At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, immigrants to the United States of America from territories of Kyivan-Rus - later identified and recognized as the independent State of Ukraine – began new lives as settlers, steel workers, farmers throughout the USA. They came seeking a better life for their families free of suppression and oppression they had known in their native land.

The first instincts of these new immigrants were to gather themselves together into local communities in order to provide support, comfort and social interaction, but most importantly of all, to worship God Almighty according to their 900+ year old Ukrainian Orthodox customs and traditions. They sought to establish churches, first in the large cities of the United States around the year 1915, and eventually organized into a solid ecclesiastical structure in 1918.

We, by the Grace of God, the present hierarchs of our Holy Church, hereby proclaim the year 2018 as the CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA for our clergy, monastics and faithful, and we commemorate all those hierarchs, clergy, monastics and faithful who came before us, sacrificing so much more than most of us do 100 years later, for the extension of God’s Kingdom here on earth.

Through those first 100 years of our history, our founders and benefactors gave of the best of what they had, in order to ensure the preservation of our rich spiritual legacy, inherited from our ancestors, preserving it in a land free of fear, repression and extinction. We thank God Almighty for their conviction, dedication and devotion, which continues to inspire us to follow their example.

As we prepare for this great celebration of the legacy of our forefathers from both Ukraine and here in the United States of America, we call upon every Ukrainian Orthodox Christian to join in all commemorations, which will be scheduled to share our great joy with one another, and with our friends and neighbors. Our PRIME CELEBRATION EVENT will take place at the Metropolia Center on the Feast of Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Volodymyr, July 28, 2018. We look forward to the participation and support of all our faithful. Regional events will also be scheduled so that every single clergy and lay member of our Church might join in the celebration.

As we prepare for and make these celebrations, may we always remember our mission to be the salvation of souls and “… to offer healing, comfort, wholeness, spiritual fulfillment and joy as we work together to reveal the beauty of God’s creation by proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ”.

+Antony, Metropolitan
+Daniel, Archbishop

(Given at the Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolia Center, South Bound Brook – Somerset, NJ on the Great Feast of the Baptism of Ukraine, 14 August 2017)
Update on the STRATEGIC PLAN of the CHURCH

How did we get a strategic plan?

In 2015, the Council of the Metropolia of the UOC of USA made a decision to develop a 3-y Strategic Plan for the entire Church. Our hierarchs had been communicating with Bill Marianes (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese) and they approved his engagement as the facilitator for the plan. Remarkably, Bill volunteered to work with us and guided us through the process of developing the plan. This involved conducting a broad SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the Church by soliciting information from as many members as possible and then conducting two retreats (with approximately 70 participants in each) representing all demographic groups in the Church. The goals of the retreats were to actually develop the strategic plan. In the first retreat, the major categories of action needed were generated, and in the second, the plan as a whole was developed. Between these two retreats, committees worked frantically on conference calls and by email to develop SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound) goals for each category of action.

After the retreats, the hierarchs working with the two Head Coaches (Gayle Woloschak, Lisa Ryan) and our facilitator Bill set out to appoint a series of Task Force Coordinators for each major Category and a Goal Captain (or in some cases co-captains) for each goal. The entire plan was presented to the 21st Sobor with unanimous approval of the program.

How is this plan different from what we have been doing in the Church?

What makes this plan different from everything we have done before in planning strategically for the Church? There are several aspects of this process that are very different from what has been done in the past: First of all, the planning phase included representatives of every major demographic group in the Church—young, middle-aged, old, married, single, divorced, old immigration, new immigration, newest immigration, priests, deacons, laity, male, female, etc., etc. This meant that decision-making could be more broad-ranging than had been done at Sobors or meetings of the Council of the Metropolia in the past. Secondly, the process involved a thorough study of the SWOT analysis and aimed at considering all aspects of strengths and weaknesses of the Metropolia. Thirdly, the plan was developed as an integrated whole and not piece-meal, so that goals feed into each other, and if one goal is removed, the weaknesses of the Church are not adequately addressed. Finally, the plan was designed in such a way that it could mobilize all faithful within the UOC of USA…and even some outside the Church who have left but have been “watching” to see how the Church responds to today’s challenges.

How can you get involved?

The recruitment component of the Plan is now taking place. Our goal is to have every person who wants to work for the Church within the Strategic Plan to be engaged in the goal of their choosing. Each person (and here we can reach outside of the UOC of USA) can “shop” for the goal he/she is most interested in working on and can submit their name to the Head Coach (Gayle Woloschak, gayle.woloschak@gmail.com).

A full pdf copy of the UOC of USA Strategic Plan in Ukrainian and in English is available at the uocofusa.org website.

Why should you be part of the Strategic Plan Implementation Team?

You should be involved in the plan if you care about the future of the Church, if you believe that you have skills and talents that can be of benefit to the Church, if you want to see the Church grow. Bill Marianes has provided strong arguments for why strategic planning is based in the gospels and is part of a Christian approach to leadership (see stewardshipcalling.org).

I think most of us can look around at our Church and see problems that need fixed—lack of education among our faithful, youth that have left the Church and not returned, and more. The strategic plan works to correct the root causes that gave rise to the problem by developing new educational programs, by sponsoring new approaches to outreach, by focusing on stewardship of time, talent and treasure, and so much more. Every member of the Church should see this as an opportunity to contribute their talents to the Church in a meaningful and strategic way.

Christ’s parable of the talents (Matt. 24: 14-30; Luke 19: 12-27) talks about servants who were left in charge of goods (talents) by their master; while he is away two of the servants take what is given and make it multiply while one of them merely buries it in the ground. When the master returns, he rewards the servants who have multiplied the talents but punishes the one who has done nothing but bury the talent. Christ is the Master here, and we are all the servants called to take whatever Christ has given us and make it multiply. We are accountable to Christ for what we do with our talents.

Strategic Planning: What is the Parish Champion?

Each parish is supposed to designate a representative to the Strategic Plan who will be approved by the parish priest. The role of this person is to be the point of communication for the Strategic Plan—to receive vital information and updates about the strategic planning implementation work and how your parish can benefit and participate. It is the duty of this person to use all means available to effectively and continually communicate the progress, activities and success of the strategic plan to ALL of the faithful in the parish community.

The bishops have sent out a letter requesting each parish to carefully and prayerfully consider a choice for parish
From the Consistory Office of Stewardship

The Consistory Office of Stewardship offers support for pastors, parishes and individuals interested in developing working models of stewardship in every area of Church life. A strong stewardship program fosters a Christian focus, ministry impetus, solidarity of purpose and financial resources for a parish to fulfill its mission – whether that parish is a small mission or a well-established parish. In recent months, the Director has continued to develop the Stewardship pamphlet series – that serves both educational and practical purposes on the parish level. A UOC Stewardship blog site is offered at https://stewardshipnowblog.wordpress.com.

The main impetus of stewardship in the UOC at this point has shifted to the work of the Stewardship effort conducted by the task force working on the topic as part of the Strategic Plan. (see Strategic Plan update) so no new, major programs will be introduced by the Office until that work is well underway.

The forthcoming Centennial celebration of the UOC of USA is a rich opportunity to ask an essential stewardship question – what has God entrusted to the UOC of USA, how have we responded to Him and His gifts, and what does He call us to do in the years to come?

In striving to fulfill Outreach and Evangelization Goal 7.2 – New Successful Mission Parishes, the task force leader, Fr. Robert Holet, is calling together new members to the task force, to hold a conference call during the first week of October, the purpose of which is to lay the groundwork to fulfill this goal in the coming months. The first step will be to thoroughly research effective practices for establishing mission parishes, to create a mission parish development plan for our Church.

If the mandate from Christ to lead people to salvation and sanctification through the establishment of new Orthodox mission parishes speaks to your heart, please contact Fr. Robert Holet at fr.r.holet@uocofusa.net, or call 434-973-2500 to join the effort.

ATTENTION: Scholarships Available

The Consistory Offices of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA have been informed that the students of our Metropolia may be eligible for an Undergraduate Scholarship from Ukrainian American Veterans. The Scholarship Committee of the Ukrainian American Veterans decides and awards scholarship money to college students who are descendants or relatives Ukrainian American Veterans.

To be eligible for a UAV scholarship, applicants must be descendants or related to Ukrainian American Veterans and be a full-time matriculated college student in a degree program. Additionally, students from accredited trade schools or institutions that have degree programs are eligible as well. Students can apply while in their senior year of high school, college attendance will be verified before the awards are given. Moreover, undergraduate students may reapply for scholarship awards. For more information, visit - http://www.uavets.org/programs-and-services/scholarship-fund

From the Vocation Director

...The Clergy Strategic Plan Goals

One of the things that became abundantly clear as we looked at the survey data on the strengths and weaknesses of the UOC-USA was how critical our clergy are to the success of our parishes. Of course, this matches our own experience. We have all been blessed by special priests and bishops and seen how they fostered joyful, loving, and Christ-centered communities; and we have all heard of parishes that were devastated or hampered by corrupt, maladapted, or simply ineffective ones. Our Metropolitan is right on the mark when he observes that “as the priest goes, so goes the parish.”

The UOC of the USA is blessed with sacrificial priests that desire nothing more than to serve God, to serve His children, and to pastor the flocks entrusted to them into glory. The Clergy Goals of the Strategic Plan are designed to assist them in doing just that.

The first of the Clergy Goals is Clergy Development, led by Fr. Michael Danczak. Right now, our bishops encourage our priests to take advantage of the many opportunities for continuing education that are available (many free of cost) and ensure that our Clergy Retreats and Deanery meetings help foster their development. The Clergy Development team has been tasked with creating a more institutionalized Clergy Continuing Education and Development Program that will aid Clergy in their professional, spiritual, and personal growth and effectiveness. While many priests are worried that this will take the form of an “unfunded mandate” (i.e. a requirement that requires time and money be taken out of hide), Fr. Michael is well aware of this danger and is working to craft a solution that will foster continuous improvement without breaking the priests’, the parishes’, or the UOC-USA’s limited resources.

The second clergy goal is Clergy Compensation and Wellness, led by Fr. Anthony Perkins. Economists and business leaders will tell you that low compensation leads to inconsistent (and often negative) outcomes. It is no different for clergy. The challenge is to come up with solutions that are actually implementable in the short-to medium term by parishes, many of which are already struggling to pay their bills. It is a high impossible challenge, but addressing it will have all kinds of positive effects for our priests, our parishes, and our ability to serve God and neighbor effectively. The wellness portion of this goal is equally critical. Many priests are notorious for putting everything ahead of their own health, others would benefit from the kind of wellness programs that are offered in comparable professions. Again, the resources are often available, but the challenge is to set up a system that allows priests to do what it is that they are called to do it without sacrificing their health and that of their families.

The final clergy goal, U.S. Clergy Recruitment led by Fr. Silouan Rolando, is a bit different as it attempts to address the issue from the front end. One of the many blessings of maintaining our connection with our ancestral homeland is that we attract excellent priests from there. We need them and we love them.

(Continued on p. 6)
... All Saints Camp Update

During the 2017 camping season All Saints hosted 550+ campers (6 encampments plus Family Fest) during 185 meals over almost nine weeks. This October a new encampment will be held by a group featuring renaissance games and reenactment. There were many challenges for the new Camp Director, Dining hall cook, and Maintenance crew.

Dining hall: 12,030 individual meals were prepared which included meeting the special needs of those with dietary restrictions (this allowed children to attend camp who otherwise might have been left behind).

Our new head cook Carol Novosel made the adjustment from cooking in her restaurant to satisfying the different appetites of hungry campers of all ages. It takes a lot of varenky, chicken with Kiev sauce and toasted cheese sandwiches (the favorites) to feed them all. The Bandurist camp was especially pleased with the many Ukrainian dishes served.

Fr. William Diakiw attended Sunday Brunch during Teen Conference and spoke to everyone about the legacy of All Saints Camp, how it was purchased, worked on and what early campers experienced during their stay.

The daughter and granddaughters of Leonard L. Miller visited in early July. Mr. Miller was the person responsible for a campaign in 1954 to purchase the property to build a YMCA camp here. The original “Y” camp on the site had been abandoned in 1919. Miller’s family was delighted to find the original buildings and grounds as they remembered them.

Maintenance Crew: In addition to routine maintenance, inspections by State agencies and our insurance provider required much attention from the maintenance staff. Our thirty year old swimming pool needed constant attention and will need significant repairs before next season.

We are grateful to many volunteers who have offered their time in the service of All Saints Camp. Especially the parishioners of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Sharon, PA who spent a full day cleaning the chapel, cabins and dining hall.

We encourage parishes of the entire Metropolia to consider small “work pilgrimages” to our Church’s Camp in Emlenton, PA.

Camp Manager: Adjustments also were needed by the New Manager (Very Rev. Fr. John Haluszczak) to fill the role, and he is looking forward to another successful season next year. He made a report concerning the camp at the UOL Convention in Woonsocket RI.

The manager attended the funeral of Alice Tychonia in Troy NY. Alice was the last member of the Tychonia family which was the sponsor of St Thomas Chapel at All Saints Camp.

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Moving Forward with Renewed and New Initiatives

In an effort to better serve the needs of the youth and young adults at a parish level, the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry with the blessing and guidance of our hierarchs will be re-instituting the positions of Deanery Youth Director. It is the hope of the OYM to witness strong leadership on the deanery level to accomplish the following:

· Aid parishes in strengthening their youth programming
· Providing the youth in the deanery opportunities to come together for worship, missions, stewardship and fellowship
· Promote a strong link between the National Office and national programming with the parishes and deaneries

The Deanery Youth Director will be supported by the local deanery and will report to the deanery board as well as the National Youth Office. Applications for this position will be made available soon and we hope that individuals will prayerfully consider serving Christ’s Church in this capacity.

The second initiative is the Young Adult Leadership Council. As mission and goals for this council, as outlined in the charter are:

Mission: The mission and vision of the Young Adult Leadership Committee of the Office of Youth Ministry of the UOC of USA is to provide a resource for young adults that will foster the connection between their lives and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through His Body, the Church.

Goal: By utilizing various resources and media capabilities, we hope to facilitate an open dialogue among the young adults of the UOC of USA and to create programming appropriate for their needs and interests.

The Committee will be led by a selected number of young adults from the archdiocese who will be assigned to spearhead and run a designated sub-committee. Committee members will be selected through an application process. Once accepted to the committee, they may reapply on a yearly basis for continued service. The Committee will be comprised of the following: Representative from each deanery; Young Adult Committee Chairman of the Ukrainian Orthodox League additional young adults to serve in various capacities.

Applications to serve are currently available online at www.uocyouth.org. Please encourage young adults in your parish/deanery to apply.
**From the Consistory Office of Religious Education**

The Mission of the Religious Education Ministry is to deepen belief in the faithful; inform and invite those lacking in faith; and introduce, and cement the Faith in the young and impressionable. To this end the Department of Religious Education, under the direction of V. Rev. Harry Linsinbigler, has undertaken several initiatives.

Working closely with the Communications Goal of the Strategic Plan of the UOC of USA, the ministry has been active in gathering suggestions and ideas for the formulation of the “Welcome Packet”. The main intention of this goal is to make available to each individual walking through a parish door, a packet which will avail them of information pertaining to Orthodoxy in general (Church History, beliefs, etc.), the gifts of the UOCofUSA in particular (Ministries, Seminary, All Saints Camp, etc.), and offer recommendation of items of interest to include from the parish level (Sunday School, Choir, Sisterhood, etc.). These welcoming packets will be filled with valuable information, and presented in a professional packet with a cohesive logo, and color scheme. The initial offering will be in English and Ukrainian, with future publications offered in the language spoken by the local populations (Romanian, Spanish, etc.)

Additionally, the Department of Religious Education is working on formulating a Church-wide Religious Education (Sunday School) curriculum, which may be shared with all the parishes. This will alleviate stress of locating or formulating materials, will encourage individuals to join the “teaching” staff, and will provide the youth with quality information, activities and materials.

**A Note from St. Sophia Seminary Library:**

*Did you know?*

You can search our online catalog on LibraryWorld. Just visit the webpage of St. Sophia Seminary Library [http://www.uocofusa.org/library.html](http://www.uocofusa.org/library.html) and click on “On-Line Catalog”.

We are a circulating library. UOC of USA Clergy and students and faculty of St. Sophia Seminary have free access. All other patrons can register online or stop in at the library. Fees and loan periods can also be found online.

*Want more than just books?* We also collect journals, periodicals, DVDs, parish commemorative books and liturgical music. Is your parish celebrating an anniversary? Don’t forget to send us a copy of your commemorative book for our records. Are you looking for particular music to use in your parish choir? We can help you. Call the library to set up a time to use the resources at the library.

We also have a successful book club that meets every month! Each month features a new book and discussion topic. The next meeting takes place on Thursday, October 19th, 2017 with a discussion led by Fr. Anthony Perkins on the book “The Shack” by William P. Young.

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**Ukrainian History and Education Center News**

In May 2017, the Ukrainian History and Education Center (UHEC) announced the selection of a new board of directors to lead the nonprofit through its ambitious next phase of development. Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA presided over the first meeting of the board. The board members include Metropolitan Antony, Michael Buryk, Justin Houser, V. Rev. Stephen Hutnick, V. Rev. Yuriy Kasyanov, Daria Pishko Komicchak, Olya Liskivsky, Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, Natalia Pawlenko, Ivan Prasko, J. Bruce Schmitt, Andrew Shevchenko, Tania Tschaikowsky, and Carol Wasylyko.

The newly formed board will be responsible for enabling the completion of the Patriarch Mstyslav Ukrainian Museum and will be creating a strategic plan and timeline. In the meantime, those interested in participating in the many workshops, exhibits and lectures at the UHEC or taking advantage of its excellent research facilities and educational resources, are encouraged to visit the center at [www.UkrHEC.org](http://www.UkrHEC.org).

**ATTENTION: Faith and Photography Contest**

With the blessing of our Hierarchs, we are pleased to announce a new opportunity for the youth of our Church to express their faith.

The Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry wants to encourage youth and young adults to explore their creative talents and to glorify God through art, with the 3rd Annual Ukrainian Orthodox Church Faith and Photography Contest. Part of our mission, is to provide youth and college aged young adults the opportunity to become more involved with their faith, while showcasing the talented and creative youth we have within in our Ukrainian Orthodox Churches. We want our youth to realize that having fun and utilizing creativity can be manifested in a project that shows how they correlate their life with their faith.

We ask OUR READERS to encourage all youth and college students to participate. Deadline for entries is November 15. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place. To broaden the experience and best utilize social media, we will be allowing individuals to view the submissions on-line and vote for their favorite! A People's Choice winner will be awarded in each category.

There are four age groups, each provided with a different topic based on the theme In His Image. The contestant is able to photograph something that inspires them based on the topic requirements. Make sure to review the rules and regulations to make sure your photo makes the grade. **Submit your photo by November 15 to development@uocusa.net with the needed entry form.** The photos will be displayed online until December 15th. At that time our winners and runners-up will be announced. The world is also able to vote! On-line voting will be accepted for a Peoples's Choice Winner!

Questions about the contest may be made to the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at uocyouth@aol.com.
Holy Resurrection Mausoleum Located
at St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Cemetery

More people are choosing mausoleums as their final resting places. Internment Preplanning allows families to make important concerning how loved ones will be memorialized and laid to rest, prior to the need arising. The Holy Resurrection Mausoleum is open to Christians of all nations. Our Mausoleum staff is available to assist in preplanning and also will provide you with necessary information to make informed decisions about your final earthly resting place or of loved ones – decisions that are most difficult to make.

Holy Resurrection Mausoleum offers a setting where family and friends may visit and pray in an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual reflection and remembrance of a loved one, located on the lower level of the St. Andrew Memorial Church. It is beautifully enhanced with icons depicting the Feast Days of our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as the crypt of the first patriarch of Kyiv and Rus-Ukraine, His Holiness Patriarch Mstyslav I. The Patriarch’s sarcophagus is centrally located in the mausoleum and is surrounded by memorabilia from his life and service to God.

The area beneath St. Andrew Memorial Church was originally designed by the Archbishop Mstyslav and Architect Yurij Kodak-Vasylchenko as a mausoleum. Due to a shortage of space our Ukrainian Orthodox Church Museum was “temporarily” located in this space for 35 years. The museum collection has been transferred to new and more appropriate Cultural Center quarters in anticipation of the construction of museum and educational complex enabling the completion of the mausoleum project.

Our mausoleum was constructed with some of the finest materials available. The marble was quarried from Italy and shipped directly to St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Cemetery. Construction began in December 2000 and Holy Resurrection Mausoleum was officially opened and dedicated on St. Thomas Sunday, April 22, 2001, by His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine and Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod.

We know that it is difficult to think about making funeral arrangements, but we believe that a better choice to do so would be in a calm environment, where your family can offer you the support needed to make appropriate decisions.

Please contact: Rev. Vasyl Shak at 732-356-0090 for the assistance.

(Continued from p. 3)

...The Clergy Strategic Plan Goals

However, we are not as successful at attracting priests from our own parishes here in the USA. We are working together to create a program that will build on the successes we have had in this area in order to give our bishops more U.S. - born priests to meet the needs of our parishes.

If you would like to provide input for any of these or would like to become a regular member of any of these teams, please contact Fr. Anthony Perkins (father.anthony@yahoo.com) or Dr. Gayle Woloschak (gayle.woloschak@gmail.com).