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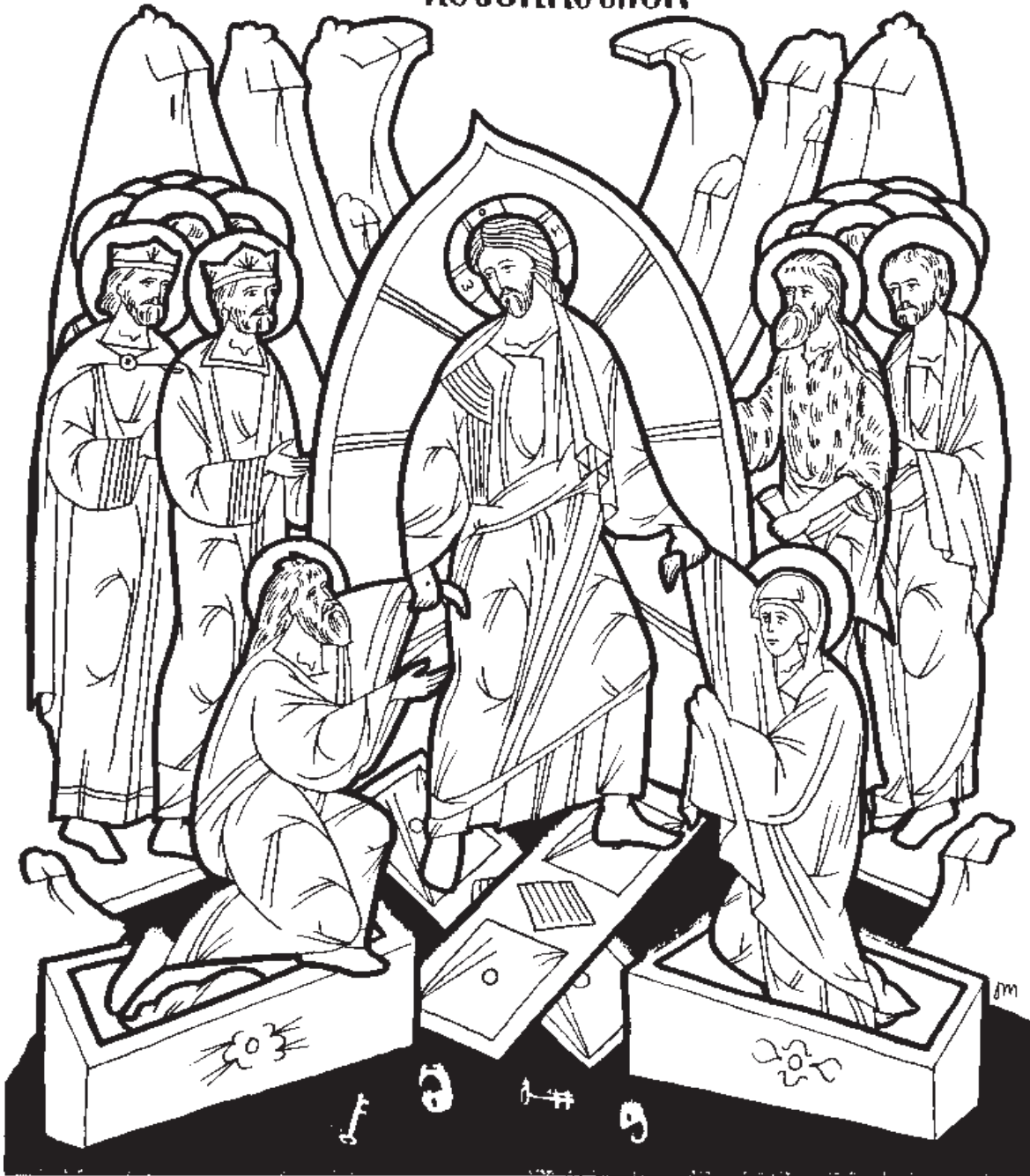
Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

SPRING 2004 volume 77 number 1



The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

RESURRECTION



Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

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The mission of the

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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.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

John Kruchok

37th National FOCA President

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.

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2004 will be a very exciting year in the life of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America. On Sunday, Mary 23, 2004, it is expected that formal presentation of the FOCA's "Gift of Love," a new Chevrolet Trailblazer, will be made during the graduation at St. Herman's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kodiak, Alaska. Two members of the Seminary Board of Trustees, National Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Eugene Vansuch, and Mrs. Elizabeth (Yanowsky) Slanta, FOCA Mission Hotline Chairperson, will present our gift to His Grace, Bishop Nikolai and to the seminarians and staff. This vehicle has a value of \$32,000 and was acquired through Alaska sales for approximately \$25,000. A down payment of \$20,000 was made in April and at that time, over \$22,000 was raised. We are hopeful to not only meet but exceed our goal with any excess funds given to the Seminary as a further "Gift of Love." All members of the FOCA should take pride in this accomplishment. This is one of the largest, single gifts in our history and clearly shows that the organization is "alive" and has a "can-do" attitude.

On March 29th I had the privilege to visit the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America and meet with the Chancellor, Protopresbyter Robert Kondratick and Fr. Michael Anderson, OCA Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director. I outlined the FOCA's many contributions to the life of the Orthodox Church in America and to Orthodoxy in North America. Since the 77th National Convention last Labor Day, the organization has been responsible for such contributions as \$9,000 to the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (F.O.S.), more than \$21,000 annually in direct seminarian family assistance, nearly \$4,650 in Christmas gifts to seminarian family children, \$13,000 in scholarship financial aid to members, \$3,000 in mission work grants through Orthodox Christian Mission Center (O.C.M.C.), more than \$6,000 to the O.C.A. Christmas Stocking Project, thousands earmarked for four Orthodox Seminaries through the FOCA United Fund Program, plus countless other charitable efforts achieved by our districts and chapters coast-to-coast. While the organization is deeply committed to service, it also serves as a network of talent working together and providing many fellowship opportunities. A full schedule of national activities following the celebration of Pascha includes the National Bowling Tournament in Maple Heights, Ohio April 30-May 2nd; the National Basketball Tournament, May 14-16th in Allison Park, PA; the National Convention, July 16-19th on Grand Island (Buffalo-Niagra Falls), New York and the National Summer Sports (golf) Tournament in Frackville, PA July 30-31st. Our sponsors have worked diligently to plan a most enjoyable week-end of fun-filled and family-oriented activities so hope to see you there!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas Ressetar

Editor *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

Christ is Risen! On behalf of all of us at the *Journal*, greetings on Holy Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior as we bring you the Spring 2004 issue. In keeping with this season of joy and light, several paschal features will be found inside. Once more our patrons extend their own personal greetings to all as they continue to support this publication. Many thanks. The Kidz Corner has a quiz on matching versions of "Christ is Risen" with the corresponding languages. See how many you know. And juniors are invited to enter the annual essay contest by June 1st — see the back cover for details.

Feature stories include an interview with Fr. Thomas Hopko, dean emeritus of St. Vladimir's Seminary, on Orthodox Christian perspectives of end-of-life concerns as well as a sample living will/health-care proxy. This is part of an ongoing effort to bring the reader matters of practical interest. Margaret Pysarchyk shares her experience as an OCMC/FOCA missionary in Alaska last summer and OCA Humanitarian Aid Director Arlene Kallaur fills us in on the annual Christmas stocking project. Speaking of Christmas, National Spiritual Advisor Fr. Eugene Vansuch reports on the Seminarian Nativity Gift project and we print excerpts from the many "thank you" received.

Promos on upcoming FOCA events are from the Campbell "O" Club on this year's national convention in July on Grand Island, NY and the Frackville "R" Club on the national summer sports tourney on July 30-31. Rounding out this edition are articles on district and chapter events, including bowling tournaments in Ohio and Virginia, an invitation to our Young Adults to participate in the convention, and more. Last but not least, President John Kruchok updates us on the F.O.C.A.'s charitable activities.

Finally, we welcome aboard Michael Schultz of Weirton, WV, brother of National VP Dr. John, as our new layout editor. He takes over for (but can never replace) Eugenia Wilson, who served the *Journal* for 10 years plus in that position, educated several editors (me, too) and has been a source of continuity. Thanks & God bless, Eugenia! Till next time ...enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

P.S. Note to those traveling to Canada during the convention. AAA advises proof of citizenship (passport or certified copy of birth certificate with photo ID — a driver's license alone may not be enough). Also, obtain a Canadian proof of financial responsibility card from your vehicle insurance company if driving.

FOCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2004

- **April 30 - May 2:** 70th National FOCA Bowling Tournament, Cleveland/Maple Heights, OH, sponsored by St. Andrew's, #220; for info, contact Marianne Noah at 1-330-274-8061 or visit www.2004bowling.com
- **May 14 - 16:** 2004 National FOCA Basketball Tournament, Pittsburgh/Allison Park, PA, sponsored by North Suburban "O" Club, #1; for info, contact Mary Wusylko at MWusylko@zoominternet.net or 1-412-935-5423
- **Sunday, May 30:** Pentecost
- **Monday, May 31:** 100th Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery; for info, visit www.stots.edu/monastery
- **July 14 - 19:** 78th National FOCA Convention, Holiday Inn Grand Island Resort & Conference Center, Grand Island, NY (for reservations, call 1-800-359-4827), sponsored by the Campbell "O" Club, #27; for info, contact Nick Vansuch at nmvan@aol.com
- **July 30 & 31:** 2004 National Summer Sports Tournament, Frackville, PA, sponsored by the Frackville "R" Club, #150; for info, contact John Malinchok at malincj@nationwide.com

F.O.C.A. HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS IN-BRIEF

Fellowship Member Zoran Milkovich Honored By Slavic Heritage Council Of America

In October 2003 Zoran Milkovich — an FROC/FOCA member since 1953 — was honored by the Slavic Heritage Council of America in New York City for his many contributions to the Serbian-American community. According to the certificate of recognition presented to him, Mr. Milkovich has truly distinguished himself for over 50 years. For decades he has served in various leadership roles, often contributing his professional knowledge honed by years of service at executive positions at Chase Manhattan Bank. Early on Zoran served as the personal assistant to the renowned Serbian Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovich. Inspired by Bishop Nikolaj, he simultaneously completed studies at both St. Vladimir's Seminary and Columbia University.

Since moving to New Jersey, Mr. Milkovich has been instrumental in organizing the St. George Serbian Orthodox parish in Elizabeth and a Pan-Orthodox parish in Englewood. Zoran helped the late

Father Dragoljub Sokich secure for a reasonable price the property of the Antiochian Orthodox Church in Paterson for the newly organized Serbian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist. He has also been vital to fundraising efforts at St. Vladimir's Seminary. His ongoing service to St. Sava's Cathedral has been tireless — for the past decade Zoran has served as treasurer and investment advisor to the parish's restoration and development fund.

Bishop Nikolaj, who died at St. Tikhon's Monastery in March 1956, was formally canonized by the Orthodox Church of Serbia on May 19, 2003. He is also recognized as a saint by other Orthodox Churches. It

is only fitting that a man who worked so closely with such a holy figure be recognized himself for his own contributions and leadership example set for future generations in the community.

Zoran and his wife of over 50 years, Annette, are members of Chapter 215, the St. Herman's "O" Club in New Jersey. We at the *Journal* would add our congratulations and best wishes! This photo was taken at their 50th wedding anniversary on August 30, 2003. Many years!



August 30, 2003, 50th Anniversary

St. Stephen's O.C.F. Novogodny Ball: The Tradition Continues

*by Larry Skvir, President,
St. Stephen's OCF, Chapter #82*

Approximately 275 participants officially rang in the New Year at the 67th annual Novogodny Ball on Saturday evening, January 17, 2004 at the Trevoise Radisson Hotel in suburban Philadelphia. Outside the temperature was below freezing and a light snowfall coated the ground. In the hotel ballroom, however, the temperature was just right and the spacious dance floor was filled with dancers enjoying the music of the Gene Mendalski Orchestra. The orchestra played a variety of ethnic and popular music that pleased an appreciative audience. It was especially encouraging to see all the children and young adults on the dance floor dressed in their fancy clothes and having an evening of fun. Earlier over 100 hundred of our guests took advantage of the dinner option and enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the hotel chef. Adding to the festivity, the diners were entertained by that strolling balalaika performer, Sasha Ressetar.

The ball continues to attract F.O.C.A. friends up and down the East Coast, including the Philadelphia suburbs and Eastern Pennsylvania, Upstate New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland and Washington. St. Mark Fellowship and parish in Bethesda, MD had their usual large turnout at the ball. We were pleased to welcome National Vice President Dr. John Schultz and his wife, Sonia,

and family; Past National President Carol Deerson and husband, Walter; New Jersey Governor Michael and wife, Allison, Steffaro; and Colonial District Governor Walter Alesevich. Vera Hubiak, the former ball cochair, came down from Yonkers for the evening. That's one of the ball's great attractions: you never know who you may see from year to year. But there is one constant: everyone who attends the ball has a great time. Two longtime attendees, however, were missed: Nick and Nina Horsky were in Florida and missed their first Novogodny in ??? years.

Some of our guests have been making the ball a winter break, enjoying the comfortable rooms and

indoor pool at the Radisson as well as nearby shopping. This popular winter classic has become an F.O.C.A. tradition since it was first sponsored by the Alpha "R" Club. The ball has migrated several times in its history but since Alpha disbanded and passed it to St. Stephen's (Chapter 82) 17 years ago, the ball has found a home in Trevoise. As a fitting cap to the festivities, Paul Fedoronko was honored for his outstanding 10-year chairmanship of the ball and was presented with an engraved clock by St. Stephen's President, Larry Skvir, on behalf of the chapter.

We're looking forward to seeing YOU at the 68th Novogodny Ball in January 2005!



Left to Right: Dr. John and Sonia Schultz, Walter Alesevich, Connie Skvir

COOKBOOK SALES APPROACH 7,000

The parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, East Herkimer, NY, recently honored the individuals, families and businesses who have done so much to help with the sale of almost 7,000 copies of their cookbook, "Recipes Bless the Heart and Home." A special dinner featuring appetizers, entrees and desserts from the 2,000 recipe, 700 page cookbook was served. John Ciko, church president, presented certificates of appreciation to the following individuals for their hard work and contribution toward this successful project: John Bresler, George & Faith Malinich, Bette Brown, Johanne Brown, V. Rev. Igor Burdikoff, V. Rev. John Chupeck, Barbara Cinquanta, Community of the Holy Myrrhbearers, Mary DeLuca, Joe &

Toni DiChristina, Andrea Dzwonczyk, George Erb, Cheryl Foss, Linda Halligan, Helwig Family, Cheryl Hopson, Chip Hummel, Carmen, Patty & Rob Lamanna, Fr. Dn. Victor Lochmatow, Thomas Malone, Debby Marley, Beverly Matusik, Ann McMahon, Tom Mihevc, Arnold & Beverly Mower, Mary Beth Napolitano, Sue Perkins, Richard & Grace Presky, Rev. Dr. Stephen Scarcia, Virginia Shaftic, Patricia Siuta, Mary Ann Soltis, Gary Sroka, Wergin's Market, Marion Yaneshak, Naomi Youker and Barbara Zemzars.



Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, East Herkimer

The cookbooks are \$20 each plus \$5 per book for postage & handling. Please send a check to: "Recipes Bless the Heart & Home," SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, 305 Main Road, Herkimer, NY 13350.

Herkimer "R" Club Chapter #63, Herkimer, NY

by Nida E. Babich

Our current officers are: Very Rev. James Jadick, spiritual advisor; John Kowansky, president; Helen Homyk, vice president; and Nida Babich, secretary/treasurer. Since our last report, the following has transpired. We contributed to the national bowling tourney and convention but unfortunately were unable to send a delegate. We hosted the Upper NY State District spring meeting in May 2003 and participated in the 50/25/25 district raffle. Members assisted with the sisterhood's Easter and fall bazaar and bake sale.

Our cookbook, "Recipes Bless the Heart & Home," has sold over 5,000 copies. Member Mary Jane Chlus is the chairperson and Paul Sokol is in charge of sales. Paul was hospitalized for 9 days but is recuperating nicely at home. Our parish hosted the annual deanery meeting in April. Father James spent a month in Texas on active duty in the Air Force Reserves. Our sympathies to Helen Homyk and family, whose mother, Dorothy Wilson, departed in July, and to Jake Eskoff and family, whose wife, Sophie, departed in August. May God rest their souls in peace.

Many thanks to Nancy & Dale Richards for sponsoring the annual "R" Club picnic on July 26th — 13 members plus

several guests attended and President John Kowansky conducted a meeting. A good time was enjoyed by all. Mary & Walt Sterzin celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in August — congratulations and may God bless you with health and peace. As a social event we enjoyed a trip to the casino in Niagra Falls, Canada, where a day of gaming and good weather contributed to an enjoyable day. We sponsored a covered-dish dinner in September to boost our finances.

Our chapter attended the 75th anniversary district convention on October 4th which was sponsored by the Endicott chapter. It was a productive convention with lovely decorations, good food and great hospitality. Our national spiritual advisor, Very Rev. Eugene Vansuch, was the guest speaker and he encouraged chapters and churches to adopt or contribute to seminarians, our future priests and church workers. Note: Since 1999 our parish pledges a monetary donation in support of needy seminarians at St. Tikhon's Seminary. By doing this pledge we heed the words of our Lord and Saviour when he commanded us to give unto God a portion of our good measure, be it TALENT, TIME or TREASURE. We wish a blessed year to all.

Ss. Peter & Paul, Chapter 30, Passaic, NJ

by Eileen M. Telischak

2003 proved to be a busy year for our club. Our activities center around fellowship and social events that keep us a strong fraternal organization. In January we made sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday — over 100 were made and sold for our parishioners to consume for that all-important game. In March we held our pre-lenten Chicken Kiev dinner. Our “master chefs” prepared a wonderful meal of chicken kiev, salad, potatoes and vegetables. Coffee and homemade cake topped off the dinner. In June we sponsored an “Indoor Picnic” — hot dogs (with just enough fixins’ to build that just-right ‘dog), fries, soda and cake; we had watermelon slices for the adults and ice cream treats for the children.

Our members participated in Palm Sunday Vesper services, Orthodoxy Mission vespers and St. Andrew’s vespers. Although we did not participate in the National Bowling Tournament, some of us did attend the “Night at the Track” that weekend. It was a soggy night but the races and the company were great. We had our annual United Fund collection, which was earmarked for the FOCA scholarship fund and to area seminaries. We also participated in the Christmas stocking project and the Adopt-a-Seminarian program. In September we went on our annual Wildwood Crest/ Cape May excursion. We did our usual walk on the boardwalk, a riverboat ride and then dinner at the Two Mile Inn restaurant.

The highlight of the year was our sponsorship of the New Jersey District Convention. About 200 people were in attendance. The Saturday night banquet, entitled “This Magic Moment,” was held at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton Hotel. Vesper services were

held in a special room set up for us prior to dinner. Many thanks to our Cathedral Choir for joining us and singing ever so beautifully. Our chairwoman, Vice President Helen Ochab, did a marvelous job of coordinating the evening’s events and President Ken Ochab was a superb toastmaster. What a team!

In keeping with the “magical” theme, the evening’s entertainment delighted both adults and children. Magician Dennis Telischak had his work cut out for him as the children eagerly watched him for clues as to how the tricks were done (to no avail, of course!). We also danced to the rhythm of “Gene Mendalski and the G-Men.” A good time was had by all! To treat ourselves for all the hard work we did throughout the year, the club members went to brunch at, where else, the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton, which was decorated ever-so-beautifully for Christmas.

After many, many, many years (we lost track of exactly how many years) as president and vice president, Ken and Helen Ochab decided it was time to leave their respective offices. We thank them wholeheartedly for their years of service to our chapter. Elections were held and a new slate of officers was established: Eileen Telischak, president; Helen Ochab, vice president; Helen Morris, treasurer; and Paul Kutchmanich, recording secretary. No, that’s not a typographical error. Helen Ochab has decided to stay on as vice president to help me ease into my new position as president (thank you!).

We look forward to another prosperous year, although perhaps not as hectic. We will sponsor our Chicken Kiev dinner this year on April 25th and a Hot Dog lunch is planned for October.

“Foreign Orthodox Missions and the Local Parish”

The Nation’s Capital R Club, Chapter 79, sponsored a Lenten Retreat at St. Nicholas Cathedral Washington, DC, on March 13, 2004. The retreat, “Foreign Orthodox Missions and the Local Parish”, with former missionaries in Africa and Albania, retreat masters Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) and his wife, Presbetera Renee Ritsi, Director of the OCMC’s Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program, offered retreat participants an insight into the work of the OCMC, and how a local parish mission committee could participate in both foreign and domestic missions.



Left to Right:

*Betty Slanta (OCMC board member),
Chris Rowe (St. Nicholas Cathedral
Outreach Chairman and Nation’s
Capital R Club President),
Presbetera Renee and
Fr. Martin Ritsi.*

FOCA's *Own Missionary in Alaska*

By Margaret Pysarchyk

In the native language of the people of Kodiak Island, Alaska, I greet you with “Quyaanasinaq!” “Thank you very much!” It is with a grateful heart that I extend my sincere thanks to you for your generosity in providing me with a grant to serve as an Orthodox Christian Mission Center short-term missionary on Kodiak Island in August of 2003. My journey to become a missionary actually began many years ago, but as with all things in life, it occurred when it was God’s time.

In early spring of 2003, I was selected by the OCMC as a member of one of three teaching teams sent to Alaska to provide vacation church schools, summer youth camps, adult catechism, and spiritual support to our Orthodox brothers and sisters. Over the next few months, e-mails and prayers connected our team of twelve, and by August we were ready to begin the work that lay ahead. Armed with backpacks, sleeping bags, and teaching supplies, over thirty eager missionaries descended on St. Herman’s Seminary on the first weekend in August to labor in the Lord’s vineyard.

While two teams traveled to the state’s interior by bush plane, one group to Dillingham and the other to Russian Mission, our team boarded a tiny skiff to the village of Ouzinkie on Spruce Island. Our “cruise ship” passed incredibly beautiful scenery. We were soon to discover, though, that the real beauty of Alaska lies in its people.

From the parish elders down to the children who followed us around the village, we were warmly welcomed by all. I felt it was an honor to be working with the descendants of St. Herman’s orphans. Our vacation church school was held in the village’s tribal center, a modern facility that held all of our activities with the children and teens. Over two dozen youth participated in the event which included arts and crafts, plays, puppet shows and religious instruction.

Our team was comprised of two priests, a matushka, two seminarians, a nurse, educators and business executives. Although from different walks of life and three different jurisdictions (Greek, Antiochian and OCA), we all brought our talents and desire to serve. Some of the most important support that we provided was not in the classroom but in our one-on-one contacts with both children and adults. Orthodox Christians in Alaska face many challenges — alcoholism, drug abuse and the intrusion of other religious groups. And our presence in the villages let the faithful know that they are not alone. Before we left Ouzinkie, the community honored us with a dinner and cultural program. In a very short time we had made many friends but now we had to leave.

Our team was truly blessed for our missionary work coincided with the annual pilgrimage to Spruce Island, where St. Herman lived, prayed and died. Upon our return to Kodiak, we joined countless other pilgrims who had begun to assemble for the four-day event. Among them were the members of the Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir from New Jersey. I have no words to adequately describe the experience of venerating the relics of St. Herman and praying before the grave of this beloved saint. I still have feelings of great emotion when I recall this time.

The return to Spruce Island as pilgrims resulted in an added blessing as we were reunited with our new friends from Ouzinkie who hosted the luncheon following the divine liturgy. All too soon, however, boats arrived for our return to Kodiak. Once again we packed supplies and planned lessons for the next leg of our journey — Port Lions. This time we were transported on a salmon fishing boat to our destination. A village of fewer than 200 residents, Port Lions has both Orthodox and Protestant churches. Children and adults of both faiths attended our church school and services.

Port Lions became our home away from home. The gym served as our classroom and cafeteria with a corner partitioned for sleeping quarters for the men and women. With a kitchen and showers, the school was a perfect facility for our temporary home. Although a very small community, the Orthodox faithful in Port Lions were extremely hospitable. Our presence brought some hope to this struggling village. During our stay, some long-absent parishioners returned to church and even Protestant parents voluntarily came with their children to the vacation school to learn about Orthodoxy.

My missionary work in Alaska was an experience that profoundly affected me, and I'm very grateful to the Fellowship and its members for assisting me with a grant. Tourists to the state see the incredible beauty of the land but are insulated from the many harsh realities facing the Orthodox Christians. Today there are approximately 30 priests for the 90-plus parishes. Other religious groups unfortunately take advantage of this situation by misleading the Orthodox faithful with false information.

Once a people who lived off the land and sea, the Alaskan people now work for very low wages mostly for the Japanese who own and operate much of the state's fishing industry. It was not uncommon for children ages 10 or 12 to talk about alcoholism and suicide in their families in the matter-of-fact tone they might use for talking about the weather. Despite the many problems facing our brothers and sisters in Alaska, I was greatly humbled by their faith and piety. Although a priest may not be able to come to their village for many months at a time, they remain steadfast in Orthodox Christianity and are an inspiring example to us all.

With the help of organizations like "Ilaasi," the Friends of St. Herman's Seminary, and the FOCA, much needed material and financial support are provided to the seminary for the training of Alaska's future clergy. But more help is needed. Please consider becoming a short-term missionary in Alaska or support one because: "The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38).

For more information, please contact: OCMC, P.O. Box 4319, St. Augustine, FL 32085; (904) 829-5132; www.ocmc.org; or e-mail me at mpysarchyk@hotmail.com.



Ouzinkie, Alaska



Ouzinkie, Alaska



Port Lions, Alaska



Port Lions, Alaska



IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!!!



The Campbell "O" Club invites you to the 78th National FOCA Convention, July 14-19, 2004, at the Grand Island Holiday Inn, Grand Island, New York.

Whether you are "Raiders of the Last Frock"... or Crusaders for the Future of the FOCA... It's time to join the Safari!!!

An elephant never forgets ...and neither should you... don't delay....make your room reservations by June 10th, 2004. Please contact the Grand Island Holiday Inn directly, 100 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY., (phone: 716-773- 1111), and mention the code FOC to guarantee the special rate of \$92.00.

Are you ready for a ROARING good time???
Pack your trunks....Here is how the Safari begins:

THURSDAY



The Presidents Golf Open - will be played at the Beaver State Park Golf Course a short distance from the Holiday Inn. Tee times to be announced. Cost is \$55.00 per person.

Let's Monkey Around - as we welcome you to mingle with old friends and new ones while also enjoying a unique entertainment program.

FRIDAY

Opening Sessions - will begin at 9:00a.m. and will continue to 1:00 p.m. (*For your convenience a cash breakfast bar will be available outside the convention hall...available prior to all sessions Fri., Sat., & Mon.*)

Journey Thru The Jungle - This tour will take you to the Falls and a ride on the "Maid of the Mist" and other sites around Niagara. The bus departs at 11.00a.m. and return around 2:00p.m. Cost will be \$22.00 per person.
 (*This is also a Jr. event*)

Jazzin in the Jungle - Join us at the tents outside by the riverfront for a Jazz Concert and Dinner buffet. Dinner will be served from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. The concert will run from 6:30p.m. to 10:30p.m. Senior tickets are \$25.00, Jrs. - \$21.50, and children 10 and under \$10.75.

SATURDAY

Sessions - will begin at 9:00a.m. and conclude at 1:00p.m.

Buffalo Sightseeing - Tour will depart from the hotel at approx. 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$13.00 per person.

Sassy Safari - This is a four hour visit to Niagara Falls Canadian side. Buses will depart at 5:30p.m. from the Holiday Inn and return approximately 9:30p.m. This will give you an opportunity to shop, have dinner, see the sights or visit Niagara on the Lake. Price of ticket transportation is \$11.00.

Chillin With The Chimps - The juniors will enjoy an afternoon of fun in the sun. Swimming at the pool, volleyball games, pizza and soda....Have fun with friends old and new.

Vespers - Saturday Afternoon time to be announced.

SUNDAY

Hierarchal Divine Liturgy - Will begin at 9:00 A.M.

Animal Kingdom Brunch - The Brunch will follow Divine Liturgy and will be held under the tents on the riverfront. We will be serving brunch for approximately one and one-half hours. This is an optional ticket. Cost is \$13.00 for Srs., \$11.75 for Jrs. and \$6.50 for children under 12.

Kings Royal Feast - Doors will open at 5:00p.m. and the banquet will start at 5:30p.m. Please note that you need to make a selection for your main entrée. Choices are Chicken Marsala or Stuffed Filet of Sole. Prices for Srs. are \$40.00, Juniors who wish to attend are \$32.00 and children 12 and under are \$16.00.

JRS... Cruisin Down The Congo - As an option to the banquet... the Juniors will be enjoying a first time ever Dinner/Dance cruise on the Grand Lady Yacht. Your cruise will begin at 5:30p.m. and finish at 7:30 p.m.
 The price per ticket is \$25.00.

Swingin With The Monkeys - The dance will begin at 8:30p.m. and end at 12:30a.m. Entertainment for all will be provided continuously with the music of Bob Spiwak's Polka Band of Cleveland and DJ Larry Fields. Price for the dance will be \$13.00 for Seniors. Juniors are free.

MONDAY

Sessions - will begin at 10 A.M.

Out of Africa - following sessions we will host a luncheon at a cost of \$15.00 for Srs., \$13.00 for Jrs. and \$7.50 for children 12 and under.



THE "CAMPBELL KIDS" ARE HOPING THAT YOU HAVE JUNGLE FEVER AND JOIN US AT GRAND ISLAND NEW YORK FOR THE 78TH NATIONAL FOCA CONVENTION.

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!!!

Everyone knows you have to take care of your own in the jungle. Please support our Souvenir Program Book by mailing in your ad form by June 10, 2004.

If you have not received our mailing and would like additional information on ad forms, ticket order forms, parental consent forms, crossing the border information, maps etc....please visit the FOCA web site at www.orthodoxfellowship.org. or contact the convention chairpersons: Nick Vansuch (330-856-1727) or JoAnn Sirilla (330-755-5575).



ALL ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS INVITED TO 2004 FOCA CONVENTION

This year's Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) Convention takes place Thursday, July 15 – Monday, July 19, 2004 in Grand Island, NY / Niagara Falls, Canada.

THERE ARE MANY GREAT ACTIVITIES PLANNED SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

- **Leadership training seminar** lead by FOCA Past-President, Michael Herzak on Friday beginning at 2:00 PM. Seminar will include Robert's Rules of Orders, meeting planning, public speaking, creating change, etc.
- **Young adult reception** on Friday night beginning at 10:30 PM.
- **Young adult session** on Saturday beginning at 1:30 PM. Topics will include the service project at the 2005 All-American Council and reception following sponsored by FOCA young adults, future service project ideas, etc. *If you would like something covered at this session, please email lherzak@yahoo.com with your topics.*
- **Volleyball game** on Sunday after Liturgy

Other convention activities include:

- **Golf Tournament** on Thursday morning
- **Bus tour to Niagara Falls and a ride on the "Maid of the Mist"** which takes you under the falls on Friday late morning
- **Jazz Concert and dinner** on Friday evening
- **Sightseeing tour of Buffalo on Saturday morning**
- **Tour of Niagara Falls on the Canadian side** on Saturday evening
- **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy** on Sunday morning with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman
- **Banquet and Dance** on Sunday evening



You do not need to be a member of the FOCA to attend the weekend's activities. This is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with people of the same faith and age and to learn more about the FOCA.

For more information please email Lara Herzak at lherzak@yahoo.com or visit the 2004 convention website: <http://78thnationalconvention.homestead.com/>

We encourage you to come and help shape the future of the FOCA. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information on the FOCA, visit <http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org>. For more information on the OCA Department of Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministries, visit www.yya.oca.org

New Jersey District Members Gather in Faith and Fellowship

In the typical FOCA style, the New Jersey District has begun 2004 gathering in faith and fellowship. Many New Jersey District members began the New Year celebrating at the Novogodny Ball. In February we held an ice-skating social, drawing over 50 skaters from our chapters and local churches. Seniors and juniors also participated in 2 bowling events in February and March.

Thanks to the hard work of our Spiritual Leader Father Garretson, we sponsored a successful series of 3 Lenten Talks. Father Garretson lead the series with his talk entitled, "A Response to the Challenge of Homosexuality." Peter Bouteneff, Assistant Professor of Dogmatics at St. Vladimir's Seminary spoke about the relationship between the Orthodox Church and other Christian religions. And Peter Kalellis, Psychotherapist, Marriage and Family Therapist spoke on "Keeping an Orthodox Home with a Non-Orthodox Spouse." We plan on running another talk series next year to keep our members and parishioners aware of the church's view on current hot topics.

The district sponsored Palm Sunday vespers, which were held in Hackettstown at the Elevation of the Holy Cross Eastern Orthodox Church. Special thanks to seminarian Father Deacon Ambros Arrington for delivering a thought-provoking homily.

Upcoming events include a Spirit of Orthodoxy Concert to benefit the "Gifts of Love" effort to fund the van for Alaska and a series of FolkDance lessons to refresh our steps for the upcoming national events. The 2nd Annual Richard J. Miskiv Memorial Fund Beefsteak Dinner to fund the scholarship set up in his memory will be held on May 22nd at Sts. Peter & Paul R.O. Cultural Center, corner of 3rd and Monroe Street in Passaic, NJ at 6:30pm. Donations are \$35 for adults and \$20 for children under 16. For tickets please contact Ken Baron at (201) 848-1505.



An Orthodox Christian Perspective: The Living Will/Health-Care Proxy

Interview with Fr. Thomas Hopko & Sample Living Will/Health-Care Proxy for Orthodox Christians

In a time and day when the sanctity of human life is under increasing attack, there is a need for Orthodox Christians — legally, medically and spiritually — to provide express instructions to their relatives and health-care givers should they become seriously ill, incapacitated or near death. Some hospitals and nursing homes require that a patient execute a living will and health-care proxy upon admission. Most states and provinces have enacted statutes recognizing the living will and health-care proxy. Without them, the patient is often left to a civil court to determine what treatment will be given, refused or removed as in the recent Florida case of Terri Schiavo, whose estranged husband has been attempting to remove her life support against the wishes of her parents and family.

Father Thomas Hopko, dean emeritus, St. Vladimir's Seminary, was interviewed by Martin M. Shenkman of the *New Jersey Lawyer*, a legal publication, on the subject of "Estate Planning for Orthodox Christians." In this stimulating interview, Fr. Tom gave an Orthodox Christian response to a number of "end of life" issues and suggested drafting comments for inclusion in a living will and health-care proxy. With the kind permission of the *New Jersey Lawyer*, we are reprinting excerpts of this interview; the drafting sample language is omitted but is included in the sample living will/health-care proxy the *Journal* editor drafted based on Fr. Tom's interview. We hope these remarks and the sample will be of practical use for Orthodox Christians in their own estate planning. *Disclaimer:* As with any legal document, a legal professional should be consulted before executing a living will and health-care proxy to ensure that it comports with the local jurisdiction's legal requirements; the sample published here (based on Pennsylvania's Advance Directive for Health Care Act, 20 Pa.C.S. § 5401, et seq.) is for information purposes only.



Photo: St. Vladimir's Seminary

Q: Living wills and health-care proxies raise a host of religious issues. What are some concerns that attorneys helping Orthodox Christians should address?

FR. TOM: The church's view of life-and-death issues should ideally be reflected in the living will and health-care proxy. A major tenet of the faith is that it is unethical to take a life. It is not the highest of all values to stay alive, but you cannot affirmatively take steps to kill someone. The church is strongly against euthanasia and suicide. But often if the patient and medical care providers permit nature to take its course without heroic intervention, the person's life may be taken by God.

So it is a narrow path. Taking a life is inappropriate; on the other hand, using heroic medical measures to keep a body biologically functioning would not be appropriate either. Mere biological existence is not considered a value. It is not a sin to allow someone to die peacefully and with dignity. We see death as an evil to be transformed into a victory by faith in God. The difficulty is discussing these issues in abstraction; they must be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Drafting comment: Practioners should incorporate into the recital clause of the client's living will language affirming the client's affiliation with the [Orthodox Church] and these basic values. This is especially important because it has become so common in today's society for family members to intermarry and/or adopt different faiths, that a client's religious beliefs should not be left unstated "because the family knows." They often don't!

Q: What about provisions concerning administration of pain relief?

FR. TOM: We affirm meaning to the act of suffering. It can be an experience providing purification, redemption and salvation. However, we do not encourage suffering — steps can and should be taken to alleviate suffering. Our religion teaches us to alleviate suffering, but one cannot alleviate suffering by taking a life.

Q: What about consciousness? What about traditions near death?

FR. TOM: Much of the decision has to do with lucidity. Orthodox Christians should make provisions in advance by specifying their wishes in a living will and telling their family. A living will should state your client's wish to have a priest present before death since there are many profound and moving prayers and observances for such a time. These traditions can bring great comfort to the patient and loved ones.

The entire process of dying is sanctified by a series of prayer services and sacraments. It is important that the patient be lucid and free to confess his sins and to receive Holy Communion. The need for consciousness to participate in these sacraments should be considered when administering pain medication. There also is the rite of anointing a person with holy oil for healing of soul and body. Selected prayers are read throughout the process; as suffering increases, as the patient nears death and immediately upon death.

For example, when the patient is in great pain and approaching death, the priest may also say the Prayer of Separation of Soul and Body, asking God to take the life of the person and help him die in peace. Faithful members of the family are encouraged to be present during these prayers. The desire to have a priest present to say these prayers and administer the sacraments should be communicated in your client's living will. If the family is not present and the living will does not inform the medical care providers, the spiritual needs and wishes of the patient could be overlooked without this provision. And if the children or other family members do not have the same religious beliefs, they may not know of these rites and traditions, or that the patient was faithful.

Drafting comment: A provision governing pain relief included in many living wills should be modified to reflect these important near-death wishes.

Q: It seems essential that a priest be called to administer these rites and address the decisions.

FR. TOM: It's quite essential since many of the issues to be decided are gray. Also, the traditions are rich and require time.

Drafting comment: Consider designating a particular priest or church to be contacted and providing contact numbers in the living will.

Q: What about organ donations?

FR. TOM: We have no theological problems with organ donations so long as those involved are not trafficking in payments for organs or taking a life to obtain the organ. There is generally no problem from a religious perspective. Many pastors in fact are encouraging organ donations out of compassion for those in need.

Q: One of the issues many religions have been grappling with is the definition of death. If you cannot take a life to harvest an organ, the definition of death is vital because removing an organ too early could be the cause of death.

FR. TOM: Generally, if the patient would die if the life support were removed, although it is a gray area from a religious perspective, it is unlikely to be an ethical problem to harvest organs at that time. Our ethical experts would probably use the modern medical test of cessation of brain activity as a definition of death.

Q: What about informing the patient [about his medical condition]?

FR. TOM: It is critical that the patient have complete information as to his or her condition, otherwise the patient will never be able to know when to begin the many important religious observances that are to accompany the process of dying.

Q: Charitable giving is an important principle of many faiths. How does the church view this in the context of adherents' estate planning?

FR. TOM: We encourage church members to consider charitable bequests as part of their planning. We especially urge advisors to encourage their clients to consider charitable giving. We have found that people are grateful for that reminder. We believe that providing opportunities for doing good, such as giving to charity, is very important. Historically, tithing — giving 1/10 of one's wealth — was the standard. People still speak about this religious ideal. We believe it is a religious obligation for people to use what they need and to share with others any excess. It would be wonderful for an attorney to suggest that if the client is a believing member of the Eastern Orthodox Church, sharing that wealth with others is part of the teachings of the church.

We have a rich history of charitable giving beginning with the legacy of St. Constantine, a 4th-century Roman emperor who used his wealth to build churches, schools and hospitals. The Slavs have a similar history of giving beginning with St. Vladimir in the 9th-century. There always have been members for whom giving large gifts to the church was a normal part of their religious life. The great majority of American people do not consider themselves wealthy, but collectively they can provide tremendous help to the church. People with limited resources who give according to their means make a vital contribution to help others. In James 1:27 it states: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To care for orphans and widows in their affliction. . . ." People are becoming more aware of this religious concept of charity.

Q: What about inheritance?

FR. TOM: There is a religious obligation to take care for your household. Scriptures say in a Letter to Timothy by the Apostle Paul: "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." Family at that time extended to more than just the nuclear family. It clearly included the wife and children and other relatives as well. People should give consideration to the needs of family members even beyond spouse and child. How can you love your neighbor if you don't care for your own household?

There are a host of provisions in scripture concerning your responsibility to your family and, indeed, to the human community as a whole. This is the reason Orthodox Christians must reasonably address life insurance needs, writing a will and all aspects of estate planning. We preach to our people that they have obligations to their spouses and children and to their church and society at large after they die. They must fulfill these duties during their lifetime.

**DECLARATION PURSUANT TO 20 Pa.C.S.A. 5404:
PENNSYLVANIA ADVANCE DIRECTIVE FOR HEALTH CARE ACT
“AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LIVING WILL & HEALTH-CARE PROXY”**

I, (Name and Address), being an adult of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make this declaration to be followed if I become incompetent. This declaration reflects my firm and settled commitment to refuse life-sustaining treatment under the circumstances indicated below.

My Orthodox Christian beliefs hold that it is unethical to take a life. While it is not the highest of all values to preserve life, affirmative steps to cause death, including but not limited to euthanasia or suicide, are inappropriate. It can be permissible, and even appropriate in some circumstances, to allow nature to take its course without heroic medical intervention, until God determines to take my life. Using heroic medical measures to merely maintain my body’s biological functioning is not appropriate since mere biological existence itself is not considered to be of value. My death, if with dignity and proper observance and respect for the rites and traditions of the church, can be a victory of faith. In light of the foregoing, I express the following concerning my medical treatment and care.

I direct my attending physician to fully and completely inform me and my designated surrogate, if any, of my medical condition including but not limited to the fact that I may have a terminal illness and my anticipated life expectancy. This information is vital to my carrying out important religious practices as an Orthodox Christian.

I direct my attending physician to withhold or withdraw lifesustaining treatment that serves only to prolong the process of dying, if I should be in a terminal condition or in a state of permanent unconsciousness.

I direct that treatment be limited to measures to keep me comfortable and to relieve pain, including any pain that might occur by withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, in accordance with Orthodox Christian doctrines. I wish that all treatment and measures for my comfort, and to alleviate my pain, be provided so long as they do not rise to the level of constituting euthanasia. In making decisions concerning the administration of pain relief, I request that consideration be given to my Orthodox Christian beliefs, and in particular, the importance of my having some level of consciousness prior to death to be able to participate in accepting Holy Communion and making a final confession of my sins as well as participating in certain prescribed prayer services. I request that my attending physician and designated surrogate, if any, endeavor to humanely and compassionately balance my desire for pain relief and my desire to participate in these, my last religious observances.

In addition, if I am in the condition described above, I feel especially strong about the following forms of treatment:

I do or do not want cardiac resuscitation.

I do or do not want mechanical respiration.

I do or do not want tube feeding or any other artificial or invasive form of nutrition (food) or hydration (water).

I do or do not want blood or blood products.

I do or do not want any form of surgery or invasive diagnostic tests.

I do or do not want kidney dialysis.

I do or do not want antibiotics.

I realize that if I do not specifically indicate my preference regarding any of the forms of treatment listed above, I may receive that form of treatment.

I do or do not want to designate another person as my surrogate to make medical treatment decisions for me if I should be incompetent and in a terminal condition or in a state of permanent unconsciousness.

Name, address and telephone number of surrogate:

Name, address and telephone number of substitute surrogate (if surrogate designated above is unable to serve):

Finally, it is my desire that religious principles shall apply to the interpretation of this living will and medical instruction directive. I wish to condition the effectiveness of this directive upon its conformance to Orthodox Christian doctrines and beliefs to which I subscribe. In order to effectuate my wishes, if any question arises as to the requirements of my religious beliefs, I direct that my attending physician and my designated surrogate, if any, consult with and follow the guidance of my parish priest or bishop:

(Names, Addresses and Phone Numbers)

I make this declaration on (Date).

Declarant’s signature:

Declarant’s address:

The declarant or the person on behalf of and at the direction of the declarant knowingly and voluntarily signed this writing by signature or mark in my presence:

Witness’s signature:

Witness’s address:

Reconciling Religion and the Law

by Matthew Vansuch

It would be fair to say that we are living in a time of great uncertainty. We can all agree that there is enough tension to go around and then some. For some reason, the law always seems to get involved. Having finished my second-year of law school, those issues came up every day. Recently, a fellow parishioner said to me, “it must be hard to have to defend something that you don’t believe.” While I haven’t officially represented anyone (yet), I have engaged in many debates about the law and society/religion in several of my classes. I have seen people who are very firm in their beliefs literally fight each other...during class...over hypothetical situations.

I am not going to espouse a particular belief or agenda, nor do I plan on addressing any specific issues. But I would like to share my thoughts on how I, an Orthodox Christian, attempt to live faithfully to the law and to the Church. Every Lent, we pray the prayer of St. Ephraim, which flows from the tips of our tongues in some of the most beautifully woven phrases ever written: “Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge those of my brother.” As I strive to follow this petition, the alleged “conflict” between religious beliefs and the law becomes more and more artificial. The New Commandment—love one another—merely confirms this.

God has given each of us the ability to live our lives as we see fit. Of course, there are consequences of our decisions, both here and hereafter. To a certain extent, we live in a country where the Religion and government serve different purposes, and when they work in the same area, there will inevitably be conflicts. Because we live in a country that guarantees the freedom of religion and speech to everyone, the possibility of a theocracy is nonexistent. To me, that would be the only way to effectively meld religious beliefs with the law; the Roman Catholics would govern one area, Orthodox another, Muslims somewhere else, Hindi elsewhere, etc. If I were to criminalize conduct that I deemed immoral, say attending a non-Orthodox religious institution, for no reason other than my distaste for those individuals, then I would be judging my fellow brothers and sisters, and not loving them as Jesus loves us. I may feel sadness that those people choose not to follow God’s appointed path, and it is my religious

duty to help them back into the fold. We follow the New Commandment with love and humility, not coercion and official condemnation that exacts punitive consequences on non-believers. Persecution is not the answer.

When we believe that the government has failed to respond to what we believe is the “right” or “moral” thing to do, then the Church needs to step up to the plate and work to change the way people act. Go to the corners of the earth and spread Christ’s message. Just because something is not illegal does not mean that we should be participating in that activity; this is another facet of the individual choice with which we are blessed.

This does not mean that the law should be completely sanitized from morality. And of course, there is a very fine line between legislating morality and legitimate exercises of the government’s police power to protect the public health, safety, and morals.

Unfortunately, I know several individuals who defy even basic tenets of Christian love. One looked at me with a straight face and said that because Mother Theresa was Catholic, she was going to hell. How sad that this pigeonholing of people permeates our society. Regardless of religious identification, we should be able to agree that Mother Theresa was an example of humility and selflessness. Are those not two of the basic ingredients of our faith?

I have been asked whether I am simply adopting moral relativism, deluding myself into thinking that I can separate my mind into my personal views and the legal system. But I still believe that certain things are morally wrong. Is there a dichotomy? Yes. But unless we live in a society where the law parallels a single concept of morality, then we’ll always have that divide.

If I were not on my way to joining the legal profession, then I might have a different view of my role in society. In Christ’s time, there was Caesar’s law and God’s law; to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must follow God’s law. Today is no different. When we choose to disregard God’s law and toe the “minimum” standard of conduct that will keep us out of trouble with the law, then we’ve made a decision for which we must answer to God.

Perhaps the greatest lesson I’ve learned in law school is that one must have an open mind. My opinions on particular issues have changed as I’ve learned more about different subject matters. But for my personal guidance, I’ll try my best to follow a higher standard.

10th Annual Christmas Stocking Project Another Success

**By Mrs. Arlene Kallaur,
Director, OCA Department of Humanitarian Aid**

FOCA Junior and Senior Chapters helped to make the Annual OCA Christmas Stocking Project a success once again. During this past Christmas season 27 Junior and Senior chapters and three Districts made contributions, up from last year by six chapters. The total FOCA gift was \$6,320.50.

This considerable amount, along with many other donations, large and small, enabled the OCA to realize its goal of sending 15,000 filled stockings or equivalent gifts to children in Albania, Belarus, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine and four villages in Alaska. An icon of the Protection of the Mother of God, with Metropolitan Herman's blessing on the back, accompanied each gift.

Fr. Emil Jarkovsky, Secretary to Metropolitan Nikolai of Presov, Slovakia, in a thank you letter, wrote "I would like to convey greetings from the children to whom you gave the gifts and sweets on the occasion of the Nativity of Our Lord, and so made them happy and joyful. Our deep thanks to all who made this possible." Children in hospitals, in orphanages and from needy families received the gifts in Slovakia.

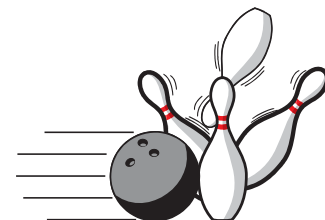
Another thank you letter from Metropolitan Vladimir of Ukraine read, "We are very grateful to you for the Christmas gifts that were received in a timely manner and that were distributed to children who are invalids. We sincerely and heartily wish you and all who participated good health, happiness and success in all your future good works."

"We are truly grateful for the years of continued support that the FOCA chapters have given to this project. It attests to your loving and generous spirit of sharing, especially to brighten the holidays for these young children," says Mrs. Arlene Kallaur, project coordinator. Mrs. Kallaur can be contacted at arlene@oca.org.



2004 Ohio District Bowling Tournament

by Dolly Manzuk, Lakewood, OH, Chapter #13/84



On January 31-February 1, 2004, the social hall of Ss. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church in Lakewood, OH, was transformed into a “Carpathian Ranch” for the annual Ohio District Bowling tournament. An American Western theme gave this event an entertaining backdrop for a weekend of fellowship and low-key competition at the alleys. The host committee, festooned in appropriate duds, was co-honchoed by Sheriff George (Manzuk) and Padre Jay Hawk (Father Tim Sawchak). These two hombres were ably supported by their sidekicks, Dee Dee Dolly (Manzuk) and Little Ma (Matushka Jennifer Sawchak).

Little Ma also authored the amusing program book, which overflowed with photos, graphics and cowboy wisdom. Examples of this western philosophy have taught us many things, including: “Don’t worry about biting off more than you can chew; your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger ‘n you think” . . . “The best time to hold your tongue is when you think you have the most to say” . . . and Governor Leon’s favorite, “If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin’!”

Many chapter ranch hands were involved in this successful roundup, including Chanda Czaruk (Grub), Tim Czaruk (Saloon) and Val Borysiewicz (Sasparilla



ticket sales) as well as Dr. Jason and Kristen Bakich and Big John and Phyllis (Gossiping Gertie) Miklos. Very able parish cowpoke assistants included Mary Jane Borysiewicz, Lillian Brown, Carolyn and Fred Carson, David and Lauren Miklos, Barbara Shkilevich, and Juliann Sutton. All, of course, wore the Carpathian Ranch brand.

On Saturday, over 70 of the Ohio District herd galloped into the newly refurbished Brookgate Lanes in Brook Park for singles and doubles bowling. After an exciting afternoon at the allies, we congregated at Ss. Peter & Paul for Vespers. Subsequently, all saddle pals stampeded downstairs to the basement corral and the musical “howdy” performed by the Lakewood cowboys and cowgirls. Then Padre Jay Hawk (Fr. Tim) and Little Ma (Matushka Jennifer) choreographed an animated sing-a-long, complete with western sound effects (dogies — not doggies, please!). We were even given the opportunity to “pan for gold,” cashing in those nuggets at the “Wells Fargo Bank” for many great prizes. After chowing down some very fine vittles at the “Come and Git It!” banquet, awards were distributed for the day’s events.

Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, the Ohio District herd swelled to over 120 with the addition of the “young’ns” — some 50 plus teens and pre-teens. While the kids bowled and enjoyed pizza, the adults rolled team events. Later, back at the Ranch, we headed for the “Last Roundup!” before the Chuck Wagon moved along for the season. Team event trophies were then distributed. And as we rode off into the sunset, we sat straight in the saddle with fond reflections of our time spent at the Carpathian Ranch in Lakewood, OH.

“Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam”



Nation's Capital R Club Sponsors Colonial District Tournament

The Nation's Capital R Club, Chapter 79, sponsored the Colonial District Bowling Tournament on March 6, 2004, in Alexandria, VA. Following bowling at Bowl America Lanes Edsall Road, Alexandria, VA, an awards banquet was held at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC. Mr. Dennis Rudy and Mrs. Eleanor Skuby were the chefs, creating a delicious shrimp creole for the bowlers.

Bowling Tournament Chairman John Ihnat welcomed bowlers to the bowling banquet and distributed the Colonial District bowling awards.

The recipients of F.O.C.A. Colonial District awards were:

Men's Team: from St. Mark Orthodox Fellowship, with a total 2072 pins, Chris German, Frank Krapcho, Greg Yakubik and Carl Firestone

Women's Team: from St. Mark Orthodox Fellowship, with a total of 1526 pins, Barbara Freimann, Debbie Firestone, Karen Phinney, Marge German

1st-2nd High Series:

- Men's high series came in on a tie: with 597 pins for both Mark Skuby of the St. Stephen Orthodox Christian Fellowship and Chris German from the St. Mark Orthodox Fellowship.
- Women - 1st series: Debbie Firestone, St. Mark Orthodox Fellowship, with 472 pins.
- Women - 2nd series: Eleanor Skuby with 469 pins, Nation's Capital R Club

(High Games were defined as first game (regular 10 pins), the second game, a ninepin no tap, and the third game, a nine pin no tap.)



Record Level for Annual Seminarian Children Gift Program

Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, the Fellowship's national spiritual advisor, announced that the annual Seminarian children gift program reached a record level for the Nativity of Christ 2003: 45 families with 93 children were given a \$50 gift per child, for a total of \$4,650! Fr. Vansuch said that "the success of the program is the result of the effort put forth by the district governors and local chapter presidents. The following is a numerical recap of the past several years indicating the impact of our gift program: in December 2001, \$3,350 for 67 children and in December 2002, \$4,500 for 90 children. As the number of married seminarian families with children increases, the demands on the Fellowship become very great."

This year's breakdown: St. Herman's Seminary — 12 families, 28 children; St. Tikhon's Seminary — 18 families, 39 children; St. Vladimir's Seminary — 14 families, 25 children; and Christ the Saviour Seminary — 1 family, 1 child. The gifts were presented by F.O.C.A. National Treasurer Michael Bowan on St. Nicholas Day, December 6th. "I offer sincere thanks and profound gratitude to all the governors and local chapter presidents for the effort put forth in bringing joy and happiness to our seminarian families," said Fr. Vansuch. "To date, we have received letters of thanks from seminarian families expressing their sincerest and heartfelt appreciation for our generous gifts." Excerpts from some of the thank-you notes follow:

— "Thank you very much. Once again you have given help at a time of hardship. May God Bless. Kristussag Yurtug! Christ is Born! (Alaskan Yupik). With love & prayers, Elia Larson and Family."

— "Our 2-1/2 years at seminary have been both challenging and enriching in many ways. One of the most faith-nurturing experiences we've had has been seeing how God provides for our every need through His Church. We deeply appreciate the gifts you so generously sent to our family for Christmas. With your help, we were able to purchase some necessities (home schooling materials) as well as some toys for our three little girls: Anastasia, Genevieve and Evangeline. With gratitude, Fr. John, Lara & Family."

— "We wanted to thank you for the generosity you showed towards our family, especially Anna and Nina. As you stated in your letter, our children do make many sacrifices in order for us to be here at the seminary and your kindness towards our family helps us, as parents, lessen that burden for them. The FOCA's support of our family has been overwhelming while we have been at school, and we cannot express enough our deep appreciation for all of you daily. We will continue, throughout our lives, to remember you always in our prayers. In Christ, Mark and Sophia Tarpley & Family."

— “Thank you for your kind gift to us and our family. Your message of adding a joyful gift for our families enduring their own unique trials makes a big difference to us and to many other families. We appreciate your concern for the nurture of servants for the Church, and for your real and personal attention to the people so called. May you always have the will and means to continue this activity. In Christ, Deacon Kevin Smith & Family.”

— “Thank you so much once again for your generous gift to our family this Nativity season. I am sure that it will make Luke and Mary very happy indeed. Love in Christ, Deacon Ambrose, Christy & Family.”

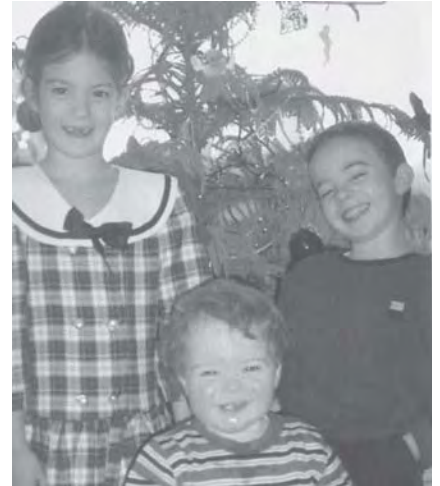
— “For 4 consecutive years now, the Fellowship has offered this gift for our children. It is with great joy that we once again witness and partake of the benevolence offered by the members of the FOCA. In Christ, John Baker & Family.”

— “Thank you for remembering us this Christmas! The gifts for James and Conner are very much appreciated. You have demonstrated the love of God by giving to those with need. Love in Christ, Nicholas & Esther Carr.”

— “Thank you so much for the monetary gifts this Nativity. We appreciate your generosity and your prayers as we prepare to serve in the Orthodox Church. Daryl, Dea, Julia and Sophia Biberdorf.”

— “Thank you so very much for the generous Christmas gifts you sent our family. We seminarians are all grateful for your love, prayers and financial support! The Sommer Family.”

— “Thank you so much for the generous Nativity gift. We bought our daughter a beautiful snow globe with carolers ... she loves to dance to music. We also bought some smaller gifts. It made our day to buy her special gifts. What a wonderful way to celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas! All our love, Corey & Kevin Haar (& Madeleine, too!)”



Acknowledgments were also received by the respective seminary deans.

Spring 2004 TRANSITIONS

BIRTH: Lara Alexis, daughter of Tambrey (Chapter #222) and Seth Hall, born on January 22, 2004 and joining big sister, Rya Marie. The proud grandparents are John and Sandra Fedorko, the FOCA's immediate past president. Many years!

DEATH: Andrew “Andy” Seminick, 83, fell asleep in the Lord on February 22, 2004 in Melbourne, FL. An honorary member of the FOCA/FROC for many years, Andy was the catcher for the Philadelphia Phillies “Whiz Kids” baseball team in the 1950s, started in the 1949 All-Star game, and played in the 1950 World Series with a broken ankle. He was a past parish council president of St. Simeon Eastern Orthodox Church (OCA) in Titusville and a lay delegate to the OCA's All-American Council in 2002. Andy most recently participated in the 76th national convention in Harrisburg and the 75th anniversary convention in Pittsburgh. He is survived by a son, Andrew, Jr., two sisters and a granddaughter. A feature story on Andy's life and career will appear in the next issue of the *Journal*. Memory eternal.

DEATH: Michael Darak, Jr. fell asleep in the Lord on March 14, 2004. He was a long-time member of the Bridgeport “R” Club, Chapter #73. May his memory be eternal.

CONSECRATION: Archimandrite Tikhon (Mollard) was consecrated as Bishop of South Canaan by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, and other hierarchs in services at St. Tikhon's Monastery on February 13-14, 2004. He is an auxiliary bishop to the Metropolitan and now rector of St. Tikhon's Seminary and administrator of the OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. *Axios!*

CONGRATULATIONS: Michael Stenko, chapter 80, elected Parish Council President of All Saints parish, Hartford. He has been appointed choir director for the 2004 FOCA national Convention. Michael is Managing Director of the UCONN Alumni Association, this year's Men's and Women's NCAA National Basketball Champs.

TRANSITIONS is for current FOCA members only.

Send all transitions info to:

Nicholas Resselar

5501 Locust Lane • Harrisburg, PA 17109

(717) 652-1825

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

Frackville "R" Club to Sponsor Summer Sports Tourney



The Frackville "R" Club, Chapter #150, will be your host for the 2004 National Summer Sports Tournament on July 30 and 31 near Frackville, PA just off Interstate 81 and about an hour north of Harrisburg. Chairman John Malinchok invites FOCA members and friends to come to the scenic Central Pennsylvania (District) and play the premier Mountain Valley Golf Course in the picturesque Barnesville Valley and hilltop. Just recently the course has gone a major multi-million dollar upgrade and expansion, with an additional 9 holes that can be seen from the highway just before Exit 135. Golfers will also enjoy a new golf club and deck which will be utilized for some of the tourney events.

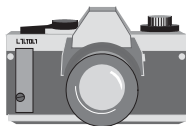
Please note the tee times. Friday will see a noon shotgun start with after-golf festivities on the deck which swells to over 300 revelers on a happy hour(s) Friday. Saturday golf will start bright and early with tee times at 7:30 a.m. in order to allow clergy from the local area to participate and be able to return to their home parishes in time for vespers. Following the tourney, vespers and a steak dinner will be held at the course followed by the awarding of prizes.

Lodging will be at the Holiday Inn Express at the Schuylkill Mall (NOTE: off the St. Clair Exit of I-81, not the Frackville Exit; follow directions to the mall). Please book a room as early as possible at 866-238-9330 and by June 1. A NASCAR race at Pocono will be run that weekend and will place a heavy demand on rooms. Restaurants are within walking distance and in the general vicinity. An overflow hotel is also available.

Plan now to participate in the fun and fellowship. For further details and to answer any questions, contact John Malinchok at 800-811-4556 or malincj@Nationwide.com.

2004 FOCA PHOTO CONTEST

THE TOPIC... "Landscape Pictures"



Locate your best landscape pictures of land, buildings, mountains, lakes, etc. You may enter up to five (5) photos @ \$2.00/photo, preferably 5x5 or 4x6. Prizes are based on the number of entries in each age category. Check your photo albums and send your pictures in early. Judging will take place at the 2004 National Convention; you do not have to be present to win.

Good Luck!

Deadline:

Photos must be received by July 10th, 2004.

ENTRY FORM (*Return this form with your check*)

Please Print

Name _____

District _____ Chapter _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Age Category: 18-45 _____ : 45+ _____

Number of Photos: _____ x \$2.00 = \$ _____ entry fee.

Submit photos and check to:

Nancy Filak
21 Avon Place
N. Arlington, N.J. 07031

Mission Hotline

Dear FOCA Mission HOTLINE:

We have this day received the beautiful chalice covers that were donated by the New Skete Monastery.

Our Community thanks you, the FOCA and the New Skete Monastery for this donation.

We are still in need of those items that remain on the wish list. I did not see the winding sheet among the list but that is one item we will need in the future. As people donate these items or as they become available to us we will inform you so that you can remove them from the wish list. Again, many thanks and may your Paschal journey be filled with great joy.

Sincerely,

In Christ,

Harold Pukita, representing the Orthodox Community of Greater Columbus (OH)

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:
Golf Sports Director
Bob Steffaro
 1623 West Shore Drive
 Houston, Tx 77094
 281.238.4791

FELLOWSHIP of ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS in AMERICA
2004 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT

July 30-31, 2004

Sponsored by Frackville "R" Club
 Chairman: John Malinchok 570.874.2669

Open to all FOCA members and all Orthodox Christians
All entrants must pay Registration Fee and buy Banquet Ticket

DEADLINES:
 Hotel Reservations
 Must Be Made By
June 1, 2004
 All Entries Must Be
 Postmarked By
July 10, 2004

Name _____ Chapter No. _____ E-Mail _____ Phone (____) _____
 Address _____ Apt. _____ City _____ State _____
 Zip _____

	Name	Handicap Average	2-Day \$75.00	1-Day \$40.00	Scramble 2-Day \$75.00	Scramble 1-Day \$40.00	Regist. \$1.00	Banquet Sr. \$25.00 Jr. \$20.00	TOTAL
1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

Please Read TOURNAMENT RULES- General Golf Rules
 1) Rules on score card will be followed.
 2) Special rules will be given before tee-off.
 3) All FOCA and District rules will be followed.
 4) Golfers will be flighted and must provide Handicap or Average.
Prizes will be based on number of entrants.

DRESS CODE:
 Golf slacks or shorts
 Shirt with a collar

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I will abide by all the sports rules of the FROC.
 Applicant Signature _____

Make checks payable to: Frackville "R" Club
 Include Registration Fees and Banquet Tickets for each name listed on this form. Mail all entries to Bob Steffaro at the address above.

HOUSING
 Holiday Inn: 570.874.1700
 Tell them you are with FOCA Golf

GOLFING
 Mountain Valley Golf Course: 570.467.2242

TEE-OFF TIME
 Friday 12 Noon - Saturday at 7:30 AM

BANQUET is Saturday after Golfing



The greeting, “**CHRIST IS RISEN,**” with the reply, “**INDEED HE IS RISEN,**” is heard throughout the Orthodox Church for 40 days, from Pascha to Ascension Day. Because the church is universal, the same words are said in many different countries and spoken in many different languages. Below are some of the greetings used in Orthodox churches in different countries. See if you can match the greeting with the country from which it comes. The greetings are written phonetically so you can pronounce them.

The languages are:

Arabic
Latin

Armenian
Romanian

Eritrean
Slavonic

Greek
Spanish

1. Greeting: CHRIS-TOS VOS-KREH-SEH
Reply: VOEESTEE-NOO VOS-KREH-SEH
2. Greeting: CHRIS-TOS AH-NES-TEE
Reply: AH-LEE-THOS AH-NES-TEE
3. Greeting: CHRIS-TOS AU-IN-VEE-AHT
Reply: AH-DEH-VEH-RAHT KAH-OO IN-VEE-AHT
4. Greeting: EL MASEEH KAHM
Reply: HA-KAHN KAHM
5. Greeting: CHRIS-TO AH RE-SUSI-TA-DO
Reply: VER-DAD AH RE-SUSI-TA-DO
6. Greeting: CHRIS-TOS-EE YERT-VAH-LAH
Reply: ES-KAH-KAN-NEETS YERT-VAH-LAH
7. Greeting: CHRISTUS RESUR-REX-IT
Reply: VERE RESUR-REX-IT
8. Greeting: KRU-STOS TIN-SAH-AY-MAH-OO-TAHN
Reply: BAH-AH-VEE HIGH-LEE WES-IL-TAHN



The answers: 1. Slavonic, 2. Greek, 3. Romanian, 4. Arabic, 5. Spanish, 6. Armenian, 7. Latin, 8. Eritrean.

OCJ Staff Thanks You...

For Supporting The *Orthodox Christian Journal* Publication,
Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

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Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

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Bethesda, Maryland
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**Use This Issue To
Encourage New
Membership**

POSTMASTER - If Undeliverable

Please Send Form 3579 To: *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL* • 10 Downs Drive, Plains Twsp. • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3899

Calling all young writers to participate in...

***THE ANNUAL FOCA
JUNIOR ESSAY CONTEST!***

The Essay contest topic this year is:

**What do you think God thinks
about our world today?**

The contest is open to all Orthodox Christian youth between the ages of 10 – 18.

Essays are judged in the following age categories:

10 - 11 (essay to be at least 250 words)

12 - 13 (essay to be at least 300 words)

14 - 15 (essay to be at least 400 words)

16 - 18 (essay to be at least 500 words)

The winner of each age category will receive a \$200 US Savings Bond.

Each participant receives a gift certificate to a national bookstore for entering.

All winning Essays will be published in the FOCA Journal and posted on the FOCA website.

The deadline for submission is June 1, 2004

**For all contest details and rules go to www.orthodoxfellowship.org. You can also
contact the contest coordinators listed below. Good luck!**

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