www.uocofusa.org. Contributions may be also sent by special postal delivery to the Consistory at

AID TO UKRAINE RELIEF FUND

P. O. Box 495

South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

or they may be hand delivered to the Consistory office at

AID TO UKRAINE RELIEF FUND

135 Davidson Avenue

Somerset, NJ 08873

With prayers and gratitude for the love shown to those that are in need,

*+ **Antony** – Metropolitan*

*+ **Daniel** – Bishop*

We are very pleased with the response to the first appeal that was issued about a year ago. So far, through the generosity of the clergy and faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA we have delivered and distributed about \$250,000.

Our faithful have always responded with much Christian love to such appeals and we are moved beyond words at this current example of such.

We encourage all our faithful to make generous contributions to this fund.

TWO PARISHES MERGE AND ONE PARISH REDEDICATES CHURCH EDIFICE

It was on Sunday afternoon, 25 August 2013, at St. Mary Protectress (Pokrova) parish in Philadelphia, PA – just a few hours after Divine Liturgy had been celebrated and the faithful members had departed to their homes – that TRAGEDY struck in the form of a fire caused by aging electrical wiring. The fire grew rapidly and spread to encompass the whole Church building and the parish social center and school. Parishioners, along with their priest, Fr. Volodymyr Khanas, began to gather to witness the horror. Fr. Taras Naumenko, of St. Vladimir Cathedral just a few miles away was also present and had informed Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel about what was happening and by the time the hierarchs arrived an hour later to comfort the parish family, it was a five-alarm fire, meaning that five fire companies were working diligently to put an end to the fire. Unfortunately, the buildings were completely destroyed.

Two years later, the faithful of both Philadelphia communities – Pokrova of the Mother of God and St. Vladimir Cathedral prayerfully and with the blessing of the Council of Bishops of the Church decided to merge into one parish family as St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (under the Pokrova of the Birth-Giver of God). In May of this year, both Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel presided over the unification Divine Liturgy and banquet, during which the faithful of Pokrova parish family presented generous financial contributions to the following ministries of the Church and community organizations: St. Vladimir Cathedral – receiving more than half the funds available; the Metropolitan Mstyslav Permanent Endowment Fund of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA; the Historical and Educational Complex and Museum of the UOC of USA; the Ukrainian Cultural Center of Philadelphia; the Aid to Ukraine Fund, UOC of USA; St. Andrew Society Ukrainian Aid Fund, UOC of USA; the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA Metropolitan John (Theodorovich) Seminarian Scholarship Fund, UOC of USA; the St. Sophia Seminary Library, UOC of USA; the Tryzub Ukrainian Sports Club of Philadelphia; the Ukrainian Radio Program, Ukrainian Cultural Center; the Shevchenko Scientific Society Encyclopedia Fund; the Ukrainian Free Academy of Science; the Bahriany Publishing Fund; the Ukrainian National Women's League of the USA; the National Ukrainian American Veterans Memorial in St. Andrew Cemetery, South Bound Brook, NJ; and St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Philadelphia, with which Pokrova Parish has had an enduring and close relationship throughout its existence. In addition to these gifts, a special fund was established for the restoration of the items rescued from the burned out Pokrova Church. These items will be utilized in St. Vladimir Cathedral, St. Andrew Memorial Church, South Bound Brook, the Church Museum and in new mission parishes being developed around the USA to meet the spiritual needs of our faithful who have moved away from the traditional Ukrainian settlement areas.

Holy Archangel Michael Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Woonsocket, RI which also suffered through tremendous fire damage back in November of 2012, following major renovations and iconography restoration project returned to the parish temple on April 25, 2015. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony presided over THE JOYFUL RETURN Prayerful service, which included a blessing and consecration of the newly restored parish church. Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Perkins, pastor of the parish community spoke on the parish's response to the tragedy of the fire as an icon of the Ukrainian Orthodox of conciliarity (*sobornopravnist*), with bishop, priest, parish leadership, and laity working cooperatively towards the glory of God.

SOBOR OF UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA

His Eminences Metropolitan Antony and His Grace Bishop Daniel represented our Church during the XXIII Regular Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, which took place in Winnipeg, Canada on 16-19 July 2015. Clergy and representatives from parishes all across Canada participated in the Sobor, which is, as in our Metropolia, the highest governing body for the Canadian Church.

The highlight of the Sobor was the presentation of the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from St. Andrew's College to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of the USA, who received his theological training at St. Andrew's in the 1970s. The Sobor also elected a new President of the presidium of the Consistory in the person of V. Rev. Fr. Taras Udod.

Please read more about the Sobor in the latest issue of the Ukrainian Orthodox Word or on our web page at www.uocofusa.org.

We remind all Pastors and Parish Boards of Administration that the annual parish information forms were mailed out several months ago and were due in March. Approximately 50% of the parishes have not fulfilled this obligation as of August 1st.

Please! We need your cooperation in order to plan for distribution of the UOW and many other important matters. Financial Obligation quarterly statements have also been mailed. Is your parish up to date? Your punctuality is essential to all Church programs.

COUNCIL OF BISHOPS PRESENTS NEW AWARDS

The Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA recently created a new system of awards – “ordeny” (medals), consisting of medals to be presented to the members of our UOC of USA parishes for service to the Lord above and beyond the norm. The awards include *medals of Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Volodymyr* – for outstanding service by a male; *Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Princess Olga* – for outstanding service by a female; *Venerable Petro Mohyla* – for outstanding service on the cultural or academic level; *Sts Boris and Hlib* for outstanding service in Christian charity activity; and *Venerable Iov (Job) of Pochaev* for outstanding spiritual activity.

In May of this year, the very first award were presented to the following individuals:

The award - “orden” of St. Volodymyr was presented to Ivan Prasko for his outstanding leadership of Pokrova Ukrainian Orthodox parish (Philadelphia, PA) throughout the nearly two decades as President of the Parish Board and most especially for his leadership during the last two years following the final tragedy that struck his parish family. Metropolitan Antony expressed his personal gratitude to Ivan for his level headed and profoundly honest and fair concern for all during the difficult time when the decision had to be made to end the parish’s existence.

The second award - “orden” of St. Petro Mohyla was presented to Petro Hursky of Pokrova Ukrainian Orthodox parish (Philadelphia, PA) for his long service as Secretary of the Parish Board and his decades long service as Director of the parish choir, as the editor for several of the parishes anniversary books and overall cultural leadership of the parish, in particular ensuring that at each Parish Feast Day celebration a talk was presented for education and edification of those in attendance. Metropolitan Antony explained that Petro was always very concerned that the history of the parish be accurately recorded – as secretary, editor of anniversary booklets and all other times – for posterity, so that future generations will know what their parents and grandparents accomplished.

Most recently, during the celebration of 100 years of ministry of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox parish in (Dixonville, PA), His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, on behalf of the Council of Bishops of the Church, presented Protopresbyter George Hnatko with a medal of “**GREAT BENEFACTOR**” of the Church for many dedicated years of service in the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Many blessed years to all recipients of the awards and prayerful gratitude for their love and service.

UOC STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS TO DEVELOP NEW STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

At the UOC Sobor in October 2013, the delegates from the parishes overwhelmingly passed a resolution that called for the UOC bishops to form a commission of clergy and laity ‘to implement and promote the principles and practice of stewardship’ in the Church. On Saturday, August 8th, the hierarchs called forth the newly-established Stewardship Advisory Committee of the UOC of USA, to formally launch this work. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony opened the meeting with a prayer commending to the Lord the work of the Committee and our broader stewardship efforts as a Church, and offered thoughtful remarks about the need to grow our understanding and practice of stewardship in the Church today, and the great potential that it holds for the entire Church. His Grace Bishop Daniel, as President of the Consistory, also committed his personal support and the resources of Consistory to the work of the Committee. Participants in the meeting included Fr. Robert Holet, Director of the Consistory Office of Stewardship, Steve Revucky of St. Vladimir’s Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA, Stephanie Romedio of the Sts Peter and Paul parish in Youngstown, OH, Charles Sanderson of Four Evangelists Mission in Bel Air, MD, and Lisa Ryan, of Sts Peter and Paul in Carnegie, PA. Mark Host of St. Vladimir’s Cathedral in Parma, OH participated in the meeting by phone.

The first task of the Committee was to draft a statement to serve as a summary of its vision and mission:

“The Stewardship Advisory Committee serves the parishes and faithful of the UOC of the USA by promoting sound principles and practices of Orthodox Christian stewardship in the Church, by providing information and support to the parishes, clergy, lay leaders and members of the Church, enabling us to fulfill our stewardship calling - returning to God in gratitude His bountiful gifts of time, talent, treasure and trust which He has bestowed upon us.”

Fr. Holet offered a PowerPoint presentation titled, ‘The Stewardship Cycle’, which explained how we, as Christians, engage personally as stewards in response to God’s blessings. The spiritual principles of Christian stewardship also serve as a basis for the way that Orthodox parish communities exercise their stewardship responsibilities. The consensus was affirmed that a sound program to promote stewardship across the UOC should be formed, based on existing resources, which can be made broadly available to everyone in the Church. The Committee, with the guidance of the hierarchs, will be working simultaneously on several dimensions of this new UOC program, including the Content, Program Organization (Manual), and Delivery methods.

Because the work of stewardship is a mission of the entire Church, we look to all of our UOC members to consider ways that we all can contribute our gifts in support of this work of the Church. If you would like to participate in this exciting effort, or would like to get more information on implementing a stewardship program in your parish, please contact Fr. Robert at stewardship@uocofusa.net. We also commend to your thoughts and prayers the work of the Stewardship Advisory Committee.

UOC OF THE USA STRATEGIC PLANNING

“If on the day of your final judgment, when you meet your Creator, you want to know that you have done the most you could have done to protect, preserve and promote Christ’s church and make disciples, do I have the program for you. By the grace of God, I have been blessed to have developed a comprehensive training program to help Christian Parishes learn how to use the established discipline of strategic planning to improve the paradigm of their parish and help it achieve its vision and mission.” Bill Marianes

With these words in mind, on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, a dedicated group of seven clergy and laity, initially appointed by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, representing various viewpoints were invited to meet for a day at the Consistory offices of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to discuss a vision of the Strategic Plan for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. The participants, led by Mr. Bill Marianes, brought with them a broad background of service to the Church, reflecting the diverse geography and perspectives of our Metropolia. The discussions were very positive, and all decisions were reached by consensus and with enthusiasm.

The Initial Strategic planning approach is all about figuring out why any organization exists, where it is, where it wants to go and how it will get there. In other words, it is how any organization can better identify and live its stewardship calling.

Both hierarchs of the Church participated in the meeting and in their introductory remarks Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel stated that God continues to bless us every day of our lives. He has given us the stewardship responsibility over the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and we know

that the clergy and faithful of our Metropolia take this awesome responsibility very seriously. Of course, there is so much we are doing well, and there are other things we can do better. With this in mind, we bless this work and invite as many interested individuals of the Church to participate and offer their services in the life and development of our Holy UOC of the USA.

Following a full day of discussions and planning, a finalized deadline for strategic approach to planning various reflections, studies and retreats were set. Naturally we will keep you informed every step of the way and look forward to the full realization and implementation of our final Strategic Plan. With God’s help, there is nothing we cannot achieve if we work together for His greater glory and as faithful stewards of His Holy Orthodox Church, ‘for with God, all things are possible.’

In the end, the ultimate goal of our Church’s Strategic Plan is to provide our Priests and Lay Leaders with an array of best practices MAPS (Ministries, Activities, Programs and Services) that can be readily and easily used to lead the way to stronger and more effective Parishes. Through this process, we hope to provide our parishes with much-needed resources, services, materials, and training. For now, we ask for your prayers and willingness to answer the call of service. After all, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gave us His life as an example of how each of us should live. He also asked us to nurture and grow His Church. Our Father gives us all of our many other blessings. The question is what will we do with all of these gifts of God’s greater glory and for a righteous life both here and as we prepare for a “good account at the awesome judgment seat of Christ” for all of eternity?

METROPOLITAN ANTONY AND BISHOP DANIEL MEET WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE OF UKRAINE MRS. NATALIE JARESKO

On Friday morning, July 31, 2015 His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and His Grace Bishop Daniel, President of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA met with the Minister of Finance of Ukraine – Mrs. Natalie Jaresko in her office at the Cabinet of Ministers in Kyiv, Ukraine.

During the meeting, the hierarchs of the Church discussed with the Minister of Finance greater cooperation between Ukraine and its diaspora, the development of church-state relations, as well as social, charitable and missionary activity of the Churches of Ukraine.

In conclusion, Mrs. Jaresko, who faithfully served as a member of the Junior UOL Executive Board stated: “I’m hugely thankful to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Grace Bishop Daniel for their continued prayers and spiritual support for our country.”

A Note of Gratitude from Ukraine: **NEW WINDOWS AND DOORS FOR THE CHILDREN OF ZNAMYANKA ORPHANAGE**

In Znamyanka orphanage (Kirovograd region) there live about 120 children with severe diseases and disabilities from childhood. 80 of the children are without parental care or are orphaned. For most of the children, the orphanage is a home and all the children and staff of the institution are one large family. Workers of the orphanage together with the UOC of the USA put a lot of effort to create the necessary conditions to make the orphanage comfortable, warmth and hospitable.

Last year, we, along with Bishop Daniel and the parishioners of the UOC of USA insulated the orphanage building. In order to create more comfortable conditions, the old warped windows and balcony doors needed to be replaced with new ones that would retain the heat and create more comfort in the living quarters, game and rehabilitation rooms. UOC of USA covered the cost of 47 windows and 8 balcony doors and the funds were delivered by the bishop of the Church. This big remodeling project replacing the old doors and windows has

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**METROPOLITANS OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE USA AND CANADA VISIT UKRAINE FOR THE OBSERVANCE
OF 1000 YEARS OF THE REPOSE OF HOLY EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES
GREAT PRINCE VOLODYMYR**

Upon the Invitation of the president of Ukraine, the primates of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Canada, representing His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch, traveled to Ukraine on July 27-29, 2015 in order to participate in the observance of 1000 Years of the Repose of Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Volodymyr.

On the eve of the formal celebration – July 27, 2015, representing His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Metropolitan Antony and Metropolitan Yuriy met with the Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk. During the meeting the parties discussed the cooperation of the Ukrainian Diaspora with Ukraine, the development of church-state relations, social, charitable and missionary activity of the Churches of Ukraine. Special attention was paid to the problems of Christian unity in Ukraine.

On behalf of the Government of Ukraine, and from him personally, Arseniy Yatsenyuk asked the leaders of the Ukrainian Churches, in unity with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to convey gratitude to Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, for his steadfast and sincere attention to Ukraine and its people.

On Tuesday, July 28, 2015 – the feast day of the Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Volodymyr, the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and representing the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine, met with the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko.

The President welcomed the spiritual leaders of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Diaspora in Ukraine.

“The Prayer of Ecumenical Patriarch and his unshakable position in defense of peace and unity of Ukraine helps us heal the wounds caused by Russian aggression and terrorism,” Petro Poroshenko said to those gathered.

The Head of State noted that Ukraine is going through difficult and crucial times. Each day is an example of great service to the Motherland by the Ukrainian militaries in Donbas and the entire Ukrainian nation, which is doing everything possible to unite and overcome challenges, as stated by Petro Poroshenko. “Ukrainian people pray for the unity to be achieved in church life. All Ukrainians strive for the creation of local Ukrainian church. It is a dream that will help Ukraine become united and preserve principles and traditions,” the President emphasized.

In their turn, Vladyka Antony and Vladyka Yuriy noted that it is a great honor for them to take part in today’s events. “The Patriarch asked two Metropolitans from Canada and USA to come to Ukraine and celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the repose of Grand Prince of Kyiv Volodymyr the Great with the people of Ukraine.” The hierarchs also noted that war in Donbas facilitated the unity of the Ukrainian nation. The representatives of Ecumenical Patriarch and UOC in Diaspora are hopeful that the dialogue on the unification of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches will be continued.

Later in the day, Metropolitan Antony and Metropolitan Yuriy, upon the invitation of the President and his wife Maryna took part in the solemn meeting of the Nationwide Council of Churches and Religious Organizations “Law and Grace of the Ukrainian Land”.

Addressing the attendees, the President urged the Ukrainian society to further preserve interfaith peace in the country. “Overcoming division in the Ukrainian Orthodoxy has become a matter of all believers. The government is glad if there is a progress in the unification process. At the same time, it is upset when someone’s ambitions move us away from the great purpose,” the President said.

“The lack of organizational unity should not be an obstacle to dialogue, mutual understanding and Eucharistic unification. Especially in conditions of the Patriotic War of the Ukrainian people against Russian aggression,” Petro Poroshenko said.

According to the President, the uniqueness of Kyiv Christian tradition, Ukrainian multi confessional space can be an example for many European states due to its tolerance. “I am grateful to the Nationwide Council of Churches and Religious Organizations for that. Our ability to unite lies in diversity. Our readiness to bravely counter Russian aggression is the best evidence of maturity and European identity of the Ukrainian nation,” the President said.

Petro Poroshenko urged representatives of all churches and confessions to pray for peace in Ukraine. “Two institutions enjoy the highest trust of Ukrainians today – army and church. It is the will of God who shows us how to defend the Homeland. I believe that the Lord is with us, with Ukraine,” the President noted.

His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, while extending the greetings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and speaking on behalf of Metropolitan Antony and himself emphasized the historical significance of the relationship that the Church of Ukraine enjoyed over the centuries with the Mother Church of Constantinople. The Metropolitan called upon the religious leaders and the government of Ukraine to listen to the voice of the faithful, who seek unity and establishment of the united Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The Head of State and his wife laid flowers to the monument of Volodymyr the Great. The event was also attended by Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Kyiv City Administration Head Vitali Klitschko, as well as His Grace Bishop Daniel, who visited Ukraine at the same time for a number of meetings regarding the theological training of St. Sophia Seminary students in the USA.

In the evening hours of July 28, the bishops of the UOC of USA and Canada attended a formal concert program, at St. Michael’s square, honoring the spiritual and political legacy of Holy-Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Volodymyr.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL MEETS AT THE METROPOLIA CENTER

Our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA Board of Trustees – the Metropolitan Council – held its semi-annual meeting at the administrative office – Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in Somerset, NJ on 23 July 2015 to reflect upon the life of the various ministries of the Church and to set new goals for the upcoming new ecclesiastical year in the life of the Church.

Metropolitan Antony opened the semi-annual session and expressed his gratitude to God Almighty that he was blessed to be present at the meeting and to have the opportunity once again to work so closely with the dedicated members of the Council, who all volunteer their time energy to God in service to the Body of Christ – our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. He welcomed the Council Members – Bishop Daniel, Protopresbyter Taras Chubenko, V. Rev. Fathers Robert Holet, Stephen Hutnick, Myron Oryhon, Anthony Ugolnick, Anthony Perkins, Jakiw Norton, Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, Dr. Gayle Woloschak, Dr. Paul Micevych, Helen Boyko-Greenleaf, Olga Coffey, Lydia Dzus, Elizabeth Symonenko, Panimatka Linda Oryhon and Alexandra Kocelko.

During his Consistory President's Report, Bishop Daniel reflected upon the many accomplishment achieved during the last year, especially with the renovations of the Metropolia Center, St. Sophia Seminary, St. Andrew Memorial Church, etc. In addition, the bishop reported on the activities of our Church institutions and commissions: our Church/Seminary Library, All Saints Camp, the Historical and Educational Complex (HEC), St. Andrew Cemetery, St. Andrew Bookstore, and the Cultural Center.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony offered a presentation about the developments in most recent events surrounding the unification of various ecclesiastical bodies in Ukraine. Moreover, the Metropolitan spoke about the establishment of various new mission communities, while some older parishes ceased to exist due to the geographical locations, changes in membership, etc.

Both Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel spoke of his many visitations to parishes, where they witness many signs of a renewed enthusiasm in the life of the Church and a willingness to support the various ministries of the Church.

Vladyka Daniel discussed his visits to Ukraine in the past year with the Orphanage Mission Team and to distribute the funds collected for the victims of the ongoing war conflict

in Ukraine. Over \$250,000 were distributed so far in direct assistance to the wounded and refugees in Ukraine. The bishop expressed his view that such missionary and Christian charity programs that exist in the life of the Church must continue – not only for the benefit of the recipients of the love we have to offer, but for those who offer that love in the Name of the Lord.

The Council also reviewed financial statements and the latest Audit report presented by the Audit Committee of the UOC of the USA. While offering observations on the state of financial affairs of the Church, the Treasurer of the Consistory, Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Hutnick and Mrs. Natalia Honcharenko, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony related the news of the various donations that were recently received from various parish communities, sustaining the ministries of the Church, the Endowment Fund and the Historical and Education Complex of the UOC of the USA.

Moreover, the Council reviewed the ongoing progress of theological education of the seminarians of the Church, as presented by His Grace Bishop Daniel and Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Perkins, the Church's Vocations Director.

A great deal of time was dedicated to a presentation on the Strategic Plan of the Church, to which the members of the Council expressed their support and dedication.

In its closing session, the Metropolitan Council took the time to consider many issues and topics of import to the world of Orthodoxy, Ukraine and the United States of America. Most sincere greetings were expressed to His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew in gratitude for his continued support of ecclesiastical unity of the Church in Ukraine. Concluding the meeting, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called everyone in attendance to offer prayers for the repose of numerous generous donors to the ministries of the UOC of the USA, among them the newly reposed servants of God, Protopresbyter Michael Kudanovich, Pani Matka Nadia Metulynsky and Pani Matka Ann Hankevich.

The Council expressed its most sincere gratitude to our hierarchs, the Consistory, the Central Church Organizations, the Consistory Staff, the Seminary Staff and all the faithful of our Church who have contributed so much throughout our parishes, ensuring the success we have known for the glory of God alone, in all our ministry programs. In the future, the Metropolitan Council's semi-annual meeting and budgetary sessions will take place during the month of November.

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A Note of Gratitude ...

started and the children's joy can be seen on their faces as they know the orphanage will be warm during the upcoming cold winter weather. Despite the situation in the country, the work and care of those people who have invested a piece of their soul to help our orphans will be returned to them a hundredfold. The gratitude of every child, for everything good done towards them, restores strength and makes us want to do even more.

We thank all the participants of this project: Metropolitan Antony, Bishop Daniel, Consistory workers, clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the

USA. Sincere thanks and wishes of good health and prosperity to you all.

Mrs. Tatiana Ivanivna Walko - director of the Znamyanka orphanage and the children

P.S. Due to the generosity of the faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and through the ministry of the Consistory Office of Christian Charity, in 2015 the Church distributed \$17,980 in aid to Ukrainian Orphanages: purchasing supplies, diapers, sponsoring 10 special aid teachers as well as purchasing food items for over 250 children in Znamyanka and Puhachiv orphanages.

UOC CAMPING MINISTRY LIVES FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

The 2015 season for our programs concluded with over 140 campers and 56 staff in attendance over five weeks at Diocesan Church School Camp (DCSC), Teenage Conference (TC) and Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me (MMDM). The participants represented 22 of our parishes and several guests from the UOC of Canada and the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The focus of the programs were to truly live and experience life through the theme of Faith, Hope and Love. Opportunities to deepen and experience Faith were experienced through diverse Liturgical services such as the Lesser Blessing of Water, Moleben to the Mother of God of Pochaiv, Great Vespers, Akathist for Youth, and of course Divine Liturgy. A particular blessing was the visitation each week of the Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Mother of God Tenderheart from St. George Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church in Taylor, PA. Many youth and staff stated this was a life changing experience for them. Workshops and church school lessons were utilized to enhance the learning process. Moreover, both hierarchs of our Church - Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel visited the encampments, leading the Divine Services on various days of the week.

Hope and Love were lived through such projects as the Prayer Pal Project and creating Love Packages for the shut-ins of each parish represented at the camps. The campers meticulously and lovingly created get well cards for their parishioners as well as special requests such as Mrs. Scharba, the mother of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony. They also prepared gift bags full of goodies. The hope is that the campers would return home and join their priest in delivery these packages of hope and love.

We attempt to provide a well-rounded program that also includes time for crafts, sports, swimming, hiking, special interest classes, and fun evening events such as "A Night in Hawaii" and Campfire Hoedown! Each encampment also provided campers the opportunity to learn about and enjoy their Ukrainian Heritage. At TC, the campers participated in a workshop concerning the evolving culture in Ukraine and how it has influenced art, music, dance, and fashion. The campers created their own works of art or performance based on what inspires them about Ukraine. These ranged from beautiful paintings on canvas to moving vocal/video performances. The works of art created will be auctioned on the UOC of the USA website with the proceeds going to the Ukrainian Aid Fund.

Ask the participants from your parishes what the highlight of their camping experience was this year. How can you continue the theme of Faith, Hope and Love throughout the coming year? If your parish was unable to send campers or supply staff this year, do your best to encourage participation in 2016.

The dates for 2016 are as follows:

Diocesan Church School Camp (ages 9-13) June 27 - July 9

Teenage Conference (ages 13-18) July 10 - 24

Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me

(ages 4-8 and their parent(s)) August 1 - 5

Staff of all ages are always needed. Stay apprised of camp information at www.uocyouth.org/uoccp or contact the Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at uocyouth@aol.com or 412-977-2010.

ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS PUBLISHES REPORT ON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ON US COLLEGE CAMPUSES

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America released a new study report today. The report focuses on Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), the official collegiate campus ministry program of the Assembly. OCF plays a critical role in the lives of young Orthodox adults who study at US colleges and universities. Strong OCF chapters can provide a vital connection for youth to the Orthodox Church and stem the tide of students who leave the Orthodox Faith while in college. For the study, student leaders were surveyed in 130 OCF chapters.

What types of challenges do OCF chapters face? What are their needs? What does it take to be a successful and vibrant OCF chapter?

The report answers these and other questions from the viewpoints of active student OCF leaders. The full report can be accessed at <http://assemblyofbishops.org/assets/files/docs/research/OCF2-Study-Report.pdf>

UKRAINIAN HISTORICAL & EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF NJ PREPARES FOR THE GRAND OPENING

Construction on the new home of the Patriarch Mstyslav Museum at the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of NJ on the campus of the Metropolia Center is in full swing, and we are already planning the inaugural exhibit installations for the grand opening. Given the upcoming centennial of the canonical formation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States, which received spiritual protection under the omophorion of Bishop Germanos (Shehadi) of the Antiochian Orthodox Church in the USA in 1918, one exhibit will be on the history of Ukrainian Orthodox parishes in the United States.

Does your parish have historical photographs of your church buildings, parish organizations, or events? Do you have a written parish history? We would love to incorporate them into the exhibit! Please contact Center director Natalia Honcharenko (museum@UkrHEC.org) or archivist Michael Andrec (archives@UkrHEC.org) to find out how you can help. The Center's staff will be happy to digitize your photographs and return the originals to you.

You can follow the museum construction progress on the Center's Flickr page: www.flickr.com/ukrhec. The new building and the work being done by the Center is possible because of the generous individuals and organizations who have donated in support of the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center. No General Church funds are being used to fund museum construction. You can learn more on the continuing educational and outreach activities of the Center on its website: www.UkrHEC.org.

HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The long-awaited unveiling of the Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial will be held on November 7-8, 2015 in our nation's capital. On this auspicious occasion, the US Holodomor Committee encourages the faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to take an active part in the dedication ceremonies with the participation of our hierarchs and clergy.

Please, consider sponsoring a bus or other means of transportation in order to take part in the dedications services/events. For more information visit - <http://ukraine-genocide.com>

In addition, the US Holodomor Committee will be issuing a "Remembrance Book" of the event to further memorialize the Holodomor. Greetings/ads are being accepted to commemorate this auspicious occasion.

We ask the parishes of our Church to sponsor ads/greetings in the above mentioned publication. Please, e-mail your submissions to ConsistoryOPR@aol.com

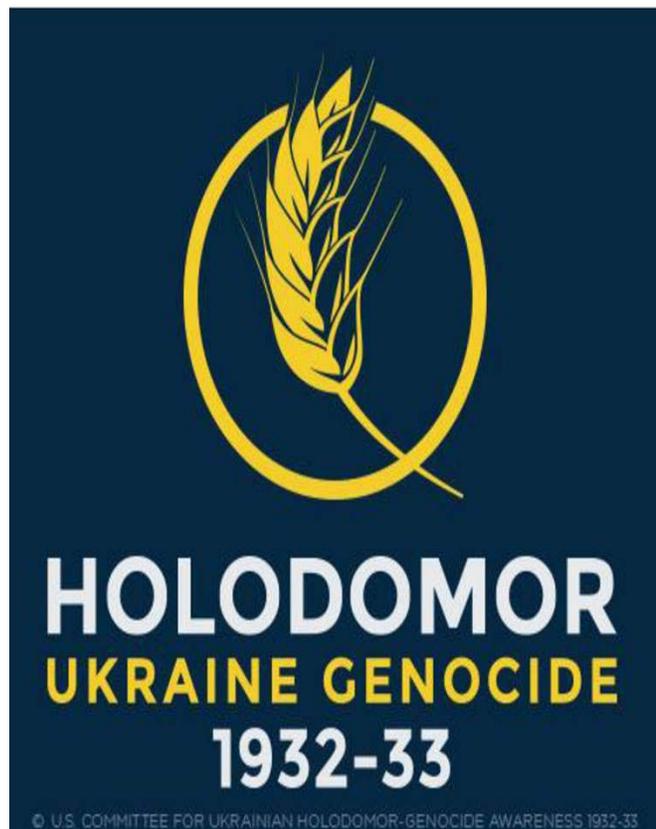
HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY 2015

— Washington, D.C. —

Friday, November 6
7 P.M.
Exhibit Opening/Reception

Saturday, November 7
2 P.M.
Dedication Ceremony
10 A.M. - 7 P.M. Exhibit

Sunday, November 8
2 P.M.
Concert



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. Anthony Perkins** awarded gold cross and elevated to the rank of Protopriest on the occasion of the parish temple reconsacration at Holy Archangel Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket, RI
2. **Protopresbyter George Hnatko** awarded GREAT BENEFAC-TOR medal on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Dixonville, PA
3. **Very Rev. Richard Hawrish** is relieved from his pastoral duties of St. Paul the Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Windsor, ON and upon his request granted retirement status.
4. **Very Rev. John Lyszyk** is relieved from pastoral duties of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Irvington, NJ and attached to St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, NJ
5. **Archimandrite Dimitri Calozzo** is deposed from the ranks of Holy Priesthood and returned to lay status
6. Upon the request of parish membership - **Holy Apostle Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Windsor, Ontario** ceased its ministry and dissolved
7. **St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Jamaica, NY** ceased its ministry and dissolved
8. Upon the request of parish membership - **Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Irvington, NJ** ceased its ministry and dissolved
9. **AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS! Subdeacon Michael Abrahamson** ordained to Holy Deaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony at Holy Archangel Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket, RI on 25 April 2015.

May her memory be eternal...

Panimatka Ann Hankevich

We extend most sincere condolences to the family members of our departed panimatka. May she rests in the bosom of our Lord where there is no more pain, nor suffering, nor sorrow - but life everlasting.

UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS & EVENTS

- 2-4 October 2015 - Ukrainian-American Veterans Convention & Monument Dedication at the Metropolia of the UOC of the USA
- 4-16 October 2015 - Holy Land and Constantinople Pilgrimage with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony
- 20-23 October 2015 - Annual Celrgy Conference - Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook/Somerset, NJ
- 6-8 November 2015 - Holodomor Memorial Dedication - Washington, DC
- 20-27 December 2015 - Holy Wonderworker Nicholas Winter Mission Trip to Znamyanka Orphanage in Ukraine