The PA/OH Lenten Retreat was held on March 29, 2014 at beautiful Villa Maria Retreat Center. “Lent – A Family Affair” provided the theme for the day for the speakers and the events for the participants. Our day began with morning prayers led by Fr. John Harvey, from Sts. Peter and Paul in Youngstown, OH, followed by a light Continental Breakfast.

Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, from Sts. Peter and Paul in Palos Park, IL traveled to provide everyone two very uplifting workshops during the day. Fr. Vasyl’s first topic concerned the “Family ABC’s of Lent” which allowed everyone to express thoughts on how the whole family can and should participate together during Lent. Fr. John Harvey then spoke concerning “Proverbs, Sage Wisdom to Guide a Family” and provided readings and references in Proverbs to help us through the Lenten season.

An amazing lunch was enjoyed in the Villa Maria cafeteria followed by some attendees getting to do a little shopping at the gift shop or just enjoying the delightful scenery of the retreat center. Our afternoon continued with Fr. Vasyl speaking about the thoughts of “Giving Up” or “Getting Up.” Both speakers provided guidance and encouragement on how, as a family, to be able to participate in Great Lent.

Confessions and Vespers were conducted with Fr. John Nakonachny, from St. Vladimir’s Cathedral in Parma, OH conducting everyone with the Vesper responses and Fr. John Harvey conducting the service. Participants were able to then complete their “Family Lenten Survival Kit” to take home. The kit contained items to help a family during Lent from year to year, with items such as recipes, a memorial list sheet and a little booklet for spiritual guidance. Participants were also able to decorate their boxes if they desired, while delicious pizza from Villa Maria was enjoyed along with fellowship.

Fr. John Nakonachny thanked everyone for participating and the speakers for coming to enlighten everyone, and hopes to see everyone back again next year. We thank UOL President, Michael Komichak, for coming all the way from NJ to attend the retreat. Co-chairs Tracey Sally and Christine Mills from Sts. Peter and Paul, Carnegie, PA also thanked everyone as well as mentioned that we are looking for co-chairs for the 2015 Lenten Retreat. If you are interested in chairing the 2015 retreat, please contact Christine Mills at cmills63@comcast.net or 412-716-0562.

The UOL National Executive Board hopes to be able to continue this wonderful Lenten tradition.

Thank you to everyone for participating and to ALL who provided us with guidance and assistance to conduct the 2014 PA/OH UOL Lenten Retreat!
ASK FR. HARVEY
Questions answered by Fr. John W. Harvey

Attending a Ukrainian Catholic church for the funeral of a relative, I was shocked to find that the Liturgy and funeral service were just read in a monotone and no singing. I was told that they no longer had a choir and rarely a cantor and that this utterly boring practice was becoming common in many of their churches. I know that some of our parishes lack choir directors and in some places the old cantors are wary about sharing any of their musical and liturgical lore with anyone. I pray that our parishes are not going in the “said” service direction. Your comments?

I can assure you that even with a dearth of choir directors and/or cantors that our parishes are not going in this direction, which robs the service and prayer life of most of its beauty. First let us consider that Ukrainian Catholics, like their Roman Rite brethren, are Catholics first and foremost. In the Roman Rite, sung high masses are the rare exception and so “said” services are the norm, and so it is easy for their Byzantine cousins to fall into the selfsame pattern. This is especially true IF it is difficult to get a fully trained cantor, one who can be present at all services.

In the Orthodox Church, all services are chant and there is a tonal structure for all of the changeable parts. One could not comprehend “O Gladsome Light” in Vespers or the “Cherubic Hymn” in the Liturgy just being recited. It goes completely against the grain of our basic expectations in worship. Even should a cantor be absent, the priest, who is well trained in the tones and liturgical music, will provide the necessary responses.

Knowing well that many old cantors were jealous of anyone learning the secrets of their cantorial skills or the intricacies of putting together the materials from various sources (mena, Triodion, book of the eight tones, Apostol, etc.) to do a specific service correctly, but considering the needs, it behooves the Parish to surf around to make many interesting discoveries.

As a pastor I have trained parishioners to read in church and to learn the tones of tropars and vespers stichera. Right now there is a plethora of liturgical material as well as Orthodox church music for free on the web, one only has to surf around to make many interesting discoveries.

Every parish has someone who can read music and among the retired there is a possibility of enlisting someone to help with daily or special services, such as a funeral. It is good to identify those willing to be of service and to provide the training and opportunities necessary for their nurturing and development. Who knows who has a talent just waiting to be tapped and developed. This is a type of stewardship that can be very rewarding for the person who is enlisted and a definite benefit for the whole parish.

Again, Orthodox people fully expect that the worship experience in their church will be musically satisfying. In order to fulfill this basic expectation, each parish must plan for the future so that our musical traditions continue for generations.

(continued on page 4)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Michael J. Komichak

...Devoted to its Youth

Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

As “brothers and sisters in Christ,” we are related to each other through our membership in His Church (Matthew 12:50). This connection certainly extends well beyond the confines of our individual local parishes. While a local UOC chapter promotes connections within a parish, a primary reason for having a national UOL at all is to extend and strengthen these connections throughout the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. When we are involved in UOL activities organized on the national level, we build a stronger Church and we enjoy the benefits of Christian fellowship with those brothers and sisters with whom we do not regularly connect due to geographic separation.

Establishing connections across the extended UOC of USA family is especially important for our young people. The social bonds our Juniors form through the UOL at this stage in their lives and the sense of belonging to a larger Church family can only have a positive influence on the choices they make once they leave home and eventually start families of their own.

Summertime brings many outstanding opportunities for our Juniors to renew or establish friendships, to be involved in significant church activities and mission projects, and to learn valuable life skills. The Annual UOL Convention—this year in July at the Metropolis Center in South Bound Brook, NJ—provides a safe and fun environment for Juniors to learn more about being Orthodox Christians, to form life-long connections, to be involved in a charitable service project, and to receive practical leadership, organizational, and administrative training.

All Saints Camp in Emlenton, PA is one of the crown jewels of the UOC of USA. Established by the UOL in 1978, the Camp will once again be the site of the annual Diocesan Church School Camp, Teenage Conference, and Mommy & Me / Daddy and Me encampments. These All Saints Camp events are well-attended, and participants return year after year with great enthusiasm. Take advantage of what the UOL has to offer this summer. Come to Convention and help us plan new initiatives to strengthen connections among our parishes, increase meaningful involvement for all UOC of USA members, and design innovative educational programs. If you have children, bring them with you to Convention. For the very young, remember that we have preteen activities at Convention. If you can’t make it to Convention yourself, send your kids to Convention anyway! They will spend time with others their own age who are also being raised in the Church and they will participate in Christ-centered activities under adult supervision. As with the encampments at All Saints Camp, at the UOL Convention your children will learn new skills and they will have fun! For specific information, visit uol.orthodoxws.com, allsaintscamp.org, uocyouth.org, and facebook.com/uolusa.

At the beginning of May, I attended the Junior National Executive Board Spring meeting hosted by St. Vladimir Parish in Pittsburgh, PA. The Junior Board members are an impressive group of individuals, displaying maturity and leadership qualities well beyond their years. We can be proud of their accomplishments, and we can be proud of the role that the UOL has played as part of their upbringing in the Church. We can also look forward to their eventual transition to becoming Senior UOL members and bringing with them their talents, their dedication and their ideas to help us build a stronger National UOL and a stronger UOC of USA.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) Time is short: children grow up fast. If your children have participated in National UOL summer activities like the UOL Convention in the past, continue to involve them this summer. If they have not participated in the past, have them start this summer. You, and they, will be glad you did!

Yours in Christ,

Michael J. Komichak
This is it! It’s the final countdown to the 67th Annual UOL Convention! Come join us in South Bound Brook, NJ for rewarding and fun-filled days during July 23-27, 2014! The Convention Committee, that includes members of the surrounding UOL chapters of Northampton, Allentown, Carteret, Maplewood, and South Bound Brook, have been planning a great variety of spiritual and social events. Lodging accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn, Somerset at a remarkable and very reasonable rate of $89.00 per night. Business sessions and evening activities will be held at the UOC Cultural Center.

The early registration discounted rate of $205 for Seniors and $195 for Juniors includes –

- Wednesday – Hospitality Night hosted by Holy Ascension Chapter, Maplewood
- Thursday – Welcome Brunch; Mystery Dinner Theatre
- Friday – Breakfast; Lunch; Cultural Evening and Dinner
- Saturday – Breakfast; Picnic Lunch hosted by assumption of the Virgin Mary Chapter, Northampton; UOL Grand Banquet and Ball
- Sunday – Farewell Luncheon

Our Thursday evening event is a Mystery Dinner Theatre entitled Murder On Cue® Mystery: A Murderous Game Show! This audience participatory comedy mystery will involve our “talented” UOLers and the theatre company’s actors as together they unravel a twisting mystery plot!

The Friday Cultural Evening and Dinner will highlight the musical group Cherez, a participative dance workshop, and more dancing until 10:00 PM!

And, of course, the UOL Grand Banquet and Ball will be held on Saturday, July 26. Following a sumptuous dinner and the UOL Annual Awards and special recognitions, the UOL Ball will take place featuring dance music provided by our own De extraordinaire, Al Shinn of Philadelphia! The evening is sure to be a memorable celebration of our Convention days!

There’s still time to enter the UOL Basket Raffle Competition! Get your creative juices flowing! We invite all chapters, Junior and Senior, to join the competition! Have your Chapter create a basket of goodies (value of $50.00 or more) to be raffled at the Convention. Special recognition will be awarded to the Chapter whose basket collects the most entries! Make your plans now! Come to South Bound Brook in July!

Convention Registration and Individual Event Tickets:
Register by June 15, 2014 for Discounted Rate

Registration materials can be found at:
http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com
Contact Helen Crayosky
610-262-4575
iluvhearts@rcn.com

Hotel Reservations
Holiday Inn Somerset
195 Davidson Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873
1-732-356-1700
UOL rate of $89.00 by June 30, 2014

Yearbook Advertising
Submit ads and greetings by June 1, 2014
Yearbook ad contract materials can be found at:
http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com/

Questions?
Contact Martha Misko
Martha.misko@rcn.com or 610-262-5292

67th Annual UOL Convention Update
Submitted by Martha X. Misko

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Summer is already here, and I can’t believe how fast this year has gone. It feels like we just were together in Parma for the annual Convention last year, and it’s already time for the 66th Annual UOL Convention in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. Our spring national executive board meeting was held in Pittsburgh, PA. I would like to thank the entire parish for being wonderful hosts. The entire board had a great time.

With Convention around the corner, I would like to remind everyone to turn in their completed progress reports. Please try to get those turned in as soon as possible. If you have lost your forms or need another, feel free to go on the UOL website and print another or contact one of the board members for another copy.

All chapters should have received their raffle tickets, and I hope everyone is selling them all! This is the Junior UOL’s largest fundraiser, so make sure your parish is a part of it by selling your tickets. Maybe one of the tickets you sold will be a winner. The winner is picked Saturday night at Convention. Please return your ticket stubs and a check for the tickets your chapter sold to the fundraising chairperson, Kira Kuzmenchuk, before Convention. Please contact Kira if you have sold all of your tickets, and she will make sure you get more to sell. In the off chance you don’t sell all your tickets, please return the unsold tickets to Kira as well.

Also at Convention we have our annual Cultural Contest. Everyone, both Junior and Senior members, is invited to participate. This contest provides a great way to showcase your talents while representing our Ukrainian heritage. If you have any questions or need more information consult the article or email Sarah Hershey at shershey19@gmail.com.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone about the 2014 Great Lent Giveaway. This year it benefits FOCUS North America. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry partners with the Junior UOL for this project. Even though Lent may be over you still have time to collect monetary funds and socks to go to FOCUS North America. Each week during Lent a lesson was released and I hope everyone was able to use them, if not you still have time to go and read them. The deadline for the funds and socks is at Convention, so you still have time. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at kdkcutie25@yahoo.com.

I would like to take this time to thank all of my board members, Christopher, Katherine, Betsy, Sarah and Kira. Without the help of my board members, the UOL would not have been able to accomplish the things we did this year. I am very blessed to have them, as well as our Spiritual Advisor, Father Vasyl Sendeha and our Senior Advisor, Daria Komichak.

I pray that everyone has a safe summer, and I hope to see everyone in July in South Bound Brook!

In Christ’s Love,
Kateryna Kocelko

Happy National Jr. Raffle Tickets
Submitted by Kira Kuzmenchuk

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a blessed Pascha and Spring season. I can’t believe the Convention is only a short time away. With that said, that means that it is RAFFLE TICKET SEASON! Tickets were distributed to all the Jr. Chapters in mid-April and I hope everyone is enjoying selling them. Please feel free to ask any Jr. member if you are interested in tickets. The Jr. UOL Raffle has become a tradition over the years and I hope to continue that tradition in the years that follow. The drawing for the 2014 National Jr. UOL Raffle is to be held at the 67th Annual UOL convention in South Bound Brook, NJ on July 26, 2014.

The prizes are as follows: 1st Prize- $500.00 2nd Prize- $300.00 3rd Prize- $100.00 All raffle tickets and payments are due to me by Convention. If anyone needs more information, has any questions, or would like Raffle tickets please don’t hesitate to contact me at kirkakuz@verizon.net.

2014 National Jr. Raffle Tickets
Submitted by Kira Kuzmenchuk

In Christ’s Love,
Kateryna Kocelko
Cultural Corner
200th Anniversary of Taras Shevchenko’s Birth
This year marks the 200th Anniversary of Taras Shevchenko’s birth on March 9, 1814. Born into serfdom, Taras Shevchenko is remembered and celebrated as Ukraine’s poet laureate, a gifted artist, public and political figure and the very embodiment of Ukraine’s national spirit. Through his writings, paintings, civil actions and life’s journey, Taras Shevchenko remains a beacon of wisdom and light. His life’s works and struggles are a legacy to preserve for all time and for all mankind. What would he say to the people and leaders of Ukraine in light of current events?

The Dmytro and Eva Wasylko Memorial Essay Contest was created to increase high school students’ knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Ukraine - the country’s history, the people and their ongoing struggle for the freedoms and human rights that we all enjoy in the United States of America and so often take for granted.

Attached are the winning essays in response to the question: “What is Taras Shevchenko’s message to the world that we live in today?”

First Prize: Victoria Olena Swindle of Pittsburgh, PA
Second Prize: Olena Lymar of Chicago, IL

Both of these young ladies were recognized and commended for their excellent submissions in which they skillfully expressed their heartfelt appreciation of Taras Shevchenko’s life and works, and his significance to our brothers and sisters in their ongoing struggle against oppression in Ukraine today.

We trust that you will join us in congratulating Victoria and Olena on their awards and may, with their agreement, want to consider sharing their submissions with other members of the Jr. UOL.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to thank you all very kindly for your help in publicizing our essay contest and to wish you and your families a joyous Pascha Celebration full of light and joy.

First Prize - Victoria Olena Swindle

I believe that if Taras Shevchenko was with us today his message would be the same as he said 200 years ago, that we should never forget who we truly are and where we came from. Specifically, Shevchenko said, “Through my word I created for you an eternal memory and from you fashioned eternal remembrance among the living” (Kulish, p. 63). Shevchenko was one of the first writers who presented the Ukrainian people with poetry that explained that life should be lived happily and freely; meaning one should enjoy life being free and not a slave to anyone. It is the simple things in life such as basic freedom and liberty that should make us happy. If Shevchenko was with us today he would tell us the need to get back to the simple life where true happiness may be found. His simple life is marked with such basic things such as the love of God, family, and country. Shevchenko did not use any high tech computers or big dictionaries when writing, however he wrote with words used in the everyday language spoken in the villages.

Through his words Taras Shevchenko makes us remember our Ukrainian history and what he put to words in his poetry many years ago makes us appreciate our Ukrainian ancestry and history today. Through his poetry our Ukrainian history will never be lost. This is why the future generations still read his works today. Shevchenko loved his Mother Ukraine and if he was with us today he would want us to love our homeland just as much. Shevchenko helps unite the thousands of Ukrainians who are scattered throughout the world. Because of Shevchenko, Ukrainians throughout the world maintain a proud Ukrainian identity and pass it down from generation to generation. Shevchenko helps us see our history and make ourselves strong with it. Today a dark cloud hovers over Ukraine and history seems to repeat itself. During Shevchenko’s life the common people were under the yoke of serfdom and little freedom. While the people are not serfs today, because of evil powers. The people of Ukraine feel the need to stand up for themselves and not be a slave to anyone’s ideas and power over us.

Second Prize: Olena Lymar

The Fight We Cannot Give Up
In captivity I count the days and nights, / Then lose count. / O, Lord. How hard / These days drag on. / And the years flow between them. / They quietly flow by, / They take away the good and bad / With themselves! / They take away, without returning / Anything ever! / And don’t plead, for your prayer / Will be lost on God.

-Taras Shevchenko. Lichu v nevoli dni i nochi (First version)

Today more than ever, it has been important to read the news, but most importantly pray for our beloved Ukraine. This year marks the two-hundredth anniversary of Ukraine’s Great Son, Taras Shevchenko. Many claim that Shevchenko was first to pave the path for Ukraine’s modern language and the first to write in the beautiful Ukrainian dialect that many of us know today. Not only did Shevchenko modernize the language, he also created a new energy and spirit in the people of Ukraine.

Shevchenko wrote about his beloved homeland and the hardships she endured. His patriotism for Ukraine had inspired others; and throughout most of Ukraine’s history, his poems and literary works had been condemned. Even when silenced, his poetry rang freedom through the hills and valleys of Ukraine, reminding the Ukrainian people who they really are. It has been two hundred years, and still many recite his literary works and look to his legacy for inspiration and a reassurance that perhaps Ukraine will be free. Since Ukraine had gained her independence more than twenty years ago, there is still oppression and torment lingering on Ukraine’s bountiful land and her beautiful people.

Even with hardships still on her free land, many look to Shevchenko’s beautiful poems for help, and search for guidance to the light of freedom and democracy on our native land. Shevchenko left a message to the people of Ukraine, a message that cannot be easily interpreted; but I believe that in the recent events, many have found his message very encouraging. Taras Shevchenko tells us that we should never be embarrassed of our Motherland, and we should always stand by her side, no matter what violence, bloodshed, and cruelty she endures. We should always protect her, but most importantly we should love, honor and be proud of Ukraine and her people.

In the light of recent events, many have started to lose hope in Ukraine’s new government, but Shevchenko keeps on reminding us to be patient with change, “I count the days and nights, / Then lose count. / O, Lord. How hard / These days drag on.” He tells us these words of inspiration, that even though every day will be hard, and perhaps someday we will want to give up, though we should not! We should keep praying, we should never cease our fight, and we should be proud of what Ukraine has accomplished. We should remember every day the fight Shevchenko and the many Heroes that gave their lives for our beloved Ukraine, and we should not give up in this dark hour of Ukraine’s great history.

- Taras Shevchenko. Lichu v nevoli dni i nochi (First version)

(Ask Fr. Harvey - Continued from page 2)

Baba has been telling me stories about early days in our parish and many practices observed then are no longer done, with some being barely remembered. Have we lost some precious traditions that should be reintroduced into our church life? For example, she tells me of processions with the sacrament during holy week and a special service during which they were blessed by the community. Also she fondly recalls when bells were jangled each time communion was given and clackers that were used on Good Friday. Just curious.

Looking at old parish photos, one will see some of the above mentioned pious practices which have disappeared from our churches. A historical note will clarify their alien origin and why they have been gradually culled from our parishes. With the rise of the Greek Catholic Church in the 16th century, traditional Orthodox theology was quickly totally replaced by Counter-Reformation Roman Catholic thinking and interpretations. In practice, the old Orthodox liturgy and rituals were supposed to remain, but Greek Catholic priests and hierarchs aped Polish Catholic models of the times and picked up western practices modifying them into a pseudo-Byzantine form. The terms of the Unia promised that the Greek Catholic

Bibliography
Great Lent Giveaway 2014
Submitted by Kateryna Kocelko

FOCUS on Giving; Benefiting FOCUS North America Back to School Initiative

The UOL has also enhanced the event over the last decade. UOL members from a variety of chapters don orange vests to help with parking duties. As part of the process the UOL collects funds for parking and sells commemorative ribbons. All of the funds from the ribbons are designated for the seminary pledge.

If you have never volunteered for parking duty, it can be fun. There is an absolute camaraderie with the parking attendants. In the morning there is the Ukrainian School crowd (calling out “shkola” - school) as they pass by. We also have Emil Skocypec driving by in his green truck checking to see that everyone is ok. There are also the handful of individuals who somehow forget each year that there is a fee for parking, and sometimes these events can be quite memorable. This year the faithful group was there for parking duty. Jack Roditski and the Gulaks haven’t missed their shift in a while. In fact, Jack is such a regular with parking duty, I think he should wear an orange parking vest to the Banquet and Ball. I think it might start a wonderful fashion trend.

A fairly new tradition is the “Meet the Seminarians” picnic. His Grace Bishop Daniel and the seminarians have hosted the event for the last three years. I remember vividly the year of our first picnic, because His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine of Blessed Memory joined us. I recall when he came out of the car and a huge group of children circled around him. He asked the boys if they were thinking of becoming priests and they jumped with glee. I vividly remember that picnic for it was the last time that I saw Metropolitan Constantine of Blessed Memory.

This year was also a special picnic for we had the opportunity to see the joy of the newest babies of our clergy, little Solomya and baby Jacob. Solomya is the daughter of Fr. Vasyl and Pani Matka Dovghan. Jacob is the son of Fr. Vasyl and Pani Matka Pasakas. It is amazing to think how time flies and how several years ago the tour of the seminary was with our two seminarians, both named Vasyl, and now they are both ordained.

(continued on page 7)
"Dedicated to our Church - Devoted to its Youth"
Lynn Sawchuk - Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship
Submitted by Alexis Oryhon

The Scholarship was established in 1975 to perpetuate the memory of two lovely, dynamic young women whose untimely deaths left an indelible mark in the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Contributions
In the last thirty-eight years, the UOL has awarded 144 scholarships totaling almost $170,000. At the 2013 UOL Convention, scholarships were awarded to four outstanding individuals totaling $4,950. Many past scholarship recipients are active St. UOL members and/or members of their local parishes.

Scholarship Criteria
The Scholarship Committee considers the following criteria when reviewing applicants:
- Being a current or past member of the Junior UOL, enrolled in or about to enroll in a program of advanced education; a record of outstanding performance in the service to the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the UOL; academic performance in high school; involvement in extracurricular activities and be of high ethical and moral character.

Why should YOU donate?
According to the College Board, the average cost of tuition and fees for the 2013–2014 school year was $30,094 at private colleges, $8,893 for state residents at public colleges, and $22,203 for out-of-state residents attending public universities.

Where can you send your donations?
Ms. Lauren Bentley 818 Barley Sheaf Road Coatesville, PA 19320
http://uol.orthodoxws.com/donate.html

You can make donations to the UOL online via Paypal. Please specify the intended ministry or scholarship that your generous donation will benefit by clicking “In Memory of/To Honor” and making that designation (LSSK Scholarship Fund).

(Ukrainian) and Roman rite would be on a separate, but equal footing, but in practice Byzantine rite Catholics were always very much second class. This is one reason priests adapted the latest Roman fads. Supplicatia came as a consecrated Byzantine form of the Roman service of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a worship service emphasizing the bodily presence of Christ in the eucharist. Fostered to counter Protestant denial of the body and blood of Christ in Communion, this is a totally alien worship concept for Orthodox. We follow the mandate of Christ to feed on Him in Communion, and the worship of the sacrament without partaking of it is just plain wrong and unscriptural. Our churches had supplicatia for years and processions with the sacrament on Good Friday and Pascha were popular devotions in our churches. Let us remember that our early parishes, as well as priests and cantors, came directly from the Greek Catholic church. They knew only what had been done for several generations and had accepted wholly the theology and interpretations as taught in the Catholic seminaries. Leaving the Roman Pope and the Catholic allegiance made them Orthodox, but at the time no one realized that there needed to be a complete change in mindset as well as in pious practices. Were our forefathers wrong or evil in holding on to such customs? NO! As time passed and knowledge of true Orthodox teaching and practice circulated among our priests and cantors, gradual changes took place. The babas and their rosary societies in the 1940’s and 1950’s gradually faded away. Interest in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary also were replaced when true Byzantine iconography became more available and was seen to better represent our traditional worship. Furious ringing of bells at the consecration and when a person communed became passe and the use of clackers on Good Friday has virtually disappeared.

Our Ukrainian Catholic brethren too, in many cases, have dropped some of their former cherished practices as some of those seemed counter to post Vatican II Council reforms or were opposed to what may be considered Byzantine liturgical purity.

I remember in the 1980s when the Presanctified Liturgy was first introduced to most of our parishes by priests and was further confirmed by our hierarchs serving it in all parishes. Positive strides were made in liturgical education and the spiritual hunger of the faithful was fulfilled. Old habits were gradually replaced by proper Orthodox services and teaching in the church schools educated the youth to proper Orthodox worship.

An evolution has taken place and priests and faithful now have a good grasp of Orthodox teaching and practice. Some of our old timers may have fond memories about this or that practice, but really it is not advisable to seek that such be reintroduced to our parishes. These were second-hand hand-me-downs from the Roman Church, so that era is best forgotten. We have a fullness of liturgical life and spirituality that was unavailable to our older generations. Such treasure can be found on the internet today that was inaccessible even to seminarians of a generation ago.

UOL CONVENTION COMMEMORATIVE YEARBOOK
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Saint Vladimir’s Junior Chapter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Submitted by Kateryna Kocelko

South Side’s Junior Chapter has been very busy working hard for our church. We just had a very successful spaghetti dinner to help send some of our members to Convention and to be able to go out and socialize as God’s children. Being able to spend time with people who have the same beliefs as you is always spiritually uplifting. The Juniors are always busy helping out at parish fundraisers such as the fall festival and upcoming spring fling.

The Picnic included delicious hamburgers, hotdogs and salads. The tables were set along the veranda and others sat at the long table within the seminary. It is always wonderful to have a time to catch up with everyone and to get to know the seminarians in a relaxed setting.

Mark your calendars for next year. Come and do a shift of parking, don your orange vest and then come enjoy the picnic at the seminary.

St. Vladimir’s Senior UOL Chapter Sponsors Fundraisers for MJSF and LSSK Scholarships
Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

St. Vladimir’s Senior UOL Chapter has made special efforts to fundraise for the two major scholarships of the UOL. At our last chapter meeting we decided to have special projects to support these very important scholarship funds.

This year, for the first time, we had a special collection at our “Svyachene” dinner for the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund and UOL Chapter member Andrew Passyn organized the parish dinner. Two weeks after Pascha, typically on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, St. Vladimir’s parish board hosts a dinner. This year for the first time we planned a special collection for the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. We were thrilled that we raised $675 for the scholarship fund.

We also had a bake sale to raise funds for the Lynn Sawchak - Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship Fund. The bake sale was held on Mother’s Day. We are thrilled that we raised $408 for the LSSK Scholarship Fund.

2014 Cultural Contest!
Participation is open to ALL UOL members, juniors and seniors.

- Entries will be displayed and voted on at the 67th Annual UOL Convention in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.
- Any homemade item that involves Ukrainian heritage and culture is permitted.

For more information, contact: Sarah Hershey, Financial Secretary Cultural Committee Chair shershey19@gmail.com
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.

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