



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth*

VOL. 57 NO. 7

JUNE 2011

## Joining in our Faith - UOL Lenten Retreat Submitted by Diane Senedak

On a crisp spring day, the faithful gathered for the annual Jr/Sr UOL Lenten Retreat, held on March 26th at the beautiful Villa Maria Retreat Center, nestled among the majestic hills of northwestern Pennsylvania. Participants



came from five parishes, traveling from nearby Ohio and Pennsylvania, and from as far away as Illinois and Michigan. The uplifting day started with a serene Morning Prayer service, led by Fr. John Harvey of Sts. Peter & Paul UOC of Youngstown, OH. We then shared a light continental breakfast and commenced with our retreat topics, which focused on the Sermon on the Mount.

"Seek and You Shall Find," was the first of our retreat topics presented by Fr. Robert Popichak, pastor of Holy Ghost of Slickville, PA. Fr. Popichak began by saying, "Our Lenten journey is but a part of our entire life's journey - toward the uncreated Light, which is Christ! We ask many things of God - food, shelter, protection, love, kindness, His Grace, His Love, His Protection - as we go on this journey." He continued, "We sometimes forget that the Holy Spirit is here with us to be our helper and guide through this earthly life - although more often we forget that with these gifts from Almighty God comes great responsibility. If we are to call ourselves Christians, we must take the words that the Lord spoke to be our roadmap - always serving others and looking for ways to do His Work on this earth. If we sincerely seek God, we will find Him - but are we READY?" Fr. Popichak's insightful remarks are food for thought!

The Beatitudes was topic #2 and was presented by Dr. Gayle Woloschak of Sts. Peter & Paul UOC, Palos Park, IL. Dr. Woloschak started with some general comments about the Bible including terms of the Bible and a time line of church history from the New Testament Era until the present. She continued with reasons to read scripture, as a sacred and authoritative book - the Bible as the Word of God, for literary enjoyment and for historic interest.

An enlightening quote Dr. Woloschak used from St. John Chrysostom reads... "The scriptures were not given to us that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them in our hearts." Words of pure joy!

(Continued on page 4)

## The Pre-Convention Dance is Back!

The Senior and Junior National Executive Boards met early in May in Philadelphia to review plans for the remainder of the year and to plan for the upcoming Convention. On Friday evening National Executive Board Members met at Rebecca Druash McNulty's home. Rebecca prepared a lovely dinner and had everyone gathered outside to enjoy a warm fire and wonderful conversation.

On Saturday morning everyone gathered for morning prayers celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Antony, Fr. Taras Naumenko, Fr. Myron Oryhon and Fr. Anthony Perkins. The Senior and Junior Boards met and highlights from those meetings are outlined in the articles from our Presidents Martha Misko and Taylor Gladys. Following the meetings both Boards joined for Vespers at St. Vladimir's Cathedral in Philadelphia.

That evening the fun began with the Pre-Convention Dance that had a 1960s theme. Pani Matka Laura Naumenko, Debbie and Al Shinn, as well as Karen Ferraro served as the chairpeople for the event. They planned a fun evening with 1960s groovy decor, hula hoops and music that celebrated that era.



The evening was fun with many members dressed in their best hippie or other 1960s attire. We had classic hippies! Young Republican Convention Delegates! Jackie O! Most of all everyone came excited and ready to celebrate!

Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner and danced the night away. If the Pre-Convention Dance is an example of the fun that is to be had at the Convention -- it is going to be a great Convention!



See you at the  
**64th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention**  
 hosted by the Sr. and Jr. UOL Chapters of the  
**St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Philadelphia, PA**  
**July 27-31, 2011**  
*Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Junior UOL!*





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**The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 1st of the prior month. Photos will not be returned.**  
**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. (Submit to: nsufler@aol.com)

The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.



**MESSAGE FROM THE  
SENIOR  
UOL  
PRESIDENT**

**Martha X Misko**

This issue of the UOL Bulletin is a reminder that the 2010-2011 UOL year is swiftly concluding. I trust that each Chapter and all members had a spiritually and socially rewarding year. Hopefully, you will all join us at the 64<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention in Philadelphia, PA this July to share your UOL experiences.

Recently, the National Executive Board convened for its Spring meeting in Philadelphia on May 14. The Philly Chapter was most hospitable, as always, and, in the evening at the Pre-Convention Dance, gave us a taste of the good times ahead at the Convention!

During the meeting on May 14, the National Executive Board summarized its projects for the year and developed an agenda for the upcoming Convention. The focus of this year's Convention will be to review the VISION FOR 2020, as set forth at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Convention, in order to set the tone for the UOL's work for 2011-2012.

The NEB has concentrated this year, along with completing its annual projects, on increasing UOL membership and UOL awareness throughout the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. This task is great and cannot be the NEB's alone. ALL members need to promote the UOL and its work for our Church! And, it's not too late to increase membership and awareness this year! Encourage your chapter members and other parishioners to attend the UOL Convention. Share with them the DVD of the Philadelphia Convention highlights that was sent to all chapters (and all UOC of the USA parishes). The enthusiasm and spirituality generated at a UOL Convention often filters back to home parishes and ultimately creates strong UOL members and faithful Orthodox Christians!

I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank the Youth Commission of the UOL for conducting two very successful Lenten Retreats. The UOL Lenten Retreat in Bethlehem, PA, chaired by Oleh and Natalie Bilynsky, and the UOL Lenten Retreat in Villa Maria, PA, chaired by Diane Senedak and Melanie Nakonachny, were both uplifting and reflective during our Lenten journeys.

I would also like to thank those individuals who volunteered to monitor the parking lots at our Diocesan Center in South Bound Brook, NJ on St. Thomas Sunday Weekend. Members collected donations for parking and attendance ribbons. The monies collected for the ribbons will benefit the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund of the UOL. Beautiful weather and the usual UOL camaraderie made this a fun and successful event!

Lastly, it has been my honor and my pleasure to have served as UOL President this year. To have worked with all of you and, especially a dedicated National Executive Board, has been a most rewarding experience. I look forward to being with you at the Convention as we plan for another year of service to our UOL and our Church.

I remain yours in Christ,  
Martha X. Misko

*Clergy Appreciation Day - Sunday June 5*

In 1969, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual UOL Convention resolved that the first Sunday after Ascension should be established as Priests' Sunday. This Sunday is designated as a day when chapters may take the opportunity to honor their Spiritual Advisors. Most recently we have expanded to honor all clergy on Clergy Appreciation Day.

In the past, many chapters had celebrated this day by hosting special coffee hours, receptions, luncheons, and dinners, or by giving "gifts of love," cards, or donations to various causes in honor of their priests. This year, the Vocations and Clergy Support Commission is requesting that you consider donating in honor of your priest, deacon and/or Bishop to the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund.

MJSF has been presenting scholarships to seminarians since 1966. Clergy grants were included years later. Many recipients of the scholarships and grants have served and are currently serving in our parishes. It would be most fitting that the celebration of your parish priest's dedicated service to our Ukrainian Orthodox Church should benefit and support another vocation.



**ASK FR. HARVEY  
RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS  
Answered by Fr. John Harvey**

*I hear that there are restrictions on the days you are permitted to have a wedding in church? Why would that be as , to my knowledge, you can have a baptism or confession, or Holy Unction just about at any time?*

Wedding coronations are such joyous occasions that fasting seasons and weekly days of abstinence are really improper as a backdrop for such rites. The solemnity of Great Lent and the pre-Christmas fast period are automatically out as wedding dates. The two lesser lenten periods in the summer can be utilized only with the express permission of your local hierarch. Again, before you hire that hall for your reception, be sure that the dates are acceptable and compatible with church practice! Bishops do take into consideration the circumstances you present, but even if permission is given, they may stipulate that the reception be of a more muted character. If the church, as a whole, is engaged in a solemn preparation for a feast by prayer and fasting, it is not in character that your wedding should be the wild, blowout celebration of the century.

Wednesdays and Fridays have been days on which the cross and crucifixion have been commemorated down through Christian history. As we abstain from meat products, in remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus for all of us, weddings are also proscribed. Remember we follow the day as did the Jews of old and so a day is considered from one sunset (or time of Vespers) to the next sunset. Friday would extend from say 5:00 PM on Thursday night to the same time Friday night and this whole time period would be closed to marriages. Friday evening would be a possibility, unless you consider the following.

Another closed day is Saturday afternoon and evening, because it is the liturgical preparation for Communion the next day and a time when marital relations should be withheld. You may say, but aren't most weddings in our churches conducted on Saturday afternoons? True, but we have bent to the cultural norm of the American scene, which sees Saturday night as party time. Let us look at this logically. If there is a wedding and rip-roaring reception and dance, chances are that after the wedding night, the bridal couple and many others will sleep in and omit liturgical prayer. Doesn't this contradict what we have done in the wedding? Hands tied, the couple follows the cross in procession, both yoked in matrimony and leading one another to the heavenly kingdom. On the very first day of their marriage journey to shun the Liturgy and Communion is contrary to their actions of a day before.

What then is an acceptable time for an Orthodox Christian wedding? Traditionally, Sunday afternoon is the best choice. Both ideally attend Liturgy in the morning, with their bridal party and commune. A nice start indeed to a life of Christian commitment together! Afternoon and evening for wedding coronation and a fine reception, so what could be better. Consider the hard edged scramble couples usually must go through to get a hall for a reception on the premium night of Saturday. Couples sometimes must wait a full year in advance to get a date at their chosen hall. Sunday is usually open and easy to arrange. The church does not want to be obstructionist, but if we truly believe, let us try to comply with the guidelines as given and conform to the spirit of the law.



*Did I miss something??? At a recent wedding in our church, I waited to hear the time-honored wedding vows, but I seemed to have missed them. Did Father miff it and skip a page by accident?*

In Orthodox churches throughout the world, one does NOT hear the vows that are so familiar and central to the Roman Catholic, Protestant and civil registry

(Continued on page 5)

Philadelphia UOL Convention 2011 July 27-31, 2011  
Philadelphia will be hosting the  
50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Junior UOL at the Convention

## Fifty Year Update – Where Are They Now?

How exciting that the Junior UOL Reunion is fast approaching!!

To date we have heard from many former Junior UOL members, but there are many who have not completed the memory sheet. If we have not heard from you, there is still time to submit your Memory Book sheet -- however, please send it in soon.

If you have family members or friends who were members of the Junior UOL please reach out to them and have them complete a Memory Book sheet. We will be accepting Memory Book sheets and pictures until June 15<sup>th</sup>. At that time we will be compiling the Memory Book and pictures.



Junior UOL Executive Board 1962-1963

The Memory Book will include a listing of all of the National Junior Executive Boards, a list of Junior Very Rev. Bukata winners and recipients of the Lynn Sawchuk Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship. At the end of the Memory Book we will have the "Where are they now?" section. This will include a list of past Junior UOL Members and a summary of what they are doing now. In addition to the Memory Book those who purchase the Memory Book will get a cd with pictures from the last 50 years of the Junior UOL. We currently have over 450 pictures of the Juniors. We will be taking pre-orders for the Memory Book. The books and cd packet will be available at the UOL Convention. If you are interested in getting a copy of the Memory Book please e-mail Natalie Bilynsky at nsufler@aol.com. It will be helpful for us to have an estimate of the number of copies to prepare for the Convention.

### Were you a member of the Junior UOL! Complete your UOL Memory Sheet today!

In our plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Junior UOL, we are preparing a Memory Book with all of the pictures we collect from past Junior UOL members and with a directory of all past Junior UOL Members.

If you were a Junior UOL member and would like to be included in the Directory -

Please complete the following (feel free to include or exclude any information):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

What are you doing now? (include family updates, jobs, education, etc). \_\_\_\_\_

You can send responses to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Wallingford, PA 19086 or e-mail to nsufler@aol.com

Also you can e-mail or send any Junior UOL Pictures that you might have to be included in the memory book. All pictures will be returned.



## NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT Taylor Gladys

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Get ready - Convention is coming soon! I am so excited that summer is here and I can't wait to see everyone in Philadelphia.

But first things first, Junior Chapters need to fulfill their obligations! Please make sure that you have already turned in your Chapter Progress Report and Chapter Project Donation. We want to hear about everything you've been working on this year.

In addition, sell, sell, sell! Junior UOL 50th Anniversary raffle tickets were mailed out by Junior Treasurer, Nick Holowko. With the rewards higher this year, we hope to sell every ticket. If your chapter runs out, please contact Nick for extra tickets. Being that this is the largest fundraiser for the Jr. UOL, we really appreciate your support.

Convention around the corner means that the Cultural Contest is coming up soon, too! Financial Secretary, Greg Markiw, sent information regarding the contest to the mailing list. I encourage all Junior and Senior members to enter. The Cultural Contest is the perfect way for everyone to showcase their talents and embrace our Ukrainian culture.

Thank you to all of the members of the Jr. UOL for helping make this a great year for us. The Junior National Executive Board enjoys working hard in service to the Church, and we all look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia in July. I pray that you have a fun-filled and safe summer - see you soon!

Yours In Christ,  
Taylor Gladys

## 2011 UOL CULTURAL CONTEST



- Participation is open to ALL UOL members
- Entries will be displayed and voted on at the 64th Annual UOL Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Any homemade item that involves Ukrainian heritage and culture is permitted



For more information, contact:

Gregory Markiw, Financial Secretary  
Cultural Committee Chair  
marq2036@verizon.net



**BRING YOUR ENTRY TO THE CONVENTION!**

**Start Making Your Plans for**

**Family Fest  
Labor Day Weekend**

**Friday September 2nd to  
Monday September 5th**

**All Saints Camp, Emlenton, PA**

To Register - contact  
Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny (440) 885-1509 or  
via e-mail at nackos3201@gmail.com  
3201 Marioncliff Drive, Parma, Ohio 44134



**METROPOLITAN JOHN SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE 2010-2011**

**Your generous donations will:**

**\* provide scholarships to seminarians preparing to enter the Holy Priesthood in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

**\*provide grants to Clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA**

Please send donations to: Pani Matka Linda Oryhon 623 Jennings Street Endicott, NY 13760

**Great Lent Giveaway - Growing a Monastery**

You can still make your donations to the Great Lent Giveaway. Please send donations to: Junior UOL Financial Secretary Gregory Markiw, 2036 Spring Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243.



**Great Lent Giveaway 2011**  
**Benefitting the Ukrainian Orthodox Church**  
**Monastery Initiative**

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Jr Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

For more information or to download the program go to [www.uoc youth.org](http://www.uoc youth.org), [uoc youth@aol.com](mailto:uoc youth@aol.com) or [julianburgan@gmail.com](mailto:julianburgan@gmail.com)

The deadline for UOL Convention Year Book Ads has been extended to June 30, 2011.

Be sure to place your ad in the UOL Yearbook.

For more information and to get a Yearbook form please contact Oleh Bilynsky at [nsufler@aol.com](mailto:nsufler@aol.com)

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**All Saints Camp S.O.S. Campaign**  
**Improving Our Camp One Building at a Time**  
**S.O.S. Update**

*Submitted by Michael Nakonachny*

Since we introduced the Save Our Structures "S.O.S." fundraising campaign in late July at the 63rd annual UOL Convention the positive response has been nothing short of a miracle. In this short time we have been blessed to have 12 cabins, the Millennium Building Lounge, along with several additional items sponsored. It is the ambitious goal of the ASC Committee to have two classrooms, five dorm rooms along with the bulk of the additional items sponsored by the beginning of the next camping season. If you are able and willing to sponsor a structure or item or if you're willing to simply make a donation please contact us at [info@allsaintscamp.org](mailto:info@allsaintscamp.org).

For the most updated information on this fundraising campaign please visit [www.allsaintscamp.org/sos](http://www.allsaintscamp.org/sos)

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(UOL Retreat - Continued from page 1)

As she reviewed each of The Beatitudes, they were discussed in a reflection for consideration of the meaning and importance to the spiritual life. "In the Gospel writings, The Beatitudes introduce the teachings of Jesus and are traditionally considered to contain the most concise summary of the spiritual life of man."

After Dr. Woloschak's workshop, it was time to take a stroll to the Marian Dining Hall where we enjoyed a delicious fish luncheon followed by fellowship, reflection, exploring the grounds of the retreat center and browsing at the Villa Shoppe.

Next, we gathered for our third workshop: "Do Not Worry," which was presented by Fr. Popichak. He said, "So much of our earthly existence is devoured by worry about things we cannot change. We spend time, energy, money, and our talents as we search for physical comfort - many times forgetting that God will provide us with the necessities of life. As we are



living in the twenty-first century, many things are calling to us - technology has made immediate contact and immediate gratification the norm. Cell phones, text messages, social media, e-mail, the Internet, and modern transportation have shrunk our world to nothing—and sometimes it does turn to nothing! We must take this time in Great Lent to examine our lives and put into priority those things which are important to us—especially to our spiritual health! Parents constantly have to remind our beloved children to look around and take in all the things God has given to us—and maybe we as parents should take our own advice!" Yes, indeed!

"You are the Light of the World" was topic #4, which was presented by Dr. Woloschak. The similitudes (which include disciples being like the salt of the



earth and Faith being like a light) were discussed to understand what these texts mean and how they can be applied to the Christian struggle.

"Salt and light demonstrate the role that Christ's disciples are to have in society: salt has preservative powers and is necessary for life, gives flavor and light is a reflection of the true and uncreated Light of God." Christ is the Light of the world. She closed with, "As much as a person is reflecting the perfection of Christ, he/she is serving as the Light of the world."

Next, Fr. John Nakonachny of St. Vladimir's Cathedral, Parma, OH spoke about the importance of the cross and how certain groups of people are opposed to the cross being visible in our schools and our society. It was a good conversation in how some people in our society view Christianity. Fr. Nakonachny informed us, "The cross prevailed!"



(continued on page 6)



(Ask Father Harvey - continued from page 2)

ceremonies found in all Western countries. In Orthodoxy, the questions given at the beginning suffice to ascertain whether the parties are freely giving themselves to one another without any other lovers on the side. The mere fact of them presenting themselves before the altar is a sign of their commitment before the awesome throne of God. This is not "tying the knot" in the Western sense, but a coronation, foreshadowing the crowning in heaven of those who have been faithful servants of God. Marriage is not just the sanctioning of a physical union, but is a spiritual commitment of lifelong duration, which will be projected yonder into the heavenly kingdom.

You may well say, but my parents remember the prisjaha, or vows they made kneeling before the holy Gospel. I will not deny that this practice did have a part in our churches, BUT there is a reasonable explanation of why this was done and why we no longer do it. Remember our forefathers, due to the vagaries of history, were shunted back and forth from the Orthodox to the Greek Catholic church and return. For centuries, Western Ukraine was under either the Polish Kingdom or the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Both being Catholic held the idea that for a civil marriage to be valid, one MUST always have vows, because in their mind marriage is a CONTRACT. This is not an Orthodox idea and we consider the commitment of submitting to crowning to be the act of marriage.

When the Polish government saw Orthodox people being married without vows, they felt that this was no valid marriage at all and insisted that vows be added. This being done by government decree, Orthodox were forced to interpolate this into their books! This practice followed us to the U.S.A. for when our forefathers came from the Greek Catholic Church, they and their priests often only understood marriage from the Roman Catholic contractual perspective and complied with practice as they knew it.

Be assured when you see the bridal couple beaming as the crowns are put on their heads, that they are really and truly married before the sight of God and man, even if no vows were exchanged.



### **Prayer Bracelets are still available!!!**

**The bracelet, a variation of the Orthodox Prayer Rope, is beautifully packaged in an organza purse with a brief description of how to use a prayer bracelet.**



To order, make check payable to St. Vladimir's Senior UOL. Please include your name, e-mail and mailing address for all orders. Indicate type of bracelet you are ordering. Bracelets are \$10 (including shipping and handling) and are available in 5 bead styles, Hematite, Blue, Garnet Red, Crystal and Amethyst Purple Crystal.

To place your order please send check and order information to:  
Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Wallingford, PA 19086

### **User's Guide to the UOL Webpage**



The Executive Board is taking steps to ensure the UOL webpage (located at <http://uol.orthodoxws.com/>) is an interactive source of information for all League members. All necessary League forms and applications are already available for download, in addition to an easy-to-use Calendar (<http://uol.orthodoxws.com/calendar.html>) which highlights all deadlines, events and feast days.

If your chapter is planning an event, please submit it as you would to the *Bulletin*. Be sure to send along any flyers or other necessary information so we can help get the word out. We're looking to include any sorts of events - anything from Feast Days to Malankas!

#### **How to Submit**

You have two options on how to send in your submission:

- with an attachment: email [uolofusa@gmail.com](mailto:uolofusa@gmail.com) (Yes, it's that simple!)
- without an attachment: click on "Content Submission" link on the UOL webpage: <http://uol.orthodoxws.com/submission.html>

Also, be sure to Like the Ukrainian Orthodox League on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/uolusa>

Thanks for your continued support of the League and our webpage!

### **News from St. John the Baptist, Johnson City, NY**

*Submitted by Pam Scannell*

Thanks to the generous donations given by our SR UOL and parish members and the countless hours given by some of our SR UOL members the service book replacement project is now complete. We were able to donate 340 Divine Liturgy books, 70 Vesper service books, 30 Baptismal books, 15 children's Divine Liturgy books, and 2 Hours books. We hope everyone will enjoy using the new books for years to come.

We visited some of our shut-ins in May to bring the good news of our Savior's Resurrection. It was great fun to sing our Paschal songs and visit with those in their homes and nursing homes. They also enjoyed some Kolachky that were recently baked by our Sisterhood.

Our next project is to fight against cancer. We have organized a team for this year's Relay for Life in Binghamton, NY on June 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Many of our parishioners and families have been affected by cancer and this year we are working on giving back through our "Tryzub Stars" team! We are making a difference by teaming up to participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

At the event, our team will camp out overnight and take turns walking around the track to raise money and awareness to help the American Cancer Society create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. Saving lives from cancer starts one team, one participant, and one dollar at a time. Our team is doing our part to make sure that cancer never steals another year of anyone's life. You can check our progress on the Relay for Life website, Binghamton, NY "Tryzub Stars."

### **St. Thomas Pilgrimage 2011**

On April 30th and May 1st UOL members joined Ukrainian Orthodox faithful for the St. Thomas Pilgrimage in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. For the last six years UOL members have volunteered helping with parking duties for both days. The responsibilities included selling commemorative ribbons and collecting parking fees. The proceeds made from the sale of commemorative ribbons were donated to the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. Parking fees are allocated for the Consistory and for the expenses of the weekend, including bus transportation and set-up for the thousands of people who come to South Bound Brook to have Panakhydas to honor loved ones of blessed memory. As



part of the Pilgrimage the Cultural Center was a place to see old friends and to see a variety of cultural and religious items that were for sale. There were multiple vendors in the Cultural Center and they had cultural items made in Ukraine, religious items like icons, books, as well as jewelry, music and pysanky.



The lobby and the Cultural Center also had displays from organizations of the church and included a UOL table. The UOL table had poster boards with pictures from the last two

UOL Conventions and one that described the UOL. There were copies of UOL Bulletins. There was also a digital picture display for the Junior UOL Reunion and registration forms for the UOL Convention.

The weekend was sunny and a little bit breezy and UOL members provided a great service by volunteering with the parking. This year many chapters were represented in the parking duties including: Maplewood, Northampton, Coatesville, Allentown, Parma, and Philadelphia.



### Witnessing in the Digital Highways and Hedges

Submitted by Fr. Anthony Perkins St. Michael UOC, Woonsocket, RI

Orthodoxy possesses the fullness of the Truth. It provides the sure way to peace, hope, and salvation. It restores our relationship with God and one another. The solution to every real problem is found within our Sacraments. So why aren't our churches full? Why are entire generations of baptized Ukrainian Orthodox "missing in action?" And why aren't the spiritually impoverished and under-churched people in our neighborhoods filling our pews to receive the Body of Christ and drink from the Fountain of Immortality?

The recent Pew Study on Religion found that Orthodox parishes lose one out of every four of those Baptized into their ranks. The overall number of Orthodox remains constant, but only because there are enough converts (through marriage or otherwise) to make up for the loss. While I am happy that we are attracting so many converts, these data suggest three major problems. First, gains and losses are not evenly distributed and there are many parishes that lose far more people than they gain. Second, the survey sample is truncated so that it does not even address the funeral to baptism imbalance. Third, even if a parish manages to "break even" in terms of parishioners, it has still lost one out of every four of its own children to heresy. The Truth is too important for us to do so poorly.

While I think that the most important way to address parish decline is to improve our commitment to the Truth, Beauty, and Authority of Orthodoxy,\* this must be augmented by evangelism: the wedding banquet tables are set, but the hall is empty: it is time for us to make sure everyone gets an invitation (paraphrase of St. Matthew 22:8-10). In the Parable of the Wedding Feast (St. Matthew 22: 1-14), the king sent his servants into the highways and hedges to find guests; we can augment this by going out onto the "information superhighway" of the Internet and associated technologies.

The most obvious (and simplest) way to let people know that your parish possesses and desires to share the Fullness of the Truth with them is with a welcoming and informative website. At a minimum, it should have a brief statement of faith and legitimacy, contact information, pictures, service times, and links; but what will set it apart and gain credibility for your parish (especially among our lost generations of 20 – 40 year olds) is personalized content. This can mean anything from more pictures to posting bulletins, homilies and articles. Outside information (delivered via links, applets, or even "cut and paste") is fine, but does not have the same effect as locally-generated content (think "Facebook" rather than "Yahoo"). One warning: expand your website gradually – nothing looks worse than a website whose content is out of date. It takes our webmaster about 5-10 hours a week to solicit, generate, and publish material to our website ([www.stmichaeluoc.org](http://www.stmichaeluoc.org)).

The next step: blogging and podcasting. Two more ways to share content and reach out to people in your local community (and the world) is through blogging (i.e. keeping an on-line journal) and podcasting (kind of like producing a regular short radio program). Blogging is the easiest: you can set up your own blog at [www.blogspot.com](http://www.blogspot.com) in a manner of minutes. Your priest is used to writing, so encourage him (and give him time!) to regularly post his thoughts and reflections. Be sure to provide a link to the blog from your website (see our parish website, [www.orthoanalytika.org](http://www.orthoanalytika.org) and [orthoanalytika.blogspot.com](http://orthoanalytika.blogspot.com) for three examples of how this can be done). Podcasting takes more time, but if you digitally record your priest's sermons, it is simply a matter of prettying it up and making it available on the internet. It took us a couple of weeks to crack the code, but our podcasts are now available both on our website and via iTunes (search for "Orthoanalytika"). While anyone with internet access can subscribe to your blog and podcast, subscriptions usually spread by word of mouth through your community (which mirrors the primary mechanism of church growth). We personalize our podcast by adding recordings of parish musicians.

One more possibility: on-line communities. While YMMV, I have found it useful to keep active profiles on both Facebook and OrthodoxCircle. I daresay that most of our Jr UOL members (and those who should be... which is everyone in the world of the right age!) has a Facebook account, and using your own account makes it easy to stay in touch with them (the presence of a few priests also helps lend an air of civility/sanctity to a medium that sometimes threatens to break out into unaccountable hedonism).

Each of our parishes possesses the complete fullness of the Truth that people long for. Share it with them and invite them to the feast.

\*Here is the short of improving our witness of Orthodoxy: focus on the Gospel of Salvation, Peace, and Life in Abundance through Christ and His Church (Witness to Orthodoxy's Truth); offer the services in all their splendor through enthusiastic and proficient singing and chanting, well-maintained icons, vestments, and facilities, and having everyone radiate the joy of our Risen Lord (Witness to Orthodoxy's Beauty); and love your priests and bishops, support their ministries, and demonstrate reverence, respect, and submission to their offices (Witness to Orthodoxy's Authority).

(UOL Retreat - Continued from page 4)

As we concluded our workshop series, we prepared for our evening Vespers service, which was conducted by Fr. Harvey, Fr. Popichak and assisting was Subdeacon John Charest of St. Volodymyr, Chicago, IL. In addition, Fr. Nakonachny conducted the angelic voices of the choir. We then had a light dinner and it was time to say our good-byes until we meet again!

The annual Jr/Sr UOL Lenten Retreat committee is pleased to report that all in attendance enjoyed a wonderful and spiritual event. The "Sermon on the Mount" theme based retreat was held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at the majestic Villa Maria Retreat Center. Fr. John Nakonachny, of St. Vladimir's Cathedral, Parma, Ohio, was our Spiritual Advisor. We are most appreciative for his insight and guidance throughout the retreat planning. Guest speakers Fr. Robert Popichak and Dr. Gayle Woloschak spoke about applying what we have learned to help enrich our daily lives. They also encouraged us to take time during Great Lent to examine our lives and try to make our spiritual lives a priority. Fr. John Harvey and the clergy present conducted the beautiful morning and Vesper services and offered counsel and direction in hearing participant confessions.

All in all, this was truly a time to come together as Orthodox Christians, learning about our faith and sharing a beautiful day together, helping prepare us further for our journey toward Pascha!



Our youngest UOL Retreat participant James Senedak!

### Flat Slavko Does Philadelphia!

Follow Flat Slavko as he visits sites in and around Philadelphia on his way to the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual UOL Convention in July 2011!!! He'll show you all the hot spots and famous attractions that can turn your trip



to the Convention this summer into a vacation to remember forever! This issue, Flat Slavko takes a stroll down the scenic Benjamin Franklin Parkway which leads straight from the Philadelphia Museum of Art to City Hall! Along the way, Flat Slavko

stops to check out the famous Franklin Institute, the site of the 64<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention's Thursday evening event! This year's Night at the Museum, will not only include the tastes of Philadelphia and the sounds of St. Vladimir's own DJ Al Shinn, but will also include

exclusive access to several science exhibits including the Electricity Room and the Giant Walk-Through Human Heart! Flat Slavko continues his stroll down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to beautiful Love Park. Although he had to wait in line behind



two bridal parties, a field trip of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and a group of tourists for this photo, Flat Slavko wouldn't leave Philadelphia without a shot with this famous statue, and neither should you! Last, but certainly not least, Flat Slavko makes a hard right down Broad Street, continuing two blocks to the site of the 64<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention, the DoubleTree Hotel! We hope you've made your reservation because you won't want to miss out on all the fun happening in the City of Brotherly Love this July 27-31, 2011!! SEE YOU SOON!

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

**Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Annual Fund Drive which includes UOL Projects, the Lynn Sawchuk -Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship Fund and the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund!**

The following is a list of contributions made to our Fund Drive.

**UOL Projects**

- Wolodymyr Wronskyj
- St. Demetrius Senior UOL, Carteret, NJ
- Mary Dymanyk – In memory of John Dymanyk
- Edward and Bonnie Zetick
- Alfred Gorick Jr. Family in Honor of Anja and David Merkel's Wedding
- Catherine Shaffer
- Catherine Kochenash
- Joseph Romanosky – In memory of Mary Z. Romanosky
- Oleh and Natalie Bilynsky
- Lewis Branson
- Sts. Peter and Paul Junior UOL, Carnegie, PA
- Sophia Patronik- In memory of John Patronik Sr.
- John Roditski
- Sts. Peter and Paul Senior UOL, Lyndora, PA
- Michael and Martha Misko
- St. Vladimir's Senior UOL, Philadelphia, PA
- Olga Coffey
- Karen Sheptak- In memory of Catherine and Stephen Sheptak
- Holy Ghost Senior and Junior UOL, Coatesville, PA
- David Zaika
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary Senior UOL, Northampton, PA

**LSSK**

- Wolodymyr Wronskyj
- Julie Cholowski – In memory of Lesky and Cholowski family members
- St. Demetrius Senior UOL, Carteret, NJ
- Edward and Bonnie Zetick
- Catherine Shaffer
- Joseph Romanosky – In memory of Mary Z. Romanosky
- Mr. and Mrs. Grzymiski - In memory of Meuch and Grzymiski Family
- Sts. Peter and Paul Junior UOL, Carnegie, PA
- John Roditski
- Sts. Peter and Paul Senior UOL, Lyndora, PA
- Steve and Lydia Economou
- Michael and Martha Misko
- Steven and Alexis Sawchuk & family- In honor of Olga Sawchuk's birthday, mother and grandmother
- St. Vladimir's Senior UOL, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Cornelia Yavarow
- Karen Sheptak- In memory of Andrew D. Kalinik
- St. John the Baptist Senior UOL, Johnson City, NY
- David Zaika
- Pam and Bill Scannell- In honor of Colleen, Meghan and Patrick
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary Senior UOL, Northampton, PA

**MJSF**

- Wolodymyr Wronskyj
- Myron Boyko
- St. Demetrius Senior UOL, Carteret, NJ
- Edward and Bonnie Zetick
- Martha Dowling
- Alex Limonczenko/ Maria Gonzales Trust
- Joseph Romanosky – In memory of Mary Z. Romanosky
- Oleh and Natalie Bilynsky
- Jane Yavarow
- Daria Pishko and Michael Komichak
- Sts. Peter and Paul Junior UOL, Carnegie, PA
- Sophia Patronik – In honor of His Grace Bishop Daniel
- John Roditski
- Sts. Peter and Paul Senior UOL, Lyndora, PA
- Michael and Martha Misko
- St. Vladimir's Senior UOL, Philadelphia, PA
- Karen Sheptak- In memory of Anna and Raymond Kalinik
- St. John the Baptist Senior UOL, Johnson City, NY
- David Zaika
- V. Rev. John and Anne Haluszczak- In memory of Fr. Eugene Krywolap
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary Senior UOL, Northampton, PA

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT THE UOL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA!**



**Schedule of Events:**

- Wednesday - Registration during the day**  
Sessions start Wednesday
- Evening**  
Hospitality Room
- Thursday -**  
Divine Liturgy  
Brunch  
Sessions  
A Night at the Museum
- Friday -**  
Sessions  
The Academy Awards - The Ostaps
- Saturday-**  
Workshops  
50th Junior UOL Reunion Events  
Vespers  
Grand Banquet  
Grand Ball

**UOL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**

**Sunday-** Hierarchical Divine Liturgy  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Farewell Brunch** **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter and City:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Senior Delegate \$215
- Senior Guest \$215
- Senior Delegate Late \$230
- Weekend (Fri, Sat, Sun) \$150
- Family Early Registration\* \$800
- Pre-Teen\*\* \$100
- Junior Delegate \$200
- Junior Guest \$200
- Clergy \$200
- Senior Guest Late \$230

\*The Family Early Registration packet price is for 2 adults and 2 juniors. If ordering a Family Early Registration Packet, please fill out a separate registration form for each attendee.

\*\*Will Pre-Teen participate in our Pre-Teen Program? Yes No

**Registration Deadline:** Senior and Family Registration payments postmarked by **June 15, 2011** qualify for the Early Registration discounts.

**50th Junior UOL Reunion:**  
Do you plan to attend the Reunion activities? Yes No

**Banquet Choices:**  
Beef Chicken Vegetarian Child (under 13)  
Please list any dietary concerns or food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: 64th UOL Convention**  
**Mail completed form with payment to:** Daria Danyo  
20 Locust Grove Road  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

If you have any questions contact Daria at 856-334-5010 or scarlet\_1958@yahoo.com

**HOTEL INFORMATION:**  
**Call the hotel directly (215) 893-1600 for reservations by June 30<sup>th</sup>.**  
Double Tree at 237 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA.  
Rate is \$129 per night + applicable taxes

\*\*\*\*\*

**Additional Tickets:** Thursday Brunch (Hotel) \$35  
Thursday Evening (Franklin Institute) \$85  
Friday Evening (Church Hall) \$45  
Saturday Banquet & Ball (Hotel) \$90  
Banquet must be purchased by July 28th  
Ball Only (Hotel) \$25  
Sunday Brunch (Church Hall) \$25

**Banquet Choices:**  
Beef Chicken Vegetarian Child (under 13)

Please list any dietary concerns or food allergies:  
\_\_\_\_\_



**U** A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special  
**O** Recognition of an individual or group. Your much-appreciated  
**L** contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

<b>T</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Occasion/Tribute</b>
<b>R</b>	Ss. Peter and Paul Senior UOL Lyndora Chapter	In loving remembrance of Helen Boss, UOL Charter and Lifelong Member of Ss. Peter and Paul, Lyndora, PA. Our mentor, sister-in-Christ, pysanky instructor and dear friend. Helen will be sorely missed. Memory Eternal! Truly, Helen was dedicated to our Church and devoted to its youth.
<b>I</b>		
<b>B</b>		
<b>U</b>		
<b>T</b>		
<b>E</b>		
<b>S</b>	Martha Dowling	In honor of Stephanie Chubenko for her achievements in Girl Scouts. Stephanie received the St. George Medal. Congratulations!

**To submit your Tribute:** Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent. For a contribution of \$20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to: Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Wallingford, PA 19086. Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

**Be Part of the UOL Book Club**

At the UOL Convention in Philadelphia this year, the Education Commission, chaired by Tabitha Houck will be sponsoring the first discussion for the Book Club. You can get a free copy of the book, entitled "Do Something Beautiful for God," by Anthony M. Coniaris.

To get a copy of the book please contact Tabitha Houck at tabithahouck@yahoo.com

**Show your UOL Spirit or honor your friends and family by placing their name on the UOL WALL OF FAME at the Philadelphia UOL Convention!**

Make sure that your name is listed as well as those of your fellow chapter members! For just \$5 you can be listed on the wall of UOL Greats! Who needs boosters -- when you can see your name in stars! To order your star complete the brief information listed along with a \$5 check (payable to St. Vladimir's Senior UOL) to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Wallingford, PA 19086  
 Information needed for star:

Name to be listed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Philadelphia**



**64th Annual UOL Convention and the 50th Anniversary of the Junior UOL**

*"A lamp unto my feet is Your word and a light to my path"*  
 (Psalm:119 v:10)

**Hosted by St. Vladimir Sr. & Jr. UOL Chapters Philadelphia, PA**

**July 27 – 31, 2011**

www.uol.orthodoxws.com      www.stvladimirphila.org

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