



# Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

## Consistory Circular October-December 2017

Office of the Consistory President

The celebration of Nativity can be meaningless and maddening, especially if you don't have access to its deep layers of spiritual discipline, history and sacred symbolism. You may feel frantic looking for gifts, rather than understanding that gift-giving is a way of being a child of God... You may feel that Christmas is a license to eat and drink too much, and yet the idea of transcending ordinary limits has been part of this celebration for hundreds, thousands of years. You don't have to go to literal extremes, but you can stretch your personal rules, based on the idea of a period of days or weeks set aside to celebrate an important aspect of life – to prepare yourself for the celebration of the Nativity through the days and weeks of St. Philip's Fast.

Normally, in our modern society this entire pre-Nativity season filled with social gatherings, lavish gift buying, and many parties. It is a period where the pace of activity leaves little time for God. The Church asks us to slow down and simplify our lives during the period so we can appreciate the true meaning of this upcoming feast of the Nativity. The Apostles or Church Fathers did not call for gift giving and celebratory parties prior to Nativity. It was only after His birth that the angels, shepherd and kings celebrated the coming of our Lord. Following the Nativity Tradition does provide a 12 day period of celebration without any fasting. This is the time to plan your parties and gift giving. Take the initiative and begin to change the cycle, so we can properly prepare for the Nativity feast in a spiritual manner.

In these final days of preparation you can work on self-discipline by creating time for reflection on the deeper meaning of the upcoming feast. Take time to read the Scriptures that include the prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. Think about what is a true Godly way of life that God's Incarnation

brought to us. Clarify what are our responsibilities for self-sacrifice and almsgiving. Make time for works of charity and helping other who are in need.

In your meditations during this period reflect on Why Christ came into the world. Read the account of the fall of mankind in Genesis and think of the fallen condition we have inherited from Adam and Eve. Seek to understand why God had to send His Son to save us and renew mankind. Reflect on the wonder of a virgin birth and the nature of the person God chose to give his Son flesh. Think about the magnitude of the gift God has given us.

The fast period is intended to help us make time for such reflections during this period. But to do so requires some modification of the normal holiday madness. Simplify the gift giving, focus on helping those in need rather than family members who in many cases already have much more than they need.

For you social activities make plans to have them after the day of the Nativity. Make them a true celebration of the coming of our Lord. Give priority to have some time alone and with family to reflect on this incredible gift God gave us in making His son flesh. Make time for daily prayers. Be quieter and wait with great anticipation of the Feast day.

Keep in mind that the true meaning of this season is the Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah came into the world and dwelt among men. He did this for our salvation so that we could become like Him.

If you take Christmas to heart and get past the anxieties in arranging for gifts and parties, you will rediscover yourself every year at this time and experience a birth in yourself, just like the one so beautifully described in the Gospel stories. It will be a celebration of both the birth of Jesus and the birth of your own soul.



## Consistory Circular 2

### *Our Youth Ministry News*

The Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry has had an extremely busy fall with the Faith & Photography Contest, Ornaments for the Consistory and producing the 2017/2018 Curriculum, Champions of the Faith.

We have many things to offer in the upcoming winter months and hope that you will be able to promote and encourage them in your parishes:

· *Orthodox Youth Worker & Camping Conference* -

This year's conference is being co-hosted by our Youth Office and that of the Carpatho-Russian Youth & Camping Office. It will take place in Atlanta, GA Feb 1-3, 2018. It is an amazing opportunity for clergy and those working with youth to gain more insight into youth work, make wonderful connections with individuals also working in the ministry and to recharge your batteries. We would love to have a great showing this year being that we are co-hosts. Please consider sending one or more representatives from your parish. More information at [www.orthodoxycc.org](http://www.orthodoxycc.org)

· *College Student Mission Trip to Ukraine* -

Applications are now being accepted for this annual trip for college aged young adults. The trip will take place June 4 -19, 2018. We kindly ask that you personally reach out to potential team members to apply. Sometimes the personal touch lends the proper amount of encouragement for someone to take a chance on a trip like this. Information about the trip may be found at the OYM website [www.uocyouth.org](http://www.uocyouth.org)

· *UOC Camping Ministry* - It is almost that time of year to begin marking calendars for summer camps. We will be opening registration for campers and staff on February 1, 2018. Dates for programs are already available on the website. Camp is an amazing way to encourage living the faith with your youth and providing them an opportunity to immerse themselves in a living Orthodox community. Just like kids who go to soccer, dance, or science camp, this experience gives them a saturated experience that will inspire them to continue on this given path when they return home. Then it is up to us to keep that excitement alive when they return home!

· *Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)* - OCF is the official Campus Ministry of the Assembly of Bishops and the UOC of the USA. The OCF Real Break trips take place during the Spring Break weeks of most college students. These week long trips provide students the opportunity to have an authentic experience with Christ while serving or on pilgrimage. There are still several spots open on the eight offered trips. Some of this year's sites include: Albania, New Orleans, Thessaloniki and Alaska. You may learn more at [www.ocf.net](http://www.ocf.net)

· *Champions of the Faith - Centennial of the UOC of the USA* - Hopefully your parish has been utilizing the Champions of the Faith curriculum. We have been providing weekly and monthly supplements on our Facebook page and website. In January, we hope to release the newest sessions that were done in conjunction with the Ukrainian Historical

and Educational Center. They will focus on champions in your parishes and in our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. In those materials will be projects for your youth to participate in the Centennial Celebrations. Please take the time to review these materials when they arrive and help our youth to be a part of this mark in the church's history.

### *Update on the Strategic Plan*

During the last month of the Strategic Plan we have had much activity among our teams. I will highlight some of the progress since the last update:

-The healthy parishes team examining approaches to set the stage for a healthy parish (led by Linda Hnatow and Sonya Lahuta Patronik) has been meeting by phone, discussing best approaches for parish assessments of their healthiness and studying what it takes to make for a healthy parish.

-Fr. Anthony Perkins, who is Task Force Coordinator for the Clergy goals, made a presentation at the Clergy Conference about the goals of the strategic plan to improve clergy wellness and compensation.

-Natalia Honcharenko's team working with the Administration team has made significant progress in developing a skills matching list, which provides contact information for members of the Church with different talents and capabilities so that they can be used by parishes to solicit advice on particular issues of need in the parishes (for example, financial consultants, construction advice, etc.).

-The IT group (*Task Force Coordinator Eric Senedak*) has been working on developing an App that can be used on smart phones and other devices for Church services, music and other capabilities. This will be made available to all members of the UOC and others who might be interested. The App is nearing completion.

This month, more conference calls and plans are progressing for all of the task forces and goal teams. It is exciting to see so many people working for the good of the Church.

### *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. At present there is no UOC – specific program, this being a goal of the Stewardship Task Force entrusted to the Strategic Plan leadership.

The Director of the Office is available to consult with clergy and parish board leadership about developing a parish program and will make a personal visit upon request. A UOC Stewardship blog site is offered at <https://stewardshipnowblog.wordpress.com>. A series of informational flyers highlighting the nature of the spiritual and material stewardship is available, and a new brochure for the series should be completed by the end of the year.

### *From the Consistory Office of Religious Education*

The Office of Religious Education is in contact with the leadership of the Education committee of the Strategic plan, in order to continue in its goal to compile a complete Religious Education curriculum. The leadership of the Education committee in the Strategic plan has changed over time, and the chair, Kira Senedak, has been in communication with Fr. Harry to coordinate further on the goals of the strategic plan.

In order to accomplish the goals of the Strategic Plan for Religious Education, we will need a large pool of volunteers who can give a few hours to doing some of the work of the goals, and, particularly, we will need all those who at the Sobor told the Education committee leadership that they would help to engage in helping once contacted by Kira.

This includes a group of people that will develop a set of “best practice” guidelines. Such people would not need to start from scratch since other major jurisdictions already have some in place that can be used as a base. They would need to coordinate with each other electronically to put this together. Once put together the Director and Assistant Director of the ORE will review, and will be amended as needed, and will send to Archbishop Daniel for final approval.

We need other people to volunteer and coordinate with each other to gather all Orthodox curriculum that is usable and helpful. There is a lot of new material from various sources but it needs identified and compiled in an organized way. We will also need others to actually write curriculum, others to edit, and others to translate. This is all a massive undertaking and will not be able to be accomplished without the faithful who are capable and able to help. The final product will be sent to the Director and Assistant Director of Religious Education for final editing.

All those who gave their names will be contacted by Kira. We will likely need still others besides these who have capability in any of the areas mentioned above (legal to inform best practices, editing skills, translation skills, familiarity with compiling educational materials, familiarity with education in general, teaching skills to inform writers, etc.), even if there is only a limited amount of time that the person can give. This is a massive undertaking and can only be accomplished by a large pool of people who can offer their own talents and abilities and work with the others, each respecting what others bring to the table.

The Chair of the Education committee of the Strategic Plan, in accord with the goal coordinators, is looking to develop a committee of lay people and clergy who can review materials from time to time and add to their resources. They would be responsible to coordinate with the goal coordinators of the Strategic plan, Mark Host and Gayle Woloschak, the committee Chair Kira Senedak, and Fr. Harry Linsinbigler and Liza Symonenko from the ORE. Once the list of volunteers and their availability is confirmed, the Education Committee of the Strategic Plan and Office of Religious Education will coordinate to accomplishing the goals of the Strategic Plan according to the revised list of goals developed by the Strategic Plan Committee.

### *News from St. Sophia Seminary*

Fall Semester we had a total of 25 students spread among four programs, taking a total of 16 classes, from a total of 15 instructors.

Nine of our students are in our five-year full-time residency program. Of these, one is working on his thesis, three are taking theology, and five are taking introductory courses and English. Eight of our full-time resident seminarians are from Ukraine; one is from Georgia (the country, not the state). All of them have obediences to perform in the seminary and chapel, participate in the full worship and prayer life of the seminary, and either help at local parishes or travel with a bishop over the weekend. They maintain a very full schedule, but still have a bit of time to enjoy some soccer or, thanks to a recent donation, ping pong.

Nine of our students are in our three-year Distance Learning program. They came in at the end of the semester for their residency after spending the semester working over the internet. During their residency, they received lectures from their professors, took exams, and participated in the worship and prayer life of the seminary. These students are from all over; we even have a student from Germany!

Four of our students are in our three-year Short-Term Residency (Priestly Formation) program. They come in one weekend a month during which time they receive several lectures from their professors and engage in the worship and prayer life of the seminary.

Three of our students are in our one-year Youth Ministry course. They work with their instructors virtually (by phone and internet) throughout the semester.

It is a sign of the health of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA that we are able to fill our programs with such wonderful students and and instructors (glory to God)!

In addition to supporting these activities, our staff has been busy supporting the Monthly Book Discussion Club sponsored by the Seminary Library. That program has been a great outreach into the local community. The recordings of these talks are available at [orthoanalytika.org](http://orthoanalytika.org), [orthoanalytika.libsyn.com](http://orthoanalytika.libsyn.com) and via iTunes and sketcher (search for orthoanalytika). The staff also re-applied for our licensure with the state of New Jersey, is in the process of computerizing our records and processes, is planning two retreats (one on liturgics for deacons and one on iconography for seminarians and clergy), and continues to investigate opportunities for accreditation.

On a personal note, it has been a real blessing to serve as the Associate Dean for the last few years and as the acting Academic Dean for the last year. The bishops have accepted my resignation from these duties so that I can concentrate on evangelism, academic & vocations work, and serving Pokrova parish in Allentown, PA.

We have an amazing group of professors, staff, and benefactors; my God bless them, the seminary, and our seminarians and students for many blessed years!

*Fr. Anthony Perkins*

### *... All Saints Camp Update*

This past October a new encampment was held by a group, the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) an international organization dedicated to researching and re-creating the arts and skills of pre-17th-century Europe. Their “Known World” consists of 20 kingdoms, with over 30,000 members residing in countries around the world. Our camp was chosen because it was one of the few where they could include horses in their activities (strictly controlled by Pennsylvania regulations). The organizers had hoped to attract at least 200 participants. They admitted over 400, which dressed in various historically accurate costumes (one kingdom represented ethnic Rus’). The group has expressed interest in returning next year.

In November a group of volunteers winterized the camp to protect all facilities from damage that might result from freezing of water lines and equipment that use water. One of our maintenance employees, who lives in the vicinity of camp, was able to complete rescreening all of the windows and screen doors in all of the cabins. We had many that had only been patched for the last several years and we will not need to spend time during encampments dealing with insect issues. ASC has also contracted with a service to take care of preventing stinging insects and other pests from nesting in all buildings, which had been an ongoing maintenance problem last year.

At the November meeting, hosted by St Vladimir Cathedral in Parma Ohio, we discussed many items to work on before and during next year’s encampments, including swimming pool water line repairs, finishing the basement of St Thomas Chapel, installing metal roofs on two cabins (two will be repaced each year until all have been updated). The committee will be announcing several work weekends to address these many other tasks, and hopes to see many new and old friends of ASC join us and support the camps mission.

In reviewing the financials from last summer’s rentals, we were able to meet our budgetary goals for the year, and are looking for ways to reduce expenditures further, while maintaining and hopefully improving the camper experience. A special committee met with the head cook recently and discussed ways to accomplish this with our meals budget, since it is a large part of our overall expenditures.

In addition to the need for volunteers to help prepare the camp for next year, several items were identified that individuals or parishes could donate to support the camp. Among these items were: a walk-in freezer that would allow us to take advantage of bulk purchasing power, and a larger golf cart able to securely transport injured campers to the nurses cabin.

The camp committee is pleased to announce that Daniel McNulty has agree to coordinate the implementation of the strategic plan developed to meet the needs and goals to direct improvements to the camp in an orderly manner. A meeting was held with the architect to finalize adjustments to the plans and drawings she made to renovate the entire bottom floor of the Millennium Memorial Center (which will include the bathrooms, lounge area).

### *Ukrainian History and Education Center News*

The Ukrainian History and Education Center is pleased to announce its latest exhibition: “Shepherding Ukrainian Orthodoxy in the New Land: The Metropolitans of the Church”, in preparation for the 2018 Centennial Year.

The Metropolitans of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA have shepherded their flocks over many decades and under constantly changing conditions. Their flocks have also changed tremendously over that time. The Metropolitans themselves reflect that diversity. They include men born in western Ukraine, central Ukraine, and the United States. Some were not comfortable communicating in English, while others learned Ukrainian as a second language. This exhibition tells the stories of Metropolitans of the UOC of USA - their formative years, their service to the Church as priests and bishops, their work as prime hierarchs, and their legacies through photographs, personal items, archival documents, and audio recordings.

The exhibit officially opened on November 4th, after sneak previews for attendees of the Nashi Predky genealogy conference, the UOC of USA Clergy Conference, the meeting of the Ukrainian Heritage Consortium of North America, and the First Lady of Ukraine Maryna Poroshenko. It is open during business hours, or weekends and groups by appointment. For more information, please contact the Center staff at [info@UkrHEC.org](mailto:info@UkrHEC.org) or 732-356-0132.

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

You can search our online catalog on LibraryWorld. Just visit the webpage of St. Sophia Seminary Library <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.

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### **AXIOS! WORTHY! AXIOS!**

#### *Ordinations...*

*Subdeacon Richard Jendras was ordained to the Holy Deaconate and temporary attached to St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Carteret, NJ on October 21, 2017 by Metropolitan Antony.*

*Subdeacon Paul Neal was ordained to the Holy Deaconate and attached to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Dixonville, PA on October 22, 2017 by Archbishop Daniel.*

## Consistory Circular 5

### *Charitable Outreach to Ukraine by our Church...*

God has called our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA at this time and at these crossroads of history in special outreach and assistance in renewing and rebuilding of the Church and the faithful in Ukraine. Our Metropolia has been actively engaged in philanthropic and charitable work during the last 3 decades. This opportunity has been placed at our doorstep in our ministry.

Our church, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA, humble that she may be, and relatively small compared to other faith communities, has accomplished much during these recent years. We all may be encouraged in our particular work and ministry within our parishes, our communities and personal lives. Much may be realized, even when we feel overwhelmed.

It is gratifying to see the resiliency of the faithful of a church and a nation (and I am speaking particularly of Ukraine) – a people that has been beat down, persecuted, starved, exiled, and ostracized - has managed to rise up, get up from its knees and minister to faithful here and throughout the world.

The Ukrainian immigrants to America, as immigrants from many corners of the world, came to this country encountered many challenges. They were divided by countries of origin, divided by church adherence, often lost in their self-identification, and insecure of who they are, planted roots in dramatically different surroundings.

Even with those challenges and conditions, Ukrainians sensed a greater calling to hold on to their faith and everything dear, since the church and specifically the Ukrainian identity was persecuted in the Soviet Union and before that in the Russian or Austro Hungarian Empires. In those circumstances, outreach, philanthropy and charity, especially to those beyond ourselves were not considered a priority. We formed our enclaves. We strived for our self-preservation.

We were challenged in the past. We are challenged today, and we must not be blind to the fact, that the Church of Christ has, is and will be persecuted. We are not of this world, but at the same time are called to heal this world. We have been challenged throughout history, but the gates of hell have not prevail.

Why has our Church, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, worked so hard in Ukraine? Not somewhere else. There was and still is a real need in Ukraine and there is the natural connection of the faithful here with those ancestral bonds with Ukraine. Not that there are lessor needs in other parts of the world or in our local communities. We must remind ourselves that, till the 1990s connection with Ukraine was minimal, the Church was persecuted, ministries of the church were nonexistent and specifically any charitable work, could not be publically accomplished in the Name of Christ. Circumstances changed, right before the fall of the Soviet Union and the faithful here had the desire to help the faithful there. This is where the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the US and particularly the Society of St. Andrew, the Philanthropic arm of the Church, stepped in.

Ukraine is fertile ground for church revival, renewal and the faithful have shown resiliency in the past and today. Even though there was 70 years of communism and prior to that a stifled state controlled Orthodox Church of the Russian Empire, people in Ukraine had a strong attachment to the Faith.

Where did we get involved and what have we accomplished. Immediately after the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, attempts were made to assist with the needs of those suffering post fallout. Action and cooperation was initially slow. There was denial, fear and refusal on the part of the authorities. With our persistence things did change. With the assistance of a civic organization here in the US, The Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund, our Church collaborated on several humanitarian projects, most formidably, funding a neonatal hospital in Chernihiv, just outside the exclusion zone in northern Ukraine. Building on this initial experience and success, the next major initiative was helping with orphanages.

A multitude of projects have been initiated and funded but the focus has been on 3 institutions of handicapped children in opposite corners of the country. The particular homes selected were institutions specifically caring for handicapped children of various levels of infirmities. We have financed improvements of the facilities, funded various medical, nutritional, educational and rehabilitation efforts with the children. Serious funding for rehabilitation, education and any social services for the disabled and any segment of a challenged population had been basically non-existent in the old Soviet institutions. Any disenfranchised citizens of the society were institutionalized and minimally cared for, and left to die. Our work with the orphanages has been ongoing since 2002. In addition, teams of college students from the US have been travelling in a missionary outreach to these orphanages every summer. During the winter, teams of faithful of various ages have also travelled to the orphanages. We have raised and invested over \$450,000 for needy and disenfranchised children since these programs were initiated..

When devastating flooding occurred in the Carpathian Mountains, our faithful responded by raising \$70,000 which was dispersed by our faithful travelling to the stricken areas and personally and directly presenting financial support to the needy families.

With the establishment of contacts with the faithful and Church in Ukraine, Saint Andrew's Society was founded, with the purpose of assisting the rebuilding of the church in Ukraine, promoting humanitarian outreach and re-establishing the principals and ideals of respect, and tolerance and charitable work. Those early years, early 1990s, when very little church related was available to the faithful, we responded to requests for Bibles, religious literature, vestments and even building supplies. We reestablished seminaries, provided scholarships and logistical support for the theological schools. We did rebuild some churches, some well-known historical churches destroyed by Stalin. Most notably was the rebuilding of St. Michael's Cathedral in Kyiv.

*(Continued on p. 6)*

## Consistory Circular 6

### **FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

#### ***AT ST. ANDREW'S UKRAINIAN CEMETERY***

Did you happen to walk through St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery this past fall and winter season? If you did, you know it is a beautiful and peaceful site. If you didn't, we would like to encourage you to do so. The omnipresent green/yellow and red, the fall floral gardens, the new Ukrainian-American Veterans Monument and the icicle sparkles on the new trees make it quite a special place in the beautiful Garden State.

At more than 20 acres, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery is the one of the largest green spaces in the heart of Franklin Township and is within easy walking distance of some important places of the Historic Battle of Bound Brook of 1775. It has nearly 2 miles of walking paths, as well as hundreds of different species of trees and plants. It is the final resting place for many Ukrainian immigrants who came to the United States of America in hope of finding better life and freedom for themselves and their children. It is also a sacred place of final rest of many religious and political leaders of our community. Patriarch Mstyslav, Metropolitan John, President Lewycky, veterans of various wars, Fisher Family cemetery section (original owners of the property and witnesses of the signing of the US Declaration of Independence) and dozens of other famous and infamous people. St. Andrew Cemetery is a microcosm of our community's history.

Over the years, we have welcomed thousands of people visiting the grave sites of their loved ones as well as attending numerous burials. Hundreds of vehicles drive through our property each week in order to experience the spiritual enchantment of the sacred grounds to bring closer generations of living and reposed Ukrainian-Americans.

If we are going to continue maintaining the spiritual legacy of the final resting place of St. Andrew's, we need to

make certain improvements. Surely, all of us want this beautiful legacy to continue for years to come. That's why this special appeal goes out to you today. As you know, our historic Ukrainian-American Cemetery depends primarily on the financial support of those who have reserved the right to be buried or of the remaining family members, heirs and friends.

Over the years the driveways to the Cemetery and all the roads have aged and in major need of repairs and re-pavement. We are reaching out to you with request to consider making a monetary donation towards the repairs, which are estimated at about \$220,000.00. This re-pavement project is the single most important and most expensive capital improvement since the establishment of our Cemetery.

Much needed voluntary donations, in any form, ensure the continuing existence of our cemetery. Your continued support is vital as our only sources of revenue are plot sales and generous support from people like you. All of these revenue sources are dedicated to mowing, general maintenance, repairs, and administrative costs.

Please consider making a cash donation to help us maintain the cemetery, as we have always done, to honor your family and friends. Your contribution of \$100, \$500, \$1000 or more will help us to complete this important project.

We hope that you will join us in this important effort by making a generous contribution, which will have a very visible and lasting impact for generations to come. Your donation for the betterment of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery is deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

*You can donate by sending a check to:*  
St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery  
PO Box 495  
South Bound Brook, NJ 08873

*Thank you for your support.*

*(Continued from p. 5)*

### ***Charitable Outreach to Ukraine by our Church...***

After 25 years later of ministry, our focus has evolved from sending Bibles and vestments to nurturing and assisting with humanitarian projects such as soup kitchens for the needy elderly, and visits of St. Nicholas to needy children. Today, we deal with the refugees and the war in Eastern Ukraine. Since 2014, over \$225,000 has been raised for displaced citizens and families of wounded or killed soldiers in the present Russian instigated war.

During these last 25 years, The faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the US have collected and dispersed just over 2 Million dollars in aid with our various charitable and outreach projects. The majority, through the works of St. Andrew's Society – 1.3 million dollars. For a small and humble church in the US, that is somewhat amazing.

Our Church has initiate, participated and cooperated with various philanthropic projects and organizations locally and throughout the world, not just in Ukraine.

Our special calling has been focused on the unique need and work in Ukraine. For many decades, the faithful of our church, many of whom had those ancestral ties with Ukraine, dreamt of the day when the doors would be opened to Ukraine and the faithful would share in freedoms we had and taken for granted. Unexpectedly and so quickly the doors did open and God gave us the opportunity to heal the particular needs of the Church and Faithful in Ukraine.

*Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay*

### ***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. For more information, visit - <http://www.uavets.org/programs-and-services/scholarship-fund>