problems.”

Another student writes: “One day while shadowing Dr. Fedyna, I learned about emphysema, fungal infections, and what it means to sit down and my options,” said one student.

She completed her family practice training at Akron General Medical Center’s Family Practice Residency Program. Prior to joining St. Elizabeth Health Care, Youngstown, OH, where she maintains a clinical practice. Prior to joining St. Elizabeth’s in October, 2001, she served for fifteen years as Associate Director at Akron General Medical Center’s Family Practice Residency Program.

Dr. Fedyna is a graduate of Youngstown University and NEOUCOM. She has been involved in numerous professional and medical education activities including task forces and curriculum committees acting as lecturer, seminar leader or facilitator. She has been instrumental in designing, teaching and securing funding for many predoctoral offerings at NEOUCOM.

She has been invited to make numerous presentations on topics ranging from “One-on-One Teaching Skills”, to “Common Dermatologic Problems.” She has been involved in numerous professional and medical education activities including task forces and curriculum committees acting as lecturer, seminar leader or facilitator. She has been instrumental in designing, teaching and securing funding for many predoctoral offerings at NEOUCOM. In all, she has been awarded more than one million dollars in grants. Her areas of focus involve the physician patient interaction, clinical decision-making and the development of physical diagnostic skills. She has also been a strong advocate for promoting family practice as a challenging and tremendously rewarding career choice.

“I have worked with Dr. Fedyna for the past fourteen years and feel she is well qualified for this honor, because I have witnessed her commitment to curriculum innovation, teaching and development of our students’ professional behavior,” wrote Ellen J. Wagner, M.S., Senior Program Coordinator in the Department of Family Medicine in NEOUCOM.

Many students wrote letters in support of Dr. Fedyna. “My initial encounter with Dr. Fedyna was as a third year medical student. At that time, I was in need of some career guidance, and Dr. Fedyna took time out of her busy schedule to sit down with me on multiple occasions to help me sort out all of my options,” said one student.

Another student writes: “One day while shadowing Dr. Fedyna, I learned about emphysema, fungal infections, and what it means to sit down and

(continued on page 4)
Faith.

conclude with our being more mature in Faith and the practice of
(Mark 8; 36)

is nothing more than an appendage, often used, abused and quickly

drink in abundance – something even less than a sincere pagan

this Fast, this period of renewal. Many of us, while being extremely

ego, to become invisible, to open ourselves to Christ, to behave in a manner

faith and love, come forward.”

Another year has passed and once again we prepare to undertake a

season invites us to focus attention on our own personal renewal,


“Another season for each monthly issue is the 8th of the prior month. Photos will not be

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 12 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material

Advertising rates: Please inquire through editorial offices.

This season invites us to focus attention on our own personal renewal, structured on repentance, abstinence, prayer, charitable works and our response to Christ’s loving and gracious invitation, “With [reverential] fear, faith and love, come forward.” The season calls upon us to put aside personal ego, to become invisible, to open ourselves to Christ, to behave in a manner commensurate with the vocation to which we have been called as identified by Saint Paul, that of Christian – a follower of Christ, so that He alone might be visible through our words and actions.

The lamentable reality in this the third year of the 21st century is that many of our Metropolia family and possibly a goodly percent of cradle Orthodox Christians in America, will not even give nominal recognition to this Fast, this period of renewal. Many of us, while being extremely emotional in defending the right to celebrate “our Christmas”, think nothing about disregarding or compromising our way of life and the spiritual foundation upon which the celebration of the feast is structured.

If the focus of our attention is trees, lights, a secularized, all knowing and

May the journey, which we undertake this Pylypivka 2002 conclude with our being more mature in Faith and the practice of that Faith.

With the assurance of our prayers and love, we remain,

+Constantine, Metropolitan

+Antony, Archbishop +Vsevolod, Archbishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we turn the page to a new year, 2003, there are a number of UOL events that must be penciled into everyone’s calendar. The first is this year’s Pre-Lenten Retreat which will be held February 14-16 at a retreat center just outside of Cleveland, Ohio. This retreat is open to both Seniors and Juniors and is an expansion of the very successful retreat that was held last spring in South Bound Brook. The Midwest location should facilitate a large attendance from our Western Pennsylvania and Penn-Ohio constituents. Flights to Cleveland are reasonable that time of year (especially since most lake activities are virtually frozen). I hope all these plusses will draw an even greater attendance than last year. Natalie Kapeluck is being ably assisted on this project by Natalie Bilynyak (aka Natalie Suffer), this year’s Junior League Advisor and Elizabeth Bowman, Junior UOL Recording Secretary. They’ve developed a great program to interest all ages so please see the associated article in this issue for more details and plan to attend.

Second is the Junior UOL Basketball Tournament to be hosted by St. Vladimir’s Senior and Junior UOL Chapters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the weekend of May 16-18. The basketball tournament is open to teams comprised of both juniors and seniors. The last tournament was followed by a spaghetti dinner and DJ dance and was great fun for the whole family. Whether you play B-ball or not, please plan to attend. Enthusiastic spectators are always welcome.

Third but by no means least, is the 56th Annual Conention to be held July 23 – 27 and hosted by the Sr. Peter and Paul UOL Chapters in Palos Park, Illinois. It’s not too early to begin to make your plans. The ad forms for the yearbooks are already available. It would be great if each chapter supported the yearbook by purchasing an ad. If you need more ad forms please contact Anatol Bilyk at abilyk@uscanco.com.

We’ll have plenty to discuss at this year’s convention and also have lots of fun activities planned. I believe that the celebration of the UOL’s 55th anniversary was quite the turning point for the League and I hope that we can grasp the best of our traditions and practices from those 55 years and evolve into a new and better organization. We can do that at this convention. The task is not for the same old League members to assume the same old tasks but to reach into our membership and out into our parishes to get more members actively involved. I am calling out to all those who grew up in the League, who benefited from its training, coaching and counseling; who, as I very well know, have their own careers, families, and other numerous obligations but still have the flame that was instilled in our hearts as youngsters for our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and her League. The time has come for each of us to acknowledge that we must give back to that very organization which gave us so much . . . friends, laughs, valuable experiences, and sometimes a few heartaches. We must realize, if I may paraphrase from the General Motors commercial a few years ago . . . that “This isn’t your fathers’ Oldsmobile” now becomes “This isn’t your fathers’ UOL” anymore. This is the UOL of 2003. Our responsibility. We need more members to help the UOL evolve to the next step. We need the campers and junior convention attendees from the last 40 years to stand up and be counted. We need more fresh ideas, founded in the tradition of the last 55 years of successful UOL experiences. So I’m placing the call early. Please search your hearts. Please choose to contribute some time. Please make your family part of the greater UOL family. Our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and each of us will benefit. Plan now to come to the 56th Annual Convention and make a difference.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and comments at anytime. I hope you all enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season. Until next month, I remain.

Yours in Christ’s love,

Daria A. Pishko

President
JR. UOL PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Any Priester

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Junior National Board is initiating many upcoming activities, and we are looking forward to a winter full of new events and fundraisers. Our first upcoming event is the UOL retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio. The retreat will take place February 14-16th, and the theme is “Meeting the LIGHT in Your Life.” Our corresponding secretary, Elizabeth Bowman, who is our Education Committee Chairperson, has spearheaded the planning of the junior retreat. She has been working closely with Natalie Kapeluck of the Office of Youth Ministry in the planning of this UOL retreat. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our Church’s youth to unify and reflect upon our shared faith. Retreat speakers include Fr. John Nakonachny and Fr. Deacon Ior Mahlay. The cost of attending the retreat is $100 for seniors, $90 for young adults, and $95 for juniors. If you have any questions or want more information, please contact:

Natalie Kapeluck at uocyouth@aol.com, or call: 412-488-9664
Elizabeth Bowman at pixiemerchant@aol.com

Also planned for this winter, our annual fundraiser will be a February Bake Sale. This may be organized with a Valentine’s Day theme, as all proceeds from the fundraiser will be sent to the “Gift of Life,” a program that collects money to help transport and provide heart surgery to children and adolescents in Ukraine who need it. For more information about the organization, please visit the website: www.ukrainiangiftoflife.com. We hope that all chapters have success in raising money for such a worthy cause.

We would also like to remind chapters of upcoming deadlines. Please send in your chapter dues and project donations as soon as possible. If election report forms have not been sent in yet, send these to Colleen Scannell. Also, remember that travel grants will be available for attending convention in Chicago this summer. The applications will be sent out soon, and please return them promptly. I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and holiday season!

GIFT OF LIFE PROGRAM

“A Program To Aid Children In Ukraine With Congenital Heart Defects”

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Hi everybody. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the Christmas season.

I just wanted to inform you about the Gift of Life Program and the idea the Jr. Board discussed at our meeting in Polas Park recently.

We decided that during the month of February, junior chapters should sponsor a bake sale and the profits will be sent to the Jr. UOL Financial Secretary (national). Once the Financial Secretary receives each chapter’s checks, we will present a check to the Gift of Life.

For anyone who is not familiar with the Gift of Life project, it is an organization that is committed to saving the lives of children with congenital heart defects in Ukraine. These children need surgery that they are unable to afford or receive because of their family’s economic conditions and the lack of medical technology in Ukraine.

For more information about Gift of Life, you can log-on to the website at www.ukrainiangiftoflife.com. The money we raise will certainly be used for a very good cause. Hopefully, we will be able to make a difference in someone’s life.

Yours in Christ,

Alex Brzyski
Jr. UOL Treasurer

CARNegie, PA – JR. Chapter News

“We’re Keeping Busy”

Our Jr. Chapter has been very busy the past few weeks. On November 10th our parish had an Arts and Crafts Festival. The Jr. members prepared and cooked all of the food for the entire kitchen operation. The menu included, sausage and kraut sandwiches, hot dogs, haluski, pyrohy (of course we got them from our Kitchen Workers) and soft drinks. The junior’s helped to cut and chop…..under the close watch of our mothers who supervised the food preparation.

Also, during the Arts and Crafts Festival, Jr. members assisted with a great Basket Raffle. Each Jr. members was assigned to a schedule to sell raffle tickets for many many baskets. It turned out very good.

Then, we celebrated, along with the rest of our church members, the 99th Anniversary of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Carnegie, PA. Some of our members were assigned the task of taking pictures of the 99th Anniversary for a historical book that is being prepared for our 100th Anniversary in November, 2003.

Eric Senedak
Eagle Scout Award Recipient

Eric Senedak, son of Diane and Tom Senedak of Austintown, OH, received the Eagle Scout Award, Boy Scoutings highest honor, at a ceremony at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Youngstown, Ohio.

Eric is a member of Scout Troop 75 of Austintown, Ohio. His Eagle service project involved constructing a handicapped walkway, landscaping and removing graffiti from the Pine Grove Pavilion at the Austintown Township Park. The completion of this project involved the help, knowledge and donations from local merchants, along with help from his fellow troop members, friends and adults.

Eric’s scouting honors and activities include Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and the highest camp award, the Fifth Year Pipestone Boy Scout Camp Honor.

Eric, 18, is a senior at Austintown Fitch High School and is active in Symphonic and Marching bands where he won superior medals in band competitions. He is a letterman in Varsity Tennis and is on the Robotics Team and active in German Club. He was inducted into the National Honor Society in his junior year of high school.

Eric is an active church member where he is an altar server, president of the Youngstown Junior U.O.L., and is a three-time winner of the National Ukrainian Orthodox Newspaper Award for best articles submitted to the Bulletin during those years.

We are all so proud of you Eric! We wish you much continued success in your future endeavors.

Friends and Family,
Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Youngstown, Ohio.

Change of Address?

Please help the Coordinator of Bulk Mailing by submitting a correction if your address changes. However, please send your new address but also indicate what your old zip code was.

Natasha Walewski
Reporter
On October 20, 2002 St. Vladimir’s Jr. UOL Chapter in Parma, OH sponsored its 10th Annual Pumpkin Party. All parish youth were invited to this event which took place immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Children were given pumpkins to paint and decorate. While the pumpkins were being painted, older Jr. UOL members made caramel apples. A lot of fun was had unwrapping the caramels and melting them, and licking the spatula that was used to stir. Hotdogs and cupcakes were served as refreshments. As always, the Pumpkin Party ended with the breaking of the piñata and it was young Daniel Moysaenko who was the victor of the game.

The afternoon winded down with the Junior UOL members heading off to Lazer X-Treme for a friendly game of lazer tag. Lazer Tag is an obsession that the chapter participates in regularly. As always, the boys were a little too competitive but this didn't stop everyone from having fun.

Welcome New Jr. Chapter Member – Natalie

Our chapter is pleased to welcome our newest Jr. UOL member, Natalie Demjanjuk.

Natalie is a fourth grade student at Central School. She loves to dance, swim and play basketball. She also has three sisters, Adriana, Sophia, and Daria who are up and coming Jr. UOL members.

May God grant Natalie many years in serving our parish and its UOL Chapter. Mnohiya Lita!

Christy Bohuslawsky, Chapter President

Calling UOL Members of all ages for the First Annual JR–SR U.O.L. RETREAT
February 15-17, 2002
“Meeting the LIGHT in your life”
Jesuit Retreat Center
Parma, Ohio

Speakers include:
Fr. John Nakonachny Fr. Deacon Ihor Mahlay

Enjoy inspirational and thought provoking discussion, lodging, missionary trip to St. Herman’s and all meals.

For more information contact:
Natalie Kapeluck at uocyouth@aol.com
call - 412-488-9664
Elizabeth Bowman at pixiemerchant@aol.com

Minimal cost of $100.00. - Senior UOL Members
$90.00  - Young Adults
$95.00  - Juniors

PARMA SR. UOL CHAPTER
Welcomes New Members

St. Vladimir’s Senior UOL Chapter, Parma, Ohio recently completed its fall membership drive. We are pleased to announce that we are now sixty-nine members strong. The chapter would like to welcome its twelve new members;

Gene Boyko  Olga Boyko
Nancy Cykalo  Lidia Dobronos
Michael Dobronos, Jr.  Vickie Dobronos
Hans M. Harasimchuk  Pani Matka Maria Mironko
Andrew Zura  Christina Zura

The entire chapter would also like to give a special welcome to our two members who have graduated from the ranks of the Junior UOL to become Senior UOL members: Christina Aust & Andrew Kisil. May God grant our new members many years Dedicated to our Church and Devoted to its Youth.

Mnohiya Lita!

NEWS FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MN
St. Michael’s and St. Katherine’s: A Combined Sr. UOL Chapter

“We’re still alive in Minneapolis!”

We keep our chapter alive by the faith of our devotion to our Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Coffee hours are hosted by UOL Members almost every Sunday during the year, from September to June. During the summer months our Church Board assumes the coffee hour task. Much of the proceeds pay for the printing and mailing of our Church Bulletin-English Edition under the able direction of Ms. Cheryl Krochalk and her parents.

Our small but spirited English Church Choir is comprised mainly of UOL members, with individuals from our Ukrainian Choir also participating. And we cannot omit a great appreciation for the wonderful voice of Father Evhen Kumka who always conducts a beautiful service.

Our UOL members participate in all church functions—cooking dinners, working at the church bazaar, and other church events. Likewise, we recently purchased a new Epistle Book printed in English to make it much easier for the English choir to understand.

We have tried to maintain our presence in the community by doing these functions. With God’s blessing, we will continue to carry on for our Church and the UOL.

Patricia Richly, Reporter (Novice)

ST. JOHN’S SR. UOL CHAPTER-
SHARON, PA
“We’re Still Trying”

We continue to sponsor the Coffee Hour after Sunday Liturgy and help with the weekly pyrohy making and other church activities.

Our chapter officers are:

President Mike Brenick
Vice President Ann Wortman
Treasurer Irene Oshinska
Secretary Jeanna Barker
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Taras Maximstev

On Sunday, November 24th, the chapter sponsored a breakfast following Liturgy for all parishioners at a nominal cost. The menu consisted of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and coffee. While it was designed as a fund-raiser, the fellowship that was very evident made for a successful event. A large basket raffle was part of the fund-raising project.

Our reputation seems to be growing as Nick Sivulich drove in from Fort Wayne, IN, and Steve Sivulich came up from Pittsburgh, PA for the event.

In Memory of

Very Rev. Stephen Hankevich

Every fall the members of St. Vladimir’s Junior and Senior Chapters of the Ukrainian Orthodox League in Parma, Ohio gather to remember fondly their departed pastor Father Stephen Hankevich.

Father Stephen’s death in June 1997 came quickly and unexpectedly to the parish that he had served faithfully for over thirty-seven years.

A parish can build many memories in thirty-seven years. To some, his memory is in the weddings, funerals, and baptisms of their loved ones. To others, Fr. Stephen’s memory is in his gentle voice or kind laughter that still rings clearly in their ears. Yet, to the youth of the parish, it is something much more. To the youth, their memories of Fr. Stephen lie in the Ukrainian School Classes, Sunday School discussions, trips to soccer games and the countless trips (backwards) in Father Steve’s minivan station wagon.

On Sunday, November 3, 2002, Father Stephen’s memory was again remembered with a parish breakfast served in his honor. All proceeds raised from the breakfast will be donated in Father Hankevich’s honor to the Youth Ministry Program of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

With this contribution, we pray that Father Stephen’s hope for a strong, successful future for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA can be realized.

Melanie Nakonachny

CARNEGIE SR. UOL NEWS

We are enjoying a brief respite until we start writing eggs for our Annual Pysanka Sale scheduled for Sunday, April 13, 2003. To close our activities for the year, we awarded scholarships to seven young parish adults who are attending the following institutions of higher education:

Yuri Alexandrov  Penn State University, Telecommunications
Melissa Haluszcak  University of Phoenix, MBA Program
Stephen Haluszcak  Univ. of Pittsburgh, School of Intl. Affairs
Mark Losego  Penn State University, Material’s Engr.
Rachel Losego  Clarion University, Elementary Ed.
Gretchen Reinhart  University of Pittsburgh, Medical School
Alexandra Sawchuk  W & J College, Cellmolecular Biology

We are also very excited about the plans for our 100th Anniversary Celebration of our parish that is scheduled for November 21-22, 2003. Tentative plans will include a Friday Vesperas and reception, followed on Saturday with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and a Dinner-Dance at the Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport Hotel. Many of our Sr. chapter members are providing the leadership for this historical event.

Our congratulations to Bohdan Hryshchyshyn who was selected Ukrainian of the Year, by the Pittsburgh Technological Society. Numbered among his many, many activities are: president of All Saints Camp Committee, president of Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western PA, offices in the Ukrainian National Association, parish board of directors, museum committee, and past president of the UOL.

“Bo” is to be commended for his dedication to the Church, the League and the Ukrainian Community. Well done, Bohdan!

Elizabeth Mitchell, Reporter
SVYATA VECHERA – HOLY SUPPER

“All January 6th – A Festive Ukrainian Tradition”
by Elizabeth Mitchell, Staff Writer

All the roads lead to home on January 6th, when Ukrainians gather together for the most beloved of all festivities—the Svitya Vechera or Holy Supper. Among Ukrainians, wherever they may be, the Holy Supper is basically the same. However, the Svitya Vechera differs from other holiday meals because it consists of twelve Lenten dishes, symbolic of the Twelve Apostles who gathered together at the Last Supper. The day of the Holy Supper is a strict fast in commemoration of the hardships endured by the Blessed Virgin en route to Bethlehem.

According to time-honored custom, the table is covered with a white tablecloth upon which is placed hay in memory of the Christ Child in the manager.

A special bread—kolach—is set in the center of the table. The kolach consists of three round braided leaves placed on top of the other, with a candle inserted into the top loaf.

An old belief among Ukrainians was that a candle be placed in the window as an invitation to a homeless stranger, or perhaps a lost soul, to join the family in celebrating the birth of Christ. Another belief was to feed the domestic animals some of the food prepared for the Holy Supper, because the animals were the first to behold the New-Born Christ Child. It was believed that on this night the animals were granted the power to speak because they had shared their place of shelter, the stable, with the Holy Family, and had given up their manger for the New-Born Christ.

In Ukraine, when the first star appeared, the family prepared for the festive meal. The head of the household would bring in a shaft of wheat called the “didukh” (grandfather), which is an important symbol of the Nativity season, symbolizing the Christian belief of afterlife, as well as the bountiful fertility of Ukrainian soil. When tied around the middle, it was also a symbol of family gathering together at this holy time of the year. The “didukh” was placed in a corner of the dining room, and remained there until the New Year, when it was taken out and burned.

The first dish of the Holy Supper was the kutya (wheat) served with honey, poppy seeds, and sometimes nuts. In some localities, it was the custom for the eldest member of the family to throw a spoonful of kutya to the ceiling—the more kernels of wheat that stuck to the ceiling, the greater the good fortune—an increase in the amount of crops, a larger amount of bees, more cattle or eggs in the following year. This ritual dish, of very ancient origin sets the mood in a very ceremonial manner. Scholars of folklore believe the wheat symbolizes a spiritual unity of all living and deceased family members. The menu would also include sauerkraut, pyrohy, buckwheat barley holubtsi, mushrooms, stewed dried fruit, fish and many other traditional dishes. The menu varied from region to region, but all contained no meat or dairy products. There was one stipulation for those partaking in this Holy Supper—everyone would have to taste a small portion of every dish served before they could leave the table. After the supper, nuts and candies would be scattered in the hay under the table for the little children to find.

The Svitya Vechera is the central tradition of the Nativity celebration in Ukrainian homes. Some traditions have survived over a thousand years; and although some may no longer be a part of our Holy Supper, learning about them enriches the significance of our celebration of the night when Christ was born—the night when love brings families together filled with memories of the past and hope for the future.

CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!

Condensed from: Stechishin, Savella, Traditional Ukrainian Cookery, Trident Press, Ltd., Winnipeg, Canada; Vaughan, Mary Ann Voloch, Ukrainian Christmas. 1983; Internet: Ukrainian Christmas Traditions DIDUKH—Christmas Traditions of Ukraine.

NEW TRADITIONS

The Eastern Orthodox Church, especially our Ukrainian jurisdiction, is filled with many traditions. On Pascha, Easter, we bless baskets full of symbolism. In September, on the Feast of the beheading of St. John the Baptist we do not eat food that is circular. For Epiphany, many of our parishes construct ice crosses and for Pentecost, we decorate our churches with greenery to symbolize life.

Advent and the season of the Nativity are especially rich in tradition. These seasonal traditions may begin with a St. Nicholas program and last far beyond Cviat Vechir, Christmas Eve, when Ukrainians place straw under their table. Now kutya (wheat) at the ceiling and partake of twelve traditional dishes.

Our Christmas traditions should extend far beyond eating amidst hay and throwing food at the ceiling. These traditions should also include taking time for those less fortunate. It is not in our traditions of eating but our traditions of giving that we feel most full.

How can you not feel full of life putting a dollar in the Salvation Army’s kettle, knowing that dollar will help someone less fortunate? How could you not feel full of joy seeing a homeless man, whose hands are bitter cold, smile at you as you pass him a plate of food? How could you not feel full of happiness when Christmas caroling for a person in a nursing home, taking them back to their childhood as you sing songs from their youth?

A Tradition of Giving To Others

These traditions are especially important for our youth to be involved in. When you were young your parents may have begun a tradition of going to your Baba’s house after church on Easter. Chances are, you still continue this tradition. Traditions of giving that are established when a child is young can last well through their adult life.

So this year, within your parishes, families, and groups of friends, begin a new tradition—a tradition of giving to others. It is in these traditions of giving that we are best able to find the true meaning of Christmas.

Melanie Nakonachny
UOL Missions Committee

U.O.L. ARCHIVES

“National UOL Material Needed”

The “UOL Room”, which is located in the Cultural Center at UOC Headquarters, South Bound Brook, NJ, will soon become an ARCHIVES ROOM. This room will be used to store and maintain historical information and materials for three church organizations: Ukrainian Orthodox League of USA, Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods of USA, and St. Andrew’s Society.

The UOL Executive Board will be responsible for organizing and maintaining the historical records of the League since its inception and establishing administrative procedures to update UOL Archives annually.

While the process for organizing UOL Archives is currently being established by the Executive Board, a request is being made for historical materials from national UOL commissions (such as Clergy Candidate Commission, Education Commission, convention yearbooks, etc.). Past National UOL Officers are asked to search their files and forward the abovementioned materials to:

UOL Archives (Attn: S. Sivulich), Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA, % P.O. Box 485, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880
Fr. Bohdan Hladio, Guest Writer

One day last week, I received a phone call at about 7:20 AM. I was reciting my morning prayers in front of the icon corner in my office, and upon hearing the phone ring, my first thought was "Oh no, who died?!

Thank God, no one. It was a woman who was calling to find out where she might order pyrohy! At 7:20 in the morning! While I was praying! But I couldn’t get mad, because from her perspective what she did was absolutely logical. She wasn’t a parishioner, but she, like many parishioners, saw the Church as a service provider. And the service was making pyrohy.

We don’t do the “pyrohy factory thing” at our parish. We try to teach the faithful that if they want to have a Church they should be ready to pay the bills themselves. But the attitude that we can get the “goym” to pay our bills is all too common. And one of the most common ways to do so, if you’re Ukranian, seems to be by selling pyrohy.

I’m waiting for the day when I drive by a church somewhere and see a sign reading something like this: Ss. Peter and Paraskevia Pirogie Palace and Worship Centre

Well, perhaps I’m exaggerating, but one thing is clear. Concerning ourselves too much with paying the bills, or with getting non-parishioners to pay the bills, tends to divert our attention from the real purpose of a Church. Churches exist so that we might praise God.

If we think about it, we see that there is one thing in this world which is due only to God. One thing which if we offer it to anyone or anything other than God will lead us straight to hell. This thing is worship. Every person, as well as every organization, need focus. The focus of the Church is God, and that focus is expressed most clearly in our common prayer and worship. Balance service with attendance!

Just so no one thinks that I’m against pyrohy (I’m not, I love them), or against parishioners doing things together for the good of the parish (this is also extremely important, good and noble), I want to assure you that what I’m getting at is to do with balance. It has to do with putting first things first. Most of our Ukrainian Orthodox parishes on this continent are in decline. We often hear well intentioned people speak about the need for parish renewal, about engaging the young people, about “turning things around”. In my experience, though, the proposed strategies are almost invariably secular. I’ve heard all manner of interesting, half-baked, and downright ill-considered ideas about how we can get more people in the doors “so we don’t have to make pyrohy”. One strategy that I’ve not yet heard mentioned is prayer.

If the real focus of the Church is worship, then a healthy parish will be a worshipping parish. Parish renewal will always involve liturgical renewal. It is not bad to get together on Tuesday or Thursday morning to make pyrohy, but if the same people are not in Church on Wednesday for the Feast Day Liturgy, and Thursday evening for the vigil, at the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified gifts during lent, then what does it mean? They are just paying the bills to keep open a building they don’t use. And God will notice. And He won’t be impressed.

Attendance at all religious services is what gives our focus as Christians. The true path to pastoral renewal begins and ends with prayer—personal and communal. When every parishioner says their morning and evening prayers religiously, and attends every Sunday Liturgy, Vespers, Orthros, as well as Feast Day Services as often as possible, then things will begin to turn around. The Liturgy isn’t the job of the priest. It is the job of the whole parish. It is what gives us our focus as Christians. It is what gives us the necessary knowledge, motivation, and grace to fulfill our calling as Christians. Any attitude towards the Church or the parish which does not put active attendance at worship services is bound to fail.

There are obviously good ways to support our Church as well as not so good ways to do it. Bingo is questionable at best, and renting out the hall for non-parishioners is also questionable. But if the same people are not in Church on Wednesday for the Feast Day Liturgy, and Thursday evening for the vigil, at the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified gifts during lent, then what does it mean? They are just paying the bills to keep open a building they don’t use. And God will notice. And He won’t be impressed.

College Students!

If you know someone who is away from home and might appreciate receiving the UOL BULLETIN, send his/her name to the Editor, UOL BULLETIN, 206 Christopher Cir., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.
PARISH LIAISONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

“UOL Mentor Program”

Throughout the country high school seniors are applying to college and touring campuses to determine where they will be spending the next four formative years of their lives. Jr. UOL members are also actively engaged in this process. The Office of Youth Ministry is working to establish a resource guide for all juniors who are applying to college. This resource guide will include a list of all parishes and suggestions for students as they plan to enter into a new parish community. In addition, this guide will have names of “UOL Mentors” who can be contacted to answer questions and facilitate transportation to the parish nearest to a student’s college or university.

UOL MENTORS NEEDED

As Junior Advisor I will be working closely with the Youth Ministry Director to compile names of people interested in becoming a “UOL Mentor.” This system can also be used by juniors when they are visiting a college campus and wish to visit a local parish.

If you are interested in being listed as a “UOL Mentor”, please write or e-mail (703 Pine Ridge Rd. Wallingford, PA 19086, nsufler@aol.com, 610-892-7315).

Natalie Sufler Bilynsky
Jr. League Advisor

UOL FISCAL YEAR & DEADLINES 2002-2003

JANUARY
4 Annual Fund Drive Mailing
4 Essay Contest – First Mailing

FEBRUARY
5 UOL BULLETIN Submission Deadline
14-16 Pre-Lenten Retreat, Cleveland, OH
28 LSSK applications mailed to chapters
Essay Contest – second mailing

MARCH
5 UOL BULLETIN Submission Deadline
30 Chapter Election & Delegate forms mailed
UOL Awards Applications Mailed

APRIL
30 DEADLINE: CHAPTER PROJECT CONTRIBUTION
Convention registration forms mailed

56TH U.O.L. CONVENTION

Publicity Packet

Palos Park, IL - All members of the U.O.L. were mailed a publicity packet that included a letter from the 56th Annual U.O.L. Convention Committee inviting you to attend this yearly event (including very favorable rates for the hotel and free parking), a flyer advertising the U.O.L. convention (join us if you can!), and a rate sheet for the commemorative ads/greetings in the U.O.L. yearbook.

Not only is the U.O.L. convention a venue to conduct the necessary business required of the entire membership, it is also a fund-raiser to sponsor the various UOL activities deemed important to support our Church and youth.

Therefore, we ask you to participate by submitting your ad or greeting to this year’s adbook. We’re giving you plenty of time! This is especially important if you cannot attend this year. We’ll miss seeing you. But we also want to see your name if you’re going to be at the U.O.L. convention!

Consider being a booster this year and include your name in the commemorative U.O.L. yearbook; mail a completed copy of the rate sheet, and a check payable to “56th U.O.L. Convention” to: Anatol Bilyk, 705 South Vail Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

Enjoy the holidays and thanks very much for your support.

Also, if you know an organization or business that would be interested in supporting the U.O.L., please give them a copy of rate sheet. Thank you very much.

UOL TRIBUTES

A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, 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.

CONTRIBUTOR
Greenleaf Family

OCCASION
In Honor of Fr. John Nakonachny on the 30th Anniversary of his ordination into the Holy Priesthood on November 19, 2002. God Bless Him, Pani Matka Mary Anne, Melanie and John, and Grant them Many Many Years!

Emil & Shirley Skocypec

In Memory of Rose Monaco.

Geof, Helen and Clint
Greenleaf

In Memory of St. Vladimir’s Greenleaf (Parma, OH) parishioner, Dr. Alexander Cherniv, father of Tamara Kopystynsky, who entered into eternal rest on November 17, 2002. Memory Eternal!

Sts. Peter & Paul
Ukrainian Orthodox G.C. Church
c/o Dr. Stephen Sivulich
206 Christopher Circle
Pittsburgh, PA 15205