



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 70 NO. 3

DECEMBER 2023 JANUARY 2024

Fall Festival - Youngstown, Ohio Submitted by Fr. Mykola Zomchak



On Sunday, October 22, Sts. Peter & Paul-Youngstown Sunday school hosted a Pan-Orthodox Fall Fest Get-together at our indoor Pavilion for the children from St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Church. Father Mykola Zomchak and Father Constantin Ursache gave a short lesson on the origin of Halloween and that it is fine and fun to celebrate it in the right way. The kids ate pizza and other treats, decorated sugar cookies, and played games. To top off the fun, everyone decorated pumpkins to take home as a remembrance of the fellowship and fun of our first annual Fall Fest! The event was so successful that plans are already being made for more get-togethers in the near future.



*St. Vladimir's Senior and Junior UOL
cordially invite you to the
77th Annual UOL Convention
Philadelphia, PA
July 24-28, 2024*



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 six times annually - September, October, December/January, March, April /May 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 11 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 included in the UOL Bulletin.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL



Matushka Laryssa Charest

St Vladimir's Jr. Chapter-Philadelphia, PA Submitted by Andi Swan

We have many things planned for the upcoming year and can't wait to help host the 2024 Convention!!!! We started the year out with our church picnic at which time we set our calendar of events and packed school bags with many needed supplies for school aged children from Ukraine.

We all greeted Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel when they came to visit our church for the Pokrova anniversary. Our Junior UOL helped serving the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at which time we helped serve and clean up.

We plan to help the Sr. Chapter with collecting and labeling canned goods for the Holodomor, making blintzes to fund raise for next year's convention, helping with the church Bazaar, and holding our annual Cookie Walk. We are also planning to have fun and go Snow Tubing sometime during the Winter.

Stay tuned for more happenings with the Philly juniors!!!!!!



Glory to Jesus Christ!

We are in my favorite season of the year. I love putting up Christmas decorations, preparing the church for the upcoming feast days, looking at beautifully decorated houses; the whole bit. I love the comfort foods and bundling up in cold weather. It is a season of cold weather, a season of holiday rush, and it's also the season of giving.

In Acts, we read, "it is better to give, than to receive." I would bet we all make some sort of effort to give. Whether we are throwing coins into the Salvation Army kettle or slipping a couple of dollars to the homeless person we pass on the street. This extra help fills our hearts with a feeling of joy and gratitude. But often we overlook, why we are giving in the first place: to satisfy a great need.

When my husband and I hosted three orphans from Ukraine the littlest boy, Nestor, had food insecurities. How this affected him has stayed with me to this day. On a daily basis, he would open our pantry to see if there was food. It took a couple of days for us to notice this and to understand the purpose of it. I would ask him if he's hungry and he would say no but he still checked for food. I never wanted to pry too much into their home life because I was afraid of saying something triggering. But if they would mention something, I would follow up with a question or two and then move onto something else. One day I asked the oldest about what foods they would eat at home. What she told me put a lump in my throat. First let me note by saying that all of these children were under the age of 5 at home ALONE. Victoria continued to tell me that they always had a bowl of sour cream in the fridge. So they would take turns dipping their fingers in the sour cream when they got hungry. She added that on one occasion when they were really hungry, they would scrape the ice off the inside of the freezer. Hearing this made me understand why Nestor would check the pantry. He needed the reassurance of knowing the food was still there.

According to the Food Research & Action Center, 1 in 8 households in the US experienced food insecurity in 2022. Those households include 44.2 million Americans. My husband and I saw first hand what food insecurity does to a child. But sadly, he is not the only one to face this issue. By now, you should have received information on a Food Drive that the UOL is encouraging of its members and friends in commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine. We know what our ancestors suffered through the famine in Ukraine. But this is still continuing around the world. If you can continue to collect food items throughout the Nativity season, I implore you to do so. There's a huge need for it!

This however isn't the only effort we have to feed the hungry. As you know, we have Souper Bowl Sunday coming up. All proceeds collected from this event go to support the efforts of St. Andrew Society. If you haven't participated before, do it in 2024. All you have to do is make a pot of soup, sell it to your friends, and send the money in to the UOL Financial Secretary Oleh Bilynsky. We will forward all collected money to St. Andrew Society at our Annual Convention in the summer. Last year, we collected over \$10,000. Please help us make 2024 our biggest year yet!!

So far, I have mentioned two ways the UOL is physically feeding the hungry: through our Food Drive and through Souper Bowl Sunday. Two projects that address physical hunger. Coming up soon we will be offering webinars, Praying Our Way, and Lenten Retreats to feed our spiritual hunger. Make a point to participate in at least one of these great opportunities. If you can do more, great! Join us for spiritual refreshment and fellowship. You won't be disappointed.

As usual, I want to thank you for supporting the UOL. This lay organization is the pulse of every parish within our diocese. If you're not involved, get involved. If you don't know how, I'm happy to provide ideas. Don't be afraid to try something new or get involved in something that has been working for years. The UOL needs you. The church needs you. We are all called...make sure you answer that call!

I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Matushka Laryssa

If you have not been to a convention in years or have never been to a UOL Convention - we hope you plan to attend the Convention in 2024.

The rebirth of the UOL will occur in Philadelphia - the birth place of our nation.

What will be different at this UOL Convention?

- We will be sponsoring targeted workshops that focus on the issues and challenges facing our UOC of USA parishes.
- As the lay organization of the UOC of USA the UOL is in the unique position to help parishes learn from each other and the focus of the Convention will be these very pressing topics within our churches.
- Instead of routine meetings and review of reports - we will have workshops with a leader that will present ideas and facilitate discussion and review of practices that have worked in parishes across the USA.

Topics that will be addressed:

- Best Practices in Religious Education
- Building bonds between diverse members (discussion of parish diversity based on time of immigration, including converts to Orthodoxy, Ukrainians, non-Ukrainians, etc.)
- How to encourage Young Adult participation in the parish
- Tips for Choir directors and members of choirs (including sharing of music)
- Introducing your spouse to the UOC
- Lessons learned in supporting Ukraine during the war

What will remain the same from the UOL Convention?

The fun and the fellowship (do you have fond memories of friends from the UOL and wonder how they are doing?). Come to the Convention and see old friends, make new ones. The events at the UOL Convention will focus on building new bonds and rekindling old friendships. The beauty of the UOL Convention is the Fellowship and that remains!!

Save the date and plan to attend the
77th UOL Convention - Philadelphia, PA

Summary of Convention Events

Wednesday Evening, July 24, 2024 - Hospitality
Welcome for delegates and guests at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Thursday Morning, July 25, 2024 -
Following Divine Liturgy, **Brunch** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Thursday Evening, July 25, 2024 - **Philly style game night - Philly Style Fare** St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Hall

Friday Evening, July 26, 2024 - **Ukrainian fun night - Varenyky/pierogie Eating Contest, Games including "Doorak" (Ukrainian card game) tournament**
Tryzub Ukrainian American Sport Center

Saturday Evening, July 27, 2024 - **Banquet and Ball** at Crowne Plaza Hotel
Entertainment by Solovey Band - Live Ukrainian music

Sunday Morning, July 28, 2024 - **Farewell Luncheon**
Immediately following Divine Liturgy
St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT



Mia Zetick

Христос Рождається! Christ is Born!

On behalf of the Junior National UOL Board, I hope everyone is having a blessed and heartfelt Nativity season. Considering this time of year is often very busy, I encourage everyone to take time out of their lives to show appreciation for one another as well as the church. There are many opportunities to give back to the church during this time. Souper Bowl Sunday is a fundraiser done on the Sunday of the Super Bowl in which soup is sold to donate to St. Andrew's Society. If your church is not already involved, advocate to start it! Also, get the young kids of the church involved! Singing simple songs, putting together small gifts for them, and doing crafts is a great way to celebrate the Nativity season.

Along with committing time to the church, giving back to your community is also an obligation that we, as Christians, have. One way that we, as the board, are able to do this is through our Great Lent Giveaway that we do every year. This happens during Great Lent, but we begin organizing and planning right around this time. This year's recipient has not yet been determined, but we have been working to decide on one. This will be organized by our Vice President Agitha Harendza, as well as the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. We look forward to giving back this upcoming Lenten season and we hope that you can join us!

Many physical gifts may be given and received this winter, but we cannot forget to also spread our love for one another. Be involved in church life and in the lives of others around you. Love each other and spread our faith!

May the Nativity of Christ bring you and yours love, peace and joy!

Yours in Christ,
Mia Zetick

Embroidered Protection Crosses

Purchase a kit to embroider a pocket "protection cross"
for our soldiers in Ukraine.

The Protection Cross is kept in
the pocket to protect our heroes.



You can purchase a kit to
embroider.

Protection crosses will be
mailed to soldiers in
Ukraine and include a de-
scription of the cross.

\$5 for each kit that
includes cloth, threads,
needle and design.

If you are interested in purchasing Embroidered Protection Cross Kits - make check payable to St. Vladimir UOL and send request to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

All funds collected are donated to the Philadelphia Hope Fund to support Ukraine.

Forest Management at All Saints Camp

Submitted by Shirley Duffy

On Saturday, October 7, 2023, I attended a tree review at All Saints Camp which was also attended by a few Executive Committee members and staff members. All Saints Camp has not had any type of forest management efforts for over forty years, which is a cornerstone of responsible stewardship on any property. This type of project is integral to the long-term health of the forest. My M.S. in Environmental Science from SUNY-ESF came in handy in understanding the plan.

We met in the Dining Hall with representatives from Omega Incorporated for a project overview. John Hudson, a forester, from Omega, outlined the various stages of the initiative and answered questions.

Mr. Hudson explained the concept of silviculture which is “the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society such as wildlife habitat, timber, water resources, restoration, and recreation on a sustainable basis” (U.S. Forest Service definition).

For the forests on the hill behind the cabins a no harvest zone of about 75 to 100 feet would be observed. Above that zone 45 to 55 trees per acre were eligible to be cut. Omega would remove some of the less desirable trees such as poplars, beeches and maples, but would also be taking some oaks as well. This action would leave a more favorable environment for the oaks to grow, ensuring the forest would thrive in the future.

In the areas on the lower portion of the camp such as around the Dining Hall, cabins, Pavilion, Millennium Building and Amphitheater there were trees marked for cutting for us to review and potentially veto. Trees marked with an X were undesirable trees because they were dead, or represented a fall risk into other trees, or worse buildings.

Mr. Hudson also explained that there were some issues with the vegetation on campus that required attention. The hemlocks around the dining hall and in other areas of the camp were infested with an insect called the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and would need treatment. The best time to do this would be in the spring. Also, there were some invasive plant species, Japanese stilt grass and Japanese barberry that needed to be controlled. The facilities team is working with Omega and the Department of Forestry to implement a treatment plan.

*Many thanks to Josh Oryhon, ASC Director for editing this article.

Saintly Lives

The Life of St. Katherine

Submitted by Shirley Duffy

The woman who would later be known as St. Katherine of Alexandria began her life as the daughter of the Governor Costus of Egypt, during the reign of Emperor Maxentius (305-313). Living in the capital -- the center of Hellenistic knowledge, Katherine received the most splendid of educations, having studied the works of the finest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. She was beautiful, highly intelligent and had an insatiable thirst for knowledge that surpassed the abilities of her tutors.

Her Mother encouraged her to marry. Young men from the wealthiest families of the empire sought the hand of the beautiful Katherine, but none of them was chosen, Katherine wanted a husband that would surpass her in intelligence, wealth, nobility and beauty.

Katherine's Mother, a secret Christian, took Katherine to her own spiritual father, a Christian monk who introduced her to Jesus Christ. Having listened to Katherine, the elder said that he knew of a Youth, who surpassed her in everything, such that "His beauty was more radiant than the shining of the sun, His wisdom governed all creation, His riches were spread throughout all the world -- this however did not diminish but rather added to the inexpressible loftiness of His lineage." The image of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced an ardent desire in the soul of the holy maiden to see Him. In parting, the elder handed Katherine an icon of the Mother of God with the God-Child Jesus on Her arm and bid her to pray with faith to the Queen of Heaven -- the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom -- for the bestowing of the vision of Her Son.

Katherine prayed all night and was blessed to see the Theotokos, Who sent Her Divine Son to look upon the kneeling of Katherine before Them. But the Child turned His face away from her saying, that He was not able to look at her because she was ugly, of shabby lineage, beggarly and mindless like every person -- not washed with the waters of holy Baptism and not sealed with the seal of the Holy Spirit. Katherine was saddened by the dream and went again to see the monk. He lovingly received her and instructed her in the faith of Christ, admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity and to pray unceasingly; he then baptized her. After this Katherine had another vision of the Theotokos with her Child Jesus who looked upon Katherine tenderly and gave her a beautiful ring.

At that time the emperor Maxentius visited Alexandria for a pagan feast day. Because of this, the feast was especially splendid and crowded. The cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blazing of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas filled Alexandria. Christians were being put to death by being burned alive because they would not

(continued on page 6)

2024 UOL Essay Contest Topics

Pre-K and Kindergarten: (Category A)

Draw a picture of your favorite plant or animal that God created.

Grades 1 and 2: (Category B)

Draw a picture of Moses with the Ten Commandments. Then, please, write two to three sentences on why we need to follow the Ten Commandments.

Grades 3 and 4: (Category C)

How does God show His Love to man? Please write a paragraph (5 to 7 sentences) on your thoughts about this question.

Grades 5 and 6: (Category D)

What must we do to please God and save our souls? Please write 75 to 100 words on your thoughts.

Grades 7 and 8: (Category E)

Please write 150 to 200 words on the following. Define “faith” in your own words. How do you know you are faithful? Give examples from your life that showed people your faithfulness.

Grades 9 and 10: (Category F)

During the UOL convention this past summer, Metropolitan Antony told us that once we have received the body and blood of Christ, we are perfect. He said our challenge is to stay that way as we go out in our current society past our church doors. Please write 175 to 250 words on what you think the Metropolitan meant by these words.

Grades 11 and 12: (Category G)

In an article written by Rev. Nicholas Fedorovich in 1971 for the Golden Anniversary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA and later published in 1973 he talks about the future of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA; “Our forefathers were forced to leave their native land we inherited neither silver, gold nor millions. ...they brought with them into new settlements a deep love for their church, their native tongue and their national traditions.” How has this love of church, language and traditions shaped your life and prepared you for your future? Please write 200 to 300 words on your thoughts.

Adult: (Category H)

Over 2,000 years ago “normal” people condemned Christ to death by shouting crucify Him. On Good Friday we erect tombs in our Churches to symbolize the burial of Christ. But Good Friday does not deal with the past alone. It is a day of sin, a day of evil, a day in which our Church invites us to realize the reality of the power sin and evil has over our lives. It invites us to ask ourselves, what side would we have been on had we lived in Jerusalem under Pilate. Please write 300 or more words explaining why and how you came to this decision.

CONTEST GUIDELINES AND RULES

- Entries must be postmarked by April 8, 2024.**
- NO NAMES ON THE FRONT OF ANY ENTRY.**
- All entries must include the following information: **(PLEASE USE THE COVER PAGE SUPPLIED)**
 - Participant's first and last name
 - Age and grade in school
 - The name and address of participant's parish, including city and state
- Drawings must be no larger than 12 x 18 and **NO** names on the front of drawing. Please attach a **COVER PAGE** or use the **BACK** of the drawing for the information listed above. **All drawings MUST be mailed.**
- Written entries must be on 8 ½" x 11" paper. Include a cover page with the identifying information listed above. Entries for 9th grade and above must be typed or printed.
- Emailed entries must be scanned in and emailed, DO NOT TAKE PHOTOS OF ENTRIES AND EMAIL THEM, THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO READ AND WILL NOT BE JUDGED. Emailed entries must be time stamped no later than 7:00 PM of the deadline date. All entries must be submitted in English or Ukrainian.**

ALL ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED FOR CONTENT, CREATIVITY AND NEATNESS.

No entries will be accepted after the previously mentioned deadlines.

Please send entries to

Teresa Linck: 413 Juniper Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

Teresa Linck at: tlinck.essays@gmail.com

Welcome Members-at-Large, 2023-2024

Submitted by Shirley Duffy

We are thrilled to have gotten an enthusiastic response from members-at-large in renewing their memberships for 2023-2024. We received some new member-at-large applications as well. We thank all of you for joining the UOL and for supporting our mission.

We hope to see you at our retreats and at the Convention. Remember your membership entitles you to be a delegate at the Convention, but you must indicate on the Convention application form that you would like to attend as a delegate. We will keep you informed of all programming.

If you have any questions please contact Shirley Duffy, Liaison to Members-at-Large (shirleykduffyesq@gmail.com, phone number 412-518-0912).

If you have not yet renewed your membership, there is still time to join. Below is a copy of the application. Just fill it in and mail it with your check for \$20.00 to Shirley Duffy at P.O. Box 7959, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. Be sure to include your email address on the form.

Renew Your UOL Membership Today!

Your membership will help to support the following UOL Commissions, Committees and Activities:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Youth Commission | UOL Bulletin |
| Ways and Means | UOL Retreats |
| Vocations and Clergy Support | Essay Contest |
| Membership | Cultural Activities |
| Christian Caregiving & Missions | Young Adult Events |
| Education | LSSK Scholarships |

UOL members receive our UOL Bulletin and email communication about events. Members in good standing may participate in the Annual UOL Convention as delegates.

Join us today as we continue to be

“DEDICATED TO OUR CHURCH - DEVOTED TO ITS YOUTH”

UOL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

___ I am renewing my membership as a Member at Large.

I am a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and do not live within the geographical area of a local Chapter. I agree to be governed by the UOL’s Constitution and policies and support all UOL efforts.

___ I am interested in information on starting/re-activating a chapter in my parish.

Parish name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Ideas? How can the UOL support you?

UOL Membership Dues are \$20.

Please send the above information and your check made payable to the
the
“Ukrainian Orthodox League” to
Shirley K. Duffy P.O. Box 7959 Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Questions? shirleykduffyesq@gmail.com

Praying our Way Together

Sponsored by UOL Education Commission

Looking for something to heighten your spiritual journey to prepare for Pascha.

During Great Lent we will be reading the Psalms.

If you would like to journey with us, please email your name, phone number, parish name, and parish address to

Oleh Bilynsky at nsufler@aol.com and more information will be sent to you.

Please sign up by March 18, 2024

St. Vladimir Philadelphia Studio

UOL bringing parishioners together

For the last few months the Philadelphia UOL chapter has sponsored different art projects. At first these projects were for our Junior UOL members. It all started with our Juniors painting wooden plaques and making icons for all of the children in the parish for Sunday of Orthodoxy. Our Juniors enjoyed our homegrown art studio and asked for additional projects. Next our juniors learned how to make pysanky if they had never made a pysanka before, and later we made etched pysanky. We then turned to reverse glass painting and made angels for all of our shut-ins. The art masterpieces were delivered with our pascha baskets to all of our shut-ins. Our studio that is open every Sunday after Divine Liturgy gained more followers and we had a variety of projects. Several youth painted “petrykivka-style” tote bags.



One Sunday we were blessed that a new member of our parish stated that she could teach members who were interested in the true form of Petrykivka painting. Olha, our teacher, prepared the design for us to paint and 10 individuals took lessons for 3 weeks. She created the cat brushes for the art students and taught everyone the techniques used in Petrykivka painting. Art within our parish has become a bridge for new youth in the parish to get to know each other. Also, we have developed friendships with our newest parishioners and encouraged them to share their talents with us. It has been a wonderful blessing for all involved.



(St. Katherine - continued from page 4)

renounce their faith in Jesus Christ. Katherine protested to Maxentius the worshipping of idols and the Christian persecutions. Captivated by her beauty Maxentius didn't execute her immediately. In order to convince her and show the superiority of pagan wisdom, he instead assembled a group of fifty philosophers to debate her on the issue of idolatry. She was so effective in the debate that all fifty of them were converted to Christianity and asked to be baptized. St Katherine shielded the martyrs with the sign of the cross, and they bravely accepted death for Christ. They were immediately put to death by being burned alive. The emperor, impressed by her beauty and intelligence, wanted her to deny her faith and marry him. He tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Katherine angrily refused him and was beaten and tortured.

The Empress Valeria had heard about Katherine and wanted to see the woman who defied her husband. She went with the military commander Porphyrios to the prison where Katherine was being kept with two hundred soldiers. When they arrived, Katherine's face glowed with Divine grace. She explained the Christian faith to them, and they were converted to Christ. The next day they again brought Katherine to the judgement court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, they urged that she recant from the Christian faith and offer sacrifice to the gods. She refused and was taken to be tortured on four wheels with sharp spikes. Faced with this torture she did not renounce her Christian Faith.



Icon of **Holy Great Martyress Katherine** copied with permission from *Archangel Icons*, Michael Kapeluck iconographer.

Before she could be placed on the wheel, an Angel smashed it and it shattered to pieces. The Empress Valeria, Porphyrios and the soldiers having witnessed this miracle confessed their faith and were beheaded. Maxentius once again entreated Katherine to marry him, and she again refused, firmly confessed her fidelity to the Heavenly Bridegroom -- Christ, and she as well was beheaded by the sword. The relics of Saint Katherine were taken to Mount Sinai by Angels and were found by a revelation in the sixth century. The head of the holy martyr and her left hand with the ring still on it were revealed. Her relics were transferred to the church of the Monastery on Mount Sinai.

Many thanks to Father John Haluszczak, St. Vladimir Parish, Pittsburgh, PA, for editing this article.

References:

Orthodox Church of America, *The Orthodox Faith Lives of the Saints*. OCA.org

Gabriel Wilson, *The Broken Wheel, The Triumph of Saint Katherine*. Ancient Faith Publishing, Chesterton, Indiana.

Strategic Planning - UOL Fellowship

On September 18th UOL members gathered via Zoom with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony to discuss strategies to revitalize the UOL. We were blessed that members with varying backgrounds in the UOL joined our discussion. Some individuals were new to the UOL, joining recently as members at large. Other members were members for the UOL as long as they could remember, starting as juniors or even pre-juniors and active in the organization. Others had joined several years ago or were converts to Orthodoxy and joined the organization.

The meeting was led by Natalie Bilynsky and included the following group members: Oleh Bilynsky, Marianne Carmack, Matushka Laryssa Charest, Shirley Duffy, Andrew Fournier, Teresa Linck, Michael Nakonachny, Andrew Passyn, Lisa Ryan, and Andrea Swan.

The meeting started with members introducing themselves, sharing their name, parish and experience with the UOL.

Next on the agenda, Natalie shared ideas from the discussion at the Convention. At the meeting members were also encouraged to share via email ideas that they have to help develop UOL fellowship.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony shared the history of the UOL and its many accomplishments. He also provided feedback based on ideas presented.

Several themes and ideas emerged during the discussion:

Encourage community engagement.

Develop a presentation about the UOL that can be shared with parishes. Marianne Carmack reported that she developed a presentation that was used by Karen Ferraro, past President at the Clergy Conference. She will share this presentation with the group.

Focus exclusively on support for All Saints Camp and education about the camp to our UOC faithful.

Develop a calendar of events where UOC parishes can participate – similar to the participation in the Souper Bowl Sunday and the UOL Essay Contest. A sample of events includes:

Thanksgiving – Commemoration of the Holodomor - Collect food for food bank

Nativity Lent – Praying our Way (readings during the fast)

Post Nativity – Coffee Hour with Caroling - Fundraise for All Saints Camp

Souper Bowl Sunday – St. Andrew Society

Retreats

Lent – Pray our Way – Psalms

Education Contest

Met. John Scholarship Fundraiser – Panakhyda for Met. John and having a Collection/ Coffee Hour for MJSF

Focus the UOL on helping Ukraine war efforts by joining organizations that are teaching English to new immigrants and also to Ukrainians in Ukraine. Information about this organization – ENGIN – Helping Ukraine Speak to the World.

Increase fellowship activities within regions. Plan social activities within regions so that UOC faithful can develop bonds between parishes.

Review the Convention structure and develop workshops/groups that focus on topics to help parishes. These could be around certain groups – religious education, choir, or topics that would help a parish.

If you are interested in joining the discussion about the UOL Fellowship please let us know (nsufler@aol.com). All members are welcome to participate in this vital conversation.

Save the Date

UOL Retreat focusing on Confession

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Basilian Spirituality Center

Jenkintown, PA

**Annual Fund Drive
Submitted by Teresa Linck**

The Annual Fund Drive is an important fund raising initiative that allows the UOL to support and fund all the special projects we hold near and dear. Projects that allow us to promote the Orthodox Faith, support the goals and missions of the UOC of USA, involve our youth and have activities that keep them involved in their faith and church, and preserve our Ukrainian heritage and culture. It also allows us to pursue new directions in which to help our church and our youth.

There are three categories to which you donate: UOL Projects, Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship Fund and the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. Please read the following and see which one touches you the most. You will see an envelope in the Bulletin so you can mail in your donation or you can go to our website and donate there.

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 parishes, communities, and other programs
- Continuation of the Education Commission projects and services...our Lenten Retreats, and the Annual Essay contest, just to name a few
- Promote our Ukraine culture
- Public Relations

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
- 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
- Uphold the UOL’s Motto: “Dedicated to its Church”

Use the envelope in this UOL Bulletin to make your donation.

UOL Bulletin Pictures



Michael Nakonachny let us know that he was walking in the woods and forgot to bring a map, but definitely had his UOL Bulletin.

Join in the fun! Take a picture reading your UOL Bulletin! Submit pictures by sending to nsufler@aol.com



Oleh Bilynsky reads the UOL Bulletin in front of the Opera House in Budapest, while runners are completing the World Championship Marathon.



Michael Nakonachny reads his UOL Bulletin in the ocean. Please note that the Bulletin remains dry.

Oleh Bilynsky in Liechtenstein with the Prince’s crown as he enjoys the UOL Bulletin.



Michael reads the UOL Bulletin (on the bench) while a large mermaid watches.

UOL Tribute

**U
O
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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.

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

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Donor	In Honor of
Shirley Duffy	In loving memory of my dear mother Mary Shabatura.
Catherine Shaffer	In memory of Anatolij Sufler, Veechnaya Pamyat! Memory Eternal!
Catherine Shaffer	In memory of Emil Skocypec, Veechnaya Pamyat! Memory Eternal!
Shirley Duffy	In loving memory of John W. Shabatura, on the 15th anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord.
Stephen and Dori Nemeth	Congratulations to Dr. Rebecca Druash and Dr. Steve McNulty on 40 years of marriage. Many more happy years!
Stephen and Dori Nemeth	Thank you to all of those who made donations to support the 76th UOL Convention. We could not do it without you.

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

Send your tribute today!

UOL Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission

“Souper Bowl” Sunday

February 11, 2024

Sponsor a “Souper Bowl Sunday” Fundraising event at



your parish or just make a donation!

Proceeds benefit St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Society for soup kitchens in Ukraine serving the most needy.

Please send fundraiser proceeds and donations payable to:

Ukrainian Orthodox League
c/o Oleh Bilynsky, UOL Financial Secretary;
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063

Give \$12!

Four years ago, the UOL made a pledge to give \$25,000 to All Saints Camp by 2024. To fundraise for this, we launched a Give \$12 Campaign last year. We did not meet our goal last year but boy were we close. Through your donations we gave a check of \$5,000 to All Saints Camp. We would like to fundraise through the Give \$12 Campaign again this year to help catch us up to our goal. To date we have \$13,000 left to give.

If you don't remember, this is what the Campaign looks like:

- 12/1/2022 - our goal is 1- \$12 donation
- 12/10/2022- our goal is 10- \$12 donations
- 12/31/2022- our goal is 31- \$12 donations.

If we meet our daily goals- that is a total of 496 donations and just under \$6,000, ALL of which goes to All Saints Camp!

Head over to our website www.uolofusa.org and make a donation! In the comments type the name of the honoree or memorium. Have questions? Email president@uolofusa.org

Don't know what date to choose? How about a birthday or anniversary? In honor of your children or grandchildren donate on St. Nicholas Day, December 19th. For the Frumentius in your life, donate on St. Frumentius Day or December 13th.

If you donate in someone's honor, we will send them an acknowledgement. Our acknowledgments let your loved ones know that you thought of them.

At the end of the campaign run, we will compile a list of donors, honorees and remembrances and pray for them by name during Divine Liturgy at our Annual UOL Convention.

Write a check made payable to UOL with Give \$12 on the Memo line. Then send it in to:
PM Laryssa Charest
200 Walnut St.
Carnegie, PA 15106

Also, keep checking in on the UOL website & social media to see the campaign status!

It's just \$12. We can do this!