



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

VOL. 62 NO. 3

NOVEMBER 2015

## Family Fest 2015 - Submitted by Christine Mills

Sunday Pictures provided by Ethan Nixon, other Family Fest pictures provided by Becky Mills

Family Fest at All Saints Camp this past Labor Day weekend was AMAZING! There were families and friends from near and far for a weekend full of fellowship, fun and relaxation! We had close to 100 people join us throughout the weekend for the various activities or just to say "Hello!" *It was great to see old faces and new faces during the weekend!*

We were honored to have Metropolitan Antony celebrate Divine Liturgy with us on Sunday and bless the new bell tower adjacent to St. Thomas Chapel. Metropolitan Antony was joined in the Divine Liturgy Celebration by Fr. John

Haluszczak, Fr. Deacon James Cairns and several Seminarians. The bell tower was constructed by several volunteers over the past year and will be able to bring us all together when services are about to begin. We thank the many individuals involved, in one way or another, to make sure the bell tower became a reality.

You might say the weekend started off with a roar, when an unexpected rain storm arrived Friday evening. However, now we know how nice it is to eat a perogie dinner by candle light in the Dining Hall! Even though the storm provided everyone with some challenges, the attendees took it all in stride and carried on with lively conversation throughout the evening.



Saturday morning, after Prayers and breakfast, we all headed down to the field for the Annual "Family Fest Kickball Game." While the teams tried to outdo each other, the game ended in a tie. The amount of fun had by young and old, players and cheerleaders, was great! The afternoon allowed for free time, swimming or sports. Before Vespers on Saturday, a workshop, "Sing to the Lord a New Song," was conducted by Carol Haluszczak. After Vespers and dinner, everyone gathered in the dining hall for our

second of four weekend workshops. Josh Oryhon presented his workshop entitled "Sharing the Light Online." He informed those in attendance of the various social media outlets currently being used by the UOC of USA, for publicizing and getting the "Word" out to everyone. Josh helped explain the use of "#," hashtag usage and how it can help in providing information on various church events and happenings.

After brunch on Sunday, a presentation was held at the Pavilion by Cathy Bucharew. She spoke about her mission trips to Albania and Ukraine and provided a picture presentation as well. After an afternoon of swimming, relaxation and socializing, the last workshop was presented at the porch of St.



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The 69th Annual U.O.L Convention  
 Hosted By:  
 Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
 Coatesville, PA  
 July 27-31, 2016  
*"Be quick to hear, slow to speak & slow to anger"*  
 James 1:19  
 Convention Information: [holyghostuoc.org/2016](http://holyghostuoc.org/2016)



**UOL BULLETIN** - The official publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States of America. Circulated to all UOL Members. Non-members subscription rate \$30.00 Canada \$40.00

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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 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). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consents for photos to be includes in the UOL Bulletin.

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



**ASK FR. HARVEY**  
**Questions answered**  
**by Fr. John W. Harvey**

*I was shocked at all this hullabaloo over same sex marriage and the fact that so many people see nothing wrong with it. That our own Supreme Court should condone and allow this, I fear is a danger to those churches who might refuse to officiate at such ceremonies. Are we vulnerable, if one of our churches refuses to do a gay marriage coronation and gets dragged into court?*

There always could be a situation in which our church could be targeted as a cause celebre by gay rights activists wanting to punish our firm stance against any Orthodox Church blessing a same sex marriage. Although it is conceivable that such an attempt may be made on the Orthodox Church, the restrictive scope of whom a priest might marry, in comparison with other ministers, makes the comparison as between oranges and kiwi fruit.

What do I mean by this? Marrying Sam who runs the Chapel of the Wedding Bells on the Las Vegas Strip marries any couple who provides a valid marriage license. This is his business and for him to refuse those bearing a valid marriage license would be an overt discrimination. If he would object to a gay couple being married by him, how could he defend himself?

Some Protestant ministers may object for religious reasons, but they can officiate at a civil as well as a religious ceremony for bearers of valid marriage licenses. By this openness to do civil as well as religious weddings any refusal of a valid license would constitute an instance of discrimination, which practically invites a court case by litigious minded individuals.

Now an Orthodox priest, in some states after being registered may be the minister for marriage using a religious or a civil ceremony. Although legally endowed with the right to marry anyone, the Orthodox Church clearly delineates just who he may marry, under what circumstances and what ritual to use. Although empowered by the state to do so, an Orthodox priest may not do a civil ceremony. I have seen an example of this. In Oklahoma, an Orthodox priest became a great friend of some carnival folk at the State Fair. A couple who rode motorcycles in the Capsule of Doom wanted to get married in a civil ceremony and then ride off on their motorcycles, which was part of their dangerous act. Neither was Orthodox and so the Orthodox priest used a civil ceremony. He had been empowered by the state, but he was suspended by his Bishop for such actions can not be condoned by the Church.

Another difference is that mere presentation of a marriage license does not mean that a marriage might take place. One of those being married must be an Orthodox Christian and the other must be a baptized Christian. Strictures are such that marriage with a Muslim, Jew, Hindu or agnostic is absolutely impossible. If a partner was divorced, it must be ascertained whether he/she had been the cause of the breakup. A guilty partner may not be allowed to marry at all except under the express recommendation of the hierarch. Strictly speaking, a great level of commitment is expected and the spiritual base of matrimony is emphasized. Saying that, it is a fact that the concept of marriage which the rest of the world has is almost completely different than the Orthodox view of the same.

Because matrimony is so highly regulated, the presentation of a marriage license is but the last thing considered. Homosexual acts are highly sinful and the Church in no way could ever bless a union in which this would be the blessed path of life. In a church where marriage can be contracted only under certain conditions and not open to all, we certainly cannot be judged as zeroing in on gays. Our stance has been the same for 2,000 years and not subject to fads or fancies.

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**MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
SENIOR  
UOL PRESIDENT**

**Michael J. Komichak**



*I was a stranger  
and you invited me in...*

Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

Thanksgiving is the traditional beginning of the Nativity holiday season, which for Ukrainians means events and celebrations well into January. It is also a season during which people make a special effort to reach out to those less fortunate than they are and offer financial support to favorite charities and worthwhile causes.

Many of our chapters have long-standing traditions of offering Christian charity at this time of year. Some open their doors to serve a Thanksgiving meal while others volunteer their services at local community centers. In this issue of the UOL Bulletin there is an article from the Senior and Junior Christian Care Giving and Missions Commissions encouraging local UOL chapters to begin the season by reaching out to those in their communities in need. This continues a similar Thanksgiving Tithing program proposed last year, and it supports a parallel effort announced in a letter in August of this year that was sent to all parishes by Bishop Daniel and Reverend Deacon Mahlay. As this month's Bulletin article explains, please let us know what your chapter did in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Also in this month's Bulletin is an appeal asking you to remember the UOL in your year-end giving. The UOL's Annual Fund Drive supports UOL Projects, the LSSK Scholarship fund for current or former Junior UOL members attending college, and the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund (MJSF) for seminarians. Please send your contributions to the UOL NEB Financial Secretary Alex Shevchuk at 1 Glenbrook Court, Whippany, NJ 07981-2313 (Please note the change from Linda Winters, who had previously managed the Annual Fund Drive in recent years).

With 25 students enrolled in St. Sophia Seminary's full-time, part-time, and distance learning programs this year, your continued support for MJSF is needed more than ever. If you are in the South Bound Brook, NJ area on Saturday December 12, you can also support the students by attending their "Christmas at the Seminary" event from 1:00 to 5:30 PM. The event will feature Christmas-themed activities, including ornament making and cookie decorating. In the spirit of the upcoming feast of St. Nicholas, the event organizers request that you bring a tangible gift for the Seminary such as paper towels, cleaning products, printer paper, kitchen knives, paper plates, disposable utensils, and dry erase markers. These are all practical items that they need and use at the Seminary every day. If you attend the event, not only will you meet our seminarians, but they will have an opportunity to meet you and other UOL members and get a better appreciation of the UOL and our support for them in their studies. You or your UOL Chapter can also participate in this effort by mailing supplies to the Seminary in December.

You can find out more about this event at St. Sophia—as well as a "cookie walk" and Christmas Bazaar sponsored by the Holy Ascension Maplewood, NJ UOL Chapter with assistance from the St. Sophia Seminary UOL Chapter—by visiting the UOL website at [www.uol.orthodoxws.com](http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com). In general, remember to advertise your UOL Chapter's Thanksgiving, St. Nicholas, Christmas, and New Year events on the UOL website by sending an email to the NEB Public Relations Commission chair Karen Ferraro at [kalmtrio@comcast.net](mailto:kalmtrio@comcast.net).

On a somber note, we were saddened to learn of the falling asleep in the Lord of Very Rev. Fr. Anatoliy Dokhvat, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Millville, NJ. Fr. Anatoliy, age 41, succumbed to cancer on October 14. Along with his wife Pani Matka Yevheniya, he leaves behind two children Vita and Vladislav. The clergy of the UOC of USA have established a fund to provide financial assistance to his family going forward. Please consider making a donation to help them at [gofundme.com/sx6hdnqw](http://gofundme.com/sx6hdnqw) and please remember them in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Michael J. Komichak

**Why should I attend a Lenten  
Retreat sponsored by the UOL?  
Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky**

It might seem like November is early to start thinking about attending a Lenten Retreat, but now is the time to mark your calendar and set aside the time. As we enter into the new year calendars get filled and somehow our plans to set aside time during Great Lent to learn more about our faith fade away. If you have never attended a UOL sponsored Lenten Retreat you might wonder what you can expect.

The morning starts with registration, morning prayers and breakfast. This year the Retreat will be at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Bethlehem. We have been at this center for several years and the sisters are incredibly warm and welcoming. They greet us with enthusiasm and lovingly prepare delicious meals that keep the fast. The retreat center itself sits on beautiful grounds and if the weather cooperates many individuals walk the grounds and enjoy the first signs of spring. This year the retreat will be April 2<sup>nd</sup>, so we might have blooms starting to peek out.

Following breakfast we have our initial speakers and overview. Father Anthony Perkins will be our primary speaker for this Retreat. This year, our Retreat will be focusing on the challenges that we face throughout our lifetime. We will be looking at stages of development from a psychological perspective first and then looking at how our Orthodox faith helps us to face these challenges. If you have not had the opportunity to be inspired by Fr. Anthony, you are missing out. He is absolutely wonderful!!

One aspect of the Retreat is the speakers, another equally important component of the Retreat is the fellowship. In my opinion, one of the greatest features of the Retreat is that individuals come together to learn from each other and to gather as a family in Christ. I am excited every year to see everyone. When we have someone who is unable to attend, we miss you. During the Retreat there are multiple breaks and we all gather in the large kitchen area to have snacks, but more importantly to nourish our friendships. We get to catch up and hear what others are doing, which feeds the soul.

The afternoon activities have varied from year to year. Sometimes we have a movie. Sometimes we have games that challenge the Retreat participant to answer questions about their faith. The games are challenging but fun.

The last session of the Retreat is always a question and answer period. This has become a mainstay of the East Coast Retreat. During this session, participants can ask questions about topics discussed or other topics. I have gotten feedback from Retreat participants that this opportunity to talk to clergy throughout the day, and specifically the ability to ask questions, is one of the best aspects of the Retreat.

Following the last session, the group gathers for Vespers. Finally the day ends with dinner. If you come every year for the Retreat, I can't wait to see you again. If you have missed a few years, we hope to see you this year. If you have never attended and want to learn more about your faith and to nourish your soul during Great Lent, please join us.

So mark your calendar – the UOL Retreat is April 2, 2016. In fact, start making plans for 2017. The date is set, we invite you - April 1, 2017.

**“To everything there is a season”**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

**Lenten Retreat  
Bethlehem, PA**

**April 2, 2016**



This year the retreat will focus on the challenges we all face throughout life, looking at the psychological stages of life.

Fr. Anthony Perkins will speak about how to face these challenges from an Orthodox perspective.



**NEWS FROM THE  
JUNIOR UOL  
PRESIDENT**

**Kateryna Kocelko**



Glory to Jesus Christ!

During the last meeting we discussed many topics for the upcoming year and looked over the goals for the year, which were established at the 2015 Convention in Northampton, Pennsylvania. Each chapter will be receiving information about some of the upcoming events in the UOL such as: *Thanksgiving Tithing, “Souper” Bowl Sunday, and Bring a Friend to Church Day.* The board also talked about the upcoming 2016 Great Lent Giveaway.

This year we want to focus on getting the chapters more active and gaining new chapters. We are trying to create more projects in which chapters can work together to continue to be more active on the local and national level of the UOL.

The goal of the Junior National Executive Board is to create six new chapters by the end of the year and have all of them in attendance at this year's Annual Convention. We were happy to hear that the chapter of Palos Park has reactivated, and we wish them the best of luck as they work together to do God's work. Also we are working on making turning in forms easier and more convenient by putting them on the website.

If you haven't already, please make sure you turn in your dues and roster forms to the Financial Secretary, Orest Mahlay. They were due September 30<sup>th</sup>, so please turn them in as soon as possible. Also please make sure your election report forms are turned in.

If there are ever any questions or concerns the board is always here if help is needed. Feel free to contact any one of us. I hope everyone has a blessed holiday season. Remember to take time to be thankful for everything that God has given you, throughout this holiday season, and try to do something good for those who are not as fortunate. I pray that everyone has a safe holiday and please do the same for the rest of the board and me.

In Christ's Love,  
Kateryna Kocelko

**Lynn Sawchuk - Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship**

*The Scholarship was established in 1975 to perpetuate the memory of two lovely, dynamic young women whose untimely deaths left an indelible mark in the life of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.*

**In Loving and Blessed Memory  
of**



Lynn Sawchuk  
1957-1974



Sharon Kuzbyt  
1959-1975

In the last forty years, the UOL has awarded over **\$175,000** to **148** deserving leaders and future leaders of our holy Church.

**Please continue to support our mission to honor Lynn and Sharon's memory by making a donation.**

They can be mailed to:

**Alexander Shevchuk**

**1 Glenbrook Court ~ Whippany, NJ 07981-2313**

**Holy Ascension, Maplewood Remembers 9/11**

**Submitted by Michael J. Komichak**

Holy Ascension in Maplewood, NJ held a September 11 Remembrance Dinner after Divine Liturgy on Sunday September 27. The Holy Ascension UOL chapter sponsors the annual event to honor and pray for those who lost their lives or were injured in the 2001 terrorist attacks. This year's observance coincided with the Great Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. While we mourn those who perished, we at the same time draw strength from the gift of the Life-Giving Cross.

In keeping with the fast for the day, the parish family shared a meal of baked tilapia, kapusta-filled varenyky topped with sautéed onions, mixed vegetables, salad, cured salmon, and homemade desserts. Our UOL chapter events always receive the enthusiastic support and full participation of our entire parish. We are grateful for the expert help in the kitchen before, during, and after the meal not only from all of our chapter members, but from many parishioners who are not chapter members. We are truly blessed to have a parish family where people proactively step in to help wherever they see a need, without waiting to be formally asked!



**St. Vladimir Senior UOL , Philadelphia, PA**

**Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky**

Autumn is upon us and the busy season for St. Vladimir's Senior UOL Chapter in Philadelphia is fast approaching. During the summer months chapter members gather every Wednesday to complete small projects. This summer we did the same with some Wednesdays focusing on cleaning out the refrigerators and kitchen, other days setting schedules for the coming year and other times preparing for our parish events (like our Basket Raffle and



picnic). Wednesday summer evenings are nice in that we plan a potluck dinner and just have a time to touch base. We usually have a small consistent group that comes to the hall and sometimes we simply sit and talk. This year we planned one game night. If you know anything about the Philadelphia UOL chapter fun is a key ingredient of our events.

To end the summer we planned a bowling night and invited everyone from the parish. We were happy to welcome several new members into our chapter.

As you know we have been working to increase membership each year. At this moment we are hovering around eighty members. Our recruiting of new members goes on all year but we have specific membership drive events. At our first meeting of the year, we plan a potluck dinner and plan the schedule for our chapter. We have several consistent projects and continue to add to our schedule. We look forward to our fall activities, such as the Country Zabava and our Thanksgiving Dinner.



(Ask Fr. Harvey - continued from page 2)

As I have said, ministers who use both religious and civil ceremonies, with no restrictions to those who they marry, have no leg to stand on if they suddenly refuse gays with valid licenses. From the start, all marriages must fall under stated regulations, that is, it is not open equally to all which shows that we have been universally consistent throughout the ages. The state is loath to become involved with internal religious policies, which will never change.

Let us pray that we are never challenged in the U.S.A. to defend our basic existence and practices which are non-negotiable.



*I have been struck that the current tendency for funeral homes and cemeteries is to have a burial not end at graveside, but rather in some sort of chapel with the cemetery employees later transporting the coffin to the grave. I remember Metropolitan Constantine of Blessed Memory always insisting on the grave being sealed. Is it correct to say that this modern tendency runs counter to our Orthodox manner of burial?*

In an effort to sanitize and homogenize funeral practice, ending the burial with a brief chapel visit in effect keeps the mourners from having the jolt of seeing the coffin poised above the grave. To further see the coffin descend into the grave itself, or for the public to see and hear the earth fall on the casket, is deemed too damaging to the psyche. Modern American practice seeks to keep us from the reality of death. In the funeral home, IF caskets are open, the departed has had the full effect of the cosmetic arts. The face is pushed and prodded into place using all of the cosmetic magic arts and for women a full beauty treatment for the hair is not forgotten. The stark reality of death is totally avoided and now, he or she probably looks the best they have in years. While the feelings of the bereaved are supposedly salvaged, the

(continued on page 7)



**Thanksgiving Tithing**

**Submitted by Pani Matka Olena Sendeha**

*"All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory." 2 Corinthians 4:15*

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our life and to count our numerous blessings that God has bestowed upon us. It is a perfect opportunity to express our thanks to the Lord through sharing those blessings with others.

Tithing is commonly understood as a donation of 10%. For this year's Ukrainian Orthodox League national Thanksgiving project, we encourage local UOL chapters to identify beneficiaries of their Thanksgiving tithing in their local communities. Recipients could be local food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, etc. Alternatively, maybe your parish would prefer to open its doors to serve the needy of your community directly on your own!

The National Board of the Ukrainian Orthodox League proposes that individuals collect receipts from their Thanksgiving celebration purchases and calculate 10% of the grand total. Your local chapter then collects the donations from individuals and families and donates a check (which could be rounded up with local chapter funds) to a chosen charity. We also encourage UOL members not only to donate money, but also if possible provide help by volunteering at those local community centers.



To ensure that your chapter is included in the recap of Thanksgiving activities, please submit a short article by January 1 with information about your donation and the beneficiary to nsufler@aol.com for publication in the UOL Bulletin.

Please direct questions to PM Olenka Sendeha, Senior NEB Chair of the Christian Care Giving and Missions Commission at Olenkas5@yahoo.com, or to Orest Mahlay, Junior NEB Chair of the Christian Care Giving and Missions Commission at orest.mahlay@gmail.com.

## UOL 101 – National Executive Board and Commissions

Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

This issue will continue to explain the UOL structure, focusing specifically on the National Executive Board and Commissions. As stated in the UOL Constitution, the elected officers of the National Executive Board of the League are: the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and one (1) elected Auditor.

The Spiritual Advisor of the League shall be a Clergy of the Church who is annually appointed by the Metropolitan of the Church after the election of officers at the Annual Convention.

The internal and external affairs of the League are managed under the direction of the National Executive Board (NEB), which is responsible for the general supervision of the work and finances of the League in the interim between Annual Conventions. The NEB executes all decisions, tends to resolutions, and considers all recommendations made at the Annual Convention.

The NEB defines goals for the League, maintains a strategic plan, oversees programs and resources of the UOL to ensure the achievement of its purposes, and maintains a communication link to the membership. All NEB members submit reports requested by the President (typically when there is a NEB Meeting) as well as for the UOL Annual Report which is presented at the Annual Convention.

All of the information for this article is found in the UOL Handbook. More detailed and specific responsibilities for each of the National Executive Board Officers can be found in the UOL Handbook.

In addition to elected offices there are also Commissions and Committees. Some Commissions are parallel to certain Offices of the Consistory of the UOC of USA. The UOL's obligation is to coordinate, whenever possible, its activities and projects with those Offices and provide appropriate and agreed upon support. Currently there are six UOL Commissions: Vocations and Clergy Support, Education, Christian Caregiving and Missions, Ways and Means, Youth and Public Relations.

For this issue, we will focus specifically on the Vocations and Clergy Support Commission. The UOL has always been a strong supporter of clergy.

The Vocations and Clergy Support Commission was organized in 1964 for the purpose of encouraging and assisting young men toward the goal of priesthood under the name Clergy Candidate Commission. The Commission Chair is responsible for the administration of the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund, which is used to award scholarships and continuing education grants to seminarians and clergy of our Church.

The Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund (MJSF) was established by the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA (UOL) in honor of Metropolitan John Theodorovich, the first Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (UOC). The first MJSF scholarship was awarded in 1966.

This Commission works closely with the Consistory's Office of Vocations and the Rector of Saint Sophia Seminary to promote vocation programs and activities. It is also responsible for notifying and encouraging chapters to honor their Spiritual Advisors on Clergy Appreciation Sunday.

In 1969, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention resolved that the first Sunday after Ascension Day be established as Clergy Appreciation Day. This Sunday is designated as a day when Chapters may take an opportunity to honor their Spiritual Advisors.

Next issue will focus on the Education and the Christian Caregiving and Missions Commissions.

**Please note: WE ARE UPDATING OUR MAILING LISTS**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID MEMBERSHIP DUES  
YOU MAY BE RECEIVING A LETTER INDICATING THAT YOUR  
SUBSCRIPTION TO THE UOL BULLETIN IS EXPIRING.**

**PLEASE PAY YOUR CHAPTER DUES OR DUES AS  
A MEMBER AT LARGE TO BE CERTAIN THAT YOU CONTINUE  
TO RECEIVE THE UOL BULLETIN.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!**

**if you have questions - please contact  
Natalie at nsufler@aol.com**

## 2016 UOL Annual Lenten Retreat – Villa Maria, PA

Submitted by Marianne Carmack

and the Western PA/Ohio Retreat Committee

*YOU'RE INVITED.* Plan to attend the 2016 Annual Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, Pennsylvania. Each year the UOL sponsors two national Lenten Retreats, one in Eastern Pennsylvania and one in Western Pennsylvania.

The theme of this year's western retreat is: "Grace Shining Forth . . . Growing in Orthodoxy . . . Growing in Ministry." There are three sessions: (1) Getting Ready to Shine (Boot Camp for the Soul), (2) Planting the Seed – Ministry to the Young, (3) Polishing the Apple - Ministry to the Young at Heart.

The retreat is a day of prayer, introspection, reflection and fellowship. There's no substitute for connecting with others from across the Archdiocese. Learning about how other church families are reaching out to each other and their communities cultivates an energy and enthusiasm that helps us in our ministries and how we serve Christ.

His Grace, Bishop Daniel, will conduct the first session of the Retreat: Getting Ready to Shine (Boot Camp for the Soul). This session focuses on how Great Lent prepares us through prayer, self-examination, fasting, and worship to accept, rather than reject, the grace that God has given to us through the death and Resurrection of Christ. What is grace? How does grace enlighten our ministry to the young and young at heart? So, that we, too, can shine forth like a "beacon enlightening the universe." His Grace will inspire, channel, and challenge us to take all the good things coming out of Great Lent and put them to use in our good works to others. Thus, rather than squandering what we've learned, we can spread God's blessings to others.



Cristal Chaney, Ph.D., professor of Education at Point Park College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will conduct the "Planting the Seed – Ministry to the Young" segment of the Retreat. Dr. Chaney's presentation and discussion will focus on developing insight and learning about what we, as a spiritual community [parents (and the extended family), clergy, church members, church school teachers, advisors, coaches], need to know, what we need to do, and what we need to say to foster the spiritual formation and education of our children—our individual actions within a personal, day-to-day framework. We are given so many opportunities, personally, for "Grace to Shine forth" with our children. What are those opportunities? How do we inform our response? How do we serve Christ?



Christal Chaney, Ph.D., has served as a professor of education at Point Park College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania since 1990. Her main fields of instruction are the philosophical models of early childhood and elementary education. In addition to her teaching and advising responsibilities at Point Park, Chaney was the co-founder and director of Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School, a private, non-public, non-profit religious school registered with the State of Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Chaney has also spent the past several years working with the staff and children at the Hogar Ayau Raphael Orphanage in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Registration begins in January. Look for more information about this retreat in upcoming issues of the UOL Bulletin.

**Plan to attend - Lenten Retreat  
Saturday, March 19, 2016 - Villa Maria Education and  
Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, Pennsylvania.**

**2015 UOL Essay Contest  
Submitted by Tabitha Bentley**

Each year the UOL sponsors an Essay Contest. The theme for the 2015 Essay Contest was based on the Convention theme "Put off the old, put on the new man. Be children of God. Walk in Christ the Light." Ephesians 4:24. This year there were 132 entries. The essay contest judges had a difficult time deciding upon the winners of the essay contest. The entries were judged for content, creativity and neatness. All award winners were announced at the UOL Convention in Northampton, PA. The first, second and third place winners received icons. All participants received a certificate for their participation in the contest. Thank you to all the Clergy, Sunday School Teachers, UOL members and parishioners who encouraged participation. We hope that you will consider entering the essay contest for the 2016 year!

**PreSchool/ Kindergarten**

Children were asked to "Draw a picture of God giving light to our world." There were 36 entries in this category.

First - Julia Berquist  
Second- Marlenna Hassler  
Third - Victoria Sharykina

**First/Second Grade**

Children were asked to write two sentences and draw a picture about "How does Christ provide light for the world?" There were 32 entries in this category.

First - Mia Zetick  
Second - Valeria Gospodarska  
Third - Angelina Trabocco

**Third/Fourth Grade**

Children were asked to write three or four sentences about the following topic: "God gave us the sun and His Son to provide light to the world. Tell why we need both to live." There were 28 entries in this category.

First prize - Solomia Prokulevich  
Julian Naumenko  
Second - Helen Perkins  
Third - Abigail Baker

**Fifth/Sixth Grade**

Youth were asked to write, in 35 to 50 words, on the topic: What does Paul mean in his letter to the Ephesians when he says, "Put off the old, put on the new man?" There were 23 entries in this category.

First prize- Kayla Drewno  
Second -Tyler Baker  
Third - Anna Hershey

**Seventh/ Eighth Grade**

Youth were asked to write in 75 words on the topic: We know that the disciples left their old lives to follow Christ. Choose one of the disciples and tell about what he gave up to follow Christ and why you think he was willing to give up everything for Him. There were 12 entries in this category.

First - Sabrina Ost  
Second – Alexis Naumenko  
Third – Pavlog Pawluk  
Sydney Moon

**Ninth/Tenth Grade**

Youth were asked to write in 150 to 200 words on the following topic: Making the choices that Christ wants us to make can be hard sometimes. Tell of a time your faith in Christ showed you the correct path and lit the way to make a tough decision easier. There was 1 entry in this category.

First Prize – Victoria Swindle

**Eleventh/Twelfth Grade**

Youth were asked to write on the following topic: Identify a person from the Bible who struggled in his devotion to God and how he was ultimately able to overcome the obstacles that prevented him from walking in the Light of Christ. There were 2 entries in this category.

First – Andrea Linck  
Second - Pipinous Dimitrou

**Adult**

The topic for adults was: Many people who fall away from Christ maybe feel some shame or embarrassment coming back to the faith. Using examples from the scripture, explain how can we as Orthodox Christians be more understanding and welcoming to those desiring to return to our faith. There was 1 entry in this category.

First- Carol Bentley

We congratulate all of the winners and all who participated! We hope that you will consider participating in the 2016 essay contest.

## Annual Fund Drive

**Please support the Ukrainian Orthodox League's  
Annual Drive for the:  
Projects, Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship,  
And  
Metropolitan John Scholarship Funds**

**Invest in the Future of our Church and  
Foster the UOL's Missions**

**Mission Statement:**

The Ukrainian Orthodox League is a national volunteer organization of members in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. who are committed to:

- \*Promoting the Orthodox Faith
- \*Supporting the goals and missions of the Church
- \*Developing the potential and active participation of our youth
- \*Preserving our Ukrainian heritage and culture

***"Dedicated to Our Church - Devoted to its Youth"***

**Donations to UOL Projects will be used for:**

- \*Publication of the ***UOL BULLETIN***
- \*Supporting the Youth Commission's activities with preteens, Juniors and Young Adults.
- \*Outreach through the Christian Care-Giving and Missions Commission to the needy in our parish families, communities, and sister eparchies in South America and Ukraine
- \*Continuation of the Education Commission projects and services
- \*Ukrainian Cultural Projects
- \*Public Relations and other administrative necessities

**Donations to the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship fund will:**

- \*Provide Scholarships to current or former Junior UOL members who are leaders in their parishes and communities and committed to their faith
- \*Nurture the future leaders of our Church
- \*Encourage youth to strive to their ultimate potential as it benefits their Mother Church and her League
- \*Foster the UOL's motto: "Devoted to its Youth"

**Donations to the MJSF Scholarship Fund will:**

- \*Provide tuition assistance to seminarians at our St. Sophia's Seminary
- \*Encourage candidates to the Holy Priesthood
- \*Provide tuition assistance to our clergy and seminarians for higher education
- \*Uphold the UOL's Motto: "Dedicated to Our Church"

**Please take a moment and use the enclosed envelope  
to make your donation today!!**

**Thank you for your continued support!!**



(Family Fest - continued from page 1)



Thomas Chapel, prior to the Memorial Service. Stephen Haluszczak provided a discussion on "Ukrainians in Western PA" along with some fascinating pictures for everyone to view. After the Memorial Service, the "Famous" Family Fest guests were able to walk the red carpet to their "famous family" table for a wonderful meal at the pavilion. Fr. Deacon Jim provided the main meal with his "famous" grilled chicken. With the theme of the evening being "Famous Families," everyone was treated to several family trivia games during the evening, conducted by

Natalie Kapeluck Nixon. It was fun to see "who knew" the answers! Cake, chocolate chip cookie cakes, and one of the favorite ASC desserts from the summer, Fruity Brownie Pizza, topped off the meal as desserts.



After breakfast on Monday, announcing the winner of the "how much candy in the jar" and the drawing of the ASC Summer Raffle, families cleaned up, packed and said so long until next year! Family Fest this year provided some unusual challenges in getting the weekend planned and executed. What made Family Fest so amazing this year was how everyone, and I mean EVERYONE, pitched in and helped in some fashion before, during and after the weekend. It truly was a "FAMILY FEST AFFAIR."

I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart, and I am eagerly planning and awaiting Family Fest 2016!



(Ask Fr. Harvey - continued from page 4)

deceased is borne to the grave and plopped in by workers with an indifferent attitude to the deceased. You are right, this is no way to be buried! This view was brought home to me in a rough way when a funeral ended at a state veterans cemetery. Full military honors were given in an ostensibly non-denominational structure. At the end we were bidden to go to the cars immediately.

I mentioned that in Orthodoxy the priest, at least, accompanies the casket to its final resting place and seals the grave. I was told that this was highly irregular and that special permission would have to be sought. I insisted and as it was too much bother to go through the red tape of seeking permission, they told me how to get to the grave site, but I was warned that I shouldn't really go there. I found out why!

Coming to the grave site, I noticed a long deep trench as about twelve funerals were scheduled for that morning. One by one, a cement liner would be dropped higgledy-piggledy into place. As a truck brought the casket, a backloader would lift and literally drop it into the vault. A third machine would affix the vault cover and later a bulldozer would shove the dirt over the new row of caskets. I was barely given a moment to pray at a distance, as I was obstructing their procedures. If the family were to see such shoddy treatment of their loved one's remains they would be aghast, but all is done behind the scenes so who would know and who would care.

By the following week new sod would be down with temporary markers and all would appear beautiful and sanitized for the loved ones who might visit, never knowing what had gone on behind the scenes.

In the Orthodox funeral, the deceased is laid to rest after a brief litia service, which may take place in a chapel. The only change in the scenario is that the priest conveys the body to the very grave, which is sealed with the sign of the cross. Here is the finality of death and often the family stays while the coffin is lowered. The remains are given honor not only in the preparation of the body, at the funeral home, but in every instance to final committal in the grave.

As one can see from the case noted above, modern funeral practice can lead to indifferent handling of the deceased. A body, which in life has partaken of the Body and Blood of Christ, deserves to receive reverential treatment until it reaches its final resting place.

Don't let the powerful funeral lobby dictate how a funeral is to be conducted and insist on regular Orthodox procedure. I remember that at one such cemetery chapel I was forbidden to use incense at the litia, because the smell might be offensive to others who might use that venue.



**Quilt Raffle - 2016 National UOL Convention  
Sponsored by the Holy Ghost UOC**

**Senior and Junior UOL Chapters - Coatesville, PA**  
To be raffled off at the 2016 National UOL Convention: An original, signed quilt, queen/king size, entitled "Lightening Strike." Created by: C. Joyce Horst. Value: \$1,455.00

C. Joyce Horst is a talented quilter whose creations have been commissioned for Pennsylvania's Governor's Mansion, the United States White House and have been featured in Hollywood movies. The quilt entitled "Millenium" was raffled off to benefit the Breast Cancer Society and raised \$30,000 for the cause.



Holy Ghost will have raffle tickets available beginning September, 2015. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Saturday night Banquet and Ball at the 69th Annual UOL Convention in 2016.

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10

To purchase tickets, please contact Carol Bentley  
Phone:(484) 678-3675 Email: lebentley@gmail.com  
Mail: 818 Barley Sheaf Road Coatesville, PA 19320  
**Please visit HolyGhostuoc.org/2016**

**Calling All Young Adults!**

With the blessing of our Hierarchs, we are very excited to announce the formation of a new young adult movement sponsored by the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. This new endeavor will provide young adults the ability to serve on a national level. As stated in the charter for this movement:



**Mission**

The mission and vision of the Young Adult Leadership Committee (temporary title) of the Office of Youth Ministry of the UOC of USA is to provide a resource for young adults that will foster the connection between their lives and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through His Body, the Church.

**Goal**

By utilizing various resources and media capabilities, we hope to facilitate an open dialogue among the young adults of the UOC of USA and to create programming appropriate for their needs and interests.

Young adults interested in applying to serve may find information and application information at the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry website, [www.uocyouth.org](http://www.uocyouth.org).

*Grace Shining Forth...*

**2016 Lenten Retreat**

*Grace Shining Forth...*  
Growing in Orthodoxy... Growing in Ministry

Getting Ready to Shine (Boot Camp for the Soul)  
Planting the Seed - Ministry to the Young  
Polishing the Apple - Ministry to the Young at Heart

Plan now to attend - Please save this date  
Registration begins in early January

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

**Saturday, March 19, 2016**  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center  
2057 Evergreen Road • P.O. Box 424 • Villa Maria, PA 16155 • Phone: 724-964-8886



**Lenten Retreat  
Bethlehem, PA  
April 2, 2016**

This year the retreat will focus on the challenges we all face throughout life, looking at the psychological stages of life.

Fr. Anthony Perkins will speak about how to face these challenges from an Orthodox perspective.



**MALANKA 2016!**  
**January 30, 2016**  
**Come celebrate the New Year!**  
**St. Vladimir Senior UOL**  
**Philadelphia PA**  
**Dancing! Dinner! Fun! Fun! Fun!**  
for more information

contact Natalie at nsufler@aol.com

**CHRISTMAS AT THE Seminary**

**Saturday  
December 12, 2015  
1:00-5:30 p.m.**

Light refreshments will be served  
Drop-in Christmas activities & crafts for the whole family throughout the day

WRITE/PRINTER PAPER  
PENS, PENCILS, HIGHLIGHTERS, ERASERS  
SHARPIES, MARKERS, ERASERS,  
AND BOARD CLEANER

VOLLEYBALL NET  
VOLLEYBALL  
SOCCER BALL  
BEACH TOWELS  
(2" NEEDED)

KITCHENAID BLENDER  
KNIFE SET  
(12" OR LARGER)  
ANODIZED NONSTICK  
FRYING/SAUTE PAN W/ LID

SMALL & LARGE PAPER PLATES  
PAPER BOWLS  
(MATCHING SETS PREFERRED)  
DISPOSABLE UTENSILS  
ZIPLOC QUART & GALLON STORAGE BAGS  
ZIPLOC FREEZER BAGS QUART & GALLON  
PINE-SOL MULTI-SURFACE CLEANER

WINDEX MULTIPURPOSE &  
WINDEX GLASS CLEANER  
TOILET BOWL CLEANER  
PLEDGE MULTIPURPOSE  
PLEDGE FURNITURE SPRAY  
PINE-SOL MULTI-SURFACE CLEANER

**ST. SOPHIA UKRAINIAN  
ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY  
1950 EASTON AVENUE  
SOMERSET, NJ 08873**

You are kindly asked to bring a gift for the Seminary from one of the suggested items listed above.  
Group and individual sponsorship of larger items available  
For more information, call 908-400-7099 or e-mail fr.v.pasakas@uocusa.net

**UOL TRIBUTES**

*UOL Tribute*

*A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group.*

*Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.*

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Occasion/Tribute</b>
Fr. Robert Holet	In memory of Mary Haluszczak, mother of Fr. John Haluszczak. May her memory be eternal.
Fr. Robert Holet	In memory of Kateryna Hucul, mother of Fr. Oleh Hucul. May her memory be eternal.

*Have you been wanting to honor or thank someone special?*

*The tribute fund is the ideal way*

*to honor someone or commemorate a special event!*

*It is very easy to submit a Tribute.*

*Don't put it off -- send your tribute today!!*

**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), and 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 Media, PA 19063.

Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.



**ATTENTION BULLETIN READERS:**

**We haven't moved but our post office has --  
when submitting items for the UOL Bulletin -  
please note change in address:**

**Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road MEDIA, PA 19063**

UOL Bulletin  
c/o Natalie Bilynsky  
703 Pine Ridge Road  
Media, PA 19063

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