



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Consistory Circular

Fall 2020

Office of the Consistory President

A Message of Hope from the Assembly of Bishops



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

We, the Members of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, gathering for our first digital meeting on October 6-7, 2020, offer the perennial message of Christian hope and spiritual encouragement to our clergy and faithful, and all persons of good will, in these unprecedented times of the current global health crisis, political division, and social strife.

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected every human being in the world with some form of trauma: loss of life, debilitating illness, separation from loved ones, financial hardship, or emotional fatigue. And yet, it remains true that through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Through these tragedies, health care workers who have sacrificially cared for the sick, parents who have had to manage every aspect of their children's education and care from home, those who are without employment and those who are facing financial struggles, and clergy who have maintained the spiritual and liturgical lives of their parishes—all bear witness to the power of love and good-will to provide solace in these troubled days. At the same time, this health crisis and the energy required to shoulder it have also given rise to an unhealthy increase of polemical opinion related to questions of science, medicine, and civil and ecclesiastical directives. As often happens when human passions erupt, such polemics have infected other areas of society as reflected in the rise in this country of racial tensions, ideological clashes, and political polarization. We remind all that, as Orthodox Christians sojourning in this land, we are not called to base our lives upon the ephemeral convictions that are common in the realm of politics, economics, or ideology. Rather, we are called to “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2), placing our trust in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and doing His Holy Will through our efforts to fulfill His life-giving commandments.

In our present circumstances, trying to hold a sensible middle ground between opposing forces of faithless reason on the one hand and spiritualized folly on the other is the greatest challenge of our time. As Orthodox Christians we are called to follow the “road, I will turn aside neither to the right nor to the left” (Deut. 2:27). Saint Jerome teaches that the high way or royal way is the way of the One who declares, not only that “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” but also “Your ways are not like my way” (Commentary on Isaiah). This means keeping our eyes on Christ and His sacrificial love for the entire world and being humble about our own particular opinions is the time-tested way to walk along the path worthy of the Christian calling.

Certainly, our present physical separation from one another and spiritual isolation from the divine services have complicated our ability to navigate these troubled waters. It is not fitting for us, as Orthodox Christians, to add to the burdens of our brothers and sisters either by condemning them or by appeasing them with insincere flattery. Rather, we ought to honestly fulfill the law of God by bearing one another's burdens, as the Holy Apostle Paul reminds us (cf. Gal. 6:2). This means that we are called to an authentic life of patient obedience, sincere humility, genuine compassion, and sacrificial love even towards those with whom we differ. This is not an easy task for human beings to accomplish, but by grace and by the power of the Cross, we who are weak are made strong through Christ. With that grace, let us boldly give expression to Christ-like love and Christ-like humility in a world where many are unable to see anything beyond their own opinion. With that power, let us steadfastly remain faithful to the Tradition of the ancient Church in a land of modernity, uncertainty, and confusion. As a guide, let us “lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven” (Lam. 3:41) and make our own the words of the Psalmist who cries out: “O God, thou art my God; I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee, my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is” (Psalm 63:1).

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From the Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Ministry Moves Forward: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15

As we faced a new challenge in daily life on a global scale, the OYM continued to serve our youth and youth workers to continue ministry and growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ! The quote from Joshua, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord", has been the perfect inspiration, as we have spent so much more time in our homes. It was the theme for our summer and will continue as our theme for 2020/2021.

Faith, Hope and Love -Home Edition! A week into Coronavirus quarantine, with the blessing of our Hierarchs, the OYM instituted an on-line program offering learning, faith and fellowship to our youth across the country. Sessions were provided for four age groups: Minis (ages 8 and under), Juniors (ages 9-12), Teenagers (ages 13-18), and Young Adults. In the three-plus months during the first iteration of FHL Home Edition, we were pleased to present to over 70 youth and young adults with over 50 speakers, on over 60 different topics, bi-lingually in English and Ukrainian and providing a webpage with resources for continued learning.

Again with the blessing and guidance of our Hierarchs, we are very excited to be offering Faith, Hope and Love Home Edition as an on-going on-line ministry. FHL Home Edition sessions will take place once a week on Wednesday evenings for the three younger age groups and once a month for young adults. Each week of the month is dedicated to the same topic: Week 1 - Scripture, Week 2 - Saints, Week 3 - Service, Week 4 Chant and Chat. For more information on how to participate in this program visit the Office of Youth Ministry Website. Weekly reminders will be provided through social media.

UOC Camping Ministry - As with most things in 2020, our camping ministry needed to adjust to the current needs. With a VERY dedicated group of staff, we were able to provide our full six-weeks of summer programming! A true blessing in so many ways. One camper told us, "Coming to camp everyday, I forgot that there was coronavirus." We will be taking the programming and resources from utilized and provide it to parishes and family on-line for their use. You can see more about our summer on the OYM Facebook page and website.

Out of such a difficult time we have learned so very much! With our Hierarchs blessing, we will now be offering ASC & Me - Camp at Home once a month. The second Thursday of the month will be dedicated to campers, families, staff and alumni coming together on-line for faith and fellowship! The first ASC & Me at Home is October 8th.

Sacred Arts Contest - We are once again offering an opportunity for our youth to express their faith through art. This year

we will be building upon our theme, "As for me and my house we will Serve the Lord, asking youth to show through any art medium how their family or parish family chooses to serve God. Open art medium includes all types of visual art (painting, drawing, graphic design), sculpture, pysanky, embroidery, video or performing art such as music, singing or dance. All entries should be submitted by December 1, 2020. Rules for submissions are available at the OYM website.

St. Nicholas Ministry - A committee of dedicated individuals have been working on resources for parishes, families and faithful to provide supports for our faithful with disabilities within the church. We will be releasing a series of faith related social stories and picture schedules as well as a guide to ministering with our faithful with disabilities. All materials will be made available on the OYM Website.

Youth Ministry Survey - After months of research and preparation, the OYM office has created a comprehensive survey to discover the needs of our youth, families, youth workers (church school teachers, youth ministers, Jr UOL advisors, etc), clergy, and parishes. It is hoped to use the data from these survey to help develop new resources. The survey will be released in early November 2020. We ask that ALL faithful who fall into any of the previously mentioned categories complete the on-line survey. ALL voices need to be heard to provide the best picture of our needs.

St. Christina and St. Julian - Youth Patron Saints - We have been working to expand our St. Christian and St. Julian ministry. Beginning the third week of October 2020, we will be serving a special moleben to the patron saints of our UOC Youth! The service will take place on-line during Faith, Hope and Love. Each parish will be provided with a digital copy of the service to pray with your parish. In addition, the Patron Saint icon created for our youth is being reproduced for every parish. The St. Christina and St. Julian retreats are hoped to begin in early December during the Nativity Fast.

The Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry is beyond grateful for the support of our Hierarchs during the creation of these new resources. We are also grateful for the truly dedicated volunteers who work for the ministry and support of the faithful of the UOC of the USA!

UOL Thanksgiving Project:

Food Drive for the needy

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving in the U.S. and also the month we commemorate the victims of the Holodomor. UOL Chapters across the country will conduct food drives at their parish for donation to local food banks or Pop-Up Food Pantries. Food items will have labels with the following message: **"In 1932, 10 million people perished in an artificial famine in Ukraine. We pray no one ever goes hungry again. #Holodomor #UkrainianGenocide #Never Forget"**

Consistory Circular 3

From the Consistory Office of Religious Education

The Office of Religious Education encourages our parishes to find ways to reach out technologically to parents and children alike. Since “Sunday School” is not possible, perhaps a midweek evening session at least once a month would be beneficial to everyone, by Skype or by Zoom, with one or several of the Christian Education teachers in the parish participating. There are various resources from several Assembly of Orthodox Bishops approved organizations as well as careful educational sites created by faithful teachers in all jurisdictions throughout the Church in America and Canada. The Antiochian Archdiocese has collected some of these and has provided appropriate links within the table here: <https://antiochianprodsa.blob.core.windows.net/websiteattachments/RESOURCE%20TABLE%202%2010pt.pdf>.

The Office of Religious Education encourages parents during this time of pandemic to make their house into the fullness of its calling as the “little church.” This includes to start learning and educating your own children, spending time with them at least once a week discussing the faith with the above resources, or with the many other resources one can find. Facebook in particular has several Orthodox education groups you can join that regularly give valuable things for you to discuss as a family and all learn more about your faith and make a generational connection from parent to child and sibling to sibling by doing this at least weekly, but when possible, daily, even if for only a few minutes at the dinner table or otherwise.

Our Seminary is in the process of publishing a comprehensive catechism for adults and older youth that is compartmentalized into numerous “mini-lessons” that are each numbered, and gathered into chapters on various topics of the faith that explain how and why we believe what we believe and why we do what we do. It is divided into three volumes and is designed to be able to provide weekly lessons for an entire generation. It will be useful at home and every parish should have one, as it provides many years’ worth of timeless truths and aspects of our faith that are crucial for our time. The Office of Religious Education will announce when it is time for pre-orders once the seminary enters the final publication stages.

From the Consistory Office of Stewardship

In recent weeks, the website, www.orthodoxsteward.com has been updated and will be offering articles on stewardship topics on a regular basis. There is a direct link to this site on the UOC Web page. There have been no formal inquiries or requests for services from parishes thus far this year.

The whole face of Church life has changed since Covid-19 pandemic arrived in March and our parishes had to go into lockdown – survival mode for a time. But as the hierarchs are now encouraging parishes to emerge with a new focus, perhaps it is a good time to refocus on the blessings God has bestowed upon us and discern what steps we are to take to fulfill God’s mission for us in our locality. This is really a question of stewardship – of all that the parish is meant to be as God intends.

Another point of practicality is finances. The financial struggles of families and the disconnection of people from their parishes has perhaps caused an even heavier financial burden for already-struggling parish boards. The long-term solution is a stewardship approach to parish life – but it’s also a short term approach as well in ‘managing the Moment’ by grace as God would have us.

On a personal note, since retiring in March, I now have more time to focus on stewardship ministry and can be more readily available to meet with parishes or groups even on Sundays if you wish to move forward in developing stewardship in your parish. Also, a group of dedicated Orthodox leaders in the Orthodox Christian Leadership Initiative will be in a position to offer in-parish or half day online presentations for parishes or groups in a structured program with follow-up. See www.orthodoxservantleaders.com for details.

If you would be interested in joining the effort to build stewardship in your parish or in our Metropolia please contact me at your earliest convenience. *Fr. Robert Holet*

UOL Virtual Lecture Series October through December, 2020

Practical Orthodoxy Series : Stewardship in Times of Crisis

10AM Saturday, October 24, 2020 (ZOOM Meeting Platform)

Not since World War II has the Church faced a crisis with the magnitude of COVID-19.

This lecture will present ten ways we can secure the future for the Church.



Experiencing Worship Series – The Nativity

7PM Thursday, December 3, 2020 (ZOOM Meeting Platform)

Experience the power of this season of grace by gaining a deeper understanding of why we fast, the hymnography of the Church, and how the Nativity foreshadows His Passion and Resurrection.

Consistory Circular 4

From the Academic Dean of St. Sophia Seminary

St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary began classes on the 8th of September, following months of preparations for the re-opening due to COVID-19 pandemic. As you may have already noticed on the web site of the Seminary, the State of New Jersey, from which we hold license to operate, has mandated regulations for ALL NJ schools to submit a Plan for Re-Opening: https://www.stsuots.edu/news_200629_1

Our Seminary staff work collectively and produced a plan for re-opening, which was approved by the NJ Office of Higher Education: https://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/colleges/schools_alfa.shtml

At this time, we have the following enrollment: 13 - Part Time Students and 8 - Full Time Students

Three new students from Ukraine have received their F-I status and they arrived to the US on September 4, 2020.

In the summer of 2020, the administration of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary was contacted by SEVIS - the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System of the US Department of Homeland Security about the recertification process that each higher education institution in USA that educates foreign students must undergo. The lengthy process, which required the submission of over 380 pages of evidence documentation was completed by Archbishop Daniel, PDSO (*Principal Designated School Official to SEVIS*) and Rev. Vasyly Pasakas, Dean of Students.

Our US Department of Homeland Security (SEVIS) application for Recertification has been submitted and formally acknowledged. We should hear from them by the end of November about our Recertification for the next 2 years. They have changed their inspection procedures, which now require \$1500 annual fee from each school, seeking recertification and in-person visits by the US SEVIS agents.

As you already know, we have secured ASSOCIATE Membership status with the Association of Theological Schools (The Commission of Accrediting). In addition, we just received approval from the US Department of Commerce (following rigorous verification process) to register our Seminary in the WEB Domain for Academic Institutions that are Approved by the US Department of Education. As such our new Seminary web site is listed as: www.stsuots.edu

Metropolitan John Teodorovich Library & St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Library

From June to July 2020, the Library hosted a summer intern - Victoria Swindle of Arnold/Pittsburg, PA - who spent the summer months working alongside the Librarian Dobrodijka Oksana Pasakas on several important Library projects. Through the Office of Youth Ministry Internship Program, the Consistory was able to host Victoria for the 2 months, and while she was helping us, she was also receiving credit towards her degree. Victoria is currently a senior at the University of Pittsburgh studying toward a Bachelor's Degree in Information Science and a minor in Museum Studies. Victoria reflected on her time at the Library saying that "completing an internship in a field of study of what you are currently studying in school is starting to become a popular trend and necessary in education. I saw this summer as an opportunity to help people have an easier way of getting to the information and rich history of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church." During her time at the Library, Victoria completed the digitization of the Ukrainian Orthodox Word, which dates back to the 1950s, and began the digitization of the Ukrainian Orthodox League Bulletin. During this process, we discovered that the Library's collection is incomplete, therefore if anyone has any editions of the UOL Bulletin that they are parting with or that you have discovered while cleaning your homes this past year, please consider making a donation to the Library (or you can consider making a financial donation to cover the cost of the purchase of archival boxes for the storage of both of these important publications in the life of Our Church!). In addition to these projects, Victoria also assisted in the photographing and cataloging of new acquisitions to the Patriarch Mstyslav Ukrainian Museum of the Ukrainian History and Education Center. We are all grateful for Victoria's time this summer and wish her great success in the coming school year!

During the Fall 2020 semester, the Library is open to all students, faculty and library patrons of St. Sophia Seminary and community. Our daily operations consider the health and safety of all our patrons. If anyone is interested in visiting the Library for research or to browse our holdings, please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

If anyone is interested in donating, please contact Dobrodijka Oksana at the Library.



Annual Souper Bowl Sunday February 7, 2021

The Annual event benefits St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Society. This event is in the early planning stages. Chapters and Parishes may choose to host a "take-out only" event.

ARE YOU a member of the UOL? Join your local chapter, establish a new chapter, or become a member-at-large! See our website UOLOFUSA.org for more information!

Consistory Circular 5

From the Vocations Director

During the spring semester of 2020 and the past summer, we have recruited and enrolled three new students to the diaconal formation program of Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary.

Through the help of the clergy of the UOC of USA we have a number of prospective students that plan to attend in the coming years. We currently have two students in the part-time (priestly formation) MDiv. program and nine in the (diaconal formation) MA program. In addition, two students enrolled in Youth Certification Program.

In May four students completed the MA program and two completed the MDiv. We are currently waiting for social restrictions to lift to schedule their graduation ceremonies.

The Academic Catalog and Student Handbook have been revised and rewritten, and published, to bring in more compliance with the requirements of the Association of Theological Schools.

Recruitment and admissions processes have been streamlined and codified.

We have applied to the Veterans Administration to be an approved school for use with the G.I. Bill. This would allow veterans of the US Military to use federal funds to attend Saint Sophia.

The computer program GradPro is now fully populated and functional, managing class registration, grades, and other student and faculty records.

From the Consistory Office of Christian Charity Charitable Ministry of St. Andrew's Society

The faithful of our Church, gathered organizationally as St. Andrew's Society have as their mission, support of the Church's ministries in Ukraine, especially assisting the needy. The membership of the Society had met in October of 2019 for its Triennial Gathering, reviewed their past efforts and set their goals for the near future.

The elected Executive Committee has implemented these goals and has set a budget for 2020. Much has changed during this challenging 2020 year. Challenged by changing circumstances and restrictions we have, for the most part, managed to implement our charitable programs.

Our planned outreach for this year was budgeted for the sum of \$66,000. This included support of the established Soup Kitchens, needy elder-care, Theological Schools, and the Lewytzkyj Fund for seminarian scholarships.

Many of the outlined projects have been accomplished or at least initiated, even though delays and travel restrictions challenged those efforts. In addition, extraordinary requests for aid have been received, thoroughly evaluated by the Board, and several of the projects approved. \$5,000 has been forwarded toward the production of sanitizer for the needy coordinated by the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, \$25,000 for the flood victims in western regions of Ukraine, \$6,000 for special support for the Seminarians studying at St. Sophia Seminary in New Jersey (the Lewytzkyj Fund) and \$2,800 additional costs for feeding the needy. Collection of funds for the flood victims is still ongoing.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity shown by our faithful. Especially, thankful to the Ukrainian Orthodox League for raising funds for the Soup Kitchens during the annual "Soup-er Bowl" event. Over \$13,000 was collected this last winter/spring by the UOL Chapters and individual parishes. A special collection during the Great Lenten season raised over \$7,000 for the Lewytzkyj Scholarship Fund.

Even during these unusual weeks and months of the pandemic, we have been blessed with the possibility to continue our philanthropic outreach, caring for our neighbor, caring for our neighbor. Any gifts of love may be forwarded to St. Andrew's Society at the address of the Consistory.

From All Saints Camp...

It was truly a joy to connect with the All Saints Camp family during the summer's online gatherings: our Annual Meeting, "Faith, Hope and Love: Home Edition" programming, the 73rd Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention and virtual Family Fest.

While these screened interactions are sometimes sub-optimal, it's heartening to note the willingness of our community to step outside of comfort zones to embrace unfamiliar technology. The UOC of the USA and her ministries face an unprecedented challenge, and yet we have been flexible in seizing new opportunities for socially-distant and responsible fellowship. And while there is no substitute for face-to-face interaction, we now possess new tools that can enhance our ministry in profound ways. Though it was eerily quiet without campers and staff members on campus, we used the summer months to make significant improvements to the facilities:

New cubbies in Cabin 4 installed
New drain/pipe installed under road near MCC
Pool House ramps repaired
Water line to foot-washing station repaired
New cubbies in Cabin 4 sanded
New lighting installed in Chapel Basement storage area
New lighting installed in Garage
Chapel Basement Boys Bathroom partition re-installed
Garage cleaned/organized
Debris picked up

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Consistory Circular 6

Ukrainian History and Education Center

The Ukrainian History and Education Center has felt the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, as have many other nonprofits and small businesses. Our revenue streams diminished because of cancellations of in-person events, conferences and exhibitions, and we were forced to furlough our staff. However, we were also fortunate to receive COVID-related grant funding from the New Jersey Council on the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Somerset County Cultural and Historical Commission and the Federal Home Loan Bank of NY. This funding enabled us to bring back our staff and plan for the second half of 2020.

The UHEC was forced to pivot to all-virtual programming, and the staff created engaging and educational content for diverse audiences and its members, supporters, friends and members of the community. The result was four new programming series, with something for everyone. Visit ukrhec.org/calendar to see all of the UHEC's virtual offerings.

Folk Arts @ UHEC Virtual Edition is an online series presenting virtual workshops or presentations about folk arts. Past events have included presentations on pysanky (Easter eggs) with Sofika Zielyk, traditional bread making, and Petrykivka painting with world-renowned artist Halyna Nazarenko live from Petrykivka, Ukraine. Future events will include presentations on embroidery, iconography (with Michael Kapeluck), weaving, and more. On October 3, we will have a talk by the British cookbook author and chef Olia Hercules on Ukrainian Summer Kitchens and regional Ukrainian cuisine.

Crafts for Kids with the UHEC Virtual Edition is a Sunday afternoon series that provides a hands-on opportunity for kids to learn about Ukrainian art, culture and history. These are suitable for grade school children (and kids of all ages!) and participants have a finished craft at the end of the workshop. Workshops have included a wedding Tree of Life, Petrykivka painting, and traditional *motanky* doll making. Future workshops will include reverse glass painting, and lots of Nativity and St. Nicholas themed crafts in November and December.

For historians and genealogists, the Nashi Predky Ukrainian Family History Group is hosting a monthly webinar series called ***Nashi Predky @ Home***. It features webinars on topics in Ukrainian history and genealogy. In addition, there are "Virtual Office Hours", where you can get help with historical puzzles or mysterious documents that you send in. A few head-scratchers will be discussed online. Submit your questions to genealogy@ukrhec.org. Past talks have included an "Introduction to Archives", "Ukrainians and Their Communities in the United States", and "Disease and Death in 19th century Galicia". The next talk will be on October 7 on "The Legacy of the Kyivan Church: An Introduction to Ukrainian Church History and Records".

And finally, ***Stories from Storage*** appear on Mondays. Each story features an artifact, document or object from the UHEC's collections — either from the Patriarch Mstyslav Museum, or the archives. You'll hear the object's story, its significance and importance, and how it fits into history, culture, and the immigration experience. The first of these Stories was a virtual tour of the current exhibition *Visual Music: the Art of Yukhym Mykhailiv*. Visit ukrhec.org/stories to see this tour and other *Stories from Storage* as they are posted.

All of the UHEC's virtual offerings are free of charge, although registration is required. There may be materials fees associated with some of the workshops. Visit ukrhec.org/calendar to see all of the scheduled events. Events details will also be posted on the UHEC Facebook page. You can also view recordings of past events at ukrhec.org/all-past-events (you will need to register to view).

The mission of the Ukrainian History and Education Center is to connect past and future generations by telling the stories of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the Ukrainian community, and foster awareness of Ukrainian heritage through preservation, exhibitions and education. By offering our programming online, we have tripled our event attendance and have been able to reach people all over the world who would not have been able to attend in person events.

In addition to all of this public activity, the Board of Directors has, behind the scenes, been convening monthly to discuss the long term strategy of the UHEC, fundraising, grant funding, and a capital campaign to complete the new Patriarch Mstyslav Museum building.

For more information or to support the UHEC in its efforts during this difficult time, please contact Natalia Honcharenko, Director, at (732) 356-0132 or email us at info@ukrhec.org. Are you a member? See ukrhec.org/membership to join. We welcome your financial donations online at ukrhec.org/support or you can always send your gift of support via USPS to UHEC 135 Davidson Ave. Somerset, NJ 08873. "See" you at one of our virtual events!

The UOC of USA Office of Archives

Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the Office of Archives has continued its work in managing, preserving, and making accessible the records of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. In some cases, these were mundane but important tasks, such as ensuring the security and environmental conditions in the archives storage areas -- something that was particularly important during the hot and humid summer months.

In other cases, it was a completely new set of activities that became needed due to current circumstances. For example, the UOC of USA archivist Michael Andrec presented several interactive online sessions as part of the online versions of the Office of Youth Ministry's

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The UOC of USA Office of Archives

Diocesan Church School Camp and Teenage Conference. For the younger kids, Michael presented a photograph taken at the archpastoral visitation of (then) Archbishop John (Teodorovych) to the parish in Butler, Pennsylvania in 1925, and had them look carefully at the details to learn about the history of the time, and how similar (or different) that photograph was from photographs that they may have been in during recent archpastoral visitations to their parishes. For the teenagers, Michael gave a live tour of his office and some of the archives facilities, and gave them a glimpse of what an archivist actually does on a day-to-day basis. Both presentations were very well received by the campers.

In terms of archival preservation and access, Michael has begun a survey and digitization planning for audiovisual materials that is in danger of degradation and obsolescence. In particular, the UOC of USA Archives has a substantial quantity of VHS and similar media. Given that this type of video hardware is no longer being manufactured, it is only a matter of time that the historical content of those tapes will be lost due to a lack of working VCR players. Therefore, it is important that this content be migrated to another format in the near-term future. Michael has been setting up affordable and workable digitization hardware and software, and will have a production-scale workflow for in-house video digitization in the coming months.

Although the Archives currently has two working VCR players, it never hurts to have more in case one fails. Do you have an old VCR machine that was working the last time you plugged it in but is now just gathering dust in your closet? Then consider donating it to the Archives, where it can be added to its "stable" of video digitization hardware.

A note from St. Andrew Cemetery

St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Cemetery is preparing for the fall projects. Last year we have sent out an appeal to all people who have relatives buried here at the cemetery. The appeal was to help us raise some funds for road repairs around the sacred area of St. Andrew’s. This year we will try to send out another appeal, to ask people to take part in this huge project, which we will try to accomplish in the near future.

Another project that took place last year at St. Andrew’s Cemetery was our effort to help people who come to visit their loved ones and place a grave blanket over the graves. It was a nice service and people were satisfied with the cemetery providing a grave blankets. This year we would like to continue providing the same service and asking parishes to notify their parishioners who have relatives buried here of such a project. You can call cemetery office at 732-356-0090 and place an order any time, but not later than December 10, 2020.

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From All Saints Camp...

Fence posts replaced/repainted

Closet built/stairway enclosed in MCC

Washhouses prepped for repainting

The Off-Season and Beyond

In years past, we would use this space to announce off-season Work Weekends and the schedule for next summer. Due to ongoing pandemic protocols, we must adjust how we can gather safely on-campus — but there is still work to do in the coming months. All Saints Camp was established and is maintained by the generosity of our community. We kindly ask all prospective volunteers interested in helping out to email josho@allsaintscamp.org or call (724) 867-5811.

The goal for summer 2021 remains the same: All Saints Camp will open if and only if the safety of our campers and staff can be guaranteed .

We have every intention of re-opening in 2021, but kindly ask for your patience. Information about 2021 dates/rates will be available soon and will be distributed to parishes, chapters and the faithful in print, via email and social media.

Improving the Foundation, Cementing the Future

Thanks to the hard work of our Executive Committee and volunteers, we have begun a series of facilities improvements to prepare for the ASC 50th anniversary in 2028. These projects - and those planned for the future - allows All Saints Camp the ability to expand by hosting private gatherings, weddings, retreats, conferences, in addition to the existing roster of summer programming. In the coming years we want our ministry to become more accessible to the faithful of the UOC and other organizations.

We are now scheduling parish visitations for the fall, winter and spring months. ASC representatives will visit your community to promote our ministry and the Capital Campaign. Find out more about the Capital Campaign and make an one-time or recurring donation at <https://www.allsaintscamp.org/50>

Remembering Metropolitan CONSTANTINE

It’s impossible to spend time on campus without thinking of Metropolitan CONSTANTINE and his long-standing advocacy for All Saints Camp. We commemorate his devotion to the youth of our Church and wish to honor his memory by compiling a lasting visual display of his life and ministry that will reside on campus. If you have any photographs of Metropolitan Constantine - especially of his association with ASC - please contact us.

Any questions or more information about any of these topics can be directed to Joshua Oryhon (josho@allsaintscamp.org + 724-867-5811).

Consistory Circular 8

New Mission Communities of the Church

UOC of the USA Establishes New Mission: St. Thomas the Apostle Community in Mountain Home, Arkansas

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA formally established a new community - St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Mission, located at 96 County Road 420, Mountain Home, Arkansas, which celebrated its first gathering with a Typika Service on June 21, 2020 with the blessing of the Ruling Hierarchy of the Western Eparchy of the Church – His Eminence Archbishop Daniel.

UOC of the USA Establishes New Mission: St. George Community in Alamogordo area, New Mexico

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA formally established a new community - St. George Orthodox Mission, located at 532 Laborcita Canyon Rd, La Luz, NM (southern NM). The mission, which is just outside of Alamogordo, celebrated its first formal service with the baptism of four catechumens on June 6, 2020, the Eve of Pentecost. The mission has been meeting informally for Vespers since last Fall in the home of Deacon Theodore Brinegar.

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A note from St. Andrew Cemetery

Since the beginning of Pandemic Covid19 many things had not happened as was planned, especially St. Thomas Weekend. Due to restrictions by the Governor of New Jersey the cemetery was closed for visitation on certain days and attendance at the graveside during funerals was limited as well. During the most hard times the cemetery workers tried their best to help the visitors with any assistance they were needed and acted carefully because of social distancing.

There were more funerals than usual during the months of March, April and May. Through the summer and until now we observe normal rate of funerals for each month. At the time of the peak of Pandemic we had burials that were related to Covid19. There were not many burials since then related to Coronavirus.

Cemetery Administration tries to keep the cemetery grounds well maintained and provides different services such as: Removing Copings, Power Wash, Putting more Top Soil and Seed etc. Don't hesitate to call and ask us to clean up around the graves of your loved ones. This summer we had Power Washed many monuments, requested by the families and now going into the winter time we are preparing the cemetery by collecting leaves and last grass cutting. All your orders regarding maintaining the plots and the monuments that you will place in a winter time will be fulfilled early spring before Easter.

The contact phone number is above. We look forward to help you out.

Ordinations & Elevations...

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony formally marked the 35th Anniversary of Archpastoral Consecration on October 6, 2020 - *Axios!*

Very Rev. Fr. Taras Naumenko, pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (Philadelphia, PA) awarded by ecclesiastical Miter on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Holy Priesthood - *Axios!*

Pastoral Changes...

Very Rev. Fr. Oleh Hucul relieved from his pastoral duties of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Maplewood, NJ as of September 13, 2020 and retired from active ministry of the Church.

Rev. Fr. Sviatoslav Hot assigned as pastor of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Maplewood, NJ as of September 13, 2020.

Rev. Fr. Walter Hvosnik relieved from his pastoral duties of Protection of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Milwaukee, WI as of September 10, 2020 and retired from active ministry of the Church.

Very Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sendeha assigned as temporary pastor of Protection of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Milwaukee, WI as of September 10, 2020.

Very Rev. Fr. Vasyl Shtelen relieved from his pastoral duties of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles, CA and removed from the clergy roster of the Church.

Very Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sauciur assigned as temporary pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles, CA.

Very Rev. Fr. Paisius McGrath relieved from his pastoral duties of Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Lyndora, PA and removed from the clergy roster of the Church.

Rev. Fr. Yurii Bobko assigned as pastor of Sts Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Lyndora, PA as of March 22, 2020.

Received Clergy...

Rev. Fr. Samuel Seamans was canonically received into the Ranks of the Clergy of the UOC of the USA as of May 23, 2020 and appointed pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Mission in Mountain Home, AR.

New Missions...

St. Thomas the Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Mission in Mountain Home, AR is formally established as of July 1, 2020 - served by Rev. Fr. Samuel Seamans.

St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Mission in Alamogordo, NM is formally established as of July 3, 2020 - served by Deacon Theodore Brinegar.

Memory Eternal...

Protopresbyter Nestor Kowal (long term pastor of Holy Archangel Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Scranton, PA) reposed in the Lord on April 17, 2020 - ***Memory Eternal!***