

OCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]
WINTER 2002 vol. 75 number 4

The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



The SPIRIT of the 76th
76th National F.O.C.A. Convention, Harrisburg, PA

Plus, The Annual Junior Edition!

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WINTER 2002

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

V. Rev. Eugene Vansuch

3630 Browning Lane, Bethlehem, PA 18017-1504
HM: (610) 866-6057, (610) 866-3282

PRESIDENT

John Kruchok

180 Watch Hill Road, Branford, CT 06405
(203) 488-0269, e-mail: jkocj@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. John P. Schultz

RD#3, Box 4 Lyons Road, Weirton, WV 26062
(304) 748-1223, email: jpsvw@attbi.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Kathy Lazor

506 Centennial Drive, Vienna, OH 44473
(330) 394-1038, email: ksljal@aol.com

TREASURER

Michael Bowan

2100 Lincoln Park West, #9ES, Chicago, IL 60614-4713
(773) 525-5921, e-mail: mickeybowan@mindspring.com

IMM. PAST PRESIDENT

Sandra Fedorko

4205 Loma Dorada, El Paso, TX 79934-3767
(915) 821-6550, e-mail: sdfedorko@yahoo.com

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

10 Downs Drive (Plains), Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705
Phone: (570) 825-3158 Fax: (570) 825-0136
Office E-Mail: orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com
website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

To receive membership information contact
the administrative office of the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.
CALL: (570) 825-3158

OCJ Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

is the official publication of the

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America
Send all articles, photos and information to:

Nicholas Ressetar, Editor

5501 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109

E-Mail: tsarnick3@aol.com

EDITOR	Nicholas Ressetar
MANAGING EDITOR	John Kruchok
LAYOUT EDITOR	Eugenia N. Wilson
ASSOC. EDITORS	Mat. Natalie Breyan Lisa Lelo
SPORTS EDITOR	Kenneth Baron
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YOUTH	
COMMENTARY	Matthew Vansuch
ART STAFF	Emil Kostelny
PHOTOGRAPHER	Leon Sheean

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Business/Advertising Manager

Maurice Garman

528 Sycamore Drive
Campbell, Ohio 44405

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The mission of the
Orthodox Christian JOURNAL is to
educate the membership of the Fellowship of
Orthodox Christians in America,
to showcase the talents of its membership and,
in so doing, to propagate the
Holy Orthodox Christian Faith.

Mission Statement of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is a national organization of Orthodox Christians. ***Our mission is to proclaim, share and reveal our Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship and example.*** We accomplish this by:

- studying the tenets of our Faith
- supporting, encouraging and promoting Orthodox Youth ministries
- supporting, encouraging and promoting the missionary growth of our church
- encouraging and promoting unity among all Orthodox jurisdictions
- establishing practical means for Orthodox Christians to form enduring friendships on local and national levels through networking
- providing educational, cultural, social and athletic activities for the people of our Orthodox Faith.

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL (ISSN 0036-0317), is published four times a year [Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter Issue] by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, 10 Downs Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3899.

District & Chapter News: All copy must be typed and sent to the Editorial Office.

Subscription Prices: Single Copy, \$3.00 in North and South America; \$12.00 per year, \$20.00 for two years, in US and Possessions, \$14.00 per year in all other countries & Canada. *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL* © copyrighted 2003 by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America. Reproduction in whole or part prohibited except by permission. All rights reserved. Title and ® trademark registered US Patent Office.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE paid at Wilkes-Barre, PA and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable please send form 3579 to the *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL* at 10 Downs Drive, Plains Twp., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3899.

Printed in the United States by Journal Publishing Company, Struthers, Ohio

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

John R. Kruchok
37th National FOCA President

This year-end issue of the *Orthodox Christian Journal* is a special combined issue featuring highlights of our national convention and also serves as our "annual" junior issue. A quick scan of the pages clearly shows we are an active and vibrant organization! It has been a pleasure to serve as Editor for the past three years and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Past President John Petronko, Jr., Treasurer Michael Bowan and the rest of the Executive board who over the past few years gave me the encouragement and support to serve in this position. Effective with the first issue of 2003, Nicholas Resselar will serve as Editor and Chairman of the Board as well as the FOCA's National Communications Director and I am sure he can count on all our support.

It is indeed an honor to serve again as your President. I am joined by a strong, energetic and passionate National Executive Board which includes Fr. Eugene Vansuch as Spiritual Advisor, Dr. John Schultz (former Pittsburgh District Governor) as Vice-President, Mrs. Kathy Lazor as Recording Secretary, Michael Bowan as Treasurer and Sandi Fedorko who becomes Immediate Past President. We have put a great team in place to coordinate Convention Planning and Operating, Sports, Juniors, Communication and Membership so you can expect great things in the year to come. It all comes together with a professional and cohesive group of district governors.

As President, my first priority has been communication. Fr. John Steffaro has worked diligently to keep our FOCA website (www.orthodoxfellowship.org) updated on a near daily basis. This very issue of the *Journal* and those which follow are now available online at this site. Encourage those not receiving the *Journal* to take a look! Electronic communication (webpage and e-mail) is a quick and cost-effective method of distributing information about the Fellowship's programs, activities and membership. By the new year, my goal to provide a monthly transmission to every FOCA chapter. As often as possible, I intend to visit the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America to echo our support and mutual cooperation of the Church's mission and needs. Increased visibility is also planned utilizing the pages of *The Orthodox Church* newspaper which is always available to us.

The OCJ is Now On-Line at: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

Deadline for Next OCJ Issue

January 15, 2003

Send all material to our NEW Editor:

Nicholas Resselar, Editor

5501 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109 - (717) 652-1825

WORD attachment articles work best within an E-mail: tsarnick3@aol.com

Also send backup E-mail to: jkocj@aol.com

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FOCA HIGHLIGHTS and NEWS IN-BRIEF

2003 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

It is time to apply for scholarships for 2003! The deadline for submission is March 31, 2003. All material must be in the hands of the Administrator (TBA) no later than April 30, 2003. This year, we are changing the distribution of the application. You may retrieve this online at the FOCA official website at www.orthodoxfellowship.org or may obtain forms from Sandy Kapelan in the National Administrative Office. You can contact her at:

F.O.C.A. National Headquarters
10 Downs Drive, (Plains)
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705
Phone: (570) 825-3158
Or e-mail:

orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com

The forms will be available for distribution after December 1, 2002.

9th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STOCKING PROJECT

The Office of Humanitarian Aid of the Orthodox Church in America again asks FOCA senior and junior chapters for your help to raise funds for Christmas Stockings/or an equivalent gift for children in need around the world. The stockings will be distributed to children in Russia, Albania, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Alaska. They are filled with toys, candy, a toothbrush, and an icon. Last year, the Church successfully reached their goal of funding 15,000 stockings and the goal is the same this year. Each stocking or gift is \$4.50 per child. You can send your donations to this worthy cause directly to the

Orthodox Church in America, c/o the Christmas Stocking Project-Arlene Kallaur, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791-0675. You can send your gift throughout the month of November (and early December if necessary).

2002 NATIONAL STOCK AWARD WINNERS

The 2002 FOCA National Stock Awards were drawn on Monday, September 2nd at the National Convention in Harrisburg. The winners were:

- Tina Perrish –
St. Mark FOCA, Bethesda - \$400
- Lauren Hendren –
St. John's Carapho-Russian "R"
Club, Bridgeport, CT - \$100
- David Macko –
Cleveland 4/6 - \$100
- Ann Yacos - Monessen #111 - \$100

Thanks to all who participated and supported this important fund-raiser. Many thanks also to Mary Jane Lucak, National Chairperson for all your efforts!

2002 SEMINARIAN CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The annual appeal to provide \$50 gifts to children of our married seminarians at St. Herman's, St. Tikhon's, St. Vladimir's and Christ the Savior Seminaries is again upon us. According to Fr. Eugene Vansuch, National Spiritual Advisor and Chairperson for the program, this is the seventh year of the project, which to-date, has collected and distributed nearly \$17,000 over the past six years. The Seminarian Christmas Fund allows for married students with children to have a more enjoyable Nativity season.

Through the generosity of our chapters, district and members, the Fellowship has been providing the monetary gift per child to the married students in time for the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Last year, 67 children from four Orthodox Seminaries were recipients of your generosity and love. We distributed \$3,350 in gifts but collected only \$1,850.00; were it not for a surplus from the previous year, we would have only been able to distribute \$27.11 per child. The challenge for this year is that enrollment is significantly higher. This is due, in large part, to the number of married students enrolling in our Seminaries. We may well be looking at a higher number of recipients this year.

"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the modest gifts we send to our married seminarians is appreciated more than you can imagine. Comments from seminary administrators expressing their gratitude for our thoughtfulness and personal responses we receive from seminarian families, shows how much our outreach is appreciated. Seminarians preparing for the Holy Priesthood and/or serving the Orthodox Church in other positions, make a great sacrifice in their life to fulfill this call to serve. I ask your most sincere consideration by becoming a willing supporter to this annual effort."

Fr. Eugene Vansuch notes that in order to provide the families with this monetary gift for the Feast of St. Nicholas, please send your donation, payable to the F.O.C.A. to Michael Bowan, Treasurer, by Friday, November 22nd, a week before Thanksgiving Day. Any questions you can contact Fr. Eugene at:

vansuche@enter.net
or Michael Bowan at
mickeybowan@mindspring.com.

Michael's address is:
2100 Lincoln Park #9ES
Chicago, Illinois 60614

SEMINARIAN "ADOPTION" PROGRAM LOOKING FOR SPONSORS

By Allison Steffaro, Chairperson

As you may be aware, the New Jersey District sponsored a Christmas Project for married seminarian students. This project was born out of a suggestion from

John Petronko for the Fellowship to aid these students in some way. This initiative was able to involve 14 parishes from NY, New Jersey and Ohio who filled the wish lists of twenty-four families at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries.

While at St. Tikhon's we asked what more the FOCA could do for married students. It was brought to our attention by the married student liaison that an article appeared in our Orthodox Christian Journal on a program he was starting called "Adopt or Sponsor a Seminary Family." Almost embarrassed, we asked what he expected from the program.

He explained that there is very little support for married students from anywhere, even from the parishes that send the seminarians. Many have to go on welfare and/or go into serious debt to get through school. At St. Tikhon's, the situation is harder due to the fact that the students are ineligible for government loans or grants because the school has not finished their accreditation process. Another problem is health insurance. After speaking with many families from both seminaries, most simply due without while attending school.

What amazed those of us who sat down to talk to these married students was that these are men who left good jobs and careers, uprooted their families, sold their homes, and in some instances, moved across country or came to a new country, all because of a calling to serve the Orthodox Church.

How many of us could do this? What is the solution to the problem? Eventually building married student housing at St. Tikhon's and more at St. Vladimir's is a long-term goal.

What can the FOCA do to help today? The best we can do here and now is try to ease their burden with financial support. At the Spring Board of Trustees Meeting, the Board of Trustees took on the "Adopt A Seminary Project" as a National endeavor.

Presently we have six parishes that have adopted eight families at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's. These parishes raise money from coffee hour

donations or other means and send a check to their adopted family on a monthly basis throughout the year. For as little as \$50 a month a parish could help pay for groceries, defray the cost of rent or other necessities. Whatever a parish could collect and send is truly appreciated.

I recently received a report from a parish that had money left over from their coffee hour donations and sent the remainder to their family for the summer. That \$175 was truly a gift from God because the family wrote to the parish to thank them because the wife lost her job and they did not know how they were going to make it through the month of August.

A married seminarian student so eloquently put this project in perspective and said "such an undertaking is beneficial, not only for the seminarian family, but also for the parish giving. Reaching out in ways like this keeps a parish well focused, looking past its own needs and helping those in the Orthodox community. Receiving letters from the seminarian family about seminary life serves to raise the awareness of the seminaries in the parishes – it makes the seminary real, and reminds people that priests don't just pop out of the air."

Presently I have a commitment from two new parishes (a total of eight) to adopt students for this school year. I would like to see many more of our members start the initiative in their parishes. I have a list of students based on need who wish to be adopted. We presently have four families that are in need of adoption from St. Vladimir's. The usual procedure is that once a parish, chapter or district is committed to the project, the name and address of the family along with a biography is given. Parishes generally send from \$50 to \$100 a month. We encourage the families to send pictures and correspond to their adopted parish/chapter/district.

If anyone has any questions, you can contact Michael or Allison Steffaro at: michaelsteffaro@comcast.net or call (732-698-1952). This is a wonderful way to help secure the future foundation of our Orthodox Church.

2002 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT HELD AT AAC SITE

The 2002 National Summer Sports Tournament (golf) was held on July 20th in Orlando, Florida, site of the Thirteenth All-American Council. The event was sponsored by the St. Mary's "O" Club, #94, Minneapolis, and chaired by Todd Walker. The tournament was open to all Orthodox Christians. Many thanks to those who attended and to those who sent in tournament sponsorships.

Midwest District Convention All American McFellowship Weekend Presented:

Kids Helping Kids

Hosted by: Holy Trinity O Club, Chicago

A brand new program of activities greeted delegates and guests to the Midwest District Convention at McDonald's Lodge in Oak Brook, IL. Events for both adults and youth were scheduled as a result of a Midwest District CP&O convention survey. As requested, social and fellowship activities were featured while sessions were streamlined. The theme of the convention was inspired by Columbus Day, with the use of as much of the colors red, white, and blue as possible, intertwined around McDonald's images.

Delegates and guests arriving Friday afternoon were met at the "McSign In, Please" table, where the local committee cordially processed registration and ticket sales. While delegates, alternates and guests attended the "McMeeting" ~ the Convention's Plenary Sessions, younger visitors attended a Pizza and Pool Party. The youth had a great time meeting old and new friends from the vast geographic reaches of the district. The adults almost had as good a time, as the official business of the convention was concluded in a record two hours, including election of officers and four simultaneous break out groups on Youth,

Continued



Top) Kids Packing For Kids; **Left)** Lori Garlick makes sure the Kids get lunch; **Right)** Peter Jon entertains the Kids.

Fund Raising, Membership, and Service Projects. The advance distribution of the convention report book saved precious time while allowing for participant observations and comments. Seven of eight chapters were in attendance.

Governor Polly Walker reviewed events of the year within the district along with her positive prognosis of the health and spirit within our chapters as well as the national organization. Polly was pleased to cite the continued strong support from the national church and the enthusiasm of our new spiritual leader, Metropolitan HERMAN, who in Harrisburg encouraged us not to shy away from our roots as a social organization. We should not apologize for who we are or what we are but rather

we should continue to fill a need in our member's lives while doing good works for our Church. She reported on the excellent communications from the national Executive Board and the overall commitment of the F.O.C.A. to our youth. The convention body adopted the Governor's recommendation of a Growth-in-Membership Challenge.

The new Executive Board members are:

- **Spiritual Advisor** - V. Rev. Myron Manzuk
- **Governor** - Polly Walker, re-elected to a special one year term
- **Lt. Governor** - Cheryl Morse, serving her second two year term
- **Secretary** - Nick Sutko, elected to a special one year term

- **Treasurer** - Joe Bilas, serving the remainder of a two year term

- **Nominating Committee** - Andrea Davies, serving the remainder of a two year term
- **Nominating Committee** - Betsy Langlais

While the business sessions were concluding, our guests were enjoying ethnic treats prepared by Ann Kapuska at the "McGreetings" reception in the foyer of the Grand Oaks Pavilion. Inside the DJ's were warming up for the "McShuffle ~ the Red, White and Blue Ball". Music and banter provided by them entertained us as did a Russian folk dance CD. This was specially edited by our Governor to eliminate about 2 minutes from the length of each traditional dance – thereby eliminating the need for stand-by paramedics. Late

in the evening, tired people eventually found their way to their rooms.

Saturday began early for the youth members as they gathered at 9:00 AM to work on their first service project – preparing 100 knapsacks of school supplies to be sent along with chairs and tables to needy children in Afghanistan. They were quite an impressive sight: wearing bright red tee shirts emblazoned with their weekend motto, *Kids Helping Kids*. Discussion leaders Sue Miller, Kim Broznowski, Debbie Manzoni and Cheryl Morse shared with the kids the importance of developing within themselves the Christian virtue of charity and of giving one's time, talents and goods to those in need.

After the boxes were packed, the kids viewed a video specially prepared by an Anchorage television station on Alaska's nearest Ronald McDonald House, located in Seattle, Washington. This house provides affordable, temporary housing for Alaskan children suffering with cancer and their families. The kids were encouraged to discuss with their parents and teachers ways to help these Alaskan children when they returned to their homes and church schools. This is all part of McDonald's World Youth Day to be celebrated on November 20th.

Next the kids were provided a tasty boxed lunch, catered by none other than Lori Garlick and boarded the bus for an excursion to Chicago's Navy Pier. First stop at Navy Pier was Chicago's Public Radio Station, *WBEZ*. Steve Edwards, the host of a daily morning news/magazine format program, attends the host chapter's parish. He toured the kids through the facility, conducted mock interviews and showed them how a radio station operates. Our youthful guests then boarded the *Sea Dog* for an architectural cruise of the lakefront. Upon returning to dry land, they entered a haunted house exhibit. Fighting Chicago traffic, they made it back just in time for evening services at the Lodge.

While the youngsters were doing their thing, adults also had some fun. An early morning bus tour of Chicago was offered, however, the adults were savvier, insisting on coffee and Krispy

Kreme donuts for the ride with Mr. Chicago, Andrew Fash. Upon their noontime return, many attended the afternoon Choir Symposium conducted by Holy Trinity Cathedral's preeminent choir conductor, Dr. Peter Jermihov. Featured were topics concerning the development of indigenous *American* Orthodox liturgical music, interactive musical quizzes and choral singing from the newly compiled works of VRev. Sergei Glagolev. This publication was undertaken by PSALM, the Pan-Orthodox Society for the Advancement of Liturgical Music.

Everyone gathered for Vespers celebrated by our diocesan hierarch, His Grace Bishop JOB of Chicago and Father Myron Manzuk. Lori Garlick's "McBanquet" followed, where adults and kids jointly shared a marvelous meal and light-hearted emceeing. Bishop JOB, Governor Mrs. Todd Walker and National Treasurer and Executive Board representative Michael Bowan each spoke to the group briefly on the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America and their reflections on its significant accomplishments and their excited optimism for its future.

At this point, the youth left the banquet and moved to an area before a massive stone fireplace, where Peter Jon Gillquist, an Orthodox folk singer, presented a lively coffee shop-like concert of his original religious music. The kids enjoyed talking to Peter between songs as he explained each song, how it came to be written, interpreting the lyrics and illustrating through engaging dialogue how each of them must make the right moral choices as they continue to mature.

During the concert, the adults were shown the video of the Seattle Ronald McDonald House and asked to help and encourage their kids with ideas and implementation of the theme *Kids Helping Kids* which would be most applicable and useful upon returning to their homes and churches.

Sunday morning found everyone traveling to historic Holy Trinity Cathedral in downtown Chicago built by Hieromartyr St. John Kochurov and

consecrated by St. TIKHON, Patriarch of Moscow. Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop JOB; assisted by VRev. John Adamcio, Dean of the cathedral and Spiritual Advisor of Chapter 146. Before their departure, the convention attendees shared in the "McByeBye" luncheon in the cathedral hall next door ~ Italian beef sandwiches, a Chicago specialty.

The members and friends of Holy Trinity O Club extend a big thank you to those who attended this year's district convention and to those who worked on the local committee to make the event successful and fulfilling. Friendships were made or renewed and new memories are in the making!

FOCA WELCOMES NEWLY FORMED SYRACUSE CHAPTER 47/135

The Upper New York State District recently announced the formation of the Sts. Peter and Paul "R" Club, Chapter 47/135, with nineteen new members. This combined effort will include members from St. Michael's parish, which has been closed, and members from Sts. Peter and Paul parish in Syracuse, New York. The newly-elected officers are V. Rev. Fr. John Chupeck, Spiritual Advisor; Brenda Geloff, President; John Bodnar, Vice-President; Anna Conroy, Secretary; Robert G. Roebuck, Treasurer; and Jay Holman, District Representative. They are joined by members Helen and Michael Billy, Sophia Bodnar, Chris Boner, Paul Daniluk, Benita Geloff, Dimitri Geloff Sr., Nancy Geloff, Nadia Goettel, Barbara Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Nena Kinsley, Catherine Sica and Julia Soltis. Welcome and May God Grant You Many Years!

UPPER NEW YORK STATE DISTRICT CONVENTION HELD IN BINGHAMTON

The Upper New York State District Convention was held on October 5, 2002 in Binghamton, New York,

sponsored by the Binghamton "R" Club. Dr. John Schultz, FOCA National Vice-President, represented the National Executive Board. The officers of the district include Fr. Stephen Mack, Spiritual Advisor; Faith B. Malinich, Governor; William Dupkanick, Lt. Governor; Mary Anne Solits, Recording Secretary and Paul Furbanish is Treasurer.

During the sessions there was much discussion about the idea of merging the Syracuse chapters #47 and #135 with the closing of St. Michael's parish. It was moved and passed that the district recommend to the chapters that they merge into one, and that the combined group be known as either the Syracuse "R" or "O" Club, chapter #47/135. The National Executive Board would be petitioned to approve the change. The district also voted to reinstate a Religious Conference and to continue the district golf outing, district picnic and district youth rally. The district bowling tournament will be discontinued. Support of youth ministry by the district was also reinforced. Next year's convention will be sponsored by the Endicott "R" Club chapter #43.

75TH OHIO DISTRICT CONVENTION HELD AT ST. MICHAEL'S

The 75th Ohio District convention was held October 12-13, 2002 at St. Michael's parish, Broadview Heights, sponsored by the Cleveland "R" Club, Chapter 4/6. The newly-elected officers of the Ohio District include Leon Sheean, Governor; Melissa Tesar, Lt. Governor; Jessica Lazor, Recording Secretary; Kaye Garman, Treasurer; Kyra Visocky, one year nominating committee and Barbara Sheean, two-year nominating committee. Nancy Boldish is the Immediate Past Governor. Mrs. Kathy Lazor, FOCA Recording Secretary, represented the National Executive Board.

Highlights of business sessions included discussion on the district scholarship awards including a decision

Continued

to re-evaluate Ohio District applicants for the district awards after national judging, re-institution of the St. Andrew's Day event in the district, support of the OCA national youth movement and direction to begin the process of remodeling or rebuilding the St. Vladimir's camp and retreat center with a financial cap of \$210,000.

In addition to business sessions on Saturday and Sunday, the two-day convention format included Saturday evening Vespers, a "clambake" dinner with a "walk down memory lane" with memorabilia including Ohio Heralds dating back to the 60's, Sunday's Divine Liturgy and a brunch.

69th Atlantic District Conference held on UCONN Campus

The 69th Annual Conference of the Atlantic District, Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America was held on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the Alumni Center at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, sponsored by the Hartford "R" Club, Chapter 80. Elected to serve the district in the ensuing year are Governor Frank Kaputa; Lt. Governor Keith Jenci, Recording Secretary Melanie Osuch, Treasurer Michael Stenko, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Natalie Kruchok, 2 year Nominating Committee Albin Kaimer Jr. Margaret Maxwell serves as Immediate Past Governor.

Highlights of the convention include the awarding of the three \$500 scholarships to Atlantic District members pursuing higher education. Recipients are Meredith Hendren, St. John's Chapter #180, Lauren Hendren, St. John's Chapter #180, and Steven Pronechen, Bridgeport chapter #73. Delegates approved allocation of three scholarships for 2003. As a district service project, members will again host a family day picnic to fund grants in-aid to three seminarians, with one recipient to be selected from each of three seminaries, St. Vladimir's, St. Tikhon's and Christ the Savior Seminary. This will be coordinated based on need with

appropriate Deans. The district will continue sponsoring junior activities for parish youth under the direction of Lt. Governor Keith Jenci and Alexis Swan. To further recruit new junior members in parishes with insufficient numbers to form parish chapters, a district junior chapter was established by motion of the delegates. A membership committee was also established to recruit new members and approach parishes without chapters. The St. John's junior chapter was recognized for receiving the national membership award for the highest numerical gain.

Representing the National Executive Board was John Kruchok, National President and a Past Governor of the Atlantic District. The President highlighted efforts to increase communication in the organization including use of e-mails and websites and discussed the recently established youth movement by the Orthodox Church in America. It was emphasized that the district had much to offer the local deanery in fulfilling its mandate to provide three activities for its parish youth.

All chapters of the district were in attendance. During business sessions, a buffet luncheon was held and following sessions delegates visited many areas of the impressive University of Connecticut campus including the new Greek Orthodox chapel.

The 2003 Atlantic District Conference will be sponsored by the New Haven "R" Club. The annual religious program will be sponsored by the Ansonia "R" Club with a date and speaker to be announced.

"Re-Membering" the Past: Oral History in Your Parish

The Dormition Guild of St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, DC, held their annual name's day retreat and interactive workshop with Ms. Eleana Silk, Librarian at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, as retreat master on August 17, 2002.

Ms. Silk provided the workshop participants with an outline on how to begin recording the parish life of their

church, by taking oral histories of long-time parishioners. "Everyone has a story to tell," she stated, "Customs, faith, events, and the past is passed down to us. These things need to be recorded. Recording an oral history provides us the opportunity to see how life was like before us."

By doing an oral history, we learn about what worked and did not work in the early 20th century in the parish: how to raise funds, how couples met, dated and married within the church, and how the sacraments were celebrated.

Through stories at the fireside, people of earlier generations learned who they were - stories were passed down from generation to generation. People wrote and saved letters - now we communicate mostly by e-mail and purge files frequently. Parishioners will never write a book or an article, but oral history can capture their histories. We learn about our life in the church through these practical experiences. One of the gifts to us from a fourth century woman named Egeria was her observations of liturgical life of the church in the Holy Land. How many times have your children said "tell me a story about when you were little?" Through the use of oral history you can record your remembrances.

Ms Silk got interested in oral history through two courses she took at seminary, which led to her thesis topic entitled "Eucharistic Revival and the Orthodox Church in America." In preparation for the thesis, she interviewed 24 people, including two bishops.

She provided the workshop participants a sample of "her" oral history...she told of her church life at the Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church (now a Cathedral) in Detroit, MI. She described the light and joy of Pascha, standing against the cold marble walls of the church when her family arrived late to church, the man's side and the women's side of the church, Sunday services only (unless someone "paid" for a service during the week), the verification in the Dr. Zhivago film that it was "ok" to be Orthodox, learning the Cyrillic alphabet to turn choir book

pages, church school with 250-300 pupils, saving up to purchase the "Logos" pamphlet series, choir trips to the Eastern Orthodox Catechetical Association Meetings in East Lansing, Michigan.

How do you get started on taking an oral history project?

1. Choose a topic
2. Find another person to talk to
3. Develop questions
4. Obtain a good tape recorder, 60 minute tape, and fresh batteries or use an electrical outlet
5. Listen for background noise that could interfere with sound quality
6. Save a 15-20 second lead-in on the tape to add comments, name of interviewee, etc.
7. Pay attention to what is being said; take notes
8. Monitor tape inconspicuously to make sure it is still working
9. Allow the interviewee to talk (this is not a dialogue)
10. Limit the interview to only one-hour
11. End with the question, "is there anything else you want to add?"

Other segments of an oral history are reflected in bulletins, newsletters, parish anniversary books and church mailings. These printed materials give color and background as to what parish life was like then...just as videos of weddings, baptisms and yes, the occasional funeral are an oral history, too.

Explore your parish history through obtaining oral histories of parishioners. Church history is like literature, youth, seniors and the choir all celebrating the joys and sorrows of the parish.

The OCA is now at a turning point after 25 years of Metropolitan Theodosius, to Metropolitan Herman...it is a good time to reflect on the past and to look towards the future.

Ms. Silk ended with a quote from Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, "A parish cannot live by abstract Orthodoxy. Each time and place has its' own unique

experiences."

"The remembering of family and friends is oral history", she concluded.

"To love is to remember."

—Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Miss Silk is Librarian and a faculty member at St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY. She is also a member of the OCA Department of History and Archives.

Editor's Note: Oral history tapes may be sent, after their transcription, to the St. Vladimir's Seminary Library, 575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY 10707. A release letter must accompany the tape; contact the library at 1-914-961-8313 for more information. See also Eleanora's article in the Resource Handbook: Oral History for Parish Use.

St. Andrew Church Recognizes Past National President Andrew Cvercko

On August 18th the Cleveland parish of St. Andrew recognized Past National President Andrew Cvercko. His family joined in celebrating 53 years of choir directing, music arrangement, and good works in the Church. Protospesbyter Robert Kondratick, representing Metropolitan Herman, presented Andy with the Order of St. Innocent medal at the Liturgy on Sunday morning.

Fr. Bob also presented Anne (Past National Secretary) and Andy each with a Gramota for their continuing service to the Church. The day-long celebration continued with an afternoon golf outing attracting family and friends from Northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. The day concluded with a reception for the Cvercko family complete with an impromptu serenade by members of his male chorus. An appropriate day to celebrate a very gracious and humble servant of the Church.

Our Chapter Travels The Globe!

2002 has been an exciting year for St. Joseph, #226 of Wheaton, IL, with all our wonderful ministries within our parish. We have seen the success of the

ESL classes develop for a new group of Ethiopian Orthodox immigrants who have been active within our parish. We have raised funds for many various needs within our parish.

"Bucket Sunday" was a success during Great Lent. There are many items that food stamps do not buy, most of which are hygiene and cleaning products. Parishioners who wanted to take home plastic cleaning bucket (100 of them were handed out). They returned the next week filled with such items. The People's Resource Center in Wheaton greatly appreciated the buckets that went to needy families that arrive on a daily basis for food and clothing.

In June a majority of "O" Club members hopped a plane headed towards Bialystok and Suprasl, Poland!

With an evening stay over in Warsaw, we boarded a bus and celebrated Vespers at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Bialystok (three hours northeast of Warsaw) and venerated the tomb and relics of the childmartyr Gabriel.

On Sunday, June 16 we all celebrated the wedding of Joe Matusiak to Nina Pronska, and kept on celebrating for days after! Throughout the days we all enjoyed a feast of wonderful foods and dancing and laughing until well past the sunrises (the sun is up again by 3:00am)! After the wedding we all moved on to different parts of Europe to tour and had a wonderful time. Member, Jean Dobry, fell ill during the celebration. Her family came to take her back to their village to recover. She has since returned in full health and is at fellowship hour with a smile! Many years to Joe and Nina!

There is talk about doing it again - maybe the capitals of Eastern Europe, maybe Greece - but all after we recover!

In September we wished Masha Geeza well as she takes on a six-month job transfer to London, England.

In October we celebrated with members Bob and Adrienne Hirsch at the wedding of their daughter, Heather, to John Butz. We were glad to see the Nescott family from Pittsburgh and Ansonia! The newlyweds reside in New Jersey and attend church in Wayne.

Continued

Many years to John and Heather!

Members assisted in our "Festival of Icons" seminar in November. Sunday School children learned of the many ways icons can be written. Each child will display their icon creations during Advent in the fellowship hall.

In 2003 we will sponsor a mission, a project Bishop Job has asked everyone to undertake. We will be taking on the mission in Quincy, IL. Joe Matusiak sent us news that St. Nicholas Cathedral in Bialystok, Poland is lending a hand with this project. We look forward to this transatlantic fellowship!



Top) Some of the ladies of #226 pose with the bride, Nina; **Bottom)** Those who could arrive for breakfast, only a few hours after the reception!

In Memoriam

Protodeacon Peter Varian



Protodeacon Peter Varian, 85, died at this home July 13, 2002. He was a lifelong member of St. Mary's Cathedral and charter member of the St. Mary's "O" Club, #94, Minneapolis, MN. He is survived by his wife, Mat. Mary, his son James, two daughters, Mat. Pearl and

June, a brother John and eight grandchildren. His funeral and burial were celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Job, the V. Rev. Myron Manzuk, Dean of the Cathedral at the time of his death, and visiting clergy.

Throughout his life he was very involved in the church community, serving as a member of the board of trustees and a variety of committees and parish organizations. He was a very active member of the "O" Club, always attending meetings and supporting activities of both the chapter and the Midwest District. He was a lifelong member of the

choir and regularly participated in the annual assemblies of the Diocese of the Midwest.

After his retirement in the late 1970's from Onan Corporation, he began studies through the OCA's late vocation program. In 1979 he was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by His Grace the late Bishop Boris. In 1992, he was elevated to the rank of Protodeacon in recognition of his years of faithful service to the cathedral community.

Protodeacon Peter was a special man who, growing up, wanted to be a priest. He was devoted to God and His faith,

attending as many church services as he could. The Cathedral never worried about a deacon being present because Protodeacon Peter was always there. Memory Eternal.

Andrew Klimkosky

Andrew Klimkosky, 86, died in Our Lord Jesus Christ on August 23, 2002. He was born in 1915 in Whitestone, NY. Andrew dedicated himself to God as a parishioner and choir member of St. Nicholas parish in Whitestone for his entire life. He was educated in Flushing, NY and went on to study at Eastman Business School. He was employed as a chemical laboratory assistant for eight years, working in the development of amino acid research, before being drafted into the Armed Forces in 1941. Andrew served two and a half years in India during WWII. Following his honorable discharge as a master sergeant, he worked in home repairs, retiring in 1983.

After his brother's (John Klimkosky) death in 1990, Andrew established two memorial scholarships in his memory, the FOCA Klimkosky Scholarship and the St. Vladimir's Seminary Klimkosky Scholarship.

In his later years in life, he became interested in writing poetry. His efforts paid off, and in 2001, he had his first book of poetry published, entitled "Poems" by Andrew Klimkosky, Dorrance Publishing. His collection of poetry is light-hearted and inspirational, and portray a concern with true Christian beliefs and dedication to God's will. Andrew leaves behind a legacy and will be sorely missed by his parish community and his family. Memory Eternal

The following is an excerpt from "Poems," by Andrew Klimkosky

Paying Back

Our faith teaches that everything is from above,
Our very life, talents, treasures,
and love,
Without Him we would have
nothing at all,

Fellowship Information

FOCA Official Web Site:
www.orthodoxfellowship.org

Address:

F.O.C.A.

10 Downs Drive (Plains) • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

Mrs. Sandra Kapelan, National Administrative Secretary

Phone: (570) 825-3158

Fax: (570) 825-0136

Office E-mail:

orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com

The young, the old, to Him we must call.

Everything is a gift in life,
A new day, a new year, a light,
We must acknowledge God's being,
By using some sort of our time, abundance, and meaning.

His security, peace and prosperity in our lives,

By giving back in the form of tithes,
In the end everything returns to God, it must,

Even precious life itself, which He gave us.

Christine (Permaloff) Zedlovich



Christine (Permaloff) Zedlovich fell asleep in the Lord, September 18, 2002. An active member of the FOCA for many years. Christine devoted herself to her church, FOCA, teaching and family.

She and her husband Nick, met at an FROC convention when he was Vice President. She hailed from Detroit, MI, where she was a member of Holy Trinity parish. She was the mother of seven children and nine grandchildren. One child preceded her in death.

As a member of St. Nicholas church in Whitestone, NY, where she relocated when she married Nick, she was active in the parish Sisterhood and other ministries. Her offices and chairperson positions involved many facets of the FOCA.

For a number of years, she was Treasurer of St. Vladimir's Seminary and Circulation Manager of "The Orthodox Church" newspaper as well as secretary to the acting treasurer at the Chancery office.

To quote Christine from an article written about her in 1978, she said, "Orthodoxy is a way of life in our family. Our life is planned around the church and its cycles. Those who say I have not time for my church are really saying "my priorities are elsewhere." Christine added "the church must recognize the tremendous pool of talent it has in its women." In 1978 she was awarded a Gramota by Metropolitan Theodosius, so well deserved.

The talents and devotion which Christine offered to her church will be missed. May Our Lord reward her with his heavenly powers. Memory Eternal. ♦

TRANSITIONS

HONORED, Andrew Cvercko, Past National President and choir director for 53 years, was honored for his service by St. Andrew's parish, Maple Heights, Ohio. Andy received the Order of St. Innocent by Fr. Robert Kondratick, representing Metropolitan Herman, and Andy and his wife Anne also received citations from the Orthodox Church in America for their committed service.

ORDAINED, into the Holy Diaconate **Michael Wusylko**, Past National President on November 3, 2002. Many years to Deacon Michael!

MOVED, John Daniluck, Life Member, relocated to his new home on November 1, 2002. His new address is Rosewalk 337, 1301 Ritter Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46219. (Editor's note: I am sure he would enjoy receiving mail).

MARRIED, Members of #226, Wheaton, IL, **Dr. Robert** and **Adrienne Hirsch** announce the marriage of their daughter Heather to John Butz, October 13, 2002. Heather and John reside in New Jersey and are members of Holy Resurrection in Wayne, NJ. Heather is also the niece of members **Lori** and **Gregg Nescott** of Northside #1.

MARRIED, Members of #226, Wheaton, IL, **V. Rev. John** and **Barbara Matusiak** announce the marriage of their son Joseph to Nina Pronska, June 16, 2002. They were wed in Suprasl, Poland and will reside there for the next few years as Nina completes her Masters Degree in International Relations. #226 thinks she has a good start! Joe was former Governor of the Midwest Jr. Dist. and scholarship recipient.

DECEASED, Richard J. Miskiv, devoted Garden State "R" Club and FOCA member, friend to many throughout the New Jersey District and FOCA passed away on Monday, July 22, 2002. He joined the FROC as a junior member of the Garfield Jr. "R" Club in 1969, was an all-star in numerous national basketball tournaments as a junior as well as a senior playing for Garden State and

also with the Super Seniors of the New Jersey District. He was also an active bowler at the district and national level.

DECEASED, V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Rusiniak, long-time member of Detroit #2/9, passed away on July 28, 2002

DECEASED, Anne Lewis, member of the Pittsburgh District chapter-at-large and wife of past Journal Editor Fred Lewis (deceased) passed away on August 28, 2002.

DECEASED, Nicholas Salowich, Jr. passed away in September. He was a Past Michigan District Governor, Past National Treasurer and Past National Vice-President. He is survived by his wife Marge, his children Maria, Nicholas III, Lisa, David and several grandchildren.

DECEASED, Helen Rice, mother of Maurice C. Garman, OCJ Business Manager and Past National President, passed away on September 17, 2002. She was nearly 100 years of age. Mrs. Rice was the grandmother of National Recording Secretary Kathy Lazor and mother-in-law of Kaye Garman, Past National Recording Secretary.

DECEASED, Katherine Loch, passed away on October 14, 2002 after a long illness. She was the mother of Past National President and CPO Director Carol Deerson and grandmother of Allison and David Deerson.

TRANSITIONS is for current FOCA members only.

Send all TRANSITIONS information to:
Nicholas Ressetar
5501 Locust Lane,
Harrisburg, PA 17109
(717) 652-1825

WORD attachment announcements work best within an E-mail:
tsarnick3@aol.com.
Send back up E-mail to:
jkoci@aol.com.

Love Will Be Repaid Tenfold

By Matthew Vansuch

Undoubtedly, the FOCA now faces its most trying times. What kind of organization should we be? What are the kinds of activities that we should be sponsoring? What kind of relationship do we have—or should we have—with the OCA? Unless we commit ourselves to discussing and ultimately answering these important questions, we do not stand a chance of surviving. But even then, we have to implement those answers.

I'm not saying anything that you haven't already heard a million times. But I will try to put forth a couple of ideas that I believe can help the Fellowship develop itself into a strong social and religious organization.

Expand and concentrate on our Mission Outreach program. Over the years, we've relegated this wonderful service to the back pages of our report books and *Journals*. And why? It's about time that we highlight and expand it.

For years, the FOCA has provided missions with the religious articles and necessities that they would otherwise go without. In coordination with the OCA, we could further help the Church's mission work. Simultaneously, we will be spreading the FOCA name across the country.

It should not shock anyone to see that in the fastest-growing regions in the country and the Church (the South and the West), the Fellowship is dwindling and/or non-existent. We need to let those missions, and established parishes, know that we are here to further the work of the Church and promote fellowship within the Church.

This is the first year in at least a decade when membership has not declined. It's premature to say that we've stopped the bleeding, but it is encouraging to see that inactive chapters have reactivated and new chapters are starting, especially in the District of the South.

We can help these new chapters with an outpouring of support, ideas, and suggestions. And by showing their churches that the Fellowship complements the Orthodox Church, we can make their job easier by quietly demonstrating. And we can make their job of recruiting and sustaining an active membership easier by quietly publicizing the good works that we do. We've diligently labored to highlight these points to the seminarians at our seminaries, so that our future clergymen will not be adverse to our organization.

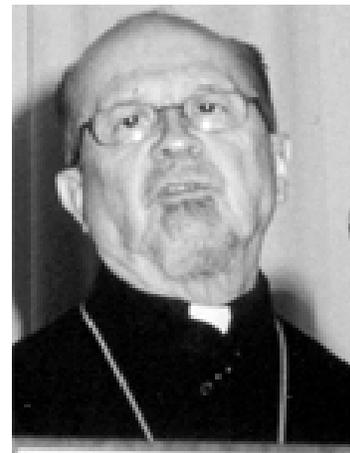
Here's another way to accomplish this.

Are we the only church-affiliated organization that sponsors such a mission project? For the purposes of this article, I'm going to assume that we are. There is no reason that we should be sitting and waiting for donors to come to us, and we certainly should not expect the mission churches to come to us for help. We need to go to them. Unfortunately, we cannot place such a burden on the current administrator without the proper resources. She does an outstanding job in a thankless position. Let's make the commitment and put the people, resources, and time into this task. Everyone will benefit.

Establish and promote a common message. As we delve into uncharted waters, we need to give everyone with whom we come into contact the same message about the Fellowship. In essence, we need a unified marketing message. And then, we need to market it! All of the publicity in the world won't help us if we send mixed messages.

Each chapter—yet, each member—needs to receive this common message.

If we are going to be the fellowship organization of the OCA, then we need to act like it. Share the love with other Orthodox Christians, and that love will be repaid tenfold.



Metropolitan Herman and Bishop Nikon of Baltimore (center) actively participated in "The Spirit of the 76th."

The SPIRIT of the 76TH

The EVENTS

By John Kruchok, Lisa Lelo, Nicholas Ressetar and Mat. Natalie Breyan

Under the co-chairmanship of Gary Lelo, Governor Nicholas Ressetar and Fr. Daniel Ressetar, the Central Pennsylvania District proudly sponsored "The Spirit of the 76th" National Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America at the Radisson Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, just outside the capitol city of Harrisburg.

Registration began in the conference center under the direction of David Keysock, John Malinchok and the members of the Frackville and Berwick "R" Clubs who processed delegates quickly and provided everyone with computer generated badges and patriotic lanyards. On Thursday, preceding the Board of Trustees meeting, Divine Liturgy on the Beheading of St. John the Baptist was held at Christ the Savior church in Harrisburg. Over 80 members, including concelebrants Fr. Robert Kondratick, Fr. Eugene Vansuch, and Fr. Dan Ressetar attended and sang the responses.

On Thursday evening, under the direction of Gregory Oleynik, Washington D.C. Male Slavic Chorus sang the first half of a concert with some very difficult liturgical hymns, which included "Bless the Lord O My Soul", "Behold the Bridegroom" from Rimsky-Kosakov, Bortnyansky's "Cherubic Hymn", Kedroff's "Our Father" and "Blessed is the Man". The second half of the program began of folk tunes and the crowd of almost 300 in attendance livened. The tunes consisted of marching, drinking and love. "Stenka Pazum" and "The Cadet Song" (Kalenka) brought the house down with a standing ovation. Soloist Nikita Wells with his booming baritone added to the color of the performance. The audience showed

their approval by singing Mnohaya Leyta to the chorus and later "God Bless America." The Slavic Male Chorus celebrated their 16th year of bringing the powerful traditional Slavic A Cappella music to the Nation's Capitol and eastern United States. The evening finished with a drawing of the flag centerpieces donated by the "O" Club of St. Clair, PA.

On Friday afternoon, a Panikhida was celebrated after sessions remembering especially those FOCA members who had fallen asleep in the Lord during the past year. Special prayers were also offered for those killed in the September 11th terrorist attacks on America as we approached the first anniversary.

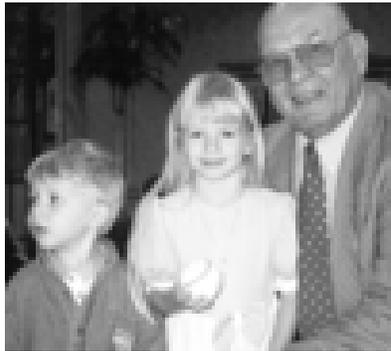
Juniors spent the day visiting the Whitaker Science Museum and saw the IMAX film "Space Station 3D". Afterwards they stopped by the Kipona River Festival. At 6:00PM when the sun finally came out, there was a pool side pizza party. The "Fellowship Kidz," led by Candi Ressetar participated in "Kinderdance". Although the participation was low, they had a great time. In the afternoon more kids got together and made patriotic arts and crafts.

The Young Adults gathering was held prior to the dance and it was an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones!

Later that evening Joe Stanky and His Cadets played a good old-fashioned "Polka Night" which brought young and old to the dance floor. A DJ offered disco music for some modern dancing from the younger crowd. It was a

delight to see some of the seniors dance the Hopak, Czardas and have a good time. The dancing went on until 12:30AM with more than 120 still in attendance including Mrs. Dubowchik from Signac, 90 years young and still dancing! She's quite a lady and she hopes to be at next year's convention. Sponsored by the Harrisburg "O" Club, the tables were decorated with firecrackers made by Evelyn Onufer, and balloons.

Continued



Top) Andy Seminick with grandchildren;
Middle) John Daniluk dancing with the children of the FOCA;
Bottom) Families are greeted by the Metropolitan.



On Saturday evening, Great Vespers was celebrated with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America and FOCA Spiritual Leader, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, honored guest at this year's convention and His Grace, Bishop Nikon, Bishop of Baltimore and Auxiliary Bishop to the Metropolitan. The choir was directed by Mat. Theodora Ressetar, official convention choir director.

Later that evening, guests had the opportunity to attend either a dinner cruise on the *Pride of the Susquehanna* or attend a stadium picnic and baseball game between the Harrisburg Senators and the Reading Phillies on city island. The FOCA's own Andy Seminick, former all-star Philadelphia Phillies catcher was honored at the game. Past National Presidents held their annual gathering as John Kruchok enjoyed his few remaining hours as a Past National President. Metropolitans Herman and Theodosius chose to spend their evening with the "Golden Agers" who pledged to make the best of their remaining years. The young adults opted for the pool area.

Sunday morning brought the highlight of the convention, the hierarchical Divine Liturgy, a day without sessions, and looking forward to the evening's grand banquet and ball. General confession and Absolution was given followed by the entrance of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, His Grace, Bishop Nikon and the traditional greeting by the FOCA National Officers, the Board of Trustees, clergy in attendance, Protodeacon Alexi Klimichev, two subdeacons and many altar servers. A choir

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman who reminded us that we must rely on ourselves to perpetuate the future of the organization. We cannot rely on the past or on future members

of nearly 75 voices was directed by Mat. Ressetar. In his homily, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman emphasized the beginning of the church calendar year and our need to dedicate our lives to work for the Church. Over 550 faithful were in attendance.

Immediately following liturgy, the annual St. Andrew's Fellowship brunch included St. Andrew's supporters and those who served the liturgy. During the afternoon, the Ohio, Central Pennsylvania and Atlantic Districts hosted receptions and the South River "R" Club hosted a reception promoting its Williamsburg convention. Of course, everyone on the committee wore traditional colonial costumes including Junior Olympics chairman Joe Shaluha and New Jersey Governor Mike Steffaro!

"Hail to the Chief" was the theme of the grand banquet with nearly 425 in attendance. Of course the special guest was His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, who retired after 25 years of service as Primate. Early on, His Beatitude was not to be found at the top tier of the head table, but greeting friends and guests table-by-table! The menu for the evening consisted of Prime Rib or Salmon which was delicious and followed by all-American apple pie for dessert.

Michael Herzak was toastmaster and did an outstanding job in keeping the program moving and limiting the introductions. The main speaker was



Top) Bishop Nikon and Metropolitan Theodosius enjoyed convention;
Middle Photos) Convention committee kept busy during sessions;
Bottom) The choir is led by Mat. Ressetar.



because we do not know what they will bring us. He spoke of the beauty of being able to talk to everyone from the youth to the "Golden Agers" and that we must maintain that close connection to each other. His Beatitude continued and said that the Lord wants to use us as His instrument to do for Him in word and deed.

Sandra Fedorko, National President spoke of the progress made during her tenure in office. She reinforced her message of last year to reach out on a personal and individual level to potential members. She encouraged those present to accept positions when offered because it means that someone believes that they can do the job. It would be a personal, professional and social widening of that person's experiences. She said "every new experience is a new adventure." She then quickly summarized her remarks: "A turtle only moves forward when it sticks its neck out."

Through the efforts of Gregory Resselar, a large projection screen then projected the images from the 26 minute video tribute to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, which portrayed the background of the Metropolitan and included comments by many who had worked with him over the many years. It spoke of His Beatitude's faith and growth in Christ from his childhood to retirement. After its conclusion, the audience gave Metropolitan Theodosius a standing

ovation which lasted nearly five minutes.

In His Beatitude's remarks called the faithful the wind beneath his wings much as an eagle continually soars upward upon the wind. He asked that we extend the support he received to the new Primate, Metropolitan Herman. He also pointed out that we must give all that we can now. We cannot say if only I had a million dollars or two cows. If we have but one cow, it is enough to share it as much as Christ fed the multitudes with merely five loaves of bread and two fish – and had baskets left over. At the end of his remarks, he received another standing ovation. President Fedorko then presented His Beatitude with a personal gift from the Fellowship and announced that a project to update the Chancery library and a plaque honoring His Beatitude would be placed in the library.

Before conclusion, the annual awarding of thirteen \$1,000 scholarships was announced. At 9:00PM the "Liberty Ball" began to the music of the Paul Kauriga Orchestra from Philadelphia with nearly 400 in attendance.

On Monday afternoon, following the official closing of the convention, members and guests traveled to Christ the Savior parish for the farewell luncheon and open house. When it was finally over, it was announced that a profit of nearly \$16,000 was earned, due to the support of the membership and the

Continued



Saturday Evening Cruise Line Up

Presidential Banquet Address

**Sandra Fedorko,
36th National
FOCA President**



Your Beatitudes, Your Grace,
Members and Guests of the Fellowship,

Last year I stood before you asking that each and everyone become an ambassador of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America; that you ignore your sweaty palms and that butterfly formation in your stomachs; that you leave your comfort zones; that you just do it by approaching individuals, offering to share the Fellowship experience. Faith Williamson and Dr. Robert Weger told the benefits of this to you during yesterday's plenary session. **MEMBERSHIP GROWTH IS DEPENDENT ON THE PERSONAL APPROACH.**

This year, that message is still appropriate and worth repeating. In fact, I considered delivering it again this afternoon but thought someone might notice. Instead I thought I'd just add another dimension.

When your chapter, your district, or the national board approaches asking you to share your perceived talents for leadership, answer, "Yes! Of course!" With all the conviction you can muster. Though you might doubt your abilities, others have taken notice of your strengths, your talents and your expertise. They have faith in you and will support you in your quest. As my oldest son constantly reminds me: Every new experience is an adventure. Adventures are not without rewards. Yours will be many. You will grow in confidence. You will discover new skills or hone established ones. You will expand your social circle.

Now, the theme I originally was going to pursue for my banquet address was a lesson on turtles. Not to disappoint those who knew of my intent, I impart this bit of turtle trivia. **A TURTLE ONLY MOVES FORWARD WHEN IT STICKS ITS NECK OUT.**

very hard work of the Central Pennsylvania District convention committee, its chapters and membership.

The BUSINESS SESSIONS

By John Kruchok, OCJ Editor

The 76th National Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America opened on Friday, August 30, 2002 with the traditional procession of Board of Trustees members and Past National Presidents and the service of prayer and innovation of the Holy Spirit by Fr. Eugene Vansuch, National Spiritual Advisor. Following the singing of the national and FOCA anthems, National President Sandra Fedorko officially opened the sessions. Honored guests in attendance were introduced including Protospesbyter Robert Kondratick, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, clergy in attendance and Past National Officers. Past Presidents included Life Member John Daniluck, Peter Melnik, William Livosky, Joseph Baldowski, Andrew Cvercko, Robert Weger, Peter Junda, Carol Deerson, Michael Dorosh, Maurice Garman, Michael Herzak, John Kruchok and John Petronko, Jr. Appointments were made by the chair and included Peter Melnik as Parliamentarian and Walter C. Alesevich as Credentials Chairperson.

Reports of the National Executive Board, Directors, Committee Chairpersons and Governors were reviewed. John Daniluck, Life Member, requested that each governor report on events and what is being done to try to increase membership. Colonial District Governor Walter Alesevich noted that he is hopeful that the Baltimore chapter would be reactivated in the next several months. Midwest District Governor Polly Walker reported on the upcoming "McFellowship Weekend" in the Midwest, Faith Malinich reported on her efforts to try to reactivate Elmira and also to merge the chapters in Syracuse. Michael Steffaro, New Jersey Governor noted that the district is actively pursuing new activities and new members, citing the District Convention Hudson River cruise banquet and the newly-established Glen Gardner chapter. Ohio Governor Leon Sheean and Pittsburgh District Governor John Schultz discussed the synergistic relationship between the chapters and parishes in their areas.

National President Sandra Fedorko reported on the new



Top) Fr. Michael Anderson retires as Jr. Dept. Director; Kathy Lazor is our new Recording Secretary; Kristina Barnowsku accepts charters for Glen Gardner chapters; Bill Soltis and Barbara Sheean (bottom) accept membership awards.

chapter formed in Clinton, Mississippi, the "Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in Mississippi." She cited the efforts of Dr. Frank Kulik and his wife Vicky who were instrumental in the organization. She also noted her representation at the All-American Council in Orlando, Florida in July and the interest by members in the South to "being connected" through the FOCA.

Allison Steffaro reported on the Seminarian Assistance Program initiated in the New Jersey District the past year, noting that the project was born out of a suggestion from Immediate Past President John Petronko, Jr. for the Fellowship to aid seminarians in some way. The result was a movement to involve 14 parishes from New York, New Jersey and Ohio who filled the "wish lists" of twenty four families at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's. Allison noted that for as little of \$50 per month, a seminarian family could be adopted.

Following reports and the recommendation assignments, "break out sessions" on leadership, strategic planning and sports were scheduled.

The report of the leadership "break out" was presented by Dr. Robert Weger, the session moderator. Thanking Nancy Filak for serving as Secretary, Bob outlined the task assigned to him by the President on "planned leadership." He reviewed how the

system has worked in the past, finding leaders through ascension through the ranks of chapter, district and national levels. He discussed elections when we had multiple individuals running for each office, the multiplicity of candidates when the organization was much larger in membership and potential hard feelings by the losing candidate. The session discussed mentoring by past leaders, rotating officers in chapters so the same person and same ideas continue year after year. Finally, he noted that some chapters give leaders a hospitality fund as a way to get members to a meeting – in other words, "feed them". As far as agendas, members need an idea when the meeting is to end, almost like people who file through a prayer book to see how long the service shall run.

After discussion, the delegates approved motions calling for the Board of Trustees to discuss the idea of staggering terms (2 year terms) for National Office, establishing a "liaison" (mentor) system for our new chapters and those struggling, providing information in the Orthodox Christian

Journal with ideas and practical solutions to help chapters to become more successful and integrating 18-35 young adults into leadership positions such as committees and national departments.

The report of the sports “break out” was presented by National Sports Director Robert Steffaro. Further modification of fund usage with the John Sutyak Sports Fund were passed in addition to an extension to allow non-FOCA Orthodox Christians to participate in all national FOCA Sports Tournaments in 2003.

John Kruchok, strategic planning chairperson, reviewed the strategic planning “break out” which discussed elements of the strategic plan regarding mission, communication, marketing, fellowship, service and youth ministry. Motions passed included study of the present national charitable funds with possible name changes, a change of the name “Heartbeat Sunday” to “Gifts of Love” and the establishment of a goal over the next two years of producing marketing material such as videos, brochures and posters.

Proposed amendments to the constitution and by-laws were discussed at this time and the amendment granting Past National Presidents the right to vote was approved. An amendment proposing the granting of voting privileges to Associate Members after five years of active membership was tabled after much discussion.

Finally, a recommendation by Fr. Daniel Ressetar, mission ministries chairperson, allocating two \$1,500 grants to those who qualify under O.C.M.C. (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) was approved. Before closing prayers and the start of the Panikhida, Fr. Eugene Vansuch updated the delegates on the Diocese of Alaska and St. Herman’s Theological Seminary.

The Saturday plenary session opened with the FOCA Pledge of Renewal. National President Sandra Fedorko reported on her representation at the Thirteenth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. She noted that it was a fantastic experience, particularly the election of the Primate, Metropolitan Herman. Sandi reported on the FOCA’s display which included a VCR/TV combo with the video outlining the organization’s 75 year history. She thanked Betty Ann Perschka for her assistance noting that they spoke to many interested individuals, particularly in the south. She noted that many of the parishes in the south are composed primarily of converts who do not share our ethnic history and background and thus selling the organization can be viewed as “selling iceboxes to Eskimos”. President Fedorko expressed the opinion that we need to look at how we think and view this organization. “I am throwing a word of caution – let us be careful for what we wish for. We have a tendency to live in

the past and we have a tendency to think that our ethnic history and background is the best and only way and that everyone should subscribe to it.” Finally, she noted the “business cards” which were available, with the organization’s contact information and also the gift of candy fruit slices which were given to FOCA Spiritual Advisors in attendance.

Fr. Robert Kondratick, OCA Chancellor addressed the delegates as part of the “Chancellor’s Corner” segment of the session. He expressed the sentiment that it was nice to be in Harrisburg and to again, attend the national convention, and it was good to see someone else running the convention. Fr. Bob noted that both Metropolitans were enroute, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, our newly-elected Primate and the recently retired Metropolitan Theodosius. He also reported on the very successful All-American Council in Orlando, Florida with 1700 in attendance and noted that there are 671 parishes, missions and institutions in the OCA in North America alone, with 272 new parishes since the Church was granted autocephaly in 1970. Regarding clergy, we presently have more than 730, with 124 new clergy coming into the OCA since 1999.

Fr. Kondratick noted that this is not just an FOCA convention, but that we are here to witness who we are as Orthodox Christians in this country. He

Continued

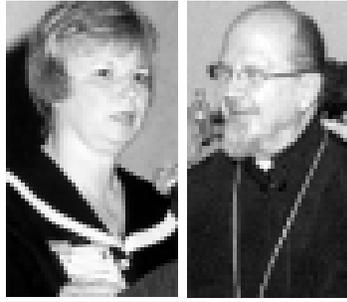
Top Photos) Break Out Sessions;
Below) Clergy gather for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.



cited the efforts of the national church in the area of communication and recognized Pete and Bob Czech, members in Passaic #66 who work on the website and with the membership database and also John Mindala, a member of Cleveland #4/6, Fr. John Matusiak, a member of St. Joe's #226 and David Lucs for their efforts with the website and TOC (The Orthodox Church).

Regarding the newly-elected Primate, Fr. Bob reported that Metropolitan Herman has received all items which were transferred, including the relics and chrism. He noted that the SCOBA met in August at the OCA Chancery in Syosset and that there was a tremendous amount of excitement, including the establishment of a new office in Washington D.C. to help deal and address the needs of Orthodox Christians in this country. Finally, he noted the enthronement coming up in the next weekend with the worldwide representation of Orthodox Churches and the upcoming visit with President George Bush that week.

The Junior report was presented by Fr. Michael Anderson, Junior Department Director and OCA Youth and Young Adult Ministries coordinator. He noted the successful completion of the junior safety guidelines for national events and also the development of the "Creative Arts Festival," a program which he hopes will be put in place by the FOCA. Motions suggesting CPO utilize the new guidelines at next year's convention to determine feasibility for adoption and establishment of the Creative Arts Festival as an FOCA program with



Top) President Fedorko and Metropolitan Herman during sessions; **Middle)** A surprise birthday cake for Gov. Polly Walker of the Midwest Dist.; **Below)** The Deerson family promotes next year's convention in Colonial Williamsburg, Labor Day weekend, 2003; traditional ring of hands to close the convention.



prize money not to exceed \$2,000 were passed.

The Nominating Committee headed by William Soltis reported on the candidates for national office. With the establishment of a temporary chairperson, nominations were opened and John Kruchok was presented as a candidate for President, Jennifer Pishko and Dr. John Schultz were candidates for the office of Vice-President, Kathy Lazor for the office of Recording Secretary and Michael Bowan for the office of Treasurer. The nominations were then temporarily closed.

The annual membership trophies were awarded by the President. For the highest numerical gain for Seniors, the Cathedral chapter of the Ohio District, Cleveland #7, received the award for ten new members. William Soltis accepted the award for the highest numerical gain for juniors, with twenty-eight new members, for the St. John's Jr. Carpatho-Russian "R" Club, Bridgeport, Connecticut. New charters were presented to Kristina Barnowsky on behalf of Glen Gardner, New Jersey, #246 and 246-J, and to Frank Kulik, Jr. on behalf of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in Mississippi #247.

Before adjourning for a free afternoon before Vespers, delegates approved auditor's reports.

On Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd, the final plenary session began with the awarding of sports bids. Kathy Lazor, co-chairman of the 2003 National Basketball Tournament sponsored by the Campbell "O" Club, reported on plans for the upcoming event noting that the Holiday Inn is



reserved at \$79 per night with games at Youngstown State University the weekend of May 9-11, 2003. Mike Steffaro reported on the New Jersey District's sponsorship of the National Bowling Tournament May 30-June 1st with the Hilton reserved at \$83 per night. Location is the South River/East Brunswick area near Rutgers University. He invited everyone to bring their whole family as there is an activity center nearby while parents can enjoy the open house. Plans for Saturday evening following Vespers are to board buses for a dinner at the Meadowlands Race Track.

Robert Steffaro opened bids for future sports events. The 2004 Basketball Tournament was awarded to Northside (Pittsburgh) #1, to be co-chaired by Michael and Mary Wusylko. The 2005 Basketball Tournament was awarded to the St. Mary's "O" Club, Minneapolis. The 2004 National Bowling Tournament was awarded to the St. Andrew's "O" Club #220, Maple Heights, Ohio. National Summer Sports Tournaments for 2003 were awarded to Weirton #58 and 2004 to Frackville, PA #150. The Hartford "R" noted possible interest for bowling in 2005.

Convention Planning and Operating Director Carol Deerson reported that there were no bids for the 2005 National Convention, which will also be an All-American Council year with the site still to be determined. She will continue to encourage bids for 2005 and also look into the feasibility of holding the event in conjunction with the Orthodox Church in America's planning.

The South River "R" Club presented a whimsical promotion of authentic costumes and song for the upcoming Colonial Williamsburg national convention next Labor Day weekend, 2003. The hotel will be the Woodlands Hotel and Conference Center. The 2004 National Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand Island, near Buffalo, New York, sponsored by the Campbell "O" Club. The hotel is directly on the Niagara River, an equal distance between the Falls and Buffalo. The hotel features indoor and outdoor pools, golf, fitness etc.

Following bids and presentations, the delegates moved on to the treasurer's report and adoption of the budget. Michael Bowan was commended by Peter Junda for the exceptional job he has done for so many years. Motions passed from the treasurer's report included the allocation of \$10,000 for William Fekula Scholarships in 2003, with each award being set at \$1,000; that the United Fund allocation for un earmarked funds for fiscal year end of June 30, 2004 be 35% scholarships, 35% junior department/youth ministry and 30% missions and that the United Fund goal for voluntary contributions be set at \$15 per person

Under unfinished business, effective with the 2003 Stock Awards, prizes will be broken down to 1st prize, \$300; 2nd and 3rd prizes \$100, 4th through 7th prizes \$50 by motion passed by the delegates. Delegates also approved the recommendation by the Pittsburgh District Governor to dedicate the room at the Diocese of the West Life-giving Spring Retreat Center in Boulder, Nevada to "all Orthodox youth of North America by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America" and that appropriate icons reflecting its name be placed in the room.

Regarding the 2003 "Gifts of Love" drive (formerly Heartbeat Sunday), delegates approved the recipient to be Alaska. Specific purpose shall be determined by the Executive Board.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, addressed the delegates noting that we should continue to trust in the Lord while offering our time and talents and to continue to labor at the convention and in our local chapters knowing that all of our churches are indeed grateful for our good works.

Continued



Top L-R) Mat. Natalie Breyan, John Daniluck; Annette Milkovich and Eleanor Skuby during the songfest of the Golden Agers gathering; **Left)** The Johnson family from New Jersey; **Below)** Past President Michael Wusylko with his wife Mary and Metropolitan Herman; **Bottom)** Ladies of the FOCA all dressed up for the ball!

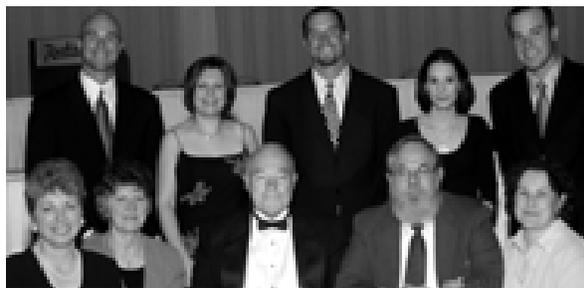


Carol Deerson, National CP&O Director, called upon the delegates to give a round of applause to the Central Pennsylvania District for sponsoring an outstanding convention.

Following the drawing of stock awards by Mary Jane Lucak, the chair was turned over to Past National President Joseph Baldowski for the election of officers. John Kruchok was elected as 37th National President, Dr. John Schultz was elected Vice-President, Kathy Lazor was elected Recording Secretary and Michael Bowan was re-elected Treasurer. Sandra Fedorko becomes Immediate Past President.

Before adjourning, installation and closing of the convention, Past National President Michael Herzak noted that the organization seems to have turned the corner with a number of positive signs, noted that this was one of the strongest Executive Boards in years and cited several firsts including the first national president to be elected again and the first time a mother/daughter had served as National Recording Secretary (Kaye Garman/Kathy Lazor).

The 2003 convention will be reconvened Labor Day weekend at the Woodlands Hotel, Williamsburg, Virginia.



The GOLDEN AGERS

By Eleanor Skuby

An enthusiastic group of seventy Golden Agers met for their annual get-together Saturday night after the Dinner Cruise and the Baseball game. The organizer of this group, John Daniluck, conducted the evening's program, ably assisted by Marge Hopkosky.

We were honored to have Metropolitan Herman, Metropolitan Theodosius (re-tired) and the newly consecrated Bishop Nikon with us. As customary, they were presented with various gifts to remember the occasion. A Golden Agers gathering is not complete without a songfest and the Hierarchs joined in robustly.

The star of the evening was Mary Dubowchik of Singac, NJ, at age 90, the oldest lady present. Mary, very enthusiastically, told the group of her recent trip to the Ukraine to see her home and family. If you saw Mary walking around wearing a tiara, that was one of the many gifts for the star of the evening.

The men were not forgotten, Robert Koncel of Chicago/Burr Ridge claimed the award for the oldest man present. When the question was asked who has the most grandchildren, Olga and Steve Melnick of the Upper New York District easily won the prize with ten.

A number of door prizes were provided by Danny and each person present received a small bar of soap. Some of the bars had surprises in them - money - anything from one cent to two dollars.

After getting acquainted with the newcomers to the group and enjoying some light refreshment, the Golden Agers adjourned in song with hopes of all gathering again in Williamsburg in 2003. ♦

Presenting the 2002 FOCA National Scholarship Awards

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America announced the thirteen recipients of national scholarship awards at the national convention banquet on Sunday, September 1, 2002 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Each recipient will receive an award of \$1,000. Thanks to the National Scholarship Administrator, Mr. David Brzuchalski and the Scholarship Board of Judges in the Anthracite District.

Fred Lewis Awards



Natasha J. Rezanka
Olyphant #105

William Fekula Awards



Elizabeth W. Fiktus
Cleveland #4/6



Tamara Kowalchik
Cleveland #4/6

John Klimkosky Scholarship



Meredith Hendren
Bridgeport #180



Jeffrey D. Hoff
South River #167



Rebekah Ignatowicz
Minneapolis #94



Tatiana J. Bohush
Endicott #43



Kelly M. Baron
Passaic #30



Lauren D. Horvath
South River #167



Lara A. Kowalchik
Cleveland #4/6



Sara S. Vogel
Ambridge #5



Kimberly N. Metz
Bethlehem #166



Christopher W.
Dupkanick
Endicott #43

Historic Williamsburg, the Place to Be in 2003!



South River, NJ Will Be Your Host For Next Year's National Convention Labor Day Weekend, 2003

Get ready to hear a fife and drum, meet Patrick Henry or Thomas Jefferson along the street and have dinner in the famous **King's Arm Tavern**. Not only will you see history come alive, you will live it! Welcome to Williamsburg, the site of the 2003 National FOCA convention. It is here that our founding fathers laid the groundwork for our nation; hopefully we will have productive sessions that will, too, lay groundwork for the future of our organization. While staying at **The Woodlands Hotel**, located on Colonial Williamsburg property, you will be submerged into the 18th century. Williamsburg was the capital of Virginia from 1699 to 1780. In the Colonial town there are 88 original buildings where you will encounter people of the past-working trades people and historical interpreters who will share with you their knowledge of history. There are taverns serving 18th century fare, museums and exhibits (some live) and over 500 restored and reconstructed buildings, all just steps away from the hotel. Children of all ages can gain valuable knowledge by experiencing colonial life first hand. They can volunteer to join the fire

brigade or the militia and play authentic games with children from

the period.

Pineapples everywhere! Many are not aware, but the pineapple is the colonial sign of hospitality. We hope to live up to the expectations of "Southern Hospitality" by providing the most exciting convention and vacation site to date. Our committee of colonists has planned a revolutionary good time for all convention goers. You will be treated to "**The Williamsburg Welcome Wagon**" at our Thursday night Open House, experience a night at a "**Yankee Pub**" fun for the entire family, dine at one of four taverns on Saturday night, and dance the night away after the Sunday Banquet to be held in the famous **Williamsburg Lodge**. In between there are Garden Tours, Evening Lantern and Legends tours, a Southern Tea Party for the ladies and a few surprises too.

For the juniors there will be trips to **Jamestown** and **Yorktown** on Friday, and **Carters Grove Plantation** on Saturday. They will experience colonial life with 18th century children and join the militia, all before lunch on Saturday morning. As for our smaller colonists (those eight and under) there will be arts and crafts and other activities for them while their parents are in sessions.

If the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation does not have enough for you, there is **Jamestown, Yorktown**

Cont'd. pg. 29 / Williamsburg

FEATURE *story* JUNIORS 2002

There are presently forty junior chapters in the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America. Membership increased from 687 to 732. Each chapter has a junior advisor or a team of individuals responsible for guidance, supervision, programs and activities. Many senior chapters offer support through leadership, resources and interaction as family-oriented fellowship, athletic and service organizations within the parish. The National Junior Department oversees national youth programs and provides support and resources to help coordinate youth ministry efforts. After successfully positioning the Jr. FOCA for future growth with Orthodox parishes across North America, Fr. Michael Anderson announced his retirement effective in September due to increasing responsibilities with the Church ministry program. We thank Fr. Michael for his extraordinary efforts and are pleased that he will continue to be a member of the National Junior Department.

Highlights of the past year included participation by several junior chapters at the national basketball tournament in Akron, participation in national bowling and golf, the national Junior Olympics, headed by a new director, Joe Shaluha, an increase in applicants to the national junior essay contest, completion of national event safety guidelines, national and district scholarship winners and the proposal and convention adoption of a new youth program – "Celebrations of Faith" – a national creative arts celebration for young people throughout the Church in North America to submit artistic efforts in literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. This FOCA sponsored program is open to all youth who will receive various types of recognition for their participation. This year's theme will reflect the theme chosen by the Holy Synod of Bishops for the church year 2002-2003 – "Jesus Christ: The Way, The Truth, and the Life".

The year 2002 also marked the official announcement of the church-wide youth movement by the Orthodox Church in America as announced by His Beati-

tude, Metropolitan Herman, support and cooperation of the movement as endorsed formally by the National Board of Trustees of the FOCA and co-sponsorship of the duffle bags given to more than 400 youth attending the 13th All-American Council in Orlando, Florida.

New Church Year With Positive Changes

Auburn, NY Junior Club

Greeting from the Auburn New York Junior Club. It is a new church year and positive changes are all around. Our priest Father Stephan Mack spoke recently on how change is positive and needed for growth. For example, he mentioned how Justin Szymaniak is now away out in college and that Christopher Mack and Nicholas Stanley will be serving as readers for our church. He also mentioned that Luke Wilczek has joined the ranks of Altar Servers and hopefully our junior club as well.

In the midst of our schools, sports, band, and school clubs, (and who can forget homework?) we are trying as a Junior club to stay focused on our club and in Orthodoxy. In November we will be hosting the Upstate New York Bowling Tournament right here in good old Auburn. We believe a great time will be had by all.

As members we continue to make contributions to our church and to our club. Hope you enjoy the picture that shows us all so young. Next article we will continue to report on all our positive changes.

- Dominika Donch

Friendships Grow

St. Mary's Saints

The St. Mary's Saints from St. Mary's Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN, are more than just another youth group, we are a group of close friends. Many of our Saints participate in events such as the All American Council, the National Basketball Tournaments and Big Sandy Pan-Orthodox Camp. The Saints group also plans events of their own. We will go to a corn maze this month, have

bonfires, lock-ins, dances and go bowling. Everything we do together makes stronger friendships and lifetime memories.

Not only do we go out and have fun, but we work and hold fund-raisers to be able to have enough money to hold our activities. During Easter we serve and cleanup the Lenten dinners every Friday. We also sell candy twice a year. We go on service projects to help out our community and the people of our church. Many of the Saints go to Mexico each year for an amazing event called Project Mexico, where we build a home for less fortunate families. Some of our kids help out locally with Habitat For Humanity. Every year before Christmas, all of the Saints visit the elderly that cannot attend our church anymore. We bring them a gift and talk to them about how we enjoy our friends at church. Then we will listen to their stories of how church was when they were our age. These kinds of things show others how dedicated each Saint is to our church and how much they care about other people. The St. Mary's Saints is more than just a group of teenagers. We are a proud group of friends that love and care about the people around us and we show it through many ways.

-Samantha Jurichko

Youth Are Busy!

Campbell Junior "O" Club

The Campbell Junior "O" Club began their year with the election of

officers. The are:

President: Sarah Vansuch
Vice President: Krisitin Ferrick
Secretary: Stacy Sirill
Treasurer: Andrew Zelinsky

The Junior Advisors are Debbie Zelinsky and Cindy Ferrick. We have 32 members in our chapter.

We held the Ohio Junior District Frolic in Akron. We had an overnight lock-in which was a lot of fun and a great success.

Many fund raisers were held such as apple and pumpkin pie sale, cookie trays sold at Christmas and a luncheon for our church's annual meeting. With these fund raisers we were able to support the Christmas Stocking project.

Some of the Juniors attended the Ohio District Bowling Tournament and the Ohio Junior District Dance in Warren.

The Campbell Juniors along with the Warren Juniors joined to form basketball teams and began practice. We participated in the Ohio District

Continued

Top) Saints play a round at the Summer Sports Tournament; **Bottom)** The Saints, Jr. chapter in Minneapolis



Basketball Tournament with four teams: Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Bantam Boys and for the first time a girls Bantam team. Our All Stars were Jenny Lazor, Lauren and Elise Rosco. Zoe Settle mire, Ian Pethel and Chris Settle mire.

In May, we attended the National Basketball Tournament held in Akron and our All Stars were Jenny Lazor and Andre Ferrell.

The Juniors held a Chinese Auction for our church annual Easterfest, where the Juniors helped to serve and clean-up in the kitchen. We dyed red eggs and read during grave watch for Holy Friday and Pascha.

The Juniors honored Mother's Day and Father's Day with coffee hours.

Many of our Juniors attended both weeks at Ohio District Camp and Junior Olympics. They also attended Cedar Point with Bishop JOB.

Our Senior "O" sponsors an annual rib roast held at Lake Milton, which they always invite the Juniors. There was great food, jet skis and this is always a great social event.

Our sponsoring Senior chapter is very supportive of us and we appreciate all that they do.

The Juniors held the Ohio District Conference where elections were held and two of our members were elected.

Kristin Ferrick was elected Jr. Governor and Andrew Zelinsky is the new Jr. Lt. Governor. The now Immd. Past Jr. Governor is our chapter member Jenny Lazor.

The church's 85th anniversary was held in October and the Juniors were in charge of the concession stand held at a Chinese Auction fund raiser and we also sponsored an extended coffee hour as a part of the events to be held for the anniversary.

Once again we will be electing new officers and planning activities for the coming year! We plan this next year to do more community projects. One of our future plans is the Ohio Junior District Dance. The year went so fast and we look forward to successful future activities.

Advisors Change Hands Cleveland Jr. 'R' Club

What a busy year it's been for our Junior Club! In September, 2001 we said good-bye to our advisor, Mrs. Paula Herzak. She was a great advisor and will be missed! (We're sure that she put that Starbuck's gift card to good use!!)

Melissa Tesar stepped up to the plate and became our new advisor. With the sights and sounds of September 11 still

fresh in our memory, we donated money to the OCA's September 11 Emergency Relief Appeal.

We also elected our new officers: Mary Kovalak, President; Nick Tonic, Vice-President; Kathy Schlek, Secretary; Liz Fiktus, Treasurer; and Liz Wienclaw, Sergeant-At-Arms.

In October, we held our annual Halloween Brunch and donated the proceeds to the OCA Christmas Stocking Project.

We sponsored a food drive during the month of November and donated everything to The Little Brothers of the Divine Compassion - St. Herman's Monastery/House of Hospitality in Cleveland. About 7 Juniors helped unload the food and we spent some time singing Christmas Carols with those who were there.

January, 2002 was a very busy month for us!! We held our Christmas Party at the Flat Iron Café in Downtown Cleveland and had fun with a gift exchange. We had a great time!!

We also got started with our basketball practices. Many of our Juniors participated in the Ohio District Bowling Tournament. A few of us even won prizes!

We invited area Juniors and Pre-Teens to join us at a Cleveland Barons hockey game. We were a bit disappointed - we didn't see a fight!! Maybe next time!

Melissa chaired the 2nd Annual Poorman's Reverse Raffle as a fundraiser in February. We also had some Juniors travel to Warren for the Ohio Jr. District Dance.

In March, we participated in the Ohio District Basketball Tournament, hosted by Warren. We had a ton of fun, and even came home with a few trophies!

We cleaned the Church in April to prepare for Pascha. On Holy Saturday, we dyed red eggs to give out to everyone in our parish on Pascha.

In May, we helped pay for Mother's Day gifts for the mothers and godmothers in our parish. We also sent 4 teams to the National Basketball Tournament, sponsored by Akron. We all had fun, and again, came home with some trophies.

We also collected food and donated it to the Parma Hunger Center.

In June, in honor of Father's Day, we bought carnation boutonnières and pinned them on all men of the Church and our graduates (both high school and college). We said good-bye to our own graduating members: Liz Fiktus, Mary Kovalak, Kathy Schlek, Nick Longa and Nick Tonic.

Some of our Juniors went to St.



Afternoon Tea in Cannonsburg, PA.

Vladimir's Camp and Junior Olympics.

In August, we sent a delegation to the Ohio Jr. District Conference in Campbell. We also elected our new officers for the 2002-2003 year: Liz Wienclaw, President; Bryan Glosik, Vice-President; Katie Farragher, Secretary; Tim Gaydos, Treasurer; and Bill Schlekic, Sergeant-At-Arms.

In addition to the OCA September 11 Emergency Relief Appeal and the Christmas Stocking Project, we also made donations to the following: Prof. John Ressetar Scholarship Fund; donation in Memory of Sara Glosik; St. Michael's Improvement Fund (Renovation); St. Michael's Woodside, Ohio District Scholarship Fund, St. Vladimir's Camp & Retreat Center and a donation to St. Tikhon's in honor of Metropolitan Theodosius upon his retirement.

Fun and Fellowship Harrisburg, PA Juniors

The Harrisburg Junior "O" of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church got off to a good start this year

Below)The Auburn Jr.'s. gather for a photo opportunity;
Bottom) Harrisburg Jr.'s gather.



electing new officers at the September meeting. Officers for the 2002-2003 year are: President Elena Blebea, Vice President Christina Blebea, Treasurer Dimitri Ressetar, and Secretary Lauren Kneiss. The group will be holding a bake sale to raise funds for the Annual Christmas Stocking Project for the orphans in Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia on October 20th. Following the bake sale, they intend to visit a corn maze where the proceeds will benefit the Children's Miracle Network. In addition, the Junior "O" will be participating in the annual CROP walk to be held at City Island, Harrisburg. Long-term plans for this year's Junior "O" include a year-long project with Fr. Neal Carrigan working for the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. The whole group is looking forward to a wonderful year of fun and fellowship!

- Judy Blebea

Fund Raising Key to Success Canonsburg "O" Club

Here are the highlights of our activities this past year:

We have had many successful fund raisers this past year. We've had three breakfasts: a brunch in October, a french toast breakfast in February, and a pancake breakfast in May.

We held an Easter basket raffle during

cont'd. page 29 /
Success

Junior Olympics 2002

"My name is Stephen Pron and I am 16 years old. I have been going to the F.O.C.A. Junior Olympics (JO) since 1998, and I haven't missed a year since. I live near Philadelphia and attend St. Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral. Camp is very far away so it is a long trip to get there, but I wouldn't miss it for the world!"

JO Camp 2002 marked the beginning of a new era as former Director John Schultz passed the directorial torch to Joe Shalula. Joe has been a Counselor at Camp for several years, and he made a smooth transition into the role of Director. It only took Joe reading the rules 50 times before we knew he was the "boss."

We also welcomed the return of Fr. Emil Hutnyan to JO. Each day we spent an hour speaking with him about Orthodox history, doctrine, and customs. "Fun with Father," as it is affectionately known, was even held in the pool in an attempt to "beat the heat" that was felt during the week. With Fr. Emil each day began with Matins and closed with Vespers. We also held a Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy during the week. The multitude of services gave the campers the opportunity to read and to sing in the choir. Fr. Emil also heard confessions in preparation for the Divine Liturgy.

The Olympic Events were particularly exciting this year! With the campers pushing their athletic ability to the edge, no one knew who would come out on

Continued

Junior Olympics 2002 Photo Album

top until the very end of the week. The overall winners were as follows:

Girls 13 and under:

Champion – Monica Dubinsky, Akron, #32-J

Runner-up – Laura Calabrese, Campbell, #27-J

Third Place – Ally Oleynik, Canonsburg, #109-J

Boys 13 and under:

Champion – John Fedoronko, Philadelphia, #82-J

Runner-up – Joe Moleski

Third Place – Alex Cox, Philadelphia, #82-J

Girls 14 and over:

Champion – Laura Fedoronko, Philadelphia, #82-J

Runner-up – Danielle Champney, Campbell, #27-J

Third Place – Kristen Ferrick, Campbell, #27-J

Boys 14 and over:

Champion – Michael Calabrese, Campbell, 27-J

Runner-up – Michael D’Fantis, NM, Olmstead Falls, OH

Third Place – David Norris, Campbell, # 27-J

Sportsmanship Awards:

13 and under: Alex Cox, Philadelphia, #82-J

14 and over: Peter Brager, NM, Youngstown, OH

The Counselors really “stick it” to us this year in the Synchronized Swimming competitions. The selection of music provoked an interesting wardrobe, but we’ll leave that one alone. All I have to say is that it is impossible to choreograph a routine to a techno-remix of “When the Lion Sleeps Tonight!”

Thanks to CIT Natasha from Canada for life-guarding us in the pool. It was especially warm, and she was, therefore, on duty most of the time. John and



Michael even thanked her for her service by tossing her into the pool! After spending so much time in the sun, by the end of the week Natasha's nose was the same color as Stacy's hair!

Counselor Jamie Hoff served as the Camp Physician Assistant with telephone consultation to John Schultz. Jamie was great in tending to all of our aches and pains...or should I say breaks and pains? Yes, I broke my leg PRIOR to camp and did not find out until during camp so I spent most of the week on crutches. This made it just slightly hard to compete in the 100-meter dash! Jamie took good care of me, and I'm sure I'll be back playing football in no time.

The talent show was of exceptionally high quality this year. It was complete with N'sync dance routines and even a "Who's Line is it Anyway?" skit which, thanks to the comedic styling of Mike Livo, was particularly hilarious.

Thanks to Jamie and Camper Mike Calabrese for bringing their "Night Vision" video cameras to capture all of the exciting footage. We will never forget the "Fresh Prince of St. Vlad's," the carpet cleaning duo, and Livo hiding under his bunk all night.

Thanks to all the Counselors – Jamie Hoff, Kyra Visocky, Steven Visocky, Stephen Cvercko, Rebecca Tesar, Nicholas Finley, Natasha Kanerva, and Jeffery Hoff – the Cooks, and all my fellow campers who helped make this week special especially Shrek who will always hold a special place in my heart. I didn't make the podium this year, but everybody better watch out next year – I'll be goin' for the Gold. I look forward to seeing you all at Junior Olympics in 2003.

Junior Olympics 2003 will be held July 20 – July 26, 2003 at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Camp in Ohio.

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NATIONAL JUNIOR ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

This year's topic for the 2002 National Junior Essay Contest was "Making Good out of Evil; How God can take a terrible thing and make something positive out of it" was selected. Marge Kovach and Marissa Hedge from the Bayonne "R" Club again served as co-chairpersons for the contest. There was an increase in submissions this year with a total of 26. Judges evaluated essays in four age categories, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, and 16-18.

MAKING GOOD OUT OF EVIL

*Juliana Nehrebecki – Age 10
South River Chapter 167-J*

I believe that good can come from evil and I will tell you a story of how. My mother, brother and I all live together in our new house. We gave our mother a lawn chair on Mother's Day and cleaned her car on Father's Day, because she is both to us, you see, our parents are divorced. At first it was very sad not to have a mother and a father living together in the same house; not to have my father walk through the door after work. All my other friends have two parents to drive them places and help them with school projects, but we only have Mom. Mom works hard and is tired when she comes home and is often cranky. My brother and I have to wait our turn if we need her help with schoolwork.

The move was hard and scary. I left my school, friends and community that I grew up in.

I went to a school where I had no friends and knew no one. I was the new kid in town and the girls weren't so easy to make friends with, and I am shy which makes it harder. Many times I'd cry at night because I had no friends but didn't want to let my Mother know

because she would get upset.

The move was hard but it was for the better. My parents just couldn't live together anymore. I was young but I can remember my parents yelling a lot and my brother and I would often cry. Now there is no more yelling, but a lot of laughter. I still miss my Dad a lot and see him as often as I can, but the three of us have become a new family and made a new life.

As time has gone on, and I am finishing my first year of school in my new town, I have made many friends in school. I was even invited to my friend's sleep over birthday party the other night. It was great fun. We made sand art and homemade chocolate pops and got a goody bag filled with things.

The divorce and the bad times were Evil, but good came of it. Our life is now filled with happiness and good times and this is mainly because of the church family that we joined. We joined a parish with a hundred children and a lot of people my mom's age and many divorced women too. We are very active in the church. We do a lot of activities and go on many trips. We went skiing to Lake Placid and visited the Mall of American in Minnesota, while attending the National Basketball Tournament. My brother and I both play on FOCA teams and his division won the championship this year. What a thrill that was! We are grateful to all those new parish friends who have taken us in as family and help Mom watch over us. My brother feels that our parent's divorce has given us a much better life and I'd have to agree with him. You see, good can come from evil!

*Justine Grosso -- Age 13
South River Chapter 167-J*

It's hard to believe that something evil can be turned into something good. In fact, the perspective you look from is what makes the difference. You can either look at a glass half empty or half full. God can take a terrible thing and make something positive out of it. The same concept is used all throughout life.

For example, if a child is skating

Continued

SPORTS *corner*

Feedback Needed

As part of our expanded sports coverage and to gain commentary from our readers, we welcome feedback regarding topical issues, particularly covering youth sports. In future issues, we will discuss: specializing in sports vs. playing multiple, seasonal sports; travel team commitments vs. recreational teams; tips for coaching your own child; injury issues; etc.

One matter that is a serious and conflicting concern that many parents face is the scheduling of youth sports, particularly travel, or select, teams that play on Sunday mornings. Many of these teams, because of field use constraints, conflicts with other sports, need, in the opinion of those program co-coordinators, to schedule practices and games that conflict with Sunday worship. Weekday alternatives may not be an option for these programs.

As a parent who supports a child's athletic development, particularly if the child is naturally gifted and interested in the sports, how do we handle Sunday conflicts with Divine Liturgy and Sunday School in these programs? Can there be a balance, or is the situation all or none?

This is a growing concern among parents and their children, and your opinions are welcomes.

E-Mail your comments to me at:

kbaron@yesinvest.com

or mail to me at:

Kenneth Baron

338 Landi Court, Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481.

Thank you for your interest,
Kenneth Baron, Sports Editor

without knee pads and he falls down and scrapes his knee, he will get upset and cry. After, with the guidance of his parents, he will realize his mistake and the consequences, and decide to wear knee pads the next time he skates. Also, if a student gets a bad grade on a test, she can review it and learn from her mistakes. The lessons people learn during their childhood will stay with them all through their years. When they become parents, they help their own children along, shaping their values and morals.

Although God has helped us get through everyday problems like scraped knees and bad grades, He has also helped us with very big ones. God has allowed all of America to come closer after the terrorist events of September 11th. Through this horrible tragedy, friends and family have become closer. What has been a simple peck on the cheek and a quick "I love you" before going to work or school, now means so much more. People have realized that it may have been their last good-bye to their loved one. Everyone has learned to appreciate their family and other things they have taken for granted. Some realize how lucky they are to be alive and how lucky they are to have all their family members with them too. This shows that God has turned something so evil into something good.

Many people feel the need to turn to God even more than usual when times are bad or they are scared and worried. We ask Him why such an evil thing could have happened and why someone would want to do something so terrible. We may not always get an answer, but praying helps us think about what has happened and our faith in God is usually enough to help us get through a terrible time. After all that has happened, I know I feel changed for the better and will continue to look at the glass as half full. I pray that God will give me the strength to deal with what I can control and make sure it leads to something good.

*Kate Mulcahy -- Age 14
Northside Chapter 1-J*

At my school, there are many posters displayed around the building with

encouraging messages. One of my favorite reads: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Although this may be oversimplifying things a bit, it's basically what God does everyday.

People have their own free will meaning that God can't control our actions. Thus, people make mistakes, and bad things do happen. More importantly, however, are the actions taken as a result of these acts. Something positive can result from them. Take, for example, September 11, 2001. This was possibly the worst tragedy ever witnessed by Americans. But, despite this evil doing, the goodness in people prevailed. The best qualities in many people were revealed. These included: love, generosity, bravery, perseverance and an infinite number of other traits. Strangers risked their lives for one another, while others donated blood, food, medical aid and friendly support for the victims and their families. God was a part of all of this. He gave the American people the strength to go on. The best part, though, was that people were helping each other. Too often, we disregard people in need, saying "it's not our problem." Here, however, everyone reached out to assist the needy.

Everyone can see how God turned evil into good on this large scale, but how does He do it on a personal level? How does He change bad things that occur in everyday life into something positive? An example from my own life can answer these questions. In sixth grade, I was just getting settled into my new school when a problem befell me. An older boy kept harassing me in school, on the phone and even at my house. I felt like I couldn't escape the lies he was telling about me, and the rude comments that were being made about me to other students. Understandably, I didn't want to attend school because of this. I was afraid of what might happen to me, or how I might be humiliated. Despite the severity of the situation, I learned a lot of good things from this experience. First of all, I realized that I had some really great friends who would support me in any way that they could. I also realized that some people weren't worth being friends with. Many teachers also

befriended me during this tough time, and lent a helping hand whenever they could. The second positive thing that came from this problem was that my family grew closer together. We were more conscious of each other's feelings and supported one another. Finally, this made me a stronger person. I learned how to deal with harassment, and what to do to possibly avoid it in the future. I learned how to focus on my studies, in the midst of a difficult situation. Lastly, I learned that God was there to help me through my struggle, and that I could find strength in Him.

Sometimes it's hard to see God's presence during the tough times, but looking back, it's evident that we couldn't have made it through without His love and guidance. Also, having a positive outlook during bad times can help you solve the problem and keep your head clear. You have to learn to be patient, and to see all sides of a situation. If all this is kept in mind, every evil can easily be changed into a positive experience. Just remember, to make your lemons into lemonade, add the sugar of God's love!

*Jeffrey Hoff -- Age 18
South River Chapter 167-J*

September 11, 2001 wreaked havoc among citizens from the United States, especially those close to the towers, flights one in prayer.

God took a terrible thing and made something positive out of it. He took a disaster and from it he had people saving each other, contributing to each other and praying together.

On a personal note for September 11th, I saw how God made people come together. My father works in New York City. Because of the mass chaos and uncertainty surrounding the attacks, many modes of transportation were shut down, especially the bridges and tunnels. This made it almost impossible for my father to get to New Jersey from New York City, until he met a kind Samaritan. This total stranger found a way to get to his home in Long Island (one of the only bridges open), fed him, then brought him to New Jersey. Refusing anything in return, he left for home after this eight

hour ordeal.

Another aspect of God reversing a terrible thing is how He renewed people's faith. Those who happened to take the day off saw themselves as given a second chance at life. Those whose routine had been altered, or if they had suddenly gone somewhere else for things such as a surprise business meeting, or a lot of traffic realized that they had been spared. After these attacks, there was no dreary outlook by Americans, but a strong, unified and positive approach. They saw the best way to fight evil was by doing good – easily noted as God's message. The church has always advocated service to others, and these attacks brought about more service so quickly that it is hard to compare it with any other time in history.

We have been reminded that we have obligations to each other, both friends and foes. We must think less about the goods we can accumulate and more upon the goods we can accomplish. God uses the horrific events of September 11th to His advantage, inverting them into a positive outcome. He renewed faith, promoted service and brought people closer together as "one nation under God".

Williamsburg / From page 22

and **Busch Gardens** only minutes away. We are hoping that our guests come before the convention or stay after (the rates are good three days prior and three days after) to enjoy all the sites the area has to offer. Room rates are \$99, which includes continental breakfast daily, free parking and the opportunity to purchase a Freedom Pass good for one year at a reduced rate. Extensive information on room reservations, tickets and events will be mailed by March 1, 2003. We hope many of you will come join us in being a part of history, (FOCA history, that is).

Success / From page 25

Lent, in addition to selling various religious articles and cards. We also raised four hundred dollars at our "Super

Bowl Luncheon," benefiting the Heartbeat Sunday fund. We hosted an aromatherapy workshop featuring Watkins products as another fund-raiser on September 29.

During the holiday season, we decorated the Christmas trees at the altar, and passed out candy at our parish's Yolka.

We hosted a "Hawaiian Luau" in February. This was a chance for fellowship for our existing membership, but also to introduce the organization to other parishioners. Our senior chapter also assisted our juniors as they welcomed Father Michael Anderson and other district juniors at the Advent Youth Retreat held at our parish in November.

During Lent, the "O" Club also sponsored two Pysanky egg decorating workshops. One classes was covered in the local newspaper, with photos featuring several "O" Club members.

Many of our members worked at the parish's food booth at the Canonsburg Bicentennial Celebration, July 3 through July 7. The celebration concluded with a community church service, where Metropolitan Theodosius was the special guest and main speaker.

An afternoon tea for the ladies of the "O" Club and their guests was hosted by Taisia Zupancic at the end of August. All of the ladies who attended enjoyed an afternoon of light dining and conversation, and everyone looked marvelous in their fancy hats and white gloves!

We will be presenting books on raising children in the Orthodox faith to the new mothers of our parish.

Our chapter has also begun a series of informative presentations, by both "O" club members and other parishioners. The presentations, coordinated by Myra Oleynik, showcase the collections and interests of the people in our church. So far, we have learned about such things as children's literature, calligraphy, scrap booking, and the Titanic. Our next presentation will be a collection of World War II memorabilia.

- Taisia Zupancic

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