WASYL PYSH GIVES $10,000 TO TEENAGE CONFERENCE

An obvious highlight of the banquet and ball at the 56th Annual UOL Convention was the announcement of a $10,000 gift specifically designated for the Teenage Conference held at All Saints Camp in Emlenton, PA.

The current Teenage Conference is the outcome of a conference that began at Camp Kon-O-Kwee, a YMCA Camp, in Zelionople, PA. Originally a program of the UOL, it is now administered by the UOC Office of Youth Ministry.

The founder of the Teenage Conference said prior to beginning of “Camp Kon-O-Kwee”, if other churches sponsor camps for their youth, why not have a camp for our Ukrainian Orthodox Youth? He proceeded to find a location that would be suitable for such a camp/conference, and then he proceeded to visit Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in the Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio Region recruiting campers and generating support for what became known as the “UOL Camp Kon-O-Kwee Teenage Conference.”

The founder and perpetual philanthropist of the Teenage Conference, as well as providing financial support to many other church-related projects was and is Mr. Wasyl Pysh. His generosity is legendary and annually he visits All Saints Camp and the “TC”.

Mr. Pysh was in attendance at the 56th UOL Convention and received a standing ovation during the convention banquet.

The Church and League express thanks and appreciation for his longstanding and generous support.

56th Annual U.O.L. Convention – PALOS PARK, IL

“Abounding With Love, Fellowship and Fun”

They came from across the country by plane, train and auto—from San Diego and Minneapolis, from Pittsburgh and Carnegie, from Boston and Carteret, and from Philadelphia, Wilmington and Youngstown, and of course from Parma—next year’s convention host. They also came from Coatesville, Ambridge, Northampton, Minersville, Minneapolis, Chicago, South Bound Brook, and many other cities. They arrived at O’Hara and Midway airports, the train station and via a circuitous route when they became lost near the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Oak Brook, IL.

Then they convened at the Hyatt Regency, a “moderate” drive from Sta. Peter and Paul Parish in Palos Park, IL. On Wednesday, the Senior and Junior Executive Boards met for lunch in an effort to discuss mutual issues and concerns about the Ukrainian Orthodox League. It was a unanimous feeling by junior and senior officers that getting together for a casual lunch helped greatly in learning more about individual members. Business commenced immediately with respective senior and junior Executive Board Meetings. Metropolitan Constantine joined the seniors for their meeting.

Audits of the national financial records were conducted throughout the day.

Convention Registration began at 1:00 PM and continued throughout the day. Following Vespers at 4:30 PM, the official opening of the 56th Annual Convention was called to order by UOL President, Daria Pishko, with junior and senior conventioneers participating. Welcome remarks were offered by: Daria Pishko, Sr. UOL President; Anya Priester, Jr. UOL President; Father Taras Naumenko, 56th Convention Spiritual Advisor; Noreen Neswick and Anatol Bilyk, Convention CoChairs; Faith Neswick and E.J. Roviaro, Jr. Convention Co-Chairs, and Metropolitan Constantine. Attendance at the opening sessions included: 2 Hierarchs, 10 Sr. Board Members, 34 Sr. Delegates, 2 Sr. Alternates, 27 Sr. Guests, and 5 Clergy—total Sr. registration was 80; 7 Jr. Board Members, 39 Jr. Delegates, total Jr. registration was 46; and total convention registration was 126.

The Metropolitan said: “God is good to us—he brings us back together. It has been 56 years and I’ve been to most of the conventions. . . . Where there is no UOL Chapter, there is no future. In most cases, it is not only the responsibility of the laity, but that of the priests and bishops. . . . The success of the UOL is the consequences of love-of love of Christ.” Archbishop Vsevolod commented: “Listening to Metropolitan Constantine . . . it came to my mind . . . God has taken a chosen people and planted them in a promised land—that they should grow, multiply and flourish, and become the good vineyard. So you (this convention) will grow and flourish in the community where you have been planted. Do it with love.”

(continued on page 4)
Members of the UOL:

It is with great pleasure that I greet you as the newly elected President of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA. And it is with equal pleasure that I introduce you to the 2003-2004 Senior Executive Board:

First Vice President
Oleh Bylinsky Atty.

Second Vice President
Helen Boyko Greenleaf

Recording Secretary
Linda Winters

Corresponding Secretary
Tamara Skocypec

Financial Secretary
Gary Gebet

Treasurer
Kathryn Bailly

Auditor
Pani Matka

Immediate Past President
Daria Pishko

57th UOL Convention, Chairperson
Melanie Nakonachny

Spiritual Advisor
Fr. Steve Repa

To the out-going Executive Board members, I thank you for your past service and wish you a successful year with your local chapters. I look forward to seeing all of you in Parma, Ohio.

I know that you all join me in extending thanks and appreciation to the Sr. and Jr. UOL Chapters of Sts. Peter and Paul, Palos Park, IL for a most enjoyable convention. A successful convention requires a tremendous amount of planning, both in a long term sense and last minute arrangements — so I offer a very special THANK-YOU to convention co-chairs, Noreen and Anatol! I know that all who attended the convention had a great time and much of that was due to their outstanding planning and effective working with members of the convention committee.

During the convention, a number of long term goals were recommended by the committees. I look forward to working with many of you and having a productive year.

Once I have received approval of committee and commission chairperson appointments, I will advise the membership.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Szafranski
Jr. UOL President’s Column
Natalie Beck

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I am so happy and honored to be writing in the UOL BULLETIN as President of the Jr. U.O.L. My name is Natalie Beck and this will be my third year as a National Jr. Board member. For the past two years, I have served as the financial secretary for the juniors; however, I am very ready and eager to lead them as President. I am also blessed to have an astonishing board with which to work for the 2003-2004 year.

Vice President Alex Brzyski-Philadelphia, PA
Corresponding Secy. Colleen Scannell-Johnson City, NY
Recording Secy. Nicole Burlock-Youngstown, OH
Financial Secy. Katya Carman-Warners, NY
Treasurer EJ Roviaro-Palos Park, IL
Jr. League Advisor Dr. Natalie Bilinsky-Philadelphia
Spiritual Advisor Fr. Taras Naumenko-Palos Park, IL

The 42nd Jr. UOL Convention was full of working and planning, as well as having a good time. From a magnificent luau, to visiting the Weeping Icon, to the ever-elegant Banquet and Ball, the juniors were able to experience wonderful hospitality while staying in Palos Park.

There were so many great ideas being hatched during our sessions. We are already busy with planning our first meeting as a new board. We have so much to do, and I am so excited to dive right in and get working. I hope that you all are having a wonderful summer, and I can’t wait to begin this year! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I look forward to a very productive year.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,
Natalie A. Beck

Alexis Sawchuk, Sts. Peter & Paul UOL Chapter, Carnegie, PA

METRO J. BARAN AWARD

The winner of this year’s award is Alexis Sawchuk of Saints Peter and Paul Senior UOL Chapter in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. Alexis has been a Junior UOL Advisor, church school teacher and Secretary of her Senior UOL Chapter.

Her chapter president notes that “the Metro J. Baran award is not solely about the “offices” a nominee holds, but about what the candidate does in serving, monitoring, advising, mentoring, teaching, modeling and working with the youth!”

“Our candidate devotes an inordinate amount of time assisting and coordinating the minute details of the Chapter’s many projects. She is one who enjoys working with youngsters. She is one who assists with organizing projects but involves the juniors in a learning participation. She is one who teaches “Roberts Rules” but does not confuse the youngsters or burden the meeting. She is the one who walks five miles in a fund drive—when it’s raining. And she is the one who goes bowling, tubing and gets pizza for the juniors in an effort to keep them active and interested in every church/league related activity.”

When asked to describe their advisor, the junior members said, “She helps with everything. She helps with fundraising and always works with us. She reminds us what to do. She is really great.”

His spiritual advisor writes “She has become an important part of our children’s lives; a leader in our church school projects and chapter activities. Her success is based not only on her personality and talents but her ability to motivate and involve other people with her enthusiasm, faith and spirituality.”
**56th U.O.L. CONVENTION......**

(continued from page 1)

The flavor of the convention was emphasized by Daria Pishko as she repeated the convention theme “Let all that you do be done with love” (1 Corinthians 16:14). The UOC Office of Youth Ministry’s theme for the past year, “We are family”, was attached to the convention theme. It was noted that the importance of combining these two themes was that this will be demonstrated “through our actions here at the 56th UOL Convention”. The juniors were excused to begin the 42 Jr. UOL Convention.

The initial business involved the convening of CONVENTION COMMITTEES: Group A: Christian Caregiving and Missions (Jr. and Sr. Members), Youth (Jr. and Sr. Members); Group B: Clergy Candidate, Constitution, Nominating, Resolutions, Membership and Chapter Development. The groups were scheduled to meet at different times to permit maximum participation by the various delegates. The individual committees were charged with considering issues relevant to their particular committee, making suggestions for the Executive Board to implement, establishing a limited number of priorities, and suggesting appropriate staffing and budget requirements. Final approval for all committee reports is made by the convention delegation. The traditional HOSPITALITY NIGHT was hosted by Sts. Peter and Paul UOL Chapter, Palos Park, IL. Delicious foods and beverages in a comfortable hotel suite set the scene for enjoyable fellowship, making of new friends and renewing old acquaintances.

**Thursday** commenced with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and several priests and deacons in the convention chapel located in the hotel. The participation in Confession and Communion as always was a highlight of the Convention. A brunch was served at the hotel, with bountiful amounts of food that provided seconds or more for the hearty eaters.

Business sessions continued with the approval of the 55th Convention Minutes, review of the UOL Annual Report, Report of the Audit, Financial Reports and a reconvening of the Convention Committees. Business sessions were adjourned at 4:00 PM with great anticipation of attending Polynesian Night at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish hall. One of the most outstanding and enjoyable activities ever held at a UOL Convention was in store for convention participants and local guests. This included a performance by “Those Funny Little People”, the fantastic performance of the “multitalented” Dr. Harry Oryhon as auctioneer of fourteen beautiful pysanky (designed by Mrs. Olga “Ollie” Cwain) that generated a profit of $609. Then there was the great performance by the fabulous DJ, Nick Demchenko who is a member at St. Andrew’s parish in Bloomingdale, IN. His antics not only energized the young and mature on the dance floor, but was entertainment for the spectators. Finally, the elaborate and delicious buffet dinner added to a most enjoyable evening of fellowship and fun. A Small Compline was held at 10:30 PM at the hotel.

**Friday** began with an Akathist at 7:30 AM, followed by business sessions at 8:00 AM. Committee reports and final annual reports were completed by 10:00 AM when juniors and seniors boarded buses to visit the Weeping Icon, and later travel into the city and/or onto the beach. The evening social was a Hospitality Night by 57th Convention Host, St. Vladimir’s Sr. Chapter of Parma, OH. An array of desserts and beverages were provided in the “Parma style”. 57th Convention Chair, Melanie Nakonachy, was present to remind all that she was “the convention chair” for next year’s convention. A 10:30 PM Small Compline followed the evening festivities.

**Saturday** began with an 8:00 AM Moleben, followed by an educational lecture, “Love and the Sacrament of Marriage”, by Father John Chryssavgis. Father Chryssavgis discussed the various dimensions of marriage in a manner that captured the attention of even those who were not initially (continued on page 5)
interested in a lecture on a Saturday morning. Business sessions continued with committee reports, approval of the 2003-2004 budget, election of officers, unfinished business, future convention bids at which time Melanie Nakonachny reminded the delegation that she was “the chair” for the 57th Convention in Parma, Ohio, and final adjournment. Credentials at the closing session: 95 Sr. registration and 63 Jr. registration for a total of 158.

Late Fines were assessed to delegates who arrived late for any session. Michael Nakonachny served as a diligent Sergeant-At-Arms and all money collected will be donated to All Saints Camp as so designated by the convention body. However, when an additional $10.00 was presented to “Auctioneer” Dr. Harry Oryhon for inclusion with the late fine money, he encouraged a higher bid and the race was on. A total of $346.00 will be donated to all Saints Camp. Immediately following the closing of the convention, the new and old senior Executive Boards convened the first Executive Board meeting for 2003-2004.

Saturday Evening included 5:00 PM Vespers, social hour at 6:00 PM, and banquet at 7:35 PM. Atty. Mark Masur from Palos Park and President of Sts. Peter and Paul served as master of ceremonies and moved the program effectively. In addition to the presentation of awards, it was announced that Mr. Wasyl Pysh was making a $10,000 contribution to the Church to be used specifically for the Teenage Conference.

Highlights of banquet presentations included:

Father Bukata Award (Jr.) Eric Senedak, Youngstown, OH
Jr. Chapter Achievement Sts. Peter & Paul, Youngstown, OH
Spirit Award Sts. Peter & Paul, Palos Park, IL
UOL BULLETIN Award Sts. Peter & Paul, Youngstown, OH
Sr. Chapter Award Sts. Peter & Paul, Carnegie, PA
Fr. Stephen Hallick Award Paul Haluszcak, Carnegie, PA
M.J. Baran Award Alexis Sawchuk, Carnegie, PA
LSSK Scholarships:
Eric Senedak, Youngstown, OH
Nicole Sencio, New Britain, CT
Kira Hulaszcak, Pittsburgh, PA
Anya Priester, Boston, MA
Joseph Gnat, Youngstown, OH

Dancing, and fellowship and fun continued into the night with the traditional Grand Ball.

An Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Palos Park, IL, followed by a scrumptious luncheon concluded the 56th Annual UOL Convention. The weather began early Sunday morning for many, while others witnessed a nasty storm that hit Chicago around noon and followed others through Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Flights were delayed to Pittsburgh and points east due to the storm and heavy air traffic. Metropolitan Constantine was forced to remain in Chicago for an extra day because of a cancelled flight, others sat in the plane on the tarmac and listened to the regular announcements of delayed departures given by the pilot.

Other highlights of the Convention:

“Harry’s Shrimp Tacos”
“The Oak Brook Shopping Center, with its many ‘upscale’ stores”
“Navy Pier” and “the Beach”
“Visiting the Weeping Icon”
“The desserts at the Parma Hospitality Night”
“Walking the Mall”
“Competing for most “Parma Hearts”
WHOOPS! “The three to four inches of rain on Sunday”
WHOOPS! “The four-hour wait in a plane on the tarmac!”
WHOOPS! “The Metropolitan’s cancelled flight to Pittsburgh”

(continued on page 6)
CONVENTION – A PHOTO REVIEW......

(continued from page 5)

Convention cochairs, Noreen Neswick and Anatol Bilyk and their entire committee, in addition to the Palos Park parishioners, are to be commended for an outstanding convention. They have established a real challenge for St. Vladimir’s UOL Chapter in Parma, Ohio, and next year’s 57th Annual UOL Convention. Convention Chair, Melanie Nakonachny, invites you to plan ahead—they’re getting ready for you!

PAUL HALUSZCZAK
Sts. Peter & Paul UOL Chapter, Carnegie, PA
VERY REV. PROTOPRESBYTER
STEPHEN HALLICK SENIOR RECOGNITION AWARD

Very Reverend Protopresbyter Stephen Hallick-Holutiak Senior Recognition Award is presented to the most deserving Senior UOL member for outstanding work in the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA and his/her church.

This award was instituted in 1957 as the Orthodox of the Year Award and its purpose is to recognize a layman for his/her outstanding work in accomplishing the aims and goals of the League. In 1991, it was changed to the Senior Recognition Award. Beginning in 1995, the award has been given in the name of Father Stephen Hallick-Holutiak to honor the lifelong role of Father Hallick in the formulation and development of the League.

The recipient of the UOL Senior Recognition Award for 2003 is Paul Haluszczak from Saints Peter and Paul Senior UOL Chapter of Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

Paul has served in various roles and offices in his parish and chapter for well over 20 years. He has served as a parish board member as well as the custodian, a choir member for over 50 years and a member and officer of the All Saint Camp committee for over 10 years. He has served on the Chapter Sunshine Committee for over 10 years, taking the time to remember the shut-in or ill with cards and good wishes on behalf of the chapter. This is typical of his diligence and devotion, volunteering to accomplish the “low profile” assignments that often receive little notice or much appreciation.

His Spiritual Advisor writes “Our parish and chapter are proud to nominate our candidate as he is special, quiet, unassuming individual. He is generous with himself and the gifts he has received from God. He is active in a variety of organizations and committees, rarely complaining, always applying himself, making things happen, keeping them successful and honest.”

It’s A Go — Construction To Begin In Spring 2004
Historical and Educational Complex/Museum

Give According To Your Means... For the Future of Your Church

The Metropolitan Council has approved the construction of the Historical and Educational Complex/Museum. The impetus for beginning construction by spring 2004 resulted from the recent acquisition of steel construction material at a surprisingly reduced cost. This will necessitate minor modifications to the original design of the building; however, it will result in a slightly larger building at a drastically reduced cost.

Currently, approximately $2.5 million has been earmarked for this very important project. This amount includes nearly $1 million in contributions that are readily available for site preparation and construction costs. The balance of $1.5 million needed for the project will be generated via additional contributions, pledges, and an amount of income from the sale of crypts located in the UOC Mausoleum (S. Bound Brook, NJ). Other sources of financial support are also being solicited from foundations, individuals, planned giving programs, and state and federal funding sources. No money will be taken from the general UOC accounts for this project.

Contributions and Information:

UOC Office of Development, Dr. Stephen Sivulich, Director
206 Christopher Cir., Pittsburgh, PA 15205  412-389-1723
The Senior Chapter Achievement Award is presented to the Senior Chapter that has shown the greatest achievement in terms of accomplishing the aims and goals of the UOL during a one year period of time.

This award is selected from the Annual Reports submitted by each chapter prior to the June 1st deadline.

The 2003 Senior Chapter Achievement Award has was presented to Saints Peter and Paul’s Senior UOL Chapter of Carnegie, Pennsylvania at the 56th Annual Convention of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA in Palos Park, IL.

This chapter’s 54 members, from all reports represent the backbone of their parish. This chapter and its members implement an active program which includes charitable as well as fund raising activities, year after year. Their involvement this year was intensified by their preparation for the celebration of their parish’s 100th Anniversary. The entire Anniversary Committee is comprised of UOL members who have added to their traditional Chapter responsibilities by organizing a series of events to commemorate the religious, cultural and family aspects of the past 100 years.

The highlight of their year, however, has become their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner where they provide a free dinner to parishioners and members of their community whether dine in or take out. This event was originally founded to serve the needy and homeless, however, dinners are delivered to the elderly and shut-in who cannot make it to the hall and to gas station workers and the local police on duty that day. This mission effort has truly grown to exemplify the definition of Chapter Achievement.

Their Spiritual Advisor writes “Our parish would not be what it is today without our UOL Chapter members. . . They provide a leadership role model both spiritually and socially, bringing others along upon their spiritual journey and Christian life. Our parish celebrates 100 years of faith, community and service this year and our chapter is a reflection of our rich spiritual and cultural heritage. They are a product of what every generation was able to pass on, their hopes, their dreams their faith.”
UOL AWARDS MJSF GRANTS-IN-AID  
FR. CHARLES BAXTER AND  
FR. ROBERT HOLET

The UOL designated a portion of the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund (MJSF) to be used as grants-in-aid for clergy seeking to continue their education in religious studies and other areas relevant to our Church. Applicants must be under the supervision and spiritual support of their bishop in order to qualify. Fr. Charles Baxter, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Youngstown, OH, was awarded a grant-in-aid of $800 for his studies in Clinical Pastoral Education through the Spiritual Care and Education Center. He is continuing studies on how to help and spiritually support those who are receiving clinical care for their illnesses and physical needs. Fr. Robert Holot of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Charlottesville, VA, a mission parish of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, received two awards of $500 each for his pursuit of a Doctor of Ministry degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The UOL supported his studies in Religious Education and Ecclesiology and Canon Law. Clergy interested in additional information about the MJSF grants-in-aid should contact: Clergy Candidate Commission Lynn Szafranski, Chair 7 Oneida Ave., Waretown, NJ 08758.

UOL FISCAL YEAR AND DEADLINES 2003-2004

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“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

57th ANNUAL UOL CONVENTION  
July 21-25, 2004

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL  
5800 Rockside Woods Blvd.  
Independence, OH 44131  
Phone: (216) 986-9900

hosted by  
Sr. & Jr. UOL Chapters  
St. Vladimir’s Cathedral, Parma, Ohio

Melanie Nakonachny, Chair  
Phone: (440) 842-3820

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

Remember: "Cleveland Rocks!!"