



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

VOL. 61 NO. 6

APRIL - MAY 2015

## UOL Lenten Retreat 2015



On a bitter winter morning fifty faithful met at the St. Francis Center for Renewal for the UOL Retreat. This year we had members of Philadelphia, Allentown, Northampton, Maplewood, Coatesville, Woonsocket and Silver Spring parishes as well as individuals from the Greek Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church of America. We are thrilled that over the years we have had faithful from other jurisdictions joining our retreat.

Fr. Anthony Perkins next spoke about prayer and how we should approach prayer and the benefits of prayer. Fr. Anthony is such a vibrant speaker that everyone was prepared to listen to him for hours.

Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha spoke about intercessory prayers and praying for those of blessed memory. We are always thrilled to have Fr. Bazyl at our retreats and he is a wonderful speaker who inspires everyone with his insights.



For the second year in a row Fr. Anthony Perkins was a speaker at the retreat. This year Fr. Anthony also agreed to write articles in the UOL Bulletin in preparation for the Retreat. We are so grateful for his support of the UOL Retreat.

The event started with morning prayers led by Fr. Myron Oryhon. Following prayers everyone joined for breakfast. The retreat focused on prayer and Natalie Bilynsky spoke about the psychological benefits of prayer. She spoke about the impact that stressors can have and the benefits that prayer can have.

Following the inspirational talks the group joined for a delicious lunch. The retreat center has been wonderful in providing wonderful Lenten meals. It is a joy to see the Sisters at the retreat center each year and they made special efforts to prepare our Lenten meals. As part of the retreat center we have a lovely kitchen and area to gather to have some snacks and talk with other retreat participants.



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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! You are cordially invited to...

### 68<sup>th</sup> Annual U.O.L. Convention

July 23-26, 2015

Hosted by

Assumption of the Virgin Mary UOL Chapter

Northampton, PA

*"Put off the old, put on the new man. Be children of God.  
Walk in Christ the Light"*



**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 included 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

*This past Lent, there was a series of Lenten services with guest homilists at our local Orthodox churches. One speaker, who referred to the teachings of some Romanian monastic elder of the last century and the recommendations given, I found very unsettling and controversial. I noticed that the converts present gravitated to such views as the true and only Orthodox path. My question is just because a person was a known monastic elder, do we have to take his writings and teachings as Gospel truth?*

The gravity of the Gospels and the Church Fathers is unassailed in authority as to the guidance of one's life. Monastic elders, through battling sin and temptations, through prayer and ascetic exercises, may have gained a certain insight into life and the tactics of the evil one against us. That being said, what is pertinent to a monastic or eremitical life may not be essentially applicable to those who live in the world either as single or in the married state. Some early monastics were quite down on the procreative act and gave some very negative teachings. The church, in its wisdom, roundly condemned Evagrius and others who held such views. This was given to show a balance and that a healthy married life is quite conducive to spiritual life, a life in Christ. St. John Chrysostom, although a monastic, gave solid and practical encouragement to married couples in his book On Marriage. He further directs how a healthy sexual life preserves the bond of marriage and cuts down on outside temptations.

A phenomenon of Orthodoxy today sees converts, especially, often leaning to extreme views. Equating the most stringent rules and practices with true Orthodoxy as opposed to what may be considered lax in today's church, is a form of Phariseeism and hence spiritually dangerous. Such a bent can easily lead to an elitism. "I am more Orthodox than you." Blindly latching on to some monastic elder as the answer to all ones problems can be quite self-deceiving. We are not like the Hindus who have gurus, to whom unquestioned discipleship is expected. Some Protestants also exact something like this with the practice of shepherding. In this practice, a pastor, who is the ultimate spiritual guide, literally guides or shepherds the parishioner in every aspect of his life. This sort of thing is also counter to orthodox teaching, BUT some Orthodox pastors or spiritual fathers make the mistake of telling and expecting their spiritual children just what to do. The most your spiritual father or confessor can do is to SUGGEST a course of action.

What I am trying to say in all of this is that if you hear or read something which your innate spirit is uncomfortable with, even though it purports to be genuine Orthodox teaching, first ask your pastor to differentiate and explain. As there is quite a difference between Tradition and local traditions, the same goes for teachings and practices. The Tradition of the church is that vast collection of lore which goes back to apostolic times and needs to be upheld. The tradition that comes from a certain era in a certain village may have become a hallowed practice, but it certainly does not have any ultimate authority. In one village, the holding of a troitsa candle during the reading of the Gospel is de rigueur. In the next town, they might never have heard of even a troitsa candle. Is one more or less Orthodox by using or not using the same? No! Being Orthodox calls for a certain amount of discernment, and the strictest stance may not be the most spiritually beneficial or healthy.

*A friend of mine, who has suffered from a lot of chronic health issues and now seems to be facing the ultimate reality of a terminal disease, posed this question to me. Having had a very active life in the church, sometimes at the forefront of parish affairs, the new reality with narrowing abilities and options is both baffling and frightening. For his salvation, has he done enough? Now*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Michael J. Komichak



*Give, and it shall be given unto you.*

Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

There are of course many worthwhile charities and causes deserving of your support. Knowing exactly how your donation will be used can be more effective in earning your support than a general appeal for contributions. Below I highlight three such campaigns to which I hope you will consider giving as you are able.

The Annual UOL Convention is the most significant event sponsored by the National UOL. One of its most important functions is to bring together UOL members from across the country to establish new connections and renew existing contacts beyond the confines of individual parishes. This reinforces the reality that while we are members of our local parishes, we are also part of a larger Ukrainian Orthodox Church. This is of course important for the laity (both Juniors and Seniors) and for the clergy, but it is also important for our seminarians, some of whom will get their first exposure to the UOL at the Convention. While the seminarians are preparing for a lifetime of service to the Church, we want to ensure that they gain an appreciation for the UOL as an integral part of that Church.

To encourage their attendance and full participation in the Annual Convention, full-time resident students at St. Sophia Seminary may attend the UOL Convention at no cost to them. This year, the costs, which include meals, lodging, and attendance at the evening events, amount to \$300 per seminarian, which must be paid for somehow. With six full-time seminarians enrolled this year, you can see that this totals to a significant amount. Last year the National UOL received a good response from local UOL Chapters to our appeal for sponsors to defray the seminarians' Convention costs. This year we again ask for your help: whether as an individual donation or as a Chapter, please consider sponsoring a seminarian to attend this year's 68th Annual UOL Convention hosted by Assumption of the Virgin Mary UOL Chapter in Northampton, PA. You can send your donation to the Senior UOL NEB Financial Secretary Lauren Bentley, 818 Barley Sheaf Rd, Coatesville, PA 19320-2216 or online using PayPal at [www.uol.orthodoxws.com/donate.html](http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com/donate.html). Be sure to include a note specifying the purpose of your donation as "Convention seminarian sponsorship." We will acknowledge your generous sponsorship in the Convention Yearbook.

One of the major fundraising events for the National UOL is the St. Thomas Sunday weekend pilgrimage to the Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ. This year, moneys collected from the sale of commemorative ribbons on the weekend of April 18 and 19 will be used to support St. Sophia Seminary and the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund (MJSF). For this year, the ribbons themselves cost the NEB \$400 to produce. To help ensure that all proceeds from the ribbon sales go directly to benefit St. Sophia and the MJSF, please consider underwriting the cost of the ribbons. You or your UOL Chapter can send your donation to Lauren Bentley or online via PayPal with the note "STS ribbons." We will acknowledge your generous support in an upcoming UOL Bulletin.

Finally, on a somber note, we were saddened to learn of the tragic death of Fr. Matthew Baker of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Norwich, Connecticut. Fr. Matthew, 37, was ordained as a priest only a year ago. At the beginning of March, while driving home in snowy conditions from Vespers on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, he was killed in an automobile accident. Along with his wife Katherine, he leaves behind six children ages 2 through 12. A fund has been established to provide financial assistance to his family going forward. Please consider making a donation to help them at [gofundme.com/nizf2g](http://gofundme.com/nizf2g) and please remember them in your prayers.

Your individual, your chapter's, or your parish's generous support for these worthwhile efforts will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Yours in Christ,  
Michael J. Komichak

**UOL Convention 2015**  
**Submitted by Martha Misko**

Have you heard? The UOL will be holding its 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in the Lehigh Valley, PA on July 23-26, 2015!! The Assumption of the Virgin Mary UOL Chapter of Northampton, PA has been busy planning a variety of spiritual and social events for the 2015 Convention, which will be one day shorter than prior Conventions. As per the recommendation by recent Convention Bodies, the 2015 event will begin Thursday, July 23 in the evening and conclude Sunday, July 26.

Lodging accommodations and our Convention site will be at the Best Western Plus, Lehigh Valley Hotel in Bethlehem, PA, at a very reasonable UOL rate of only \$89! The early registration discounted rate of \$195 for Seniors and \$185 for Juniors includes –

- Thursday – Hospitality Evening
- Friday – Divine Liturgy; Welcome Brunch; *Dine & Dance at the BW* evening social
- Saturday – Breakfast; Lunch; *UOL Grand Banquet and Ball*
- Sunday – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church, Northampton, PA; Farewell Luncheon

The 2015 modified format will begin Thursday evening with opening business sessions and the ever-popular Hospitality Evening. For folks arriving early on Thursday afternoon, there will be an educational workshop on iconography. And, based on the popularity of last year's event, we will again have a UOL Basket Raffle Competition! Get your creative juices flowing! We invite all chapters, Junior and Senior, to join the competition! Have your Chapter create a basket of goodies (value of \$50.00 or more) to be raffled at the Convention. Special recognition will be awarded to the Chapter whose basket collects the most entries. And, remember that your contribution benefits the overall success of the 68<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention and, ultimately, the entire Ukrainian Orthodox League. Watch for more details in an upcoming mailing!

Make your plans now! Come to the Lehigh Valley in July!

**Convention Registration**

Register by June 16, 2015 for Discounted Rate  
 Registration materials can be found at  
<http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com/>

**Hotel Reservations**

Best Western Plus, Lehigh Valley Hotel  
 300 Gateway Drive  
 Bethlehem, PA 18017

Call 1-610-866-5800 reserve your room by **June 30, 2015**  
 at the UOL Convention rate of \$89/room/night + tax.

**Yearbook Advertising**

Submit ads and greetings by June 10, 2015  
 Yearbook ad contract materials can be found at  
<http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com/>

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 (Ask Fr. Harvey - Continued from page 2)

*facing the spectre of the end in a matter of months, as a close friend I realize that I am ill-equipped to set him at ease with words of counsel and comfort.*

Many people have the mistaken idea that our salvation is acquired like a boy scout gets merit badges. In truth, Jesus has already granted us the gift of our salvation, which we never could have received through our own merits. In the end, what is important is have we shown forth spiritual fruit in due season. Baptized into Christ, our whole life is to be one of choices. If one chooses to co-operate with the Holy Spirit one grows in wisdom and grace. In making bad sinful choices we compromise ourselves and endanger our salvation. If we turn to the Lord in repentance, even if it be late in life, we acquire treasure in heaven. So, we are called to work out our salvation daily. Upon return to the Lord, periods of enmity with the Lord are forgiven and most importantly forgotten.

How to counsel a friend who sees life quickly diminishing. First, the question is not have you done enough, but where is your heart? He is blessed in that he still has time to be reconciled with those around. As we trudge through life we acquire a lot of detritus. Hurt feelings, grudges and ill-will pile up, but they can be all swept away by us forgiving even the unforgivable. Forgiving others and straightening out our former crooked way of life, then our sins are forgiven and their memory goes to oblivion nevermore to haunt us.

(continued on page 4)

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**NEWS FROM THE  
 JUNIOR UOL  
 PRESIDENT**

**Kateryna Kocelko**

Glory to Jesus Christ!



I hope everyone is having a spiritually enriching Lent, and I pray your Pascha is rewarding for all of you!

I cannot believe that the Convention is right around the corner! That means it's time to wrap up your Great Lent Giveaway donations. This year's Great Lent Giveaway benefits the Ukrainian Refugee fund. The Great Lent Giveaway is an annual project that is a partnership between the junior UOL and the Office of Youth Ministry. On behalf of both, I would like to thank you for your support and encourage you to still participate, because you still have time. Great Lent Giveaway funds can be submitted up until Convention, so continue to collect funds to help us reach our goal of \$3,000. Please bring any funds to Convention or send them to the Financial Secretary, Sarah Hershey. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me about them.

Also with Convention quickly approaching, junior UOL raffle tickets are on sale now. The drawing will be at the Convention in July. Please send all of your tickets and payments to our Vice President, Christopher Holowko. If you need more tickets or have any questions feel free to contact Christopher at [cholowko@yahoo.com](mailto:cholowko@yahoo.com).

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone about the Pysh Travel Grant. In these tough economic times, I know it can be hard to come up with the funds to travel to the Convention. The Pysh Travel Grant is designed to help relieve some of the costs of travel to the annual Convention. I strongly suggest that you take advantage of this and apply. If you are interested, please submit your applications to me by no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [kdkutie25@yahoo.com](mailto:kdkutie25@yahoo.com).

I am very excited for this year's convention in Northampton, Pennsylvania! It is a great opportunity for all of us to gather together to strengthen our faith and I hope to see everyone there. I pray that you all have a blessed Paschal Season.

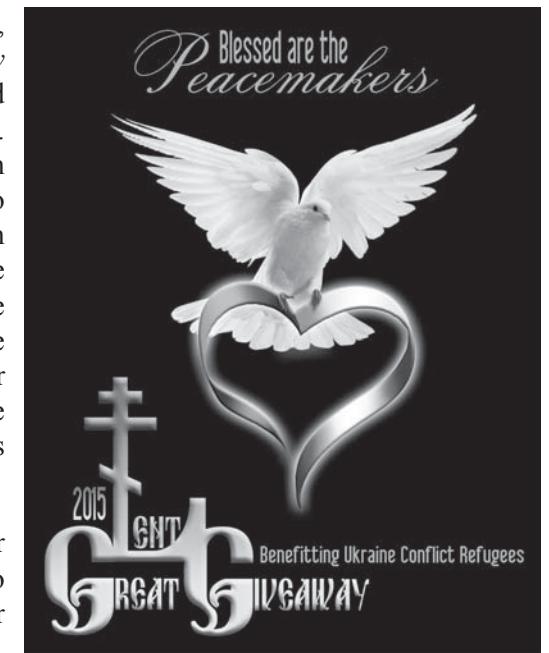
In Christ's Love,  
 Kateryna Kocelko

**Great Lent Giveaway**

The 2015 Great Lent Giveaway – "Blessed are the Peacemakers!" benefiting refugees of the Ukraine conflict. The Great Lent Giveaway is a combined project of the Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Each year the youth of the church choose a worthy recipient in an effort to raise awareness of their work or situation. This year the youth of the church are called to raise awareness concerning the refugees and wounded soldiers from the Ukraine conflict. Each Jr. UOL Chapter and parish youth group is asked to raise funds to aid these individuals and also to teach about their plight. In addition, our youth are encouraged to deepen their own faith through these good works, increased prayer, attending Divine Services and participating in several group sessions.

These sessions will focus on, *What is a Peacemaker?*, *Why does God allow conflict?*, and *How Can I be a Peacemaker?*. Jr UOL Advisers and parish youth workers are asked to work together to make this an experience for our youth to live their faith out loud. The curriculum will be made available each Wednesday, for four weeks, beginning the Wednesday before Forgiveness Sunday.

To download the curriculum or for more information please go to [www.uocyouth.org](http://www.uocyouth.org) or contact [uocyouth@aol.com](mailto:uocyouth@aol.com).



**UOL ESSAY CONTEST**

**Each month we are publishing the first place winners of the 2014 UOL Essay Contest. We hope you consider submitting an entry in the 2015 UOL Essay Contest.**

**Topic- How do the Beatitudes help to "feed" us today?**

**Grade 6 - Sabrina Ost - age 12**

**First Place winner**

The Beatitudes help feed us in many ways. They don't exactly feed us physically, but mentally and spiritually. These verses help us bring out the love and peace inside of us to feed our souls. They keep us from being evil and bad and tempted to sin. These were Jesus' teachings that He has given us to make us better people.

Jesus taught us to be good people. The Beatitudes tell us to not be selfish. Some of the verses are telling us to step back from the spotlight and give others a chance to shine. They tell us to be merciful and kind to others. All of these verses help feed our souls by keeping us from doing bad things unto others because you should always treat people how you would want to be treated.

Part of the Beatitudes also talks about how we should act as individuals. If you are sad, you shall be comforted by God. Also, you should always have a pure heart that is free from evil. And, instead of joining a fight, you should try to stop it and make peace. These specific verses feed our souls to make us better as an individual.

The last two lines of the Beatitudes are extremely important. They talk about how we should keep believing in Jesus and God no matter what anyone else says. Even if you are accused falsely and being criticized, you should keep believing what you think is right. God will help you from those people if you keep believing in Him. These lines help feed our souls by keeping us to believe what is right.

These are all of the reasons why the Beatitudes help feed our souls. They make us better as individuals and help us be good people. They keep the world from being chaotic. If we didn't have these, the world would be dangerous and everyone would be sinning. The Beatitudes feed us and make us healthier.

**Topic: What does Jesus teach us we need to do to enter the Kingdom of God?**

**Grade 7 - Anna Swindle age 13**

**First place winner**

As Orthodox Christians we believe in order for us to enter the Kingdom of God we must commit ourselves fully to Jesus Christ. We pray in the church services that we should "commit ourselves and our whole life to Christ our God." When we do this we are expected to completely turn over our whole life to Jesus. Turning over our life to Jesus means obeying and following Him and does not necessarily mean doing what the majority of the people do just because it seems popular. Each day we need to trust in Jesus and live out the Commandments that God gave us. By doing this we can only pray that we will find our salvation and enter eternity in the Kingdom of God.



(Ask Fr. Harvey - Continued from page 3)

The second action is for him to have a sincere heart to heart confession with his pastor. Clearing out all the cobwebs from dark corners of life will freshen the outlook. The quality of physical life may be rapidly diminishing, but the spiritual life begins to blossom.

Almsgiving is another path towards the forgiveness of sins and so, if he has the means to do it, he should consider a bequest in his name to a worthy charity such as our diocesan orphanage program or the International Orthodox Christian Charities.

Life may be definitely on the wane, but time can be utilized for one's spiritual benefit.

As the sunset of life draws near, the mental function yet continues. In place of fruitless self-absorption, time can be spent praying for those in need and the straying souls whom we have met. In the end, with all the kinks in life straightened out through forgiveness, we can rest in the arms of Jesus and repose in peace. As I have noted before, when one sees life ebbing away there are things one can do to better their situation. With most folks, death comes like a thief in the night and one is never prepared for the judgment.

**UOL ESSAY CONTEST 2015**

*Put off the old, put on the new man. Be children of God.*

*Walk in Christ the Light. Ephesians 4:24*

**Preschool/ Kindergarten (picture)**

- Draw a picture of God giving light to our world.

**Grades 1 & 2 (two sentences and a picture)**

- How does Christ provide light for the world?

**Grades 3 & 4 (three or four sentences and picture may be included)**

- God gave us the sun and His Son to provide light to the world. Tell why we need both to live.

**Grades 5 & 6 (35-50 words)**

- What does Paul mean in his letter to the Ephesians when he says "Put off the old, put on the new man?"

**Grades 7 & 8 (75 words)**

- 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.

**Grades 9 & 10 (150-200 words)**

- 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.

**Grades 11 & 12 (200-500 words)**

- 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.

**Adult 18 and over (500 words)**

- 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.

**CONTEST GUIDELINES AND RULES**

1. Entries must be postmarked by May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.  
**NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 30<sup>th</sup> 2015**
2. NO NAMES ON THE FRONT OF ANY ENTRY.
3. All entries must include the following information:
  - Participant's first and last name
  - age
  - grade
  - name and address of participant's parish, including city and state.
4. Drawings no larger than 12" x 18" and NO name on the front of drawing. Please attach a COVER PAGE or use the BACK of the drawing for the information listed above.
5. Written entries must be on 8 1/2" x 11" papers. Include a cover page with the identifying information listed above.
6. Entries for 9th grade and above must be typed or printed.

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

**Mail entries to:**

UOL Essay Contest c/o Tabitha Bentley  
53 Winged Foot Drive  
Coatesville, Pa 19320

**Email Entries can be sent to:** Tabithahouck@yahoo.com

**St. Vladimir Philadelphia Chapter**  
**Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky**

Our Philadelphia Chapter continues to have a busy winter. January in



Philadelphia was very cold and particularly icy. Despite the difficult weather conditions our chapter continues to plan many events, and chapter members as well as parishioners continue to support and enjoy these events. Our first activity of the new year was our Theophany Eve Supper, Holodna Kuya. For the last five years our chapter has sponsored a Theophany Eve Supper and despite the fact that it was raining and a little icy that day forty people attended the dinner. We set a large table so we sit together as one parish family. Mrs. Vera Sufler was the chef for the evening and prepared delicious mushroom holubtsi, fish, varenyky and garlic rolls. A highlight of the evening is a caroling sing-a-long. I prepared a caroling song book and the group sang almost every song in the book. I look forward to the sing-a-long, where we just enjoy each other and get to sing as one family. For those of you who know me, it is unusual for me to be the one to say, "Ok, I think we sang through our whole repertoire, time to quit." At our Holodna Kuya eve, I was the one who was ready to end our singing when others asked to sing a carol again. We sang about 10 verses of "On the Jordan River," – "Na Yordanski Reetsi." After our supper and impromptu concert, we went for Vespers as one family. It was wonderful that we had about seventy faithful in church that Sunday evening for Vespers and the first blessing of water.



The next Sunday our chapter sponsored a Theophany brunch. UOL Members David Sembrot and Michael Fesnak sponsor the ice cross. The entire parish came outside to bless the ice cross and returned to the parish hall for a delicious ham dinner. Our chairpeople for the event, Andi Swan and Vera Shapowalenko, prepared a wonderful dinner for the over 100 people who attended.



(Continued on page 6)

**News from Sts. Peter and Paul, Palos Park IL**  
**Submitted by Nina James**

During this Lenten Season, our Parish will host dinner for Pads (homeless shelter) at St Luke's OCA Parish in Palos Hills. This will be our second hosting this winter season. We had a homemade salad, and at Costco, we bought fully cooked and seasoned chickens, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, beverages, and breakfast staples for the next day. I was able to make a homemade Southwestern soup with the left over chicken seasonings. Lily Samargia and I stayed overnight and served breakfast the next morning.

On occasion, my mission is to volunteer an overnight stay. Last night was one of them. This morning while serving breakfast with a fellow volunteer, I was inspired by the Holy Spirit to read from the Psalter. I got as far as Kathisma 3, and asked the temporary residents whether to continue or not. I not only continued but had a fellowship with one woman and we ministered to each other. What a Blessing that turned out. I was enlightened by her faith.

May the Blessings of Christ be upon you through this Lenten Season.

**2015 Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camping Programs!**

Applications for campers and staff for the 2015 summer programs are now available. The UOC Camping Ministry at All Saints Camp is the perfect way for you or your youth to spend your summer. The programs afford the campers the opportunity to deepen and live their faith on a daily basis in a supportive Orthodox community of spiritual fathers, mentors and peers. Campers also have the awesome experience of making lifelong friendships during such great activities as Ukrainian culture classes, team sports, nature classes, christian service, and camping favorites like campfires, swimming, hiking and so much more.

Adults may also be enriched through the camping experience by coming on staff in either a paid or volunteer position. We are looking for individuals ages 14 through adult to fill positions such as cabin counselor, media coordinator, property staff, kitchen staff and general staff. Giving back of you time and talents to our youth is a wonderful way to serve our Lord.

If you are unable to physically participate in our camping ministry, please keep us in your prayers for a successful season. In addition, your financial support of our programs will help ensure quality experiences for all!

Here is what one of our campers, Julianna age 17, has to say about their experience, "Camp is what I look forward to every year and it has also affected me every year that I have gone. It is not only just the regular things like friends, sports, and a majority of people like you coming together but



it's a big family. I have learned through the nine years of going to the encampments that it's more of a spiritual mindset I am able to achieve. Camping at ASC is also something that helped me overcome some things such as asking questions about religion because at first I was a bit embarrassed to ask questions about my faith and would think some of them were silly. The friends, even more like family, that I made helped me overcome the loss of my mother. They talked to me and reassured me that God had different plans even though it seemed like the worst plans in that moment in time when I lost her. There is a lot more but why don't you go and see how it affects you because I'm sure that it will impact you in many ways."

For more information about what our camping ministry has to offer, applications or to donate go to [www.uocyouth.org](http://www.uocyouth.org) or contact us at [uocyouth@aol.com](mailto:uocyouth@aol.com) or 412-977-2010.

## Meet Our Seminarians

**Submitted by Michael Komichak**

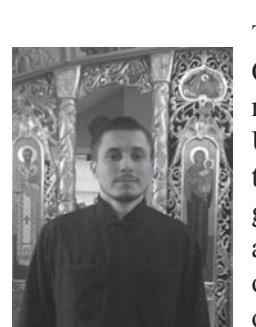
This year, there are four new and two returning full-time students at our Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary in South Bound Brook. Brief profiles of the four first-year seminarians appear below. Seminarians Ivan Chopko and Volodymyr Yavorsky, who are continuing their studies at St. Sophia, were profiled last year in the April issue of the UOL Bulletin. All of our seminarians deserve our support, encouragement, and prayers as they overcome significant language, cultural, and academic challenges while preparing for a life of service to our Ukrainian Orthodox Church. If you attend this summer's UOL Convention in Northampton, PA, you can meet these students and get to know all six of them better.

**Yuri Bobko** - I was born in 1995 into a pious Christian family in the small town of Kozova in the Ternopil oblast (province) of Ukraine. Since childhood I have always loved to pray and attend services at our local church of St. Volodymyr.



From a young age I have enjoyed reading spiritual literature and have wanted to become a priest. After graduating from high school in 2012, I entered the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy. Last year when His Grace Bishop Daniel (President of the Consistory) and V. Rev. Bazyl Zawierucha (Provost of St. Sophia Seminary) came to Ukraine, I was one of the students selected to study in the US. I look forward to my studies at St. Sophia and learning about Western culture. I am very grateful to all the faithful of the UOC of USA, and especially to Metropolitan Antony and Vladyka Daniel for giving me this unique opportunity to study at St. Sophia Seminary here in the United States.

**Taras Kaluzhnyy** - I was born in 1991 into an Orthodox Christian family in Ukraine in the city of Mostyska near Lviv. I was an altar boy in the parish of the local Ukrainian Orthodox Church, taking an active part in the life of the parish and helping the priests. After graduating from the Lviv College of Communication and performing military service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, I entered the Lviv Theological Seminary of the Autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church.



There I learned more about the Orthodox Faith and was spiritually enriched. In my third year at the Seminary, I was chosen by His Grace Bishop Daniel and Fr. Basil Zawierucha to study at St. Sophia Seminary. I am grateful to God, the Hierarchs of the UOC of USA, the Seminary Administration, and all the faithful for the opportunity to study here in the United States at St. Sophia.

**Ihor Protsak** - I was born in Chervonohrad, Ukraine in the Sokal district in the province (oblast) of Lviv. From the age of 7, I served in my local parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Transfiguration. My pastor at the church always encouraged me in my religious education and spiritual growth. I graduated from Buchatskiy College in 2012 and then entered the Lviv Orthodox Theological Academy where I sang in the choir. After three years at the Academy, I was offered an extraordinary opportunity—a “dream” which, with the help of God, became a reality: I entered the Holy Orthodox Seminary of St. Sophia in South Bound Brook, NJ. I

have always wanted to understand and see how people in the Diaspora bring their prayers to God and to learn about new things beyond what is known in Ukraine. I am a cheerful, curious person and I like to read books, play soccer and go fishing. I thank the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and especially Metropolitan Antony, Bishop Daniel and the parishioners of the UOC of USA for their sacrifice and support of St. Sophia Seminary and for giving me the opportunity to study here.

**Tadei Surak** - I am 23 years old and originally from the village of Svarychiv, Rozhniativ district in the Ivano-Frankivsk province of Ukraine. Later my family moved to the village of Kutyshche in the Tlumach district of Ivano-Frankivsk. My father is a priest and I was an altar server at the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist parishes. I studied violin at the local music school for three years. I attended the Kolomiysky Polytechnic College and then the National Forestry University of Ukraine in Lviv, graduating with a major in wood technology. In the winter of 2014 I participated in the EuroMaidan protests in Kyiv, demonstrating for justice, freedom, and the rights of the Ukrainian people. In December 2014, I was one of four seminarians selected to study at St. Sophia Seminary. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue my education in the United States at St. Sophia.

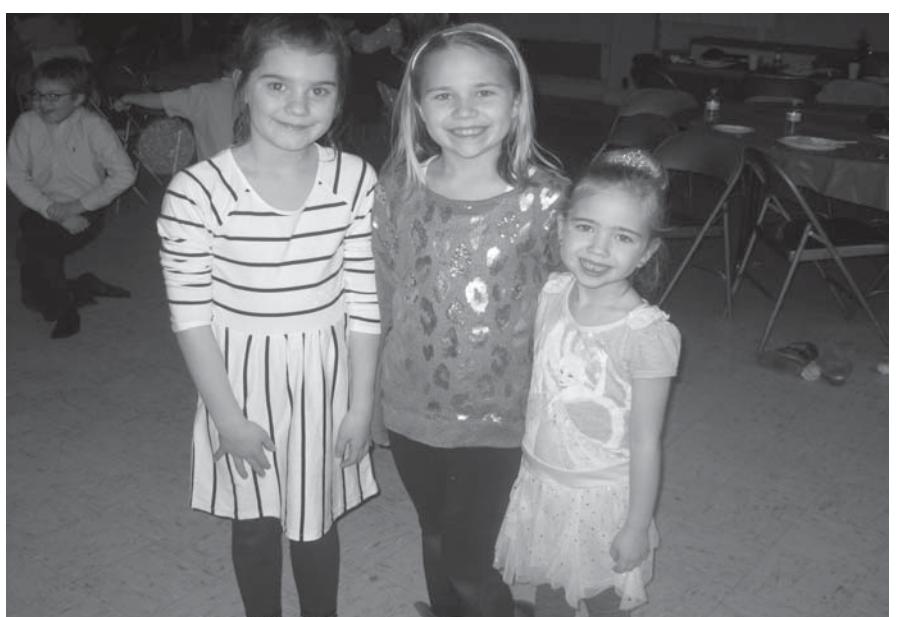
(Philadelphia - Continued from page 5)



The next Saturday we had our Malanka. If you haven't realized, our Philadelphia UOL Chapter sponsors UOL events almost every week. It is wonderful that we have a large group of supporters and workers to plan all of our events. We had



one hundred adults and children attend Malanka 2015. Al and Debbie Shinn were the chairpeople and Tanya and Chris Peltikis prepared a delicious meal. Al



Shinn was our wonderful DJ and the crowd danced and danced and danced. It was a great evening.

The next day our Juniors planned a Souper Bowl Sunday meal. We were able to used the leftovers from our Malanka to supplement the meal. We raised \$259 that Sunday for St. Andrew's Society. We also had our chapter meeting to set our goals for the next few months.

As you know from our recent articles, our chapter continues to focus on membership. We had the privilege to have His Eminence Metropolitan Antony attend our meeting. We were very pleased to announce at that meeting that we now have 77 members. Several months ago we said our goal was to get ten additional members this year. I am happy to report that we have reached our goal.



#### COMMEMORATIVE YEARBOOK ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT

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If you are the leader of a Prayer Partner Ministry in your parish or deanery, please email Janice Meschisen at [bridesong150@gmail.com](mailto:bridesong150@gmail.com) with information on how you organize and run your program.

Thank you in advance!



(UOL Retreat - continued from page 1)



In the afternoon Fr. Anthony spoke about meditative prayer and discussed strategies for preparing for prayer. Fr. Anthony has been a true blessing for our retreat planning.

This year we showed a video which showed monasteries in Romania and Ukraine. The video interviewed monastics regarding prayer and showed the beauty of monasteries throughout Romania and Kiev.

Following the video we had a brief Question and Answer session where the retreat participants were able to ask our clergy questions. The discussion was lively and our participants had many questions.

Janice Meschisen then described the Psalter project and reported that over fifty people had participated in the Psalter prayer project.



The group joined in the small chapel of the retreat center for Vespers. Fr. Myron celebrated Vespers and has been a key member of all of our retreats.



We are grateful for his support of the UOL retreats. Following Vespers, we joined for dinner.

You can start making your plans to attend the retreat next year.

We have scheduled our date of Saturday, April 2, 2016. We hope you can join us for the Retreat. Mark your calendars and start making plans to attend!

**UOL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Representing: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chapter/Parish)**PACKET PRICES:****Early Registration Discount (Postmarked before June 16, 2015)**

— Clergy	\$195
— Senior Delegate/Guest	\$195
— Junior Delegate/Guest	\$185
— Pre-Junior	\$100
— Family Registration*	\$750

**Registration Prices (received after June 16, 2015)**

— Clergy	\$220
— Senior Delegate/Guest	\$220
— Junior Delegate/Guest	\$195
— Pre-Junior	\$120

\*The Family Early Registration packet price is for 2 adults and 2 juniors. Additional Junior family members beyond the two included in the Family Packet are only \$175 each.

**Hotel Reservations**

Best Western Plus, Lehigh Valley Hotel  
300 Gateway Drive  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Call 1-610-866-5800 reserve your room by **June 16, 2015** at the UOL Convention rate of \$89/room/night + tax. A limited number of rooms are available.

Reserve your room early!



**ALL SAINTS CAMP**  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
of the USA

**ASC Work Weekend**  
**April 24-26, 2015**

**Millennium**

**Building Repairs**

Lend a helping hand to aid in the Millennium Building Improvements!

**French Drain Repair**

- + Assist excavator with digging and gravel placement
- + General Millennium Building Repairs
- + Windows, Floors, Lights, & Cleaning
- + General ASC grounds keeping

To RSVP: please contact

**Michael Nakonachny**  
(440) 503-3151  
mjnako@bryantstratton.edu

**Hans Harasimchuk** (440) 212-4976  
hmharasimchuk@gmail.com

**ASC Work Weekend Dates**

March 13 to 15  
May 29 to 31  
October 3 -5

Work in progress!!  
check back soon...

**UOL Tribute**

**U** 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.

**L** **Donor** **Occasion/Tribute**  
Goddaughter Nadya Wasylko In loving memory of Marianne K. Lawryk (Sunny) on the 20th Anniversary of her passing. Memory Eternal!

**T** Nemeth Family In honor of parents and grandparents: Michael and Olga Hryshchyshyn in celebration of their 60th year of marriage on May 22, 2015. Mnohaya Lita!

**I** Fr. John Nakonachny In gratitude to Fr. Michael, Protodeacon Ihor, all parishioners of St. Vladimir Cathedral and friends for their get well cards and prayers.

**U** Fr. John Nakonachny In gratitude to Fr. Stephen Repa and parishioners of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Carnegie, PA, for the beautiful icon of St. Nectarios and for their get well prayers.

**E** Connie and David Markiw In honor of Gregory Markiw on the occasion of his 21st Birthday (5/24) and Anastasia Markiw on the occasion of her 25th Birthday (6/16).

*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 JOL Bulletin. UOL Tributes should be submitted to:  
Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.  
Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

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