We often talk about how the U.O.L. Convention sparks enthusiasm about our Ukrainian Orthodox Church. While at the airport waiting for our flight home, I had the wonderful opportunity to witness the impact that the U.O.L. Convention has on the Juniors. After learning that our flight was delayed, the five Philadelphia Juniors with whom Oleh and I were traveling settled into the food court of the airport.

Given the fact that everyone was tired, as we had just run through the pouring rain to a bus in order to wait for approximately 45 minutes for another bus and then taken a 45 minute ride to the airport, one might assume that this would have been a grueling and negative experience. Far from being negative, however, our experience led to a “UOL Moment” that was inspiring and that I would like to share.

So amongst the bustle of the airport food court we thanked the Lord.

After checking our baggage, we settled into the food court and had something to eat. Prior to eating, one Junior paused and remarked, “I think we should say a prayer.” So amongst the bustle of the airport food court we thanked the Lord. As we ate the Juniors started to reminisce about the magnificent Convention that had just ended. Soon the discussion turned to our local chapter and plans for the coming year. Still excited by the Convention and inspired by the other Junior Chapters, the discussion overflowed with ideas. Each of the Juniors started to identify how they could become more active in the Church and listed ways to involve the younger Juniors in the UOL. Ultimately, they developed a calendar of events for the next year and strategies for increasing involvement in our local chapter.

...the catalyst for this enthusiasm was the UOL Convention.

Without a doubt, the catalyst for this enthusiasm was the UOL Convention. I am certain that the interaction that I observed in the airport that rainy Sunday afternoon was not unique but was happening throughout the country, wherever Juniors were returning home from the Convention. I was simply blessed to be witness.
Greetings:

Now that the summer has ended and vacations are over, it is time to continue our work in our local UOL chapters and also on the national level. Thus, the fall Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for October 10-12, 2003 in South Bound Brook, NJ. If anyone is in the Bound Brook area at that time, please feel free to stop by during our meeting.

The following commission and committee appointments have been approved by the National Executive Board:

COMMISSIONS

Christian Caregiving and Missions
Pani-Matka Mary Ann Nakonachny

Clergy Candidate
Lynn Szafranski

Education
Tammy Skocypec

Ways and Means
Helen Greenleaf

Youth
Oleh Bylinsky

COMMITTEES

All Saints Camp Delegate
Melanie Nakonachny

Annual UOL Fund Drive
Kathryn Bailey

UOL Archives
Steve Sivulich

Awards
Gary Gebet

UOL BULLETIN
Steve Sivulich

Chapter and Membership
Daria Pishko

Constitution
Helen Greenleaf

LSSK Scholarship
Helen Greenleaf

Public Relations
Daria Pishko

SYNDESMOS
Lynn Szafranski

57th UOL Convention
Daria Pishko

Jr. League Advisor
Natalie Sufler Bylinsky

Patriarch Mstyslav Remembered

A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on CD

This year the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA is commemorating the tenth anniversary of the repose of the long-time head of the UOC of the USA and Diaspora, His Holiness, Patriarch Mstyslav. When he passed away in 1993, His Holiness had served as a bishop (later metropolitan and patriarch) for over fifty years, longer than any other Orthodox hierarch at that time. In spite of the countless liturgies and other church services celebrated by Patriarch Mstyslav during his lifetime, recordings of them are not readily available. To afford listeners the opportunity to hear such a service, St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago is issuing a two-CD recording of the Divine Liturgy as celebrated by His Holiness.

Patriarch Mstyslav’s lifelong devotion to Ukraine, Ukrainians, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church spanned over three-quarters of a century. During World War I and afterwards he was actively engaged in the movement for Ukrainian national liberation. Between the two world wars he was elected to the Polish Parliament where he defended the rights of Ukrainians in Volyn. Through the early 1940s he was an active member of eparchial councils.

In 1942, he was consecrated as a bishop and thus began his fifty years of service as a hierarchical leader in the church. During this time, he served as head of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Canada, worked to unify the branches of Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States, and founded and built the headquarters of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Steve Sivulich for representing the UOL at the Metropolitan Council Meeting in my absence. Thank you Steve, I know how much you enjoyed the meeting.

I am looking forward to a busy and productive year. During the year the commission and committee chairs will be reporting on their goals and accomplishments. If there is anything that I can do for your and your chapter, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,
Lynn M. Szafranski

Ed. Note: Please note corrected information for UOL President Lynn Szafranski

MEMOIRS OF AN ALL SAINTS CAMPER

A Poem: by Zack Haluszczak

SUMMERS END

Anticipation for our last summer weekend together,
It’s like no other feeling
It builds throughout the year.
Driving down across Interstate 80,
Looking over the bridge as you get to the ol’ exit number 6
to that familiar little town of Emlenton.

To the naked eye
Emlenton appears to be just a small town on the banks of the Allegheny,
but over the hill and around a few bends
you will find a familiar place called “camp”.

Camp is where we spend our two weeks of “TC”,
Having the best of our lives
with our true friends.

Soon after “TC” comes the final weekend of the camping season;
the last gasp of summer’s breath.
When arriving, we greet our friends,
pull a few pranks,
stay up late and spend time catching up with ourselves.

These last three days of summer are like wind;
It arrives and is gone before you know it.
It’s time to leave on Monday morning,
giving hugs to your family and friends.

You’re all packed up,
the car is loaded.
As you’re driving out the gate
You take one final look,
Over the tennis courts,
Above the pool,
Across the field and into the trees.
And when the trees cut your view,
Summer is over.
And all that is left is the memory.

(Ed. Note: Zack Haluszczak is “15 almost 16” and has attended All Saints Camp for the past four years. He attends Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (NY), is frequently at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA, and attends Hammondsport (NY) High School.

Attendance at the recent Family Fest Weekend was the impetus for Zack’s writing.)
LET'S TALK ABOUT GIRL POWER
BY CHRISTY BOHUSLAWSKY
A Model For A Jr. UOL Chapter Officer's Retreat

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio held its first Jr. UOL Executive Board Retreat August 12-13, 2003. This year’s magnificent officers, all of whom are women, came together to prepare for a successful year. The retreat began with a prayer and a meal with Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Nakonachny. Dinner was followed by an extremely productive meeting. During this meeting, officers were able to review their job descriptions, set goals, brainstorm for new activities, schedule the year’s events, develop strategies to increase membership, and work together in faith, hope and love.

One of the main projects discussed at this meeting was the Adopt-a-Mission Program. Our Junior U.O.L. chapter is enthusiastic about working with our Senior U.O.L. this year to adopt the mission parish of Bellaire, Maryland. The main topic of the meeting was by far our largest project this year; planning and hosting the 57th Annual U.O.L. Convention which will take place in our parish July 21-25, 2004.

The evening ended with the recharged officers going out for an evening of bowling fun.

The officers rose early the next morning to attend a prayer service at the icon of the Virgin Mary. The service was made all the more special when the officers had the opportunity to sing the responses to the service in the various languages that were taught to the children at this summer’s diocesan camp. After the service the officers enjoyed a nice breakfast at Eat N’ Park.

All officers returned home exhausted but renewed and ready to tackle the upcoming year with great enthusiasm.

In Faith, Hope, and Love,
Christy Bohuslawsky, Chapter President

This year’s spectacular officers are:
President- Christy Bohuslawsky
Vice President-Erica Boyko
Secretary-Larissa Kopystynsky
Treasurer- Emily Kominko
Historian- Oksana Mahlay
Sunshine Chairwomen- Katie Samijlenko and Lesia Mahlay
Advisor- Melanie Nakonachny
Spiritual Advisor- Fr. John Nakonachny

PALOS PARK JR. U.O.L. SPONSORS FAMINE DISCUSSION

MEET THE 2003-2004 JR. EXECUTIVE BOARD
(continued from page 1)

This year, I will be a sophomore at my local high school. I enjoy swimming for my school and YMCA teams and also playing lacrosse throughout the year. This is my first year on the Jr. Executive Board and I am extremely excited. One of the things I hope to work on this year is to get other Members-At-Large, like myself, more involved in the UOL.

Thank you and I look forward to a very productive year.

Yours in Christ,
Katya Caman
Jr. Financial Secretary

Colleen Scannell, Corresponding Secretary

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Hello everyone—I am Colleen Scannell, and I am once again the Corresponding Secretary for the Jr. National Board! I reside in the lovely town of Vestal, New York where I go to high school—but only for one more year because I’m finally a senior, hooray! I am co-captain of the Varsity Swimming and Diving team and a member of Student Government, National Honor Society, and Varsity Club. Outside of school, I dance at the Dance Shoppe and compete in tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, and hip-hop.

I go to church at St. John the Baptist in Johnson City, New York where I play on our all-star basketball team, attend Sunday school, Ukrainian dancing, and all the other activities that everyone else does, I’m sure.

I am extremely excited for the upcoming year on the Jr. Board. I’m thrilled to be working with some of my “boardies” from last year (we had an awesome time) and I look forward to a great year with the new board members as well whom I already love. Please feel free to contact me anytime, I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Colleen Scannell, Corresponding Secretary

Nicole Burlock, Recording Secretary

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!
Hello everyone—my name is Nicole Burlock. I reside in Austintown, OH and attend Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Youngstown, OH, under the ministry of Fr. Charles Baxter. I attend Austintown Fitch High School where I am a senior. I participate in various activities such as Marching Band, I’m on the Rifleline and in the Concert Band in which I play in the percussion section and member of Student Government, National Honor Society, and Varsity Club. Outside of school, I dance at the Dance Shoppe and compete in tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, and hip-hop.

This being my first year on the Jr. Board, I am extremely excited and eager to start the year. I am very grateful that my peers elected me as their 2003-2004 Recording Secretary. Some of the goals for this year are to significantly increase participation in the UOL in smaller parishes around the country—and larger parishes also. I also hope to encourage more parishes to send juniors to retreats and All Saints Camp, and doing the best job that I can do in serving on the National Jr. Board.

I am looking forward to working with my fellow board members, and know that this will be a prosperous year!

Nicole Burlock
Recording Secretary

(Ed. Note: Information was not available for Treasurer, E.J. Rosiario, and Vice President, Alex Brzyski)
PATRIARCH MSTYSLAV REMEMBERED
(continued from page 2)

When Metropolitan Mstyslav came to St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago in 1985 as part of his parish visitations, few could have predicted the historic events that would change the world in just a few short years, namely, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the independence of Ukraine and the rebirth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in its homeland. In 1990, a Church Council (Sobor) in Kyiv unanimously elected Metropolitan Mstyslav to be Patriarch of Kyiv and All Ukraine. Unfortunately, His Holiness` advanced age did not allow him to hold this position long and in 1993 he fell asleep at the Lord at the age of 94.

On the tenth anniversary of Patriarch Mstyslav`s repose, St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral is honored to be able to offer this historic live recording of the Divine Liturgy as celebrated by His Holiness in Chicago on December 22, 1985. During the service Patriarch Mstyslav, through his prayers, offers his vision of an independent Ukraine and an independent Ukrainian Orthodox church both in Ukraine and the diaspora that takes its rightful and recognized place in the world's Orthodox community.

This limited edition CD may be purchased by contacting St. Volodymyr`s U.O.L., Oksana Tchaikovsky by phone at (847) 256-4299 or by e-mail at <oksanat@aol.com>.

Victor Lychyk

ARCHBISHOP ANTONY MEETS WITH UCCA REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSS FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-33

New York, NY (UCCA) – On June 11, 2003, the Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress of America (UCCA) met with His Eminence Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (UOC-USA). Having earlier attended a requiem service at St. Andrew’s Memorial Church in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of His Holiness Patriarch Mstyslav’s passing, the UCCA delegation was greeted by His Eminence Archbishop Antony and Hieromonk Daniel (Zelinsky), Office of Public Relations, in the Consistory offices of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, NJ. At the meeting, relevant issues affecting the Ukrainian American community were discussed: the commemoration of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide; aspects associated with the newest immigration of Ukrainians; and, continued cooperative efforts for the development of the Ukrainian community.

UCCA PRESIDENT, MICHAEL SAWKIW, JR

In greeting His Eminence Archbishop Antony and Hieromonk Daniel, the UCCA delegation, consisting of President Michael Sawkiw, Jr., Executive Secretary Marie Duplak, and National Board Chairman Ihor Smoliij, expressed its sympathies on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the death of Patriarch Mstyslav [a formal statement was issued by the UCCA]. “We hold dear to our hearts the unspeakable suffering and devotion that Patriarch Mstyslav exhibited in his years as leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church…his love for his nation, his heritage, and his vision of a unified Church,” stated the UCCA president. The Archbishop accepted the warm remarks of the delegation and thanked the UCCA delegation for attending the requiem (panakhyda) service at the crypt.

PROPOSED YEARLONG OBSERVANCE OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY

As the community commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, the UCCA delegation summarized its yearlong observances, highlighted by the campaign to revoke New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty’s Pulitzer Prize and the building of a memorial to the victims on the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide in Washington, D.C. Mr. Sawkiw thanked the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States and the Ukrainian Orthodox Diocese for their letters of support before a hearing of the National Park Service. His Eminence Antony welcomed the initiatives presented by the UCCA and expressed support for their successful completion. Additionally, the UCCA delegation proposed several ideas to coordinate with the Ukrainian churches in the United States, namely a food drive in our local Ukrainian churches to be donated to local food banks during the Thanksgiving season in memory of the millions of victims of Ukraine’s genocide.

Jr. UOL President:
2002-2003 – Any Priester,
2003-2004 – Natalie Beck

Marie Duplak, Archbishop Antony, Michael Sawkiw, Jr., and Ihor Smoliij

The mood of the discussion was very upbeat as the UCCA delegation continued to discuss other relevant issues affecting the Ukrainian American community. Of vital importance are programs to integrate the newest Ukrainian immigrants into the organized Ukrainian American community and into American society. His Eminence Antony described the vast number of new immigrants who attend church services, though remain reserved about joining church or community institutions. As a result, the UCCA delegation mentioned its latest endeavor to create an Informational Center for New Immigrants, which consists of courses in English as a Second Language (ESL),
LYNN SAWCHUK-SHARON KUZBYT SCHOLARSHIP

At the 56th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention in Oak Brook, Illinois, the UOL awarded scholarships totaling $5,500 to five junior UOL members whose dedication to their Church and her League have distinguished them from their peers. Since the LSSK Scholarship Fund was established in 1975 in memory of Lynn Sawchuk and Sharon Kuzbyt, the UOL has awarded 106 scholarships totaling over $116,450.

Criteria considered by the LSSK Scholarship Committee includes: 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 Ukrainian Orthodox League; academic performance in high school; involvement in extracurricular activities and high ethical and moral character.

L.S.S.K. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - 2003

Eric Senedak of Ste. Peter and Paul's Junior UOL Chapter, Youngstown, Ohio. Eric has served as President, Vice President and UOL Bulletin Reporter for his local Junior UOL Chapter. He has organized and led a variety of community service projects for his chapter such as serving lunch at the Rescue Mission, visiting and decorating local nursing homes for the holidays, Christmas caroling at local nursing homes, luncheons and bake sales to donate proceeds to the Rescue Mission, Children of Chornobyl Gift Box Campaign, the “Ukrainian Gift of Life” Fund and the Great Lenten Giveaway. In the six years he has served as his chapter's UOL Bulletin Reporter, his chapter has won the Junior UOL Bulletin Award three times. He is active in organizing and participating in church service projects such as cleaning and working at church hall events, sending Valentines to parish shut-ins, volunteering at St. Herman’s Mission in Cleveland, All Saints Camp clean-up and sending Easter cards to the parish’s college students. The vice president of his chapter writes, “As president of our Junior UOL, Eric is an excellent role model, especially for the younger members of our church. His Christian attitude, leadership and willingness to serve in whatever capacity is needed, are characteristics that serve as an example to young and old.”

Eric is also actively involved in his school and community. He has achieved the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of American as an Eagle Scout. To complete this rank, Eric designed and constructed a handicap accessible walk in one of the local parks. In high school, he was a member of the Marching Band and Symphony Orchestra, has served as captain of the Tennis Team, and was active in numerous high school organizations such as the National Honor Society, among others.

Eric will be attending Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in September.

Nicole I. Sencio of Saint Mary's Junior Chapter, New Britain, Connecticut, has served as president, vice president, secretary and reporter of her local chapter during the past 10 years. Due to the small size of her chapter, her role as chapter president over the past three years has served as an important example to the younger members of her chapter.

She is a member of her church choir, a church reader, and always active in assisting with church dinners and annual holiday festivals. Her advisor writes “Even when most teenagers balk at the idea of working with us “old” folks, Nicole fulfilled the demands made of her ungrudgingly. Her commitment to her Church has served as an ideal role model for other youngsters in our parish.” Her pastor writes, “She is deeply committed to her faith and the church. . . Her dedication to Christ and her resolve to serve Him in the Universal Priesthood is apparent in all her being.”

In high school she was a cheerleader, member of the National Honor Society and Senior Ball Committee.

Nicole will begin her advanced studies at the University of Connecticut in the fall.

Kira Haluszczak of St. Vladimir's Junior UOL Chapter, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has served as president and secretary of her local chapter. She participates in her church choir, is member of the Kiev Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and teaches the kindergarten Sunday School Class. Her chapter vice president writes “Kira is well deserving of this scholarship. She continuously helps out in and around her community.” She was instrumental in starting the Junior UOL Chapter at St. Vladimir's.

In high school, she was a National Merit Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, French Club, and Ecology Club. Her guidance counselor writes “Kira is one of the most outstanding students I have worked with in 33 years of teaching. She has a real sense of initiative, is completely responsible as well as being in the “top 5” academically.”

Kira will attend Carlow College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in September.

Anya Priester of St. Andrews' Junior UOL Chapter, Boston, Massachusetts, served as National President of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League this past year. On the local level, she was an active Junior UOL member having served as chapter president and secretary. Anya has been a church reader and often assists with church dinners and bingo fundraisers.

Her chapter president writes “Anya has brought a lot to the UOL. She was very supportive in all fundraising events. She is an inspiration to all members of the Junior UOL.”

Her high school activities included serving as class secretary and a representative to the student council, treasurer of the French Club, captain of the lacrosse team and a participant in her high school’s soccer, rowing, basketball and track programs. Her guidance counselor writes “Anya is a dedicated talented, well-balanced individual who has made a difference in life and in the lives of those who are fortunate enough to come in contact with her... Anya always gives her best to everything she takes part in and always represents our school with class and dignity in athletic competition.”

Anya will attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in the fall.

Joseph Gnat of Ss. Peter and Paul Junior UOL Chapter, Youngstown, Ohio, has been an active member of his Junior Chapter for the past four years. He is an altar server, and active in all of his chapter’s fundraisers, meetings and service projects. His advisor writes “I find Joseph to be a kind, warm-hearted individual who has shown dedication with diligent behavior to his church and ultimately God.” His spiritual advisor writes, “Joe has been a steady and reliable presence in church at practically each and every service. . . His helpful attitude and especially his consistent attendance are a model for others to follow.”

In high school, Joseph has been an accomplished musician, active in the Lakeview Jazz Band, Pep Band and Symphonic band. He is also an avid student of meteorology. He is member of the Trumbull County Skywarn System and has a keen interest in weather.

Joseph will be pursuing his interests by studying meteorology at Kent State University in September.

The Ukrainian Orthodox League and the LSSK Scholarship Committee would like to congratulate all of this year’s recipients and wish them much success in their future endeavors.

LSSK SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED

Donations to support the LSSK Scholarship are accepted at any time and may be forwarded to:

Daria A. Pishko, 64 Coleman Avenue
Chatham, NJ 07928-2278  (973) 635-8124

LSSK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the 2004 will be available in March 2004 or may be downloaded from the UOL page of www.uocofusa.org website. Competed applications are due May 31, 2004. All former Junior UOL members entering into or enrolled in continuing education beyond high school graduation are encouraged to apply.
U.O.L. CONVENTION - 2003

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS ...

JR. CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sts. Peter & Paul Jr. UOL Chapter
Youngstown, Ohio

JR. UOL BULLETIN AWARD

Youngstown, Ohio, Jr. UOL Chapter

JR. UOL SPIRIT AWARD

Sts. Peter & Paul Jr. UOL Chapter
Palos Park, IL

JR. UOL FATHER BUKATA AWARD

Anya Priester, Jr. UOL President
with award recipient, Eric Senedak, Youngstown, Ohio

PARMA'S HOSPITALITY/DESSERTS

Mary Ann Sklaryk, “The Chef”

AT EVERY CONVENTION!

John Lesky, Carteret, NJ
REFLECTIONS:
“On life, All Saints Camp, and My Church”

by Nick Lewis

It’s been four years since the last time most of you saw me. Sometimes it seems like twice as long. I’ve been a lot of places since then – four states and two foreign countries, and I’ve gone through many changes in that time. I’ve changed how I see myself, how I perceive others, how I interact with people, and many other things. But, as I heard once here at camp, “Everything’s always changing – but...not really.”

I spent the last three years of my life roaming, for the most part, trying to figure out the rest of my life – where I wanted to be, how I wanted to do things. Recently, I was beginning to worry that I had made all these changes in the past year and hadn’t gotten any further than when I had started.

Then Labor Day weekend came around and something kicked my brain into gear and told me to drive up to camp and visit the “usual suspects.” I started off on my trip, relaxing with my thoughts, and I soon experienced that familiar “Ooh! I’m almost at camp!” feeling. Then I arrived at camp, which I found rather impressive and took as an omen – that I still knew the directions, that is. And I must say that after three years of military life, I had become used to having to constantly reacquaint myself with my environment, since there were always people coming and going. So coming to camp and seeing people for the first time in four years and having them remember you and be genuinely happy to see you was overwhelming – to say the least.

But I can finally say this: I spent twenty-two years of my life searching for answers, and it only took me two days to realize the answers were already here. I finally figured out where I belong, and it’s right here, in the Orthodox Church, surrounded by my extended family and all the love I’ll ever need.

(Ed. Note: Nick Lewis is currently serving in the US Army. He is a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA.)

THIS COZY CORNER:
AN ORTHODOX BOOK REVIEW

Fr. John W. Harvey

Whether it be a pesky chronic illness or the rude discovery of having a terminal disease, being sick is an inponderable that can test one’s Christian faith. From Job in the Old Testament times to the present day, mankind is crying out, “Why me Lord?, “What do I do now?, “How can I cope with this?” Yes, we do have the unction service and prayer, especially intercessory prayer by the faithful, but it is hard for us to make sense of what is happening to us. Seeing the options in life withering up, a sense of foreboding and even despair can enter into one’s worldview. What is needed is to understand the origin of illness and to gain a spiritual meaning of it, which may lead to healing.

Orthodoxy in France has produced a string of eminent theologians, who have eloquently enlightened us on all aspects of theology. Finally we have a new light from France, who is shedding an investigative beam into the herefore dark corner of illness, making theological sense of it from the collective experience of the Church Fathers. St. Vladimir’s Press has recently published in English translation, THE THEOLOGY OF ILLNESS by Jean-Claude Larchet. This 130 page gem is certainly a rich distillate of his 946 page doctoral dissertation on the subject. This is very readable and easily understood and one needs no specialized knowledge of theological terms to make sense of it. It is precisely the tying together of threads from Scripture and the sayings of the Fathers in an easily digestible form that is the marvel.

This is a book to read through, to ponder and read through again. Those who are ill have time, often too much time to think, worry and despair. This reading will give many insights, teach patience and open the Christian paths towards healing. Illness need not be a spiritual stumbling block, but approached correctly can even have spiritually therapeutic aspects. This highly recommended book hopefully will turn us from moping and looking inward on the subject of our illness into looking up at the Lord’s great designs for each one of us. The power of our prayers, the true Physician of our bodies and souls. Certainly this book fills a niche. Bookstores may be filled with all sorts of volumes to make one feel good, but the pop-psychology solutions can be delusionary, even spiritually damaging. The wisdom gleaned by Mr. Larchet from the scripture and the Patristic and Desert Fathers gives the peace that the modern day, highly-hyped gurus of pop-psychology cannot truly deliver.

Contact: Shirley Skocypec, Manager, St. Andrew’s Bookstore (732-356-0090). She would be happy to take your order for this volume.

“TRUSTING IN GOD”

by Fr. Paul Szewczuk, St. Nicholas Parish, Troy, NY

One of the most important questions we can ever ask ourselves, “does life have meaning over and above our own designs?” Does life have purpose beyond our own making? How we answer these questions has significant ramifications for our happiness and peace of mind. Is there a divine blueprint for how life unfolds or are we just random players in a blind universe where everything happens by chance?

The prophet Micah in the Old Testament believed in a grand design. He announces that God has great plans for the little town of Bethlehem that will have wondrous implications even to the end of the earth, “But you (Bethlehem) Ephrathah, the clans of Judah, from you will come for me a future ruler of Israel...He will take his stand and he will shepherd them with the power of Yahweh.” (Mi. 5:2-5) In the New Testament, the author of the book of Hebrews assures us that God has great designs for the world in Jesus Christ and encourages our participation in those designs by submission to God’s will: “You wanted no sacrifice or ceremonial law, but you gave me a body. You took no pleasure in burnt offering or sacrifice for sin; then I said: ‘Here I am, I am coming’, in the scroll of the book it is written of me, to do your will”, (Hebrews 10:5-7) Elizabeth, Mary’s cousin, proclaims the Mother of God is “blessed” because of her trust in the fulfillment of God’s plans for her: “Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.” (Lk. 1:32-34)

...there are times when this belief is severely challenged.

Believing in a “great plan” or divine providence is not always easy to do. There are times when we are in love, or when everything is going our way, and we feel that all’s well in God’s world. We may look up into the clear skies on a romantic evening and the dazzle of stars reinforces our belief that, “there must be something behind all of this”. But there are other times when this belief is severely challenged. Infants die of genetic disorders; children perish in floods or from famine. Innocent bystanders are gunned down by a madman; thousands perish in a terrorist attack and calamities befall the most undeserving. We get sick for no reason, lose a job without cause, watch a loved one pine away and die in the prime of life. Life can become so filtered up with confusion and problems that all we see is chaos.

And yet out Orthodox faith and Sacred Scripture assure us that there is a grand design and God lovingly cares for each one of us. The problem is we don’t want to accept “the big picture in its entirety. We don’t want to believe that God’s will embraces the bad with the good, that everything that happens is part of God’s plan, whether we understand how that can be or not. Our joy in life is increased the more we accept God’s will in its fullness.

If we accept God’s will, however, we need to accept it wholly, without breaking it into pieces according to our particular demands and expectations. We gain great peace of mind and serenity when we embrace the belief that there is a divine blueprint for the universe that is good, loving, true and perfect. “Authentic Christian living is empowered by a belief that we are part of a “big picture” that there is a purpose and fulfillment for each of us in the grand scheme of things. With the Holy Theotokos we are “blessed” in our trust of that fulfillment. Our joy in life is increased the more we accept God’s will in its fullness. This means that we accept both the sweet and the sour of life as part of God’s plan, that even tragedy has its purpose even when it is not presently clear to us what the purpose might be.

LSKK DONATIONS
Since 56th Annual UOL Convention

$200 — Mr. & Mrs. William Kuzbly, Lake Hiawatha, NJ
$200 — Helen Wasilsik, Butler, PA
$100 — Holy Ascension Senior UOL Chapter, Clifton, NJ
$100 — Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Burgan, Clifton, NJ
$100 — Mr. & Mrs. Stephanie Mehler, Demarest, NJ
$100 — Mr. Stephen Platosh, New Britain, CT
$50 — Mr. & Mrs. John Piropato, Franklin Lake, NJ
$40 — Mrs. Eugenia Arson, Passaic, NJ
$30 — Mrs. & Mr. Nicholas Chichik, Clifton, NJ
$25 — Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Burgan, Clifton, NJ in honor of Father Myron
$25 — Mrs. Linda Oryhon of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Arson, Passaic, NJ in memory of Walter Raketsky

$25 — Mrs. & Mr. Brian Droit, Franklin Lakes, NJ
$20 — Mrs. Eugenia Arson, Passaic, NJ in memory of Walter Raketsky
$20 — Frank Di Giacomo, Clifton, NJ
$20 — Mr. Gary Markovich, Clifton, NJ
$20 — Mr. John Cherkas, Wanaque, NJ
$15 — Richard Jendras, Bayonne, NJ
$15 — Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Leshchinsky, Garfield, NJ
$10 — Mrs. Eugenia Arson, Passaic, NJ, in memory of Walter Raketsky
$10 — Rose Boykas, Woodridge, NJ
$10 — Rose Boykas, Woodridge, NJ in memory of Walter Raketsky
$10 — Stella Bauer, Saddle Brook, NJ
$10 — Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Leshchinsky, Garfield, NJ
$10 — Mrs. Anna Stanchak, Clifton, NJ
NEWS FROM ST. VLADIMIR’S CATHEDRAL
Parma, Ohio

MARY ANN SKLARYK HONORED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Fr. Dn. Ihor Mahlay, Fr. Ivan Mironko, Mary Ann Sklaryk, and Fr. John Nakonachny

Mary Ann Sklaryk was honored for more than twenty-five years of dedicated service as parish youth coordinator and Sunday School Principal and her dedicated service to the parish youth. She was presented with a clock and plaque.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES HONORED

Fr. Ivan Mironko, Kathryn Washtschenko, Michael Widdersheim, Andrea Komichak, Fr. John Nakonachny, and Fr. Dn. Ihor Mahlay

On the occasion of the end of the school year, St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Parma, OH, honored its high school graduates. Graduating altar boys were presented with a plaque in recognition of their service at God’s Holy Altar. Also, each graduate was presented an Orthodox Study Bible by St. Vladimir’s Sr. UOL Chapter.

ARCHBISHOP ANTONY MEETS WITHUCCA REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSS FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-33 (continued from page 4)

computer classes, citizenship training, cultural programs, etc. There was consent between the UCCA and the UOC-USA to exchange information about projects aimed at assisting the newest Ukrainian immigrants to become an integral part of the Ukrainian American community.

UNITY OF UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY EMPHASIZED

The unity of the Ukrainian American community was also an important topic of the discussion. Both sides expressed their desires for a community unified for the betterment of promoting active participation in projects relevant to maintaining our unique Ukrainian heritage in the United States. To this, the UCCA delegation mentioned its attempts in the past several years to unite the various community organizations, but no avail.

UCCA DONATES $500 TO UOC COMPLEX/MUSEUM

The UCCA delegation also presented His Eminence Archbishop Antony with a check for $500 to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church for the building of the Historical and Educational Complex/Museum in South Bound Brook, NJ. The UOC-USA and the UCCA agreed to remain in contact regarding various programs of interest to the community. The UCCA looks forward to future dialogue with the UOC-USA on a regular basis.

(ST. OLGA PRINCESS OF UKRAINE
Grandmother of St. Vladimir the Great
by Elizabeth Mitchell, Staff Writer

Princess Olga (Olha) was the wife of Kyivan Ruler Prince Ihor, who was slain by a local tribe living north of Kyiv. She was left with a young son, Sviatoslav, and until he became of age, the Kyivan state was ruled by Princess Olga.

There are theories and legends about her origin. She was considered the wisest of all for she ruled the state prudently. In spite of the fact that some of the tribes had only been united under Kyiv, there were no rebellions. But following pagan rituals, Olga took severe vengeance against her husband’s killers. She, herself, led a campaign against them and vanquished the tribe.

Princess Olga centralized the administration of the state by establishing a scale of taxes to be paid by the conquered tribes; and set up a system of districts where the taxes were to be paid. She also designated where hunting for the state only, was allowed, and founded cities and towns.

Saint Olga, Princess of Ukraine

Olga is best remembered for improving relations with Byzantium. In 957 Olga went to Constantinople, formerly known as Byzantium and presently as Istanbul. But unlike her Kyivan-Rus’ predecessors who sent armies to attack the imperial capital, she went on a mission of peace. Olga was accepted into the imperial fold, which was possible following her conversion to Christianity in 955 in Kyiv. She greatly influenced her grandson, Vladimir (Volodymyr), in becoming a Christian. In the 16th century, the Orthodox Church designated her as St. Olga Equal to the Apostles. Her feast day is celebrated on July 24th.

An article on the life of St. Vladimir the Great is planned for the October issue of the UOL BULLETIN (October 2003).


HISTORY OF UKRAINE – The Rise of the Kyivan Rus’, Paul Robert Magocesi

FUNK & WAGNALL’S NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA – Byzantium

UOL AWARDS MJSF GRANTS-IN-AID to 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 Holet 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 Szafrański, Chair
7 Oneida Ave., Waretown, NJ 08758

(For further information on the efforts of UCCA,
Contact: Tamara Gallo, (212) 228-6841)
A MESSAGE FROM: THE MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

It's that time of year again. Time to tally up your membership list and send your dues to the new National Financial Secretary, Gary Gebet, 447 Aldwyck Rd., El Cajon, CA 92020. But do we focus too much on getting our list finalized so early in the year and forget to reach out for new members? If so, try taking the two step approach. Step one, send in the $125 annual chapter dues and the $20 per chapter member for the “Old Faithful” that you know will be renewing their membership this year. Don’t forget to add the names of your college-aged young adults. (Chapters are encouraged to sponsor membership for their college-aged students as an incentive to keep them in the information loop and active through maintaining their membership.) Get the basics in before the September 30th deadline and ensure that no late fines are imposed.

Step two, plan a membership recruiting drive as part of your annual program. September is usually the month that chapters begin planning for the year’s activities and may not have executed or initiated their new member recruitment before the September 30 due date. That’s OK! Chapters can add names to their membership list throughout the year without penalty.

Get New Ideas From the UOL Annual Report - 2003-04

Don’t forget to leaf through the Annual Reports that were distributed at convention to seek new ideas for chapter activities and ideas for membership recruitment. Feel free to contact the president of the chapter who may have sponsored an activity of interest that was reported and get a few first hand pointers.

Have a member that moved out of the area? Send their name and address to Daria A. Pishko, this year’s Chapter and Membership Development Chair so that we can invite them to become a member-at-large! Members-at-large have the same rights as chapter-based members and can also be delegates at the convention!

We’re aiming to make this year the biggest year ever. Let’s get excited and reach out to our parish community, to our graduating Juniors, to the college-aged and post college-aged young adults. Remember, our Executive Board members are available to visit to support you in these efforts. We hope to be seeing you all soon!

Daria A. Pishko, Chair
DOL Membership Development Committee

Become A Member of the UOL...

Your membership will help to support the UOL Mission and these very important projects:

- Youth Ministry
- Essay Contest
- St. Sophia Seminary
- Ukrainian Cultural Activities
- Scholarships for Youth
- Religious Education
- Scholarships for Seminarians
- Young Adult Education
- All Saints Camp
- Caregiving & Missions in USA and Ukraine
- Teen-Age Conference

Join Us Today As We Continue To Be... DEDICATED TO OUR CHURCH - DEVOTED TO ITS YOUTH

UOL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please find enclosed my membership application and annual dues.

I am applying for membership as a Membership-At-Large $ 40.00

I certify that I am a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and do not live within the geographical area of a UOL Chapter. I agree to be governed by the UOL’s Constitution and policies, and support all efforts toward the achievement of the League’s purposes and goals.

I am applying for membership in the local parish chapter of $ 20.00

I am interested in information on starting a chapter in my parish.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

Please send the above information and your check made payable to “UOL” to: Daria A. Pishko, 64 Coleman Ave., Chatham, NJ 07928 (973) 635-8124, or email: dapla@aol.com

57TH UOL CONVENTION

The UOL Is Heading to Cleveland “Well – Parma, to be Exact”

Cleveland Rocks! Cleveland Rocks! Cleveland Rocks!

Don’t be confused, you’re not watching the opening to the Drew Carey Show, which is set in Cleveland, Ohio. Rather, this is our cunning ploy to get you excited about attending the 57th Annual UOL Convention, which will be held in Parma, OH (a hop, skip and a jump from Cleveland). The convention will be held July 21-25, 2004 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence, Ohio.

We are pleased to announce that the Embassy Suites is located only 2 ½ miles from St. Vladimir’s parish center (three turns and you’re in our parking lot). This brand new facility, only two years old, offers amazing amenities. A complementary shuttle from the airport is available just by contacting the hotel in advance. The hotel also offers free parking to all who choose to travel by car.

One of the first things that you will notice as you enter the Embassy Suites is the beautiful atrium. This huge space allows plenty of room for you to congregate with old and new friends alike. The center of the atrium features a large, wooden gazebo and a waterfall, the perfect backgrounds for banquet and ball pictures. The atrium also includes a big screen television and pool tables.

Two-Room Suites and Complimentary Breakfast!

Ready to visit your hotel room? Each room is a two-room suite. All suites include a couch, chairs, desk, refrigerator, microwave and wet bar. Getting hungry yet? All hotel guests will receive a full complimentary breakfast in the restaurant and a late afternoon manager’s reception held in the atrium.

The area surrounding the hotel offers many dining options, which you won’t have to utilize very often because you are going to leave our convention very well fed. Also, located in the area are the scenic Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the historic Ohio Canal, which offers a beautiful retreat to nature with their walking paths and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. All of these places can be reached by either a brief walk or requesting to be taken from the hotel shuttle which is willing to transport guests anywhere within a five mile radius of the hotel.

So mark your calendars, program your Palm Pilot, tell all your friends! The 2004 UOL Convention is going to be held in Parma, and you don’t want to miss it!

In Faith, Hope and Love,
Melanie Nakonachny

Want more 57th convention information?

Contact 57th Annual Convention Chairwoman Melanie Nakonachny (MelanieNak@aol.com, (440) 842-3820) or read more about the convention in next month’s article: “It’s Raining, It’s Pouring, The UOL Heads to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Rainforest.”
U.O.L. ESSAY CONTEST - 2003

The Education Commission recognized the winners of the Annual Essay and Creative Contests at the 56th UOL Convention in Palos Park.

The creative contest entries included junior and senior Sunday School classes from Carteret and Palos Park. In the essay contest, 197 individuals representing 17 parishes participated, with 14 first place icon awards and 18 honorable mention bookmark awards. Everyone that participated received a certificate and seven parishes were recognized for having all entries properly submitted.

Contest questions were centered around the theme of the year's Youth Ministry program: "We are Family".

Pre-School
First Place: Dmytri Rakovan, St. Vladimir Parish, Ambridge, PA
First Place: Allison Bradburn, Holy Ghost Parish, Coatesville, PA

Kindergarten
First Place: Andrea Linck, St. Demetrius Cathedral, Carteret, NJ
Honorable Mention: Joshua George, St. Mary Cathedral, Allentown, PA
Honorable Mention: Kristy Rozum, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie

Grade One
First Place: Matthew Andreas, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Wilmington, DE
Honorable Mention: Veronica Lingo, St. Andrew Parish, Boston, MA
Honorable Mention: Josef Adamiak, Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God Parish, Dover, FL

Grade Two
First Place: Julian Dolinay, St. Vladimir Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA
Honorable Mention: Joseph Hutzayluk, St. Mary Cathedral, Allentown, PA

Grade Three
First Place: Melanie Hlahol, St. Volodymyr Cathedral, Parma, OH
Honorable Mention: Gregory Markiw, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie
Honorable Mention: Kyle Domschohn, Holy Ghost Parish, Coatesville, PA

Grade Four
First Place: Jason Adamiak, Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God Parish, Dover, FL
First Place: Alex Carman, St. Luke’s Parish, Warner’s, NY (Syracuse)
Honorable Mention: Michael Kochis, St. Vladimir Parish, Ambridge, PA

Grade Five
First Place: Lesia Mahlay, St. Volodymyr Cathedral, Parma, OH
Honorable Mention: John Walewski, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie

Grade Six
Honorable Mention: Zach Kupeluck, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie
Honorable Mention: Laura Quinn, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA
Honorable Mention: Kelly Rehr, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Palos Park, IL

Grade Seven
First Place: Michael Orlov, St. Andrew Parish, Boston, MA
First Place: Anastasia Markiw, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA
Honorable Mention: Tim Oryhon, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Palos Park, IL
Honorable Mention: Aleksandra Kocelko, St. Vladimir Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA

Grade Eight
First Place: Lara Haluszczak, St. Vladimir Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA
Honorable Mention: Timothy Smith, St. Andrew Parish, Boston, MA

Grade Ten
Honorable Mention: Steven Sawchuk, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie

Grade Eleven
First Place: Matt Trombulak, St. Vladimir Parish, Ambridge, PA
First Place: Stephanie Shirk, St. John’s Parish, Johnson City, NY
Honorable Mention: Emily Kamarchik, St. Vladimir Parish, Ambridge, PA
Honorable Mention: Nicole Adamiak, Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God Parish, Dover, FL

Grade Twelve
Honorable Mention: Patty Larrick, St. Vladimir Parish, Ambridge, PA

Jonathan Patronik, Chairman
UOL Education Commission

56TH CONVENTION HIGHLIGHT!

Daria Pishko, UOL President and Michael Sawkiw, Jr., UCCA President prior to addressing the 56th UOL Convention

“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

Remember: "Cleveland Rocks!"

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U.O.L. BULLETIN
OCTOBER, 2003

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.

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Ukrainian Orthodox G.C. Church
c/o Dr. Stephen Sivulich
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