Epiphaniess about the UOL from the Holy Land - Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

In October Oleh and I were fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the pilgrimage to the Holy Land with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony. The trip was full of inspirational moments, epiphanies, and spiritual insights.

One surprising insight during the trip was the importance of the UOL in our Church. I want to share with you my journey and deeper understanding and appreciation for our UOL family, that occurred half way around the world in the land where our Lord walked and gave his life to save us.

This understanding started in the Newark airport. There we stood in line at the El Al ticket counter, waiting for our trip with several people in front of us whom we did not know. Soon, we met our fellow pilgrims and introduced ourselves. However, how different it was when we walked to the food court and saw our UOL family, the Kondratiuks and Janice Meschisen, who live hours from us in the Northeast but are family all the same, as we have stayed in Janice’s home for a meeting and been in church in Boston many times. We greeted them with kisses and hugs, excited for the journey. We also let them know that they were able to check-in and shared who had already checked in.

On the plane we met other non-UOL travelers and got to know them. When in the Holy Land we bonded as a family of pilgrims (I have shared some of the pictures from our journey). We saw awe inspiring sites on our journey. We also celebrated Divine Liturgy in the holiest of places, at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and at the Monastery of St. Catherine in Mt. Sinai by the site of the Burning Bush.

It was amazing to see the birth place of Our Lord and to sing Boh Predvichny – God Eternal. Singing together is one of the things that I truly value about the UOL. I am inspired by those moments when we from different parish families are able to sing as if we have sung together forever. There were several such moments on the trip. One was at the bank of the Jordan River, as every wall of the church was filled with saints and icons of feast days, we followed Fr. Bazyl and he explained each icon. At times Fr. Bazyl showed us icons of saints for whom we had venerated their relics earlier in the week.

When we saw the Church of the Transfiguration that glowed with the gold, his description of the icon of the Last Judgment that we saw in Nazareth.

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When at the Tree of Hospitality where the Trinity met Abraham, in Hebron, his description of the icon of the Last Judgment that we saw in Nazareth.

Father explained the nature of pilgrim churches.

I am grateful for the UOL because I would have never had the opportunity to get to know Fr. Bazyl if it were not for the UOL. I value his knowledge, his insight, his sense of humor and his guidance. In fact, after Fr. Frank of Blessed Memory had fallen asleep in the Lord, Fr. Bazyl was someone who provided comfort and guidance. In fact, we participated in Liturgy in Northampton so many times that a parishioner in Northampton joked that we should get envelopes. If not for the UOL we would not have developed these friendships that I truly value.

The UOL gives us the opportunity to talk with our clergy and to interact with our spiritual fathers. I am incredibly grateful for Fr. Bazyl and Fr. Myron Oryhon, and their ongoing support of the UOL retreats.

The other gift I have gotten from the UOL is organizational skills and creativity. The UOL has nurtured these talents in me since I was a pre-

(continued on page 4)
MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Martha X Misko

I trust that you and your families had a joyous and spiritual Holiday season. I pray that 2013 brings you much happiness and good health!

I am sure that by now most of you have received several 2013 calendars from local businesses, fancy gift calendars, and maybe even a church calendar! Consider choosing one of them and marking on it some of the upcoming UOL events and activities that are planned for 2013!

January: The Young Adults Committee of the UOL is sponsoring its Winter Weekend Getaway on January 11-13. Winter sports and non-winter sports enthusiasts are invited to gather in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania for this annual event.

February: On February 2, the Junior and Senior National Executive Boards of the UOL will be meeting in Pittsburgh, PA for their Winter Meetings. The St. Vladimir Junior UOL Chapter and St. Vladimir parishioners are graciously hosting the Board members. Should you be in the area, please come join us. We would welcome your thoughts and opinions that would help to strengthen the work of the UOL.

The NFL’s Super Bowl event is the kickoff date of the UOL Christian Care-giving and Missions Commission’s “Souper Bowl Sunday.” Donations to this project benefit St. Andrew’s Society, that assists soup kitchens and humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Please begin to collect funds on this date and throughout February to contribute to this worthy cause.

April: Don’t forget to mark the dates of the UOL Lenten Retreats. Saturday, April 13 is the date of the Retreat in Villa Maria in Western Pennsylvania, and Saturday, April 20 is the date of the Retreat in Mount Pocono, PA.

July: It’s not too early to begin planning your attendance at the 66th Annual UOL Convention. The Convention is being hosted by the UOL Chapters of St. Vladimir Parish in Parma, OH. On July 24-28 the Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Parma. Rumor has it that Conventionees will be transported from Parma, to under the sea, to Ukraine??? Do you think we’ll need passports and snorkels???

And, though the Thanksgiving season has long since passed, please do not forget to contribute to the Thanksgiving Tithing project. This year, 2012-2013, the beneficiary of the project is Four Evangelists Mission Parish of Bel Air, MD. Four Evangelists Parish is commemorating the 10th Anniversary of its founding. We pray that they will continue to grow and flourish for many more years! The primary focus of the UOL is always to support and strengthen our Church, her parishes, and her Faithful. Thus, we ask our UOL members and ALL members of the UOC of the USA to donate 10% of the costs of your Thanksgiving celebration or any manageable amount for the worthy cause of helping to support a fledgling mission parish.

Donations can be forwarded to Financial Secretary Pam Scannell, 2000 Clover Drive, Vestal NY 13850.

On January 26, 2013, our Holy Orthodox Church joyously celebrated the enthronement of our new Metropolitan, His Eminence Archbishop Antony. The Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA congratulates His Eminence and prays that the Lord will bless him and give him the strength he needs in his new position. We, the membership of the UOL, will, without fail, continue to support him and the UOL’s Spiritual Father and newly elected President of the Conistory, His Grace Bishop Daniel, as they guide our Church and her Faithful toward the future.

I remain yours in Christ,
Martha X. Misko
President

ASK FR. HARVEY

Questions answered by Fr. John W. Harvey

Questions and Answers

Fr. John W. Harvey

Seeing a television special which highlighted Orthodox monasticism, some questions arose in my mind. I know that a high standard of spirituality is fostered and nurtured in monasteries and that some of our greatest patriarchs and fathers have come out of the monastic caliph. But I wonder if the stress on obedience and the fulfilling of assigned obediences does not obliterate the positive side of being a thinking person. It seems that there can be a danger of an abbot or an archbishop becoming a guru with overtones of cult-like existence. Am I wrong?

It is true that there is an outside danger of fostering a cult-like existence, but this is a rare phenomenon. We see in history that the great monastic saint and leader, St. Pauselichkovsky, fled a monastery in Ukraine to Mt. Athos because of the spiritually overweening and oppressive regime he found there. He had detected a toxic rather than a spiritually nurturing ambiance emanating from the leadership of that community. Before one is finally accepted in a monastery, both the candidate and the monastic community itself must be comfortable with one another.

In fleeing the world, a monastic candidate realizes that he/she is weak in the fight against the evil one and that coming under spiritual direction gives the benefit of another person’s acquired education through previous spiritual battles. Obedience is but a tool to curb and hone an ego that easily is prone to impulsive, selfish and sinful choices. The act of obedience and fulfilling assigned obediences or jobs is not meant to obliterate you as a person, but to reeducate your spirit to serve the community good. This is a training for the mind.

Obediences will make for a community that functions smoothly and is harmonious.

Our Roman Catholic friends once approximated our attitude towards obedience and assigned obediences, but this became unpopular with the Vatican II reforms. For example, I was educated by Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in California. For example, I was educated by Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in California. Our Roman Catholic friends once approximated our attitude towards obedience and assigned obediences, but this became unpopular with the Vatican II reforms. For example, I was educated by Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in California. Our Roman Catholic friends once approximated our attitude towards obedience and assigned obediences, but this became unpopular with the Vatican II reforms. For example, I was educated by Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in California. Our Roman Catholic friends once approximated our attitude towards obedience and assigned obediences, but this became unpopular with the Vatican II reforms. For example, I was educated by Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in California. Our Roman Catholic friends once approximated our attitude towards obedience and assigned obediences, but this became unpopular with the Vatican II reforms. For example, I was educated by Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in California. Our Roman Catholic friends once approximated our attitude towards obedience and assigned obediences, but this became unpopular with the Vatican II reforms. For example, I was educated by Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in California.

I remain yours in Christ,
Martha X. Misko
President
Explore the Greater Cleveland Area:
Saturday Afternoon at the 66th Annual U.O.L Convention

By Melanie Nakonachny, Convention Chairwoman

As you’ve read in the U.O.L. Bulletin over the past few months, the 66th Annual U.O.L Convention, hosted by St. Vladimir’s Chapter in Parma, OH, is definitely going to be an exciting event that you won’t want to miss out on. You’ll be greeted warmly at hospitality night, celebrate an opening Divine Liturgy at St. Vladimir’s Cathedral, tour the Cleveland Aquarium, enjoy a dinner dance at the beautiful Windows on the River and participate in business sessions that will chart the course of the U.O.L. for the coming year. After all of those busy activities, you’ll definitely need some time to relax and enjoy the many attractions offered in the Greater Cleveland area. With business sessions complete, Saturday, July 27, 2013 will be a day to unwind while sightseeing or relaxing.

The Rockside Road area of Independence, where this year’s convention hotel is located, has many local restaurants and attractions. Melt, a well known restaurant, is just a short walk from the hotel and has been featured on the television show Diners, Drive-ins & Dives. The restaurant serves countless cheesy sandwiches from the Parmageddon to the Municipal Stadium Magic. It’s all delicious! Also in the immediate vicinity of the hotel is the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Guests can enjoy a stroll or jog along the Cuyahoga River or take a trip on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

Downtown Cleveland, a short 10 minute drive, provides lots of exciting things to see and do. You may want to visit the Great Lakes Science Center with its OMNIMAX Theater, or the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Both of these attractions are located near Voinovich Park on Lake Erie. University Circle is another great spot to visit in Cleveland. The Botanical Gardens, Art Museum and Museum of Natural History are all located in this area.

One of the highlights of your trip to Parma could be a visit to Ukrainian Village. Located on State Road, this stretch of Parma is where St. Vladimir’s Cathedral is located. Visitors will enjoy visiting the local Ukrainian shops and restaurants and viewing the Ukrainian artwork that is on display in this area. You should definitely make a trip to Parma’s Ukrainian Village during your free time on Saturday. If you’re not much of a tourist, you may just want to relax at the hotel. The Embassy Suites Hotel has a beautiful lobby with a pool table where you can relax and catch up with old and new friends. The hotel pool and fitness center will also be open for you to utilize during this day.

No matter what you choose to do during your free time during the 66th Annual U.O.L. Convention in Parma, OH it will be a memorable time. It’s not too early to start making plans to attend! We can’t wait to see you in Parma July 24-28, 2013.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, New Year, and Christmas! The holiday season is a great time to realize how blessed we all truly are. We ask that this year, all chapters participate in the annual “Souper” Bowl Sunday on February 3, 2013 with all proceeds going to St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Society. This organization supports soup kitchens in Ukraine for the elderly and orphaned.

On March 3, 2013, the Sunday of the Prodigal Son is Bring a Friend to Church Day. This day is a great opportunity to show your friends all about our faith! This year, the annual Great Lent Giveaway will benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation. We as a board are very excited about this project because we will have the opportunity to help a terminally ill child achieve his or her dreams. I encourage every chapter to put time and effort into this cause.

Information on all of the above events will be sent out shortly to all presidents and advisors. Upcoming are also the 2013 Essay Contest and the Lenten Retreats. The retreats are a great way to regain our focus on Christ during the Lenten season. Information will be sent out concerning this as well.

One of the Jr. U.O.L’s most successful fundraisers, the annual Jr. U.O.L. Raffle, is also approaching. We ask that everyone please support the juniors as they go around selling tickets in their parishes and elsewhere.

The next National U.O.L. Executive Board Meeting will be held on February 2, 2013 in South Side Pittsburgh, PA. Everyone is welcome to sit in on this meeting.

Lastly, another reminder that dues and membership forms were due back in September! If your chapter has not completed this information, please do so as soon as possible by mailing the correct forms to our financial secretary, Sarah Hershey. Remember, your chapter will not be eligible to have voting delegates at Convention this summer if this is not completed!

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful new year!
Yours in Christ,
Elizabeth Hershey

Explore the Greater Cleveland Area:
Saturday Afternoon at the 66th Annual U.O.L Convention

NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL

PRESIDENT
Elizabeth Hershey

Christ is born!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, New Year, and Christmas! The holiday season is a great time to realize how blessed we all truly are. We ask that this year, all chapters participate in the annual “Souper” Bowl Sunday on February 3, 2013 with all proceeds going to St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Society. This organization supports soup kitchens in Ukraine for the elderly and orphaned.

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I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful new year!
Yours in Christ,
Elizabeth Hershey

All Saints Camp Lucky Calendars
Submitted by Christine Mills

The All Saints Camp Committee & Booster Club would like to extend a big “Thank You” to all of our “Lucky Calendar” sellers and winners for 2012!

This is an important project that continues to help support the camp! Proceeds of $7000 have been provided from “Lucky Calendar” sales to continue the projects and upkeep of the camp.

A “Lucky Calendar” is a chance calendar that gives you the chance to win a minimum of $25 a day (more on special days listed in the calendar)! We had a $1000 calendar winner this year! With your $25 donation, you receive a three digit number that is your number for the entire year of 2013. If your number matches the number of the “Evening” Pennsylvania Daily Lottery (3 digit number drawing) you win the prize listed on the calendar for that day! Prizes are mailed out twice a month. You don’t need to live in Pennsylvania to play!

If you are interested in selling “Lucky Calendars” at your parish or would just like to purchase your own calendar, please contact Christine Mills. Please send your $25 check made out to “All Saints Camp Boosters” to the address below and your calendar(s) will be sent out to you as soon as possible! The new 2013 Calendars will be available in November! Hope you are a winner!

Christine Mills 641 N. Allerton Ct. Moon Township, PA 15108
412-716-0562 cmills63@comcast.net

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He is the Lord of All (including Sports)

Submitted by Rev. Deacon Tony Szwez

More and more in today's society, we see professional athletes praying before competing and giving thanks to God when they have had success. Some baseball players cross themselves before getting into the batter's box or are like Curt Shilling, a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox who prays and kisses his crucifix before beginning to pitch in a game. Many major league baseball players point to heaven and give thanks after they have hit a home run. Basketball players might look up for divine support before a free throw. Some soccer players kiss crucifixes around their necks after scoring a goal and many football players will point up giving thanks after scoring a touchdown or kicking a field goal.

In the first moments before a game, a match or other sporting event, many athletes or even entire teams stand in silence or as a group praying to the heavens and asking that God give them strength to use their God given talents to compete to the best of their abilities. After a victory, scoring of a touchdown, hitting of a home run or scoring of a goal many athletes stand on the court or in the stadium and thank God, they point to the heavens and many cross themselves.

In society, religion is practiced on the courts and fields of sports, where crediting divine intervention for that home run, touchdown, goal or basket has become as much a custom as the pre-game chalk talk.

Scripture is not without references to athletic victory. In First Corinthians, for example, Apostle Paul says: “Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.”

But what do members of the clergy believe about how active a role God plays in sports? Could this unseen force possibly be rooting for the more devout? Vince Lombardi once said, “The difference between a successful man and God is education, in the strong will, in a singleness of purpose, and an invincible determination. But the great difference is in sacrifice, in self-denial, in love and in loyalty, in fearlessness and in humility, in the pursuit of excellence and in the perfectly disciplined will, because this is not only the difference between men, but this is the difference between great and little men.”

Sports are not merely the exercise of muscles, but the school of moral values and of training in courage, in perseverance, and in overcoming laziness and carelessness. The correct practice of sport must be accompanied by practicing the virtues of temperance and sacrifice; frequently it also requires a good team spirit, respectful attitudes, the appreciation of the qualities of others, honesty in the game and humility to recognize one’s own limitations. In short, sports, especially in less competitive forms, foster festive celebration and friendly coexistence.

Many of us in some fashion will compete in some sport whether in school, socially or professionally. When you compete pray to God and ask that you may perform to the best of your abilities and that no harm or injury comes to you or your opponent, have fun and always give thanks to Lord our God because He made everything possible.

(Holy Land- Continued from page 1)

junior. I am by nature pretty creative and organized. The UOL, however, has given me the outlet to share those qualities with others. If not for the UOL, I would never be publishing the UOL Bulletin, and would never even think about doing such a thing as being a psychologist. Without the UOL I would never plan events like an “Ostap” night or make retreat puzzles. These are skills that the UOL has fostered and on the trip I realized that these are skills I developed through the UOL. When we were stranded in Bethlehem, Oleh and I organized a side tour to Jerusalem. We organized the van, outlined the tour, and explained where we were going. These are UOL-born skills. Additionally, when we were stranded in Bethlehem, the UOL organized the group to reach out to the travel agency and work to get us home sooner. It was the UOL group that worked as a team to be certain that we left on Thursday, a full four days earlier than was originally planned by our tour representative. I thank the UOL for allowing me to be creative and organized.

During the trip we became a family of pilgrims. We traveled together, prayed together, and were inspired together. The one thing that struck me was that I knew I would get to see my UOL family. There are many events where we keep in touch, such as the Convention, Family Fest and Retreats. These are wonderful opportunities to nurture our love for Christ and each other. That is why the UOL is so important. Following the trip we got together with Daria Danyo and Lynn Szafinski to share pictures, stories and just enjoy each others company. We also showed our pictures in a slide show as part of a UOL event, inviting a member from our neighboring parish who lives in the area to attend and join in our screening of pictures. The community that we develop as a UOL family helps to keep me motivated.

With our UOL community and family we have the blessing of supporting each other when we are tired, facing a challenge, or losing faith. My commitment to the UOL and our church community keeps me focused on those things that are important. I also know that I have a community that I can turn to for inspiration. I can reach out to my local chapter members or friends around the country for inspiration. If my light flickers, I can lean on my UOL family to re-ignite my spark and inspire me.

Our family in Christ, our UOC of the USA, is nurtured by the UOL! There are many times when we do not fully appreciate the gift that we have been given by being a part of this organization. Thank you fellow UOL members for the wonderful nurturing family you have provided for me. Sorry it took so long for me to say thanks. Somehow, it took my traveling half way around the world to fully appreciate the gifts the UOL has given me.
St. John the Baptist, Johnson City, NY

Jr. UOL News

Submitted by: Sam Hatala

Our Jr. UOL has gotten off to a great start! We have 13 members. We have elected Molly Hatala President, Grace Hatala Vice President, Tia Dimitriou Secretary, Julia Ferrante Treasurer, Andrea Harder is our photographer. Sam and Ben Hatala are the reporters. Our Advisors are Jennifer Hatala and Lisa Ferrante.

In September, we made care packages with cookies and cards. We sent them to our five college students. We participated in the National Make a Difference Day on October 27th. We spent the day cleaning the Park and our church grounds. We went to the hall to watch a movie and have pizza and popcorn afterwards.

The Jr. UOL has decided to start recycling more. We put recycling bins around the church. We are also doing a bottle and can drive. We volunteered for Meals on Wheels on Thanksgiving Day. We delivered meals and homemade cards to people in our community.

The Jr. UOL has done so much and it has been so much fun. We cannot wait to get a fun start in 2013!

Sts. Peter and Paul Senior UOL Youngstown, Ohio

Submitted by Walter M. Duzzny Sr. President

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Togetherness and giving back were the topics of conversation at the early fall meeting of the Sr UOL Chapter in Youngstown Ohio. With solid support from the membership those two themes became a reality. First things first, the Chapter and Parish, known community-wide for its ethnic food, decided to hold a stuffed cabbage sale to supplement other fund raisers that the Chapter had in mind. That’s where the togetherness began, with Stephanie Rimedio and her husband Joe team-leading the venture. Members stepped forward to take on the necessary tasks, from peeling and cooking cabbage to rolling and stuffing. This does not sound like much to the average Ukrainian, whose kitchen is always the center for ethnic foods, but the challenge was the over one hundred (100) dozen orders that were called in once the word got out into the community. With the cabbage came the togetherness, certainly a great feeling to see UOL members and other members of the Parish, and our Jrs, working side by side (it should be noted that recruiting was underway throughout the project).

The giving back was initiated when UOL Vice President Dr. Dinah Fedyna Novicky suggested that the holiday season would be a good time to display our Orthodox Christian compassion, by giving back to the Community. After a series of discussions and excited dialogue, the goal was set, that being to have a post Thanksgiving community dinner. Tasks were assigned, a date selected, supplies purchased and the project was underway. Even though it seemed that there was sufficient time, like everything that is happening in our lives the clock was moving faster and faster. Before long the day had arrived, the food was ready and the Community came.

As with the stuffed cabbages the joy of togetherness, and the feeling of Orthodox Christian compassion were very apparent throughout this project. Again both UOL members and other Parish members worked side by side to make this first “give back to the community” dinner a success. Reviewing recently the Resolutions of the 65th Annual UOL Convention “wherein local Chapters are encouraged to reach out to all peoples of their community” we are on the right path and will continue to support and share our Orthodox Christian beliefs here in the Youngstown Ohio Area.
Children Are A Heritage From The Lord

This is visibly true in the acts performed by the children of the St. Mary the Protectress, Southfield chapter of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League. The chapter members are always looking for opportunities to make a positive difference in the world, to help those in need, to alleviate the suffering of their neighbors, and to be that shining Light that Christ implored us all to be.

The Jr. UOL members are trying to live up to Christ’s directive - to love their neighbor. This is evident in the activities, projects and charitable acts performed by this group of eager young individuals.

The Jr. UOL kids greeted the start of the New Church Year in September by immediately taking action. They baked, donated and volunteered their time at the Rochester Great American Bake Sale, in conjunction with Share Our Strength’s ‘No Kid Hungry’ campaign. Over 400 baked goods were donated by local bakeries, restaurants, youth groups and individuals. While that morning was cold, rainy and windy, the kids stood firm and did their best to sell everything that was displayed on their tables, which ranged from cookies, to pies, to French baguettes. By the end of the day the funds collected totaled over $2,300. This in turn will provide over 23,000 meals for hungry children in our immediate community. The baked goods that didn’t get sold were collected and loaded into dozens of boxes. These were immediately delivered to The Forgotten Harvest, which provides meals at local homeless shelters.

In October, the children of the Jr. UOL were saddened to hear about the passing of a little boy named Maksymko whom they had seen in church and had often played with. Since there was little the children could do to ease his grieving mother’s pain, the only thing they could think to do was give a $50 donation to the church in memory of the little soul. Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. (Acts 10:4) May his memory be eternal!

Beginning with their participation in the parish’s memorial service/panachyda for the victims of the Holodomor tragedy in Ukraine, the chapter members focused on the welfare of others.

Shocked by the damage they saw in the photos on the www.uocofusa.org website, incurred by Hurricane Sandy, the kids wished to join the St. Olga Sisterhood, and the general collection held on November 4th, by donating the proceeds they earned by hosting the kitchen that Sunday. The kids sold enough borsch and varenyky to donate $150 to the cause.

Being thankful for the blessings bestowed upon them by God, the chapter decided to share those blessings with the less fortunate. Throughout the month of November the chapter held a canned/non-perishable food drive. The items collected will be delivered to local homeless shelters to feed the hungry and ensure they, too, have something to be thankful for.

With the cold weather moving in and to ward off the almost-winter blues, the kids decided to have some group fun in the form of a bowling event. It was great watching the teamwork and support as some bowlers showed immediate success in their technique, while others seemed to have balls with minds and agendas of their own. Eventually, with the team’s encouragement all the members were able to knock over a few pins which led to a round of gleeful squealing and laughter.

The laughter felt one week was soon replaced with frowns of concern, when word reached the chapter of the fire at St. Michael’s in Woonsocket, RI. The kids had all wondered at the beauty of the church they saw in photos of Metropolitan Antony’s visit, just a few weeks before. The thought of that beautiful church being damaged, and on the eve of their parish Feast Day no less, actually brought tears to a few faces. Via Facebook and Instagram the kids all decided that the coming Sunday they would hold a special collection to help the St. Michael’s parish rebuild their church. Even though that morning saw the first icy roads of the season, and few parishioners ventured out that Sunday morning, the kids were still able to collect $150!

(Continued on page 7)
CONTEST GUIDELINES AND RULES

“O LORD, HOW MANIFOLD ARE YOUR WORKS, IN WISDOM YOU HAVE MADE THEM ALL.” PSALM 103

Pre-school/Kindergarten

Draw a picture of something that God created.

Grades 1 & 2 – Write two sentences and draw a picture.

Draw a picture of something God created and tell why you chose that item.

Grades 3 & 4 – Write 5 to 8 sentences.

Explain what a miracle means to you.

Grades 5 & 6 – Essay should be 50 – 75 words in length.

Jesus performed many miracles. Explain one of His miracles and what it means to you.

Grades 7 & 8 – Essay should be 80 – 125 words in length.

Explain what you think is a “work of God.”

Grades 9 & 10 – Essay should be 125 – 200 words in length.

Describe a time in your life when you saw or felt a “work of God” and how it affected your faith.

Grades 11 & 12 – Essay should be 200-500 words in length.

We realize that certain miracles happen around us all the time. In this age of technology, do we really “see” the “work of God” or interpret it as “news.”

Adult 18 and over – Essay should be a minimum of 500 words in length.

Is a miracle a mystery or an accidental coincidence?

CONTEST GUIDELINES AND RULES

1. Entries must be postmarked by April 30, 2013.

2. NO NAMES ON THE FRONT OF ANY ENTRY.

3. All entries must include the following information:
   a. Participant’s first and last name
   b. Age and grade in school
   c. The name and address of participant’s parish, including city and state

4. Drawings no larger than 12” x 18” and NO name on the front of drawing. Please attach a COVER PAGE or use the BACK of the drawing for the information listed above.

5. Written entries must be on 8 1/2” x 11” papers. Include a cover page with the identifying information listed above. Entries for 9th grade and above must be typed or printed.

ALL ENTRIES WILL BE JUGED FOR CONTENT, CREATIVITY AND NEATNESS.

NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 30, 2013.

Mail entries to
UOL Essay Contest
C/o Christine Mills
641 N. Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108

My good friend has just experienced a nasty shock as the pastor of their Greek church was caught in some major moral lapse, causing a great scandal. He was quickly removed, suspended and then defrocked. Knowing him as pastor for a number of years, this seemed a cruel betrayal and no one had any inkling beforehand that the priest also dabbed in reprehensible immoral actions. Now she is worried whether the sacraments and confessions were effective in the time before he was removed.

It is a sad thing when the evil one can so compromise a priest that he gives himself over to grave immorality. Satan always wants to drive a wedge between us and God, and so if he can corrupt priests in a major way, he might reap even further souls, who leave the church in disgust after some sordid scandal. The truth is that the evil one plays on our weaknesses, even more so those of a priest. How often have we heard of priests or ministers who have lived a double life and no one suspected anything until there was some slip. In these cases, the pastor may fulfill his normal pastoral duties, while yet being in bondage to Satan through his weakness. Certainly, these services and sacraments are valid, if that is the term to use, and one should never fear that one’s confession, communion or whatever is negated by the pastor’s own sinful life. What can be said about a clergyman living a double life is that his pastoral power becomes limited. What I am saying is that the compromised priest is running on spiritual empty. How can he convey the power of the Gospel when he is so tied up in Satan’s bondage? There is a prayer in our baptismal rite in which the priest is reminded of the danger of freeing a person from the bondage and influence of Satan by the action of the sacrament, while yet freely choosing to be in bondage himself. A clergyman practicing a double life only fools himself. Just going through the proper motions when one’s heart is divided by service to sin is the ultimate self-deception. Without repentance, that priest is heading for his own spiritual downfall, which ultimately may involve other individuals. When we pray for our priests and hierarchs, we not only supplicate that they always rightly teach the Gospel truth, but that especially they be preserved from the onslaught of Satan, who wishes that they be spiritually compromised.

While the little ones rejoiced, the older kids looked dejected because they know the value of the dollar and that $150 would not be of much help. However, their concerns were alleviated when it was explained to them that other parishes would also be collecting, and that every little bit helps.

The Chapter is only getting started. December promises to be even busier than the previous months. The first weekend in December the kids will be helping Orthodox Detroit Outreach prepare breakfast for local homeless. They will also be decorating the church for Christmas, writing Christmas cards to their penpals in Ukraine, building Kitty Forts for the Humane Society, putting up the Christmas Store and selling all manner of gifts, visiting the elderly, assisting the COCC (Council of Orthodox Christian Churches) with their St. Nicholas Program, and much more. This year the chapter will also be adopting a needy local Orthodox family and purchasing items for them in time for Christmas.

We thank everyone for their kind support of our chapter of the Jr. U.O.L. While the majority of the children are still very little, they have huge hearts and wish to truly make a positive difference in this world.

Glory to Jesus Christ!
A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group. Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

no tributes this month

To submit your Tribute: Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), and the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent.

For a contribution of $20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin. UOL Tributes should be submitted to:

Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

The Ukrainian Orthodox League
Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission

“Souper Bowl” Sunday
February 3, 2013

It’s NOT about football!
It is about feeding the hungry!
Help Make A Difference.

Make a Donation to help Saint Andrew’s Society

Forward Donations to:
U.O.L. Financial Secretary
Mrs. Pam Scannell
2000 Clover Drive
Vestal, NY 13850

Please Contact
Christian Caregiving and Missions Chairmen:
Mark Meschisen MarcusMesh29@gmail.com
Kateryna Kocelko kdkcutie25@yahoo.com

Western PA UOL LENTEN RETREAT
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013

Guest speaker:
Dr. Gayle Woloschak

Villa Maria Retreat Center
Villa Maria, PA
(N.E. OH / W. PA...15 min from Youngstown, only 1 1/4 hours from Cleveland & Pittsburgh)

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