



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to the Church – Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 50 NO. 4

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

– TEENAGE CONFERENCE – 2003 –

Fr. John W. Harvey

In the present wintry chill, there are still very warm memories from this year's Teenage Conference, which celebrated 45 years of existence. To keep the fun, faith and fellowship on track with fresh and new ideas, Charissa Martin, Chairman and Natalie Kapeluck, Camp Director, brainstorm throughout the year. The encampment has gracefully evolved to a two week format and the number of campers has grown, most opting to stay the full time. Stephen Sheptak, Camp Manager, had a big hand in the construction of two new cabins this summer, which definitely were needed to match TC's current growth spurt.

Some alumni from over the span of years came to the 45th Homecoming and all the old memories were rekindled. Although some old cherished TC activities and traditions may have fallen by the wayside, the core program has been honed and refined with many new exciting treats. Evaluation feedback from campers helps to keep TC planners abreast of new trends and always on the cutting edge.

How can one fully relate the impact of a full fun-packed week spanning 8:30 AM to 11:30 PM daily? To tie the whole thing together, this year's theme "We Are a Family: Putting Our Faith to Work" was brought out by all the speakers as well as Natalie's little vignettes at dinnertime punctuated by the waving of her wand.

Meals were great with Genia at the stove and her apple crisp was literally fought over. Healthy, tasty food that kids really like has become a hallmark of TC. As the years have past, fresh fruit, milk and water are now provided between meals. As a result, the canteen sales of candy and soda pop has gone down some, but parents can be assured that their offspring are getting good nourishment to fuel all the intense activity.

The road trip has become something looked forward to and this year the destination was Camp Nazareth. Going to meet and share with other Orthodox campers, our closest ethnic cousins, the Carpatho-Rusyns, seemed a fine way to experience this year's theme. After meeting our counterparts a boxed lunch picnic was had and we interacted in a hike, singing session and question and answer period. The visit to their newly constructed wooden chapel in the pure Carpathian mountain style was awesome! A whole village in Europe was put to work making by hand the thousands of wooden shingles of unique folk craftsmanship. All were impressed and many desired that a similar chapel, reflecting Ukrainian roots be planned for our All Saints Camp.

As for activities, they never tire of the Getting to Know You Games and the Pavillion Games, especially the Numbers Game. Of late, Karaoke night is great fun, but much of the singing can be described as PAINFUL. Basketball finals out under the stars was something new. Campfire night is always fun, but rainy conditions made for difficulties. Two evening events were new this year. John Michael Gilquist provided a one man Christian Folk –Rock concert that drew rapt attention and the CD sales afterwards showed that this was a success. Another evening saw the mock wedding, for which everyone was prepared by learning ballroom dancing steps and executing them quite nicely.

Skit Night provides time for each cabin to show its ingenuity. Ukie Night, which has a panel of judges, has changed most over the years. Whereas once the competition was between dance choreographies, most groups now sing or enact little skits on a broad Ukrainian theme. Yes, proficiency level has dropped, but enthusiasm remains high, and the impromptu dancing after the performance shows that the kids have fun expressing the ethnic heritage.

It is time to note that in the past few years, TC has taken on an international character. This is the second year we have had a group of children from the diplomatic families of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington. Their interests and attitudes reflect today's reality in Ukraine that is much different from that of our older immigrations. This group is very polite and quite fluent in English. Those graduating from their last year at TC, especially those Ukrainians who would shortly be returning to their homeland, were taken on a beautiful canoe ride to Emlenton, as a special treat. Fr. Hladio, from Hamilton, Ontario, has been instrumental in coming every year with more Canadian youth. As they do not have a functioning camp of their own now in the region, we warmly welcome them. Mr. Melnychenko, one of our counselors, had two children in the camp. They had been adopted at the Orthodox orphanage in Guatemala and as Mayan Indians, they really give the camp an international flair.

Day activities revolve around the ever-popular Ukie Olympics, where so much energy is expended and the competition between teams is fierce. Ukrainian crafts are a more quiet activity and baking bread was perfect (?) for a hot afternoon. Fr. Bohdan Hladio with his guitar has made group singing to be more popular than anyone ever dreamed. The Scavenger Hunt, this year

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CALIFORNIA FIRES & THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY

by Gary Gebet

Southern California experienced a six-day period, from Sunday, October 26, through Friday, October 31, in which wildfires destroyed thousands of homes and hundreds of thousands of acres of forest land, and killed about 14 people. These fires, which made the national news services, ranged from the mountains east of Los Angeles, to much of San Diego County.

The small Ukrainian community in and around San Diego was largely unaffected by the fires, however, it still managed to affect a number of Ukrainians in this area. Father Myron Mykhaylyuk of St. Mary Protectress UOC in Spring Valley, CA, received a call from a worried member of the San Diego Ukrainian community. The caller stated he and his family were told to evacuate their home because it was endangered by the Cedar fire in east San Diego county. He and his family have been in the US only a few years, and had no place to go.

Although not members of St. Mary's, Father never-the-less welcomed them and said his small apartment residence at the church had no room, but they could stay in the church hall for a few days. While the hall obviously was not designed to facilitate living quarters for a family, it had just enough facilities to provide the evacuees with a few days of comfort.

The family was able to return to their home after two days because the fire passed by their neighborhood. St. Mary Protectress church was not threatened by the fires, but with several days of falling ash from the fire, there was some fire residue to clean up.

One of St. Mary's Parishioners learned that about 200 firefighters were without food and drink at one of the fire stations near the fire line. The parishioner purchased over \$300 worth of provisions, out of personal expenses, and delivered them to the Mt. Laguna Fire Station. St. Mary's also learned that the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) became involved by establishing a "California Fire Aid" fund.

Five Orthodox families in the San Bernardino area lost their homes completely. Our parish has decided to make a donation to this fund and we encourage others to make contributions to: **IOCC/U.S. Program, P.O.Box 630225, Baltimore, MD. 21263-0225.** Indicate "California Fire Aid" on your check and envelope.

(Ed. Note: Gary and Natalie Gebet live in El Cajon, CA, a suburb of San Diego, and are members of St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church, San Diego, CA.)

STEWARDSHIP and YOUR CHURCH

'Stewardship' is giving of your time, talent and financial resources and is derived from the word 'steward'.

In the Christian sense, a 'steward' is the manager of the affairs of God on earth. As stewards we are responsible for managing the affairs of our respective parishes—not just for the finances and property but for the totality of a faith community.

This requires planning and budgeting.
Have you done this for your local parish?

UOL BULLETIN—The official publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States of America. Circulated to all UOL members. Non-member subscription rate - \$20.00
Canada - \$20.00

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UOL Bulletin—Published seven times annually - September, October, November, January/February, March, April, and June.

The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 5th of the prior month. Photos will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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 cannot be returned.

Advertising rates: Please inquire through editorial offices.

57TH U.O.L. CONVENTION - 2004 "Meet Me at the Well: A Trip to Our Motherland, Ukraine"

A traditional, Top 40 Ukrainian song, *Oj Vydno Selo*, begins with the lyrics . . . *Oh I see the village, down by the mountains*. You may have heard this song a million times, or are only now, reading the lyrics for the first time but regardless, it leaves one to wonder what village the composer was thinking of when they wrote this song. Could it be a village in the Carpathian Mountains? Maybe it's a village close to our beloved Dnipro River! Quite possibly, this village could be located in southern Ukraine, near the Black Sea. While any of these areas could be the setting of the song, I know the real truth.

This traditional song was written about the lovely Selo Village, of Parma (Ohio). You may think that I'm confused. All this convention planning must be getting to my head! Why else would I think that this city on Lake Erie could in any way replicate a Ukrainian Village? Yet, trust me...by this time next year you will no longer have to wonder.

This Quaint Little Village: (aka St. Vladimir's Center)

Following Friday afternoon sessions at the 57th Annual UOL Convention (July 21-25th) everyone will have the opportunity to visit this quaint little village. You'll be amazed as you enter the village, more frequently known as St. Vladimir's Cultural Center. During the week it is used for numerous activities, meetings, Ukrainian dancing, bandura lessons, Ukrainian language classes, Sunday School, English language classes, pyrogy and so much more. Yet on that special evening of Friday, July 23rd, the cultural center will transform into a Ukrainian Village complete with houses, fields with lots of sunflowers, a church and a well in the center of the village.

All village visitors will be treated like royalty, being fed traditional Ukrainian cuisine. And of course, the meal will end with a sweet surprise. Following a brief cabaret show which will feature Ukrainian dancers and other such acts, you yourself will be able to show off your dancing skills to the music of the Hypolovsky Ukrainian Band.

Plan on taking time to join this village celebration. Come, bring your friends and gather around the well. This celebration is one that you won't want to miss!

In Faith, Hope and Love,
Melanie Nakonachny

Want more information?

Contact 57th Annual Convention Chairwoman,
Melanie Nakonachny (MelanieNak@aol.com, (440) 842-3820)

Excited about the Convention?

Just wait until you read next month's convention article:
"Polka, Waltz, Cha-Cha, Tango, Twirl Me Around the Dance Floor"
(*Burya Takes the Convention By Storm*)

*A marriage may be made in heaven,
but the maintenance must be done on earth.*

"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love
his wife even as himself; and the wife see that
she reverence her husband." (Ephesians 5:33)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Lynn M. Szafranski

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!



I hope and pray that all of you had a wonderful Holiday Season and that the New Year will bring you good health, wealth and prosperity.

You will shortly be receiving the Annual UOL Fund Drive forms in mail. When making your donation, as Clergy Candidate Chair, I ask that you do not forget the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. I noticed that the donations have fallen off for the past couple of years. Please keep in mind that this fund is not just for seminarians, but that Grants for Clergy are made available through the MJSF for those who are furthering their education. Over the past years the UOL has awarded nearly \$20,000 in grants to our priests.

Do a Good Deed for One Person Who is Less Fortunate

I know that I started this column with a Holiday Greeting, but in just a few weeks we will be starting Great Lent. Therefore, I would ask all of us to do a good deed for one person who is less fortunate than we are. If as a membership we each help only one person there will in fact be hundreds of people who will benefit from our good deed.

The next meeting of the National UOL Executive Board will be January 16-18, 2004 in Northampton, PA, hosted by the Assumption Virgin Mary UOL Chapter. If anyone is in the area, please join us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn M. Szafranski

STS. PETER & PAUL SR. CHAPTER Carnegie, PA

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary Celebrating 30 Years of Coffee Hours

The much awaited centennial celebration of our parish was held November 21-23. Most of the 100th Anniversary Committee was comprised of UOL members, including General Chairman, John Stasko. Outstanding features of the celebration included:

- **CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE BOOK**

Chaired by UOL member Stephanie Swindle, the book was eighteen months in the making and consisted of 362 pages with 680 pictures and 70 commemorative pages. A major grant from the Kitchen Workers and money for commemorative pages covered the cost of the book as traditional ads were not solicited.

- **HISTORICAL PHOTO DISPLAY**

The "Mosaic In Time", an historical photo review of parish life was coordinated by Michael Kapeluck and organized in a thematic approach. Two years of work, to include extensive research, went into the project that resulted in 600 pictures being displayed in the Sts. Peter and Paul Museum. The photo review will be on display for a period of two years.

- **FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION**

The church hall was transformed into an elegant atmosphere by chairperson, Shirley Stasko, with circular tables that provided scrumptious appetizers, chocolate fountain (fondue), wine and fellowship.

- **BANQUET AND BALL**

Chairperson, Michele Kapeluck, with the help of Paula Howe, arranged a magnificent evening that included brief speeches, and enjoyable dancing music by Fred Yasnowski and *The Music Collection* from Youngstown, Ohio.

Our pastor, Fr. Steve Repa, spent many hours contributing to the success of this historical event.

The celebration was enhanced by the presence of Metropolitan Constantine and Archbishop Antony. Several priests also assisted with the church services, and twelve priests attended the banquet. Guests traveled from Vancouver, WA; Paradise Valley, AZ; Denver, CO; Knoxville, TN; Atlanta, GA; Alexandria, VA; Chicago, IL; Clifton, NJ; and many nearby cities.

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Sts. Peter & Paul

(continued from previous page)

Included in the weekend activities was the celebration of the Sr. Chapter's 30th Anniversary of sponsoring coffee hour each Sunday after Divine Liturgy.

Chapter Scholarships Awarded

The senior chapter awarded scholarships at the Centennial Banquet to the following parishioners for their outstanding scholastic achievements and service to our parish:

- Patricia Dorning, MS Nursing, University of Pittsburgh
- Melissa Haluszczak, MBA, University of Phoenix
- Rachel Losego, Elementary Education, Clarion University
- Gretchen Reinhart, Medical School, University of Pittsburgh
- Alexandra Sawchuk, Cell and Molecular Biology, Washington and Jefferson College

New Chapter Officers

Other news includes the election of officers for 2003-2004:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Cynthia Haluszczak |
| Vice President | Tracy Fisher |
| Recording Secy. | Patricia Dorning |
| Corresponding Secy. | Alice Sivulich |
| Treasurer | Michele Kapeluck |
| Asst. Treasurer | Michael Kapeluck |
| Auditors | Bonnie Reinhart |
| | Patricia Sally |
| | Stephen Sawchuk |
| Spiritual Advisor | Fr. Steve Repa |

Activities for the year came to a close with a Thanksgiving Dinner, originally designed for the homeless and needy, chaired by Howard West, Jr.; a Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair on December 7th chaired by Michael Kapeluck; and preparation of lunch bags for Salvation Army on December 20th. With our Annual Pysanka Sale scheduled for Palm Sunday, 2004, writing the needed 1,100 eggs will soon be under way.

Mnohaya lita to Natalie Kapeluck and Ethan Nixon who will be joined in Holy Matrimony on May 15, 2004.

Elizabeth Mitchell
Chapter Reporter

Jr. UOL President's Column

Natalie Beck

Glory to Jesus Christ!

I can not believe my eyes when I look at a calendar lately. We are already half way through our year as a board, and it is simply amazing. As always, our brains have been churning out ideas left and right to keep this year moving ahead at a steady pace.

First, the board is busy planning our second meeting, which will be held on January 30-February 1. We will be hosted by the ever-gracious Sts Peter and Paul Chapter in Palos Park, IL, where I am positive that there will be many exciting activities to keep us busy throughout the weekend. It's unbelievable that we are getting ready for our second meeting. The time on the board is whirling by.

Secondly, I am very pleased and honored to announce that the Junior UOL has made a donation to the Gift of Life. The Gift of Life is an organization that aids in the funding of children from Ukraine that need to come to America to have a life-saving operation. This money can be used in any way to help the children have this operation done. The chairperson for the Ukrainian Gift of Life is George Kuzma, and we were honored to present a check to him in the amount of \$2,564.25. This is incredible, to say the least. The individual junior chapters were able to raise funds for this donation by various projects that they came up with last year. The Junior UOL then asked for the donations, in order for us to award the Gift of Life group with our contributions.

You all should be extremely proud of yourselves for making such an awesome donation to such a magnificent organization. It makes me realize how privileged I am to be a part of this wonderful and selfless organization. Thank you to every single person who helped raise funds for this great cause.

Lastly, and as always, we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions to better our League. Thus, please contact me with any propositions that you or your Junior Chapter may have.

I pray that the Blessed Nativity finds you all well. At this time of year, it is an extra-special treat to be a part of such a charitable group. It certainly makes me proud to say that I represent this talented group of young people. I hope that the New Year bestows good cheer to you all. Please do not pause to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,
Natalie A. Beck



CARNEGIE (PA) JR. UOL CHAPTER NEWS

"We've Been Doing A Lot"

The Junior Chapter in Carnegie, PA has been doing a lot over the past two months. Along with our Church, we have been celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

In honor of our 100th Anniversary, our chapter raised over \$3,000 to pur-

chase an outdoor sign that will remain permanently in front of our church. We held several fund raisers for this project. The Kitchen Workers helped by donating \$1,000 to help with the installation that involved electrical and cement work. We had a great time participating in the activities for the Anniversary. We participated in the blessing of the sign by Fr. Steve Repa on Sunday, November 23rd.

Our chapter helped with the Church's Annual Arts and Crafts Fair by making pirogies, kielbasa sandwiches, haluski, halupsi, and hot dogs, and
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Jr. Members at the outdoor church sign



Junior's assisting with the Basket Raffle

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MEET THE JR. UOL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Edward John Roviario, II, Treasurer

Hello to All!! My name is Edward John Roviario, aka "EJ". I will be serving as Treasurer of the National Jr. Board. I am a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Jr. UOL Chapter in Palos Park, Illinois.

I am a junior at Lake Central High School in St. John, Indiana. My main interest is in music. As a freshman, I was a member of the high school marching band and percussion ensemble. I have formed my own band which has now been in existence for one year. We rehearse regularly in our basement (thanks to my mom and dad for putting up with all the noise!).

I have also participated in various basketball leagues during the past nine years. I am currently employed at our family business which is a beverage production and equipment company.

I look forward to serving as Treasurer for the Jr. UOL and working with the other Board members.

EJ

HOLY ASCENSION JUNIORS RISE AGAIN

MAPLEWOOD, NJ — The Junior UOL of Holy Ascension in Maplewood, NJ is a rather small group of youth ranging in ages ten to sixteen.

Every Sunday, whether the members live an hour away or right in town, they make an effort to attend Divine Liturgy and many members also attend Sunday School. The Jr. UOL Chapter includes the following members:

President	Aleksandra Hucul
Vice President	Alexander Shevchuk
Secretary	Elizabeth Hucul
Treasurer	Michael Stepowyj
Jr. UOL Advisor	Ms. Daria A. Pishko
Spiritual Advisor	Fr. Oleh Hucul
Other Members:	Darya Gapon, Constantine Shevchuk, Andrew Holowko, Nicholas Holowko, And Khrystyna Chorniy

The chapter officers took their oath of office in late September of 2003, after many years of dormancy. Throughout the year, the chapter also conducted a number of fundraising activities such as: coffee hours, hosted a St. Demetrius Saturday luncheon, and are currently planning to make Christmas Remembrance Doves for the Nativity Season.

The Jr. UOL of Maplewood is also planning many more activities. This will include the hosting of a Dinner and Movie Night on December 6th. This is an invitation for all to attend. For more information, please contact Aleksandra Hucul at (908) 251-3535 or email at: ahucul@yahoo.com.

Khrystyna Chorniy

HAPPY FALL!

from St. Vladimir's Jr. UOL, Parma, Ohio

There is a saying that being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. "God picks you up from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see." We spend our whole life after Holy Baptism and Holy Chrismation shining that light that God gave each and every one of us. We show that very same light when we get together as the youth of the church community to spend a pleasant afternoon with each other.

And so, once again, the autumn season came around and the St. Vladimir's Jr. UOL held their annual Pumpkin Party on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2003, following the liturgies. The youth of the parish got together to eat some pizza and candy, paint pumpkins, and play games like "bobbing for apples" and "pin the nose on the pumpkin". This year the painted pumpkins were judged and the 1st place winner was Iryna Bodnar, the 2nd place winner was Lesia Mahlay, and the 3rd place winner was Boghdan Benin. Prizes were awarded to each of them. Also there was a pinata and it was knocked down early on by the younger children, even before any of the teenagers had a chance to hit it!



Iryna Bodnar, Lesia Mahlay, and Bog Bennen

Our Jr. UOL Chapter displays *that light* with every activity, whether it is the Annual Pumpkin Party or the many other activities which we sponsor for St. Vladimir's Cathedral and the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

Respectfully submitted,
Oksana Mahlay

A "SNIP-IT" FROM THE PARMA JR. PRESIDENT

"Looking for a Quick Service Project?"

Juniors from Parma are great at "multi-tasking". At their last Jr. U.O.L. meeting, they were busy at work. While going over old business, brainstorming fundraising ideas, and making plans for the upcoming Convention, the Juniors made cards for the shut-ins of our parish.

It made their evening just knowing that their cards would soon brighten someone's day. The juniors can't wait to visit the shut-in's during the Christmas and Easter seasons where they are sure to find their artwork displayed in the rooms of the shut-ins.

It truly is a great feeling.

Christy Bohuslawsky
Jr. Chapter President
ukiecheerchic@msn.com

***"It is better to be silent and be considered
a fool than to speak and remove all doubt."***

*"Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom
faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool." (Ecclesiastes 10:3)*

Teenage Conference

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using biblical quotes as clues, was a hoot. Young minds were challenged and so much energy was spent running on wild goose chases!

So much for the main activities, yet the day starts with First hour and ends with Midnight Office, with a Vespers, Akathist and two Divine liturgies thrown in, as needed. Our local parishes would be surprised at how well the services are sung, and that without practices. The kids exhibit an intensity in their prayer that is refreshing. Not only did they make their own beeswax candles, but without prompting, lined up to light candles at most services in the new nifty candle boxes.

Fr. John Harvey and Fr. Bohdan Hladio answer anonymous questions from the “flaming box” on every question imaginable. As a tag team, kids hear the same message from both, one confirming the other. These answers spawn more questions and it is a joy to see how their young minds think. Questions on the faith, morals and ethics are so important as they are bombarded constantly with amoral or immoral attitudes by the media and what they hear in school. As many seem to have a spotty knowledge of basic Orthodox knowledge an in-depth adult level overview of each sacrament was taught. Of course, vocations are always touched upon and it appears that there are some aspirants to the seminary coming through the ranks.

Outside speakers were added to illustrate more completely the theme of the year. Fr. Charles Baxter, who is doing Clinical Pastoral Education now, had much to share from his hospital chaplain experience, with some rather gritty, but thought-provoking stories. Teens often think that they are not vulnerable to death or accidents, but Father’s talk brought out the reality of the rude surprises in life, and how in God we deal with them.

Faith Lord gave a most powerful presentation on Post-Abortion Syndrome, which is suffered by so many women. This cautionary talk was totally opposite of what is flippantly taught in schools today. So many women, as well as young men, experience depression and bouts of guilt as a result of an action which ends a life, but is considered as nothing by many today. Her style of presentation was compelling and marked with forgiveness and hope, so it was not negative. Again our kids were brimming with questions. Fr. Stefan Zencuch carried out the theme on family and gave many insights into pilgrimages and parish feasts in Europe. Preparing kids for college, was the presentation by Joseph Samra, the program co-ordinator for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Speaking about the fellowships that can be established on college campuses and the Real Break Program, he opened eyes to exciting possibilities of exercising one’s faith while away at college.

Nina Aust, one of our counselors (and alumnus of TC as a camper) told that arriving at Kent State Campus and finding no Orthodox Christian Fellowship, she sought out information and set about establishing one. Her enthusiasm shows that by going to college one does not have to abandon church life and its benefits.

Phew! This only partly chronicles the uproarious days spent at All Saints Camp. One must not forget also the excellent voluntary service given by our camp counselors. These days they have a detailed Counselors Manual and as a sign of the times, get police background checks. Some give up vacation time or even take off from work to come to TC, such is their dedication to serving and nurturing our youth. Charissa’s presence was missed this year, but giving birth meant her hands were quite full. Natalie Kapeluck, our diocesan Youth Ministry Director, as always brought her vivaciousness and zest for fun with her and the encampment was infected with an upbeat spirit.

If this overview sounds good to, you plan on TC 2004 as it will out-shine 2003!! If you are a parent, TC has matured like a fine wine, and the safe and nurturing environment will be a positive experience for your children, to say nothing of the memories they will carry with them for life! Mr. Wasyl Pysh, who has been a regular benefactor of TC, always makes an annual visit. This was his creation so many years ago, and he must like what he sees, for there is now a fresh donation! Thanks for the support and the vote of confidence!

Carnegie Jr. UOL

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assisting in the kitchen during the event. Of course, we had help from Mrs. Walewski, the head chef, and Mrs. Sawchuk and Mrs. Rozum, our advisors. We also donated a movie basket for a Basket Raffle which was sponsored by the Church School.

The juniors also helped with the church’s Annual Thanksgiving Dinner which gives free dinners to the homeless, the needy, Senior Citizens Home, local police and firemen, and anyone who wants to join us for a delicious dinner. The extra food is donated to a local shelter.

God Bless.

John Walewski, Reporter

RAISING · OF · LAZARUS

By Hieromonk Philip
Holy Trinity Parish, Trenton, NJ

The early church called Lazarus Saturday “*The Announcement of Pascha*”. This is one of the reasons why we celebrate the Divine Liturgy on this day as if it was a resurrection day or a Sunday Liturgy.

This day illuminates us at the very beginning of **Holy Week** with the ultimate meaning of resurrection as we hear Christ command Lazarus who has been dead for four days – “Lazarus, come forth!” (John 11:43) In the Gospel reading of this day we see the greatest miracle prior to Jesus’ trial and judgment. Not only do we see Christ perform the miracle as God, we also witness His human nature.

During the Gospel reading we hear – “He groaned in spirit and was troubled” (John 11:33), and scripture makes it clear that Christ, a human was very upset at the death of his good friend. St. John reminds us — “Jesus wept”. (John 11:35) We certainly see the human Jesus, but through his humanity it is God who is preparing to die for the salvation of the world. “Shedding tears for thy friend, O Saviour, Thou hast shown the reality of Thine Incarnation”. (The Lenten Triodion; Canon 3, Great Compline, Saturday of Lazarus)



“Raising of Lazarus”

Most of all we not only see the miracle and the human nature of Christ but upon Jesus’ arrival to Bethany, Martha goes to explain to Jesus how if he were there while Lazarus was ill, he would not have died. We see that Martha believes in Christ as a teacher but does not yet know what is about to happen. Jesus attempts to comfort her by saying – “Your brother will rise again”. (John 11:23) Martha thinks that Jesus is referring to the final resurrection and indicates that she understands that Lazarus will resurrect on the last day. Christ immediately tells her – “I am the resurrection and the Life”. (John 11:25) It is very important for us to remember that if we truly believe in Christ we already have eternal life and we will never die spiritually.

Another important point to remember is Christ raised Lazarus to remind us that God has the power to resurrect. However, the difference between Lazarus’ resurrection is that he came out of the tomb “wrapped in a cloth” (John 11:44) where our Savior’s linens were left in the tomb. There are many scholars who write scripture and illustrate this to show that Lazarus came out wrapped in these clothes as an indication that he will need them once again: he will eventually die and resurrect on the last day.

Let our faith in Christ be strong, as we have heard many of His miracles in the Gospel reading during each Sunday of Great Lent. Most importantly we know that He is the resurrection and Life and whoever believes in Him will have everlasting life.



The “Jr. Kitchen Crew” for the Arts and Crafts Fair

THE PENTACOST KNEELING PRAYERS and THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Fr. Michael Danczak, St. George Parish, Minersville, PA

The "Kneeling Prayers!" You must be thinking that the author must have really irked someone to be assigned a more obtuse subject for an article in an Orthodox publication. After all, this is just a Vesper service which is celebrated, more or less, as a formality so that we can begin kneeling again after celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, the forty days that He remained on Earth afterward, His Ascension into Heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The meaning of these prayers is couched in the mystery of God and they have no real meaning to us "plain folk".

If this is your interpretation of the significance these prayers, it couldn't be farther from the truth. Yes, the tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church proscribes that Christians should not kneel in prayer, either privately or in Church, from Pascha to Pentecost in celebration of the actions of Jesus Christ which occurred during this fifty day period of time. However, the Kneeling Prayers are not merely a Liturgical formality; they have a definite purpose, and if intently listened to, a very definite effect on one's spiritual growth.

The Kneeling Prayers are first a brief outline of the doctrines on the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Orthodox Church. Contained within them, you will find synopses of the Gospels as they relate to the Holy Trinity, the life of Jesus Christ, the creation and fall of mankind and our hope for salvation. They are intended to remind us of all that has occurred and that which is expected. The Kneeling Prayers serve to bring to our conscious realization that despite all that we have just finished celebrating our salvation is not, as the majority of heterodox denominations teach, "a done deal" or a *fait accompli*.

This is another prayer to which we are all exposed to weekly during the Divine Liturgy which, in part, summarizes the Kneeling Prayers. It is found, as part of the inaudible priest prayers, immediately before the elevation of the gifts, prior to their consecration. It states:

*Remembering the saving commandments and all things
which have come to pass for us: the Cross, the Tomb,
the Resurrection on the third day, the Ascension into Heaven,
the Sitting on the right hand and the Second and Glorious Coming.*

The Kneeling Prayers remember these actions of Christ, but they more importantly go on to acknowledge to "operation of the Holy Spirit", not only on the Church at Pentecost, but on our own lives as well. The Kneeling Prayers cause us to remember that we must continually grow in our faith. Faith is not a static commodity which, once confessed, can be left alone to save us at the end of our lives; it is a dynamic relationship that we have with God, with His Church and with all creation which must be fed, nurtured and encouraged to blossom and then bear fruit. We are commanded by God to act as Christians, believe as Christians and pray as Christians. All this is only possible through the action, or "operation" of the Holy Spirit within our lives and our conscious choice to accept these God given gifts.

The Kneeling Prayers remind us that, through the Holy Spirit, we are called to remember that Christ will return at a Second Coming which will be accompanied by a General Resurrection of the Dead prior to the Last Judgment. We are further called to realize that, at this time of judgment, it is our actions, or our inactions, toward each other and toward God which will be the basis for our place in Paradise or eternal condemnation.

Our ability to act as God would wish is entirely dependent upon the actions of the Holy Spirit and our willingness to accept his counsel. He provides us with the ability to spiritually fortify ourselves, to give to ourselves, to those who are in need, and to serve God as members of His Holy Apostolic Orthodox Church. *The Kneeling Prayers remind us that we must choose to be receptive to the actions of the Holy Spirit.* They cause us to remember that it is only through God's Grace, which is conveyed to us by the Holy spirit, that we have any hope for salvation. The Kneeling Prayers also remind us that it is only "on bent knee" that we can pray to Our Lord for His Forgiveness and for the bestowal of Divine Grace.

The Kneeling Prayers also serve to cause us to call to our memory and to pray for "those who have departed this life before us." They too will be judged based upon their actions but God is incomprehensibly merciful. He will respond to our genuine, devotionally inspired and necessary intercessory prayers which are made "upon bent knee". The Kneeling Prayers cause us to confess our total inadequacy before God and they allow us to prostrate ourselves in total obedience and submission before He who created all things and Who will ultimately decide their fate.

So when it comes time to participate in the Kneeling Vesper Service, listen to the prayers intently. Use them as a brief lesson on the doctrines and "theology" of the Orthodox Church. Meditate on their meanings; allow the Holy Spirit to reignite the spark of faith within you which was originally lit within your soul at your Baptism. Allow the Holy Spirit to fan the ember so that it will grow into a flame. Then, let that flame become a fire within your soul which the Holy Spirit can use to illuminate you and all you contact; a fire which will guide you to that true vocation to which you are called: mystical union with God and the re-establishment of our ability to be "partakers in the Divine Nature".

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Fr. John W. Harvey, St. Michael parish, Woonsocket, RI

Q: My Baba has always been adamant that there be no work on Sundays or major feast days and this included gardening and even such recreational pursuits like embroidery and knitting. I remember she would always quote some proverb about how for every stitch you make on Sunday you will have to take two out. Those memories stick with me even today, but my own grandchildren think such ideas are utterly ludicrous. What is really demanded of Orthodox as a Sabbath observance today, considering the life-style of our contemporary society?

A: Let us first look back to the time of Jesus and we will find that the Mosaic Law had been embroidered upon by the Scribes, Lawyers and Pharisees to such an extent that proper observance of the Sabbath was made complex and difficult. No food preparation or cooking was allowed and there were so many restrictions as most actions were considered "work" and therefore forbidden. Even a recreational pursuit, such as going for a walk, was strictly regulated. By His actions and healings Jesus was accused of breaking the Sabbath laws. In reply, Jesus, as the author of the law of Moses itself, made a correction to the spirit and approach to Sabbath observance. Man was not made to be bound by restrictive laws. The Sabbath was given to man as a gift. This is a time given for man to relax with family and to worship their Lord. Jewish families, begin and end the Sabbath with blessings and dine together in a worshipful manner.

For us, our Sunday observance should be a quiet relaxing moment, a haven of rest, outside the rat race of this world. In a couple of decades our society has so changed that one day is just like the rest. There often is no day with a focus on sheer relaxation as family combined with time for proper worship of God. Soccer practice is inevitably Sunday morning and your daughter must work, since she is the newest employee and for the retail business, Sunday is a big shopping day. In a secularized society, no day is holy and the pressures of life fragmentize family life, as each is doing his own thing.

As Orthodox Christians we must make a conscious effort to carve out a Sabbath observance and really relax and worship as a family. The Liturgy should be the center focus, but there should also be time for a relaxing family meal or common activity. Engaging in a recreational hobby is alright. For example, if gardening is your thing, repotting a couple of root-bound plants would be acceptable, but putting on your coveralls and engaging in a massive weeding project would be out of the character of the day. Obviously today, it is not only in the hospital, restaurant and transportation fields that Sunday workers are needed. If one is a relatively new employee it is almost inevitable that you will get the Sunday shift. As many of our parishes do not have Saturday vespers or regular weekday services, this unfortunate turn of our society effectively removes many people from ALL worship and sacramental life. In this case, making a specific time for prayer in one's busy life and attending services when you can is the only feeble solution to reclaim the spirit of the day.

Observing Sunday as a time of worship and family relaxation is difficult these days, but we must make the effort to recoup as much as we can against the secular tide of this society. If we happen to be employers, let us be sensitive to our basic human need for a time to worship and rest. If we must have workers on a Sunday, let us at least stagger the workload, so that a worker is not so tied in to this schedule that worship opportunities and family relaxation are forever precluded.

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- Historical records and materials
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UOL BULLETIN DEADLINE

*The deadline for each edition is the 5th of the prior month:
September, October, November, January/February,
March, April, and June.*

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH AND ORGAN/TISSUE TRANSPLANTS

by Fr. Dennis Kristof

The breakthroughs and advances that medicine has made these past few decades have been astounding. One of the greatest areas of medical advancement has been in the area of organ and tissue donation. Doctors are now able to successfully transplant hearts, livers kidneys, lungs, intestines and other organs. Tissue donation can include corneas, bones, connective tissues, heart valves, skin for burn patients, heart valves and a myriad assorted possibilities.

As a part-time Hospital Chaplain, I have often been called to counsel and support people when they or their families are facing the decisions whether or not to donate body organs and tissues. I have also suffered along with people who are awaiting a much needed body organ in order to live.

These procedures have both prolonged and improved the physical lives of literally thousands of people. How do we as Orthodox Christians view this important boon of modern medicine?

Unfortunately, much disinformation has been disseminated by a growing hoard of Orthodox Fundamentalists claiming that they represent the official Orthodox position. Insofar as our bishops have never made a definitive proclamation and are still studying this and other complex issues, there is no universal Orthodox position. However, we have been able to come to certain conclusions by reflecting on these issues with a properly disposed Orthodox mind set. There are important ethical distinctions that must be considered when dealing with the issue of organ and tissue donation. Through prayer and study of the scriptures and the Fathers, certain decisions can be made regarding these issues without undue fear that Holy Orthodoxy is being compromised.

A distinction must be made between organ donation and tissue donation. Organs can only be harvested from someone who has been proclaimed brain dead. The lone exception to this are donations of a lung or kidney because they are duplicate organs which can function alone. In extreme case one of these organs can be taken and transplanted into a need person, usually a family member who cannot find a match otherwise.

"Brain dead" is a very complex concept which is far beyond the scope of this article. Brain death is declared when doctors have determined that brain activity is irretrievably lost. It is only from such persons whose hearts are still beating that organs can be procured for transplanting purposes. This will happen only after extensive testing and evaluation.

Tissue donations can be taken from anyone after they have been declared dead. For this reason, organ donation happens much more rarely than tissue donation. In either case, the family is not approached about donation until the person is legally declared deceased. It is now the law that the next of kin must be approached and asked if they are willing to donate organs or tissues from the departed. You probably will not be approached about organ donation, but you will definitely be approached about tissue or eye donation. Tissues can be donated for transplantation or research.

Unofficially, the Orthodox Church at this time is not opposed to organ donation as long as the organ and tissue in question are used to improve human life, whether these are used for transplantation or for research that will lead to improvements in the treatment and prevention of disease. This assumes that the body of the departed will be treated with respect and will not be mutilated. Indeed, this is always the case with our present organ procurement agencies. The care and respect for the departed's organs and tissues is so profound that open casket funerals are not only possible, but the rule.

The basis of this still unofficial position of the Church is that the ultimate rule of Orthodox Christians is love. The donating of organs and tissues can improve the life or lives of those who receive them, or who benefit from the research undertaken with them. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) No canon of the Church supersedes the ultimate Commandments of the Lord: "This is my Commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) Indeed, we are not giving our lives, but are giving others the opportunity for an improvement in their lives. Our Lord instructed His disciples that "If any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well." (Matthew 5:40) Is not donating our physical bodies we no longer need an even greater gift? Indeed, Orthodox believers have had blood transfusions and skin grafts for quite some time now.

(To be continued
in March 2004 Issue)

Ukrainian Christmas Carols "Kolaidy and Schedrivky"

By Elizabeth Mitchell, Staff Writer

Singing is an indispensable activity of the Nativity celebration in Ukraine. The custom of singing carols is ancient, and even before Christianity carols were sung to commemorate the seasonal cycles of nature and the pagan New Year ceremonies. Many Ukrainian customs connected with the observance of the birth of Christ trace their roots to the pagan festival *Kolaida* in tribute to Lada the Son-God (Bountiful God-giver of life and good things). Pagan priests of the Son-god Lada and the elderly men would go from house-to-house singing songs in honor of LADA (*Ko Lada*), hence the word *kolaida*.

With the introduction of Christianity in Ukraine in 988 A.D. by Volodymyr the Great, pagan carols began to be replaced by Christian carols and festival hymns celebrating the birth of Christ the true Light, giver of life and salvation.

Closely related to *kolaidy* are *schedrivky*, also of pagan origin. They are actually a continuation of Nativity caroling, however, the singing of *schedrivky* starts on *Schedriy Vechir*, Epiphany Eve, January 18th (Bountiful Evening). According to local practice, they may be sung until the end of the Theophany celebration.

The word *schedrivky* is an old Ukrainian word unknown beyond the boundaries of Ukraine. The songs are considered to be the oldest ritualistic songs and stem from mythological sources, some of which deal with the creation of the world.

The general motif of *schedrivky* revolves about the household activities. In other songs, the family is compared to the celestial elements. Some tend to glorify the sun (*Hospodar*) lord of the estate/or husband, the moon (*Hospodynnya*) or the wife, and the stars, their little children. This is significant because pre-historic Christian Ukrainians worshipped the elements of nature as did all pagans.

Another group of *schedrivky* has battles as their main theme, while others contain romance, with the prediction of engagements and marriages. Religious and Biblical themes depict life, suffering or death, and the Resurrection.

The ever-popular *Carol of the Bells* or *Schedryk* is our Ukrainian contribution to the universal repertoire of carols. It has now been translated into many languages throughout the world. Ukrainian words to the song have a deeper meaning than those we know in English. *Schedryk* expresses a wish to the farmer for a rich harvest. The *lastivka* referred to is a swallow that returns from warm lands to Ukraine in early Spring. Her appearance is welcomed with great joy because her return symbolizes the triumph of life in nature over death in winter. Other lines of the carol wish wealth for the farmer and a wife with black eyebrows, a symbol of woman's beauty in Ukraine.

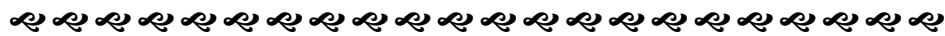
To Ukrainians, the most beloved Nativity carol is *Boh Predvichni* (God Eternal). The song is first sung at the Nativity Eve Holy Supper and inaugurates the feast day proclaiming the truth of Christ's birth. During the Holy Eve church services, *Boh Predvichni* is sung heralding the mystery of the Christ Child's birth. In its simplicity and truth, the carol tells of the awesome God the Creator being born into His creation to save all mankind.

Christ Is Born! Let Us Glorify Him!



Condensed from: UYLNA TRIDENT MAGAZINE: *Ukrainian Carols*, January, 1957; *Ukrainian Customs and Carols*, Winter, 1961.

(Thanks to my pastor, Fr. Steve Repa, for his assistance with this article. EM)



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Contributor

Helen Greenleaf

Occasion

In Honor of Shirley and Emil Skocypec, with heartfelt thanks for hosting the National Executive Board meeting at the Fisher House in South Bound Brook on October 10-12. We truly appreciated your warm hospitality, the airport pick-up service, nice accommodations and tasty meals. Thank You!

Col. Len and Sandra Kondratiuk

In Honor of Archimandrite Andriy and his 15 years of dedicated service to St. Andrew's Church, Boston, MA.

UOL FISCAL YEAR AND DEADLINES 2003-2004

JANUARY	8	Essay Contest - first mailing
	17	National Executive Board Winter meeting Northampton, PA
	30	Annual Fund Drive mailing
FEBRUARY	5	UOL Bulletin submission deadline
	28	LSSK applications mailed to chapters
MARCH	5	UOL Bulletin submission deadline
	10	Essay Contest - second mailing
	30	Chapter Election and Delegate forms mailed UOL Awards Applications mailing
APRIL	1	Annual Fund Drive reminder postcard mailing
	30	DEADLINE: CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE: CHAPTER PROJECT CONTRIBUTION Convention registration forms mailed DEADLINE: Essay Contest entries
MAY	5	UOL Bulletin submission deadline
	15	National Executive Board Spring Meeting, Parma, OH
	31	DEADLINE: LSSK applications DEADLINE: UOL Awards applications
JUNE	1	DEADLINE: ANNUAL REPORTS – National Executive Board and Junior Executive Board - due to Sr. Corr. Secretary
	15	DEADLINE: Chapter Election reports due to Sr. Corresponding Secretary. DEADLINE: Delegate Forms due
	16	DEADLINE: CONVENTION REGISTRATION PAYMENT & Forms to Sr. Financial Secretary
JULY	21-25	57th UOL Convention, Parma, OH St. Vladimir UOL Chapters

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