

OCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

FALL 2018 volume 93 number 3

Also Inside:

- National Scholarships Awarded
- District Conventions Held
- Seminaries Celebrate Anniversaries



The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Fellowship Distributes St. Nicholas Day Gifts To Seminarian Families



“O kto, kto, Nikolaja Lyubit...”

Merry Christmas

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!



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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.

Mission Statement of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



**TO WITNESS
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BY
CHARITABLE
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Allison Steffaro

44th National FOCA President

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are reminded that this is a time for giving to others, and to be more Christ-like. In a commercial world, it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of gift buying and the idea of bigger is better. Although this is true, we as Orthodox Christians find it in our hearts to give to others and to share in our wealth. This can be seen in your generosity towards the Fellowship's Saint Nicholas Wish list program. This year we filled a record 34 family lists not to mention the thousands of dollars of gift cards and monetary donations that were sent to St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska! My husband and I had the pleasure of attending the Divine Liturgy and participating in a St. Nicholas Day event at St. Tikhon's Monastery & Seminary in early December. I cannot tell you how grateful those families were to receive your gifts; the faces on those children when they saw their packages were priceless. This was truly a remarkable undertaking and the blessings you provided will live long after the holidays. On the same day, we were able to tour as well as to sit down with and speak to a seminarian family living in the new married student housing. They could not thank you enough for your foresight and dedication to such a worthy, much needed addition to the seminary. I am so proud to be your president of this amazing organization. Your hard work, contributions and prayers for our future are coming to fruition before our eyes. In addition to our work at the seminary, we will be meeting at the Chancery in Syosset in the next few weeks to discuss how we as an organization can aid in facilitating a national youth program in conjunction with the Orthodox Church in America. I look forward to working hard in 2019 on our goals and encourage you to support our programs and events. May you all have a Healthy and Happy New Year!



2019 PHOTO CONTEST



This year's theme is: "God's Creations: Family"

In memory of my late grandfather, Paul "Pat" Schultz, this year's photo contest is family! Whether it's your own or your church family, we want to see your photos!

Start taking pictures now or go through pictures you've already taken.

Participants (must be an F.O.C.A. member) can send in up to **five (5)** photos, preferably 3x5 or 4x6. Judging will take place at the 2019 National Convention. Participants need not be present at the National Convention to win. Awards will depend on the number of entries in the following age categories: 18-45 and 46+.

Entry Form

Important! Photos must be received by Saturday July 31, 2019. Entry fee is \$2.00/photo. Make check payable to F.O.C.A.

Please print

Name _____ District _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Age category _____ 18-45 or _____ 46+
Number of photos _____ x\$2.00 each = \$ _____ entry fee

Mail photo(s) with entry fee check to: Samantha Exler *316 McIntosh Drive, Moon Twp. PA, 15108

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas D. Ressetar

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

As we celebrate the Christmas - Epiphany holy days, the *Journal* staff proudly presents the latest edition of your Fellowship magazine – it's so full there's no room for my notes! In early December, President Allison & Michael Steffaro traveled to St. Tikhon's Monastery & Seminary where they distributed the annual St. Nicholas Day gifts to seminarian families and inspected the new married student housing – check out the wonderful photos on our front cover! Both St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's seminaries held special events this fall and we cover them all. Dorothy Gray contributes an update on the St. Nicholas chapel in Kenai, Alaska, we congratulate the national scholarship awardees and the FOCA district conventions are reviewed. Ancient Faith kindly let us reprint a page from its new coloring book and Rebecca Kozak announces this year's "Celebration of Faith" contest. And I summarize the tragic unfolding events involving Orthodoxy in the Ukraine. We greet everyone with "Christ is Born!" – "Merry Christmas!" and, until next year, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!



Metropolitan Tikhon presided at liturgy for St. Nicholas Day (OC) at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Patriarchal Cathedral in New York City on December 19th together with Bishop Matthew of Sourozh. Photo by the Editor.



Father Daniel Ressetar, past national spiritual advisor, was awarded the mitre by Archbishop Mark during liturgy on Sunday, December 16th. Axios! Photo courtesy of Christ the Saviour Church.

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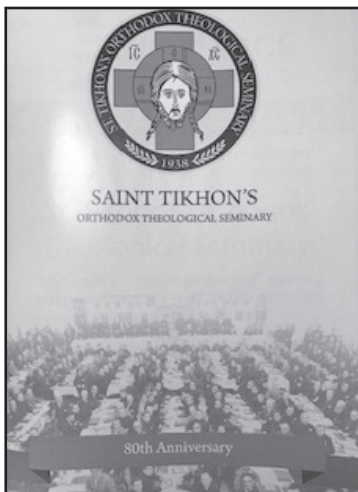
Please send photos in jpg format and don't embed them in the document; attach separately.

F.O.C.A. HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS-IN-BRIEF CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

The "Spirit of Orthodoxy" Choir put on a spectacular Christmas concert at SS. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Passaic, NJ on Sunday, December 9th. Almost 300 people were in attendance to hear the beautiful voices that filled the church. The choir, directed by Aleksei Shipovalnikov and Stratos Mandalakis, is truly pan-Orthodox with members from many jurisdictions (OCA, Moscow Patriarchate, Greek, Antiochian, etc.), including Donald Freeman, Michael Kupec and Irene Ann Freeman from the cathedral. Also performing was the Greek Community Choir conducted by Kathryn Athanasoulas; the program reflected the diversity of Orthodox music. The concert benefitted the "Warm the Children" charity which serves 16 orphanages in 5 predominantly Orthodox countries: Greece, Romania, Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine. Afterward, the choirs sang traditional Christmas carols in the cultural center lounge followed by a reception hosted by the New Jersey District FOCA. The lounge was phenomenally decorated thanks to the decorating expertise of parishioners and FOCA members. Many thanks to the choirs, attendees, cooks, workers and donors, to Dennis Telischak for the "Winter Wonderland" backdrop he provided, and to the district members for being part of this beautiful day! by Eileen Telischak, cathedral secretary



St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary Celebrates 80 Years of Theological Education & Spiritual Formation



A gala celebration was held for the 80th anniversary of St. Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA on October 11-13, 2018. Hundreds of members of the seminary community worshiped, reminisced and rejoiced together, giving thanks to God and to the saints whose self-emptying labors and prayers have sanctified the grounds and sustained the mission of the seminary

for 8 decades. After vespers on October 11th, a reception in honor of the new dean, Father John Parker, was hosted at the convocation center (formerly the gym) which is now being beautifully transformed. The next day, after the Divine Liturgy and breakfast, a symposium entitled "Where Saints Have Walked" was given at the Metropolitan Museum. It featured presentations on the "History of St. Tikhon's through Liturgical Artifacts" by Father John Perich and "Memories of St. Nicholas of Zhicha" by Fathers Daniel Ressetar, Eugene Pianovich and Daniel Geeza, who shared their personal stories about the saint who served as seminary rector in the 1950s until his repose. Later, Father Parker was formally installed as seminary dean during a molieben celebrated by Metropolitan Tikhon, seminary president, who presented him with the dean's cross – a jeweled pectoral cross which belonged to the late Father Basil Stroyen, a past dean 6 decades ago that has been handed down to the past 3 deans.



On Friday evening, nearly 200 gathered for a festive banquet

at the Hilton Hotel in Scranton. Toastmaster Father David Cowan, an alumnus, intoned prayers for the seminary's departed and living trustees, administration, faculty, staff, benefactors, alumni and students and their families. In addition to greetings by His Beatitude and Archbishop Michael, seminary rector, heartfelt remarks were offered by two other hierarchs. Archbishop Abel of Lublin and Chelm, Orthodox Church of Poland, offered touching words about the spiritual inheritance he shares with St. Tikhon's, serving in the same diocese where St. Tikhon of Moscow served



as newly consecrated bishop and where the late Archbishop Kiprian was born and raised. Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Archdiocese's diocese of Charleston and the Mid-Atlantic, a STOTS trustee, reflected on the profound joy he encounters when he visits the seminary and witnesses the love and faithfulness with which the administration, staff and students accomplish their labors and studies. A special presentation of flowers and an icon was made to Metropolitan Herman with words of gratitude for his 7 decades of prayerful, tireless service to the school.



Also offering remarks were Michael Herzak, Sr., chair of the board of trustees; Hieromonk Herman, dean of St. Tikhon's Monastery and faculty member; and Father Parker. The members of the board of trustees were honored for their dedication to the seminary as most recently expressed in the purchase of additional real property for



the future. Allison Steffaro, president of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, and those with her at the FOCA table [past presidents Carol Deerson & Michael Steffaro, National

Spiritual Advisor Father Theodore and Matushka Hope Boback, and Father Daniel, past national spiritual advisor, and Matushka Theodora Ressetar, and your Editor] were recognized and thanked for the FOCA's incredible generosity and vision in initiating the seminary's Married Student Housing Project and raising over \$300,000 to fund the housing, the first phase of which is now complete. Archbishop Michael was presented by Allison & Michael with gifts of icons for the new married student apartments in the former orphanage building. The St. Tikhon's Century Association also was recognized for its steadfast financial and spiritual support, and its president and officers presented Metropolitans Tikhon and Herman with lifetime

m e m b e r s h i p s . Entertainment was provided by the seminary's resident rock band, "Harry and the Dogmatix," comprised of faculty, alumni, students and friends. The Alumni Association president and officers were introduced and thanked for their continuing love and support for their beloved alma mater. And hearty thanks were expressed to Matushka Mary Wusylo (wife of past president Protodeacon Dr. Michael Wusylo), who chaired the celebration and her committee.



The 80th anniversary celebration concluded on Saturday morning with the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at the monastery church concelebrated by Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Michael and assisted by many priests and deacons. Metropolitan Tikhon awarded Father Parker the kamilavka and elevated him to the rank of archpriest which



was bestowed by the Holy Synod in honor of his many years of yeoman work in the diocese of the South and as chair of the OCA department of evangelization.

Seminarians, faculty and alumni sang the responses. A celebratory luncheon followed the liturgy bringing the 3-day event to a close.

A sense of deep joy and optimism permeated the festivities. Many generations of hierarchs, alumni, students, staff and supporters of St. Tikhon's Seminary were blessed with the opportunity to share memories, forge new friendships and rejoice together in all that the seminary has meant in their spiritual journeys. May God grant that many, many more generations of faithful will make their spiritual home at this blessed place – where saints have lived and walked and prayed and taught. May God grant St. Tikhon's Seminary not just 80 but "80 times 80" more years of radiance as a light of Orthodoxy in America!

SOURCES: adapted from STOTS Communications & oca.org with photos; other photos by the Editor



St. Vladimir's Seminary

Honors Fr. Chad Hatfield, Raises Scholarship Funds, Celebrates 50th Anniversary of SVS Press & Orthodox Ed Day

St. Vladimir's Seminary in Yonkers, NY held a double celebration this fall. On October 6th it marked the 50th anniversary of Orthodox Education Day (or "Ed Day") and 50 years of St. Vladimir's Seminary Press. And on November 1st and 2nd, the seminary honored its president and CEO Father Chad Hatfield on the 40th anniversary of his ordained ministry, raised scholarship funds at a gala dinner, and held an academic symposium.



This year Ed Day fell on the Feast of St. Innocent of Alaska, and the hierarchal Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Metropolitan Tikhon who was assisted by Father Chad and several other clergy in the presence of the saint's relics. Responses were sung antiphonally and inspirationally by the Boston Byzantine Choir (marking its 25th year) and the seminary choir under the direction of SVOTS director of music Robin Freeman. Members of the seminary community and OED guests packed into Three Hierarchs Chapel for the liturgy; the chapel was so full in fact that many had to stand outside in the narthex and outside as the chapel doors were kept open for everyone to worship. Guests enjoyed Greek and Indian food afterwards with a special coffee service by St. Tikhon's Bookstore and its "Burning Bush" roasted coffees.

The day included several more highlights befitting the historic celebration, including a passionate call to spread the Gospel as individuals in addition to supporting Orthodox evangelistic enterprises such as SVS Press and Ancient Faith Ministries. "We have a responsibility to care for the souls of men and women for whom Christ died ..." said John Maddox, CEO of Ancient Faith Ministries and keynote speaker for OED. "The best thing that ever happened to the world was when God came in the flesh and dwelt among us; his life, death and resurrection brought love and healing to a sick and dying world."



Following Mr. Maddox's address, retired SVS Press director Ted Bazil and professor emeritus David Drillock

offered an engaging and entertaining look back from the 50-year history of the press and Ed Day with many wonderful "insider" stories. "It was during the summer of 1973 when I was in the bookstore, working late at night, that Ted Bazil, a seminarian who was working on the seminary grounds crew, would see the light in the bookstore and come in, offering his assistance," Dave reminisced. "Since that time, I have had a really wonderful relationship with Ted." Ted would go on to become manager and then director of the press from 1973 until his retirement in 2012, helping to establish it as the largest and most active publisher of Orthodox Christian books in the English language. "We had all this material then (in 1974); we actually started advertising it and were taking orders ... but we didn't have the books because we couldn't afford to buy the inventory," Ted laughed. "So what we had to do is work additional time, work additional hours and be very careful in how we managed and how we purchased ... and we finally would receive this material in, and we would distribute it to our customers."



OED also featured bookstore and marketplace sales, a library open house, a workshop for teens, children's activities and a fantastic performance by the Boston Byzantine Choir. The day concluded with Great Vespers celebrated in the chapel with responses sung by the seminary choir. Audio recordings of the events may be heard at www.svots.edu.

In early November, the seminary held a fall benefit and theological convocation, bringing people together from near

and far to support scholarships for seminarians, celebrate 40 years of ordained ministry for Father Chad, and lay out the vision for the future of theological education. On November 1st Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the Divine Liturgy celebrated in the seminary auditorium (the chapel was under renovation); it marked the 5th anniversary of the reception of Great and Holy Prince Vladimir's relics. Later that evening, the seminary hosted a gala at the scenic Surf Club on the Sound, New Rochelle, NY to honor Father Chad and boost the seminary's tuition-free initiative. The initiative, which was launched in 2012, offers fully-paid tuition to seminarians to relieve them of the burden of tuition debt as they go forth to serve the Church. Contributions from the gala's attendees and donations sent in toward the cause totaled nearly \$200,000 at last count with donations still being received.



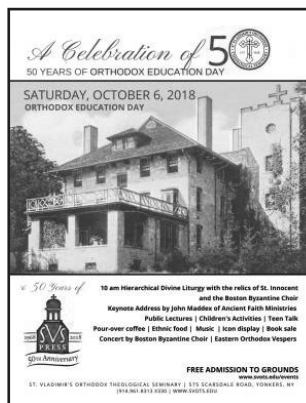
Sean Hatfield, Esquire, served as a gracious toastmaster and shared several wonderful stories about his parents from their ministry over the years. Father Chad said: "I am delighted to use this occasion marking 40 years of service in ordained ministry to benefit those who are in the early stages of priestly formation as seminarians. To have a small part in the formation of future priests,



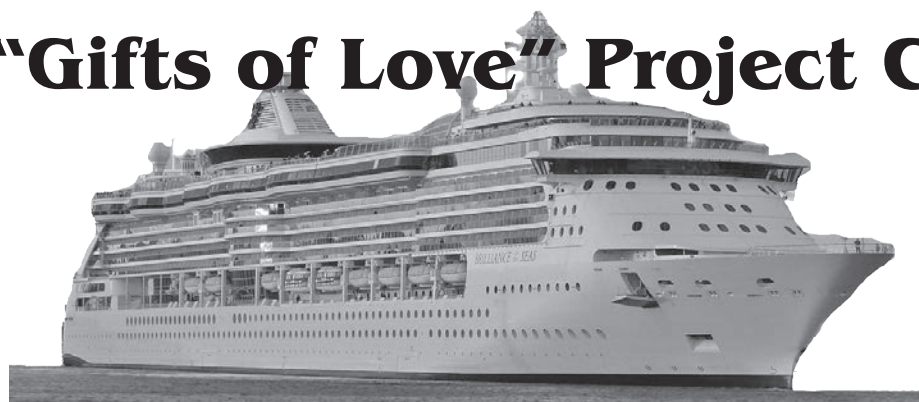
and those called to other vocations of service in the Church, is one of the great blessings of my life." In addition to Metropolitan Tikhon, many distinguished guests were in attendance including Father Vasily Fisher, rector, St. James Church, Napaskiak, AK (who attended St. Herman's Seminary while Father Chad was its dean); and seminary alumni Archimandrite Gerasim, St. Seraphim of Sarov Cathedral, Dallas, TX (who delivered a nearly hour-long discourse on the holy priesthood) and Father John Parker, new dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary.

The next day an academic convocation – "Theological Education in the 21st Century" – was held on campus. Featured speakers included new SVOTS academic dean Dr. Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie and Father Chad who addressed various facets of theological education involving church history, scripture, and dogmatics and ethics. A discussion led by a panel of professors followed. Since 2012, the seminary has bestowed an average of \$475,000 each year in scholarship funds for its seminarians. Your Editor participated in both fall events which were coordinated by Matushka Robyn Hatrak, seminary special events, hospitality & alumni relations officer.

SOURCES: adapted from SVOTS Communications & oca.org with photos; other photos by the Editor



FOCA "Gifts of Love" Project Cruise



**Depart October 20, 2019 from Barcelona, Spain
Aboard Royal Caribbean's "Brilliance of the Seas"**

ITINERARY:

Depart Newark United Airlines October 18, 2019 at 7:25 p.m., arrive Barcelona October 19, 2019 9:00 a.m. Overnight Barcelona, Spain (hotel to be determined).

- Barcelona, Spain
- Nice (Villefranche), France
- Portofino, Italy



- Florence/Pisa (Laspezia), Italy
- Rome (Civitacchia), Italy
- Naples (Salerno), Italy
- Cruising
- Barcelona

Oct 27, 2019 - depart Barcelona - United Airlines at 12:00 p.m., arrive Newark Oct 27, 2019 at 2:45p.m.

RATES: CRUISE ONLY

Verandah Stateroom (Category 2D)	\$1478.90
Ocean View Stateroom (Category 2N)	\$1086.90



TRANSFERS:

- Barcelona Airport to Hotel, October 19th
- Hotel in Barcelona to Cruise Port, October 20th
- Cruise Port to Airport October 27th
- Approximate - \$60.00 per person

HOTEL:

Approximate - \$175 per room

AIRFARE:

Approximate Airfare \$550 - \$600. Quote for airfare is based on the fare available for this year. Booking and negotiation for this group will be 330 days prior to departure. Group airfare can be requested from other cities based on a minimum of 10 passengers.

- City Tour of Barcelona
- Pre or Post extensions can be arranged

GROUP CABIN ALLOTMENT:

Cabin selection is available at this time within this allotment and requires a \$250 per person deposit - refundable up to final payment June 1, 2019.

For further information on the cruise, please contact Carol Deerson at 732 254-4979 or PTS Travel at 201 385-1884. Early booking is important to get the best cabin at our group rates.

Proceeds to benefit the

**FOCA "Gifts of Love" Project
St. Tabitha's Orphanage
Village of Mallala, Kenya**



Crisis in Global Orthodoxy:

Patriarch of Constantinople to Grant "Autocephaly" to a New "Ukrainian Orthodox Church" – is Bartholomew Now the "First without Equals" and No Longer "First among Equals?" – by the Editor



The world of Orthodox Christianity is in crisis. On October 11, 2018, the Patriarchate of Constantinople – which calls itself "Ecumenical" and is based in Istanbul, Turkey, a Moslem country with maybe 2,000 Orthodox Christians

– announced 1) its intention "to provide autocephaly" to a newly created Ukrainian Orthodox Church; 2) the "restoration of the hierarchal or priestly office" of the leaders and clergy of the schismatics in the Ukraine and the "return of their believers to church communion"; 3) the "cancellation" of the decree made by Constantinople over 300 years ago, in 1686, transferring the Kiev Metropolitanate to the Moscow Patriarchate; and 4) the establishment of a stravropegiacal church in Kiev. However, the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), headed by Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev, which is an autonomous or "self-governing" exarchate of the Patriarchate of Moscow and to which belong most Ukrainian Orthodox clergy and faithful, has never asked for any such autocephaly let alone from Constantinople which has no canonical jurisdiction over it. Hence, this "autocephaly" is to be given to a "new" Ukrainian Church comprised of the schismatic "Kiev Patriarchate," headed by a married man with some three children (the so-called "Patriarch Philaret" (Denisenko)), and the also schismatic "Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church".

Ukrainian President Peter Poroshenko – in an apparent attempt to bolster his poor popularity ratings ahead of elections early next year – has personally negotiated the terms of this "autocephaly" with Constantinople Patriarch Bartholomew, traveling at least twice to Istanbul. A "unity church council" was held on December 15th at the historic St. Sophia Cathedral of the Kiev-Pecherskaya Lavra at which the two schismatic churches formed a new "church" and elected Mr. Epiphanius Dumenko (a close protégé of Denisenko) the new "Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine" who needs confirmation by Constantinople. Patriarch Bartholomew will grant some form of "autocephaly" to this new Church and, according to Constantinople, the former, canonical Church will cease to exist. Poroshenko and the schismatic "Metropolitan Epiphanius" are expected to travel to Istanbul on January 6th to receive their "tomos."

Needless to say, no other local Orthodox Church in the world, including those of the other ancient patriarchates of Jerusalem, Alexandria or Antioch, has supported or confirmed Constantinople's manifestly uncanonical misconduct in the Ukraine. Meeting in extraordinary session in Minsk, Belarus on October 15th, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church of Russia condemned this series of actions and announced that the Russian Church will cease commemorating Constantinople in liturgical services and will no longer be in communion with it; its clergy are forbidden to serve with theirs and the laity cannot participate in sacraments performed

in its churches. "The Synod of the Church of Constantinople accepted these lawless decisions unilaterally, ignoring the calls of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the entirety of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as the fraternal Local Orthodox Churches, their primates and bishops for pan-Orthodox discussion of the issue." "Accepting into communion the dissenters and the person anathematized in another Local Church with all the 'bishops' and 'clerics' ordained by them, an encroachment on other people's canonical destinies, an attempt to renounce their own historical decisions and commitments – all this leads the Constantinople Patriarchate beyond the canonical field and to our great sorrow makes it impossible for us to continue Eucharistic communion with its hierarchs, clergy and laity." Moscow expressed its support for Metropolitan Onufry and the canonical Church while calling for a pan-Orthodox synod to resolve the crisis. The size of the Russian Church has been estimated at 100-125 million or roughly half of world Orthodoxy.

Just days later Metropolitan Hilarion (Kapral) and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR), based in New York City and itself a part of the Moscow Patriarchate, followed the Russian Church's lead and ended the commemoration of and communion with Constantinople, stating: "The illicit actions of the Church of Constantinople are able to suffer no canonical defense and constitute a grave and dangerous injustice against the traditions of Orthodoxy as well as a shocking disregard for the spiritual welfare of the sheep of Christ (cf. John 10.3, 11)." Terming the unilateral revocation of the Act of 1686 a "groundless presumption of power by the Phanar [Constantinople]," it too ended communal relations "until this ancient and once-glorious sister Church repents from its introduction of false and alien teachings about primacy and universal authority, contrary to the ancient Orthodox Faith, and ceases its lawless actions."



Other Orthodox Churches have taken somewhat more limited action. The Polish Orthodox Church has refused to recognize the Ukrainian schismatics rehabilitated by Constantinople "which have committed much evil in the past." It said that the situation in the Ukraine "has a destructive effect on the life of the Orthodox Church" and again called for a synaxis of Orthodox primates to deal with the crisis caused by Bartholomew and his synod. The Serbian Orthodox Church likewise will have nothing to do with the schismatics, calling it "a canonically unfounded decision" and urged the holding of a pan-Orthodox council "in order to confirm and strengthen the catholicity and unity of the Orthodox Church and in the future avoid the temptation that holy Orthodoxy is going through now."

During a fall trip to the Ukraine in which he concelebrated with Metropolitan Onufry several times, Patriarch Theodoros of Alexandria and All Africa expressed



his support and consolation for the canonical Orthodox Church in the Ukraine. He vowed to tell the other patriarchs what he “has seen with his own eyes” and that “the Church does not bow to politicians. The Church has the Apostolic rules.... The canonical Church is guided by

the canons. It lives by and will live by the canons.” “Let us not accept what is dictated by the devil who wants there to be strife between us!” Earlier he signed a joint document with Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw calling for peace in the Ukraine and for a pan-Orthodox council to deal with the crisis. And Patriarch John of Antioch signed a joint statement with Patriarch Irenee of Serbia (October 19th), stressing that “sound conciliarity, which is based in the first place on the unity of the Eucharistic Chalice, can and should be the basis and foundation for all we do. The dangerous situation in the Orthodox world, resulting from the situation in the Ukraine, cannot continue without ultimately establishing a lasting division between all the members of the Orthodox Church. That is detrimental to the peace bond in the Orthodox pleroma and to its testimony in today’s world. Therefore, and given the urgent need to avoid further escalation in the current crisis, the Serbian and Antiochian Patriarchs appeal to their brother [Patriarch Bartholomew] to restore the fraternal dialogue with the Orthodox Church of Russia in order to, with the fraternal assistance and participation of all the other primates of the Local Orthodox Autocephalous Churches, resolve the conflict between the Patriarchates of Constantinople and Moscow and to restore back the bond of peace in the Orthodox Church.”

The Orthodox Church in America – whose autocephaly from Moscow has never been recognized by Constantinople – has yet to react to the recent actions of Constantinople and Moscow. Metropolitan Tikhon did issue an archpastoral letter on September 26th which mostly called for unity among all Orthodox and urged “our clergy, monastics, and faithful to offer their support and fervent prayers for His Beatitude, Metropolitan Onufry, and all the bishops, clergy, monastics, and faithful of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church.” However, it also recognized the initiatives of Constantinople “to address this painful situation” of “historical ecclesiastical divisions that have existed in Ukraine for decades[]” while stating that “we have received with sorrow, yet with understanding, the decision of the Moscow Patriarchate to cease liturgical commemoration of the [EP] and suspend concelebration and participation by bishops of the Moscow Patriarchate in inter-Orthodox contexts.” His Beatitude supported calls for a pan-Orthodox synaxis to find “an authentic solution” “to this problem” and concluded by exhorting “all in the [OCA] to be steadfast in faith, hope, and love, maintaining collaboration and eucharistic communion with both the [EP] and the Patriarchate of Moscow, thus offering a sign of unity in the face of current threats to unity.”



At their fall meeting in late October, the OCA Holy Synod heard a report “on the current relationship between the Church of Russia and the [EP] with regard to the situation unfolding in Ukraine. The issue was discussed at length, and a pastoral letter will be made available in the near future.” (oca.org: 10/29/18). No such letter had been released as of mid-December.

For its part, the canonical UOC’s council of bishops met in Kiev on November 13th and held that it “considers unacceptable the unlawful interference by the Patriarchate of Constantinople in the internal affairs of another Local Church[,]” declaring its decisions to be “canonically null and void” and “invalid.” “In particular, the decision to establish the jurisdiction of the [EP] in the territory of Ukraine is the result of speculative interpretation of church history. And the decision to remove the anathema and other church bans from the schism leaders and the recognition of the ‘pseudo-chirotonies’ they committed during their stay in the schism is the result of a distorted interpretation of Orthodox canons. Having taken such anti-canonical decisions, recognizing the schismatics in their existing ranks, the [EP] itself embarked on the path of schism, according to the church canons. In this regard, the Eucharistic communion of the UOC with the [EP] is currently impossible and ceased.”

In the days leading up to the so-called “unity council,” Ukrainian state security forces were systematically raiding the residences and offices of bishops and other clergy in an obvious effort to intimidate the UOC and to force it to participate in the creation of the new church to be recognized by the EP as autocephalous; indeed, some 12 bishops were taken to Kiev against their will. Patriarch Bartholomew warned Metropolitan Onufry, in his “invitation” letter, that he will be deemed schismatic if he refused to attend; well, he didn’t and yet he is still regarded as “canonical” by the remainder of Orthodoxy. Just 2 of the UOC’s 90 bishops and over 11,000 priests joined the schismatics in the EP’s pseudo-sobor. In a statement released December 7th, the UOC banned its clergy and laity from attending the so-called “unification gathering” because the EP “has no canonical right to convene any meeting in Ukraine”; it is “illegal” because “it will involve representatives from schismatic groups.” Poroshenko, who signed a “cooperation agreement” with Bartholomew in Istanbul on November 3rd, participated in the council and actually sat at the right hand of the Greek metropolitan from France who chaired it on behalf of the EP – and before the iconostas no less.

Contrary to the opinions of certain mass media and church pundits, this crisis is not about some sort of power struggle between the Russian Orthodox Church and the EP. Rather, it strikes at the heart of the foundational concept of conciliarity or “sobornost” which has distinguished Orthodox Christianity from Roman/Latin papism. For unless the Patriarchate of Constantinople/Istanbul reverses course, withdraws these decrees and repents, it must be deemed schismatic by the remainder of Orthodoxy if the Church is to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Holy Tradition. As the ROCOR synod of bishops has aptly observed, Bartholomew and “his supporters” now see him as “first without equals” as opposed to “first among equals.” And even the famed Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), himself an EP bishop, has opined that Constantinople’s actions are uncanonical. Let us pray for persecuted Metropolitan Onufry and all the clergy and faithful of the one, canonical and holy Orthodox Church of the Ukraine!



SOURCES: oca.org, patriarchia.ru, synod.com, orthochristian.com, pravmir.com, mospat.ru, antiochian.org, interfax-religion.com, tass.com & reuters.com

NOTE: This article reflects the personal views of the Editor alone and does not purport to represent an official position of the OCA or FOCA.

Congratulations on the 2018 FOCA National Scholarships Awarded in St. Louis!



At the recent national FOCA convention in St. Louis, outgoing president Marge Kovach awarded the following nine national scholarships at the convention banquet totaling \$8,000. National Recording Secretary Danielle Ilchuk coordinated the scholarship program for the first time this year. Our congratulations to all the deserving recipients, we wish them the very best in their studies, and thanks to Danielle and her committee! Here are the profiles of the awardees:

ALEXANDRA A. YAROSH
FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP WITH FRED LEWIS HONORS (\$1000)



Alexandra is from Canonsburg, PA and a member of St. John the Baptist Church there as well as its Junior "O" Club, #109-J. She is attending Robert Morris University in Moon, PA as a freshman and plans to major in nursing. Alexandra sings in the church choir and was a Sunday school student. She served as chapter vice-president and secretary, volunteered at the City Mission, helped with the seminary Christmas tree, food drive, car wash, food shelter lunch in Pittsburgh, and made shoeboxes for Alaskan outreach and put IOCC kits together. At Canon-McMillan High School, Alexandra was on the soccer team,

student council, National and French Honor societies, French club, ski club and led a mentoring program. Her community activities include Family Promise, volunteering at a children's library, and assisting at vacation Bible school.

ROBERT A. NORTON
FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP WITH MISCHA MICHAELSON DESIGNATION (\$1000)



Alex, as he is known, is a senior at St. Tikhon's Seminary in the master of divinity program and a member of its FOCA chapter, #121. His undergraduate work was undertaken at University of California-Davis and College of the Canyons. Alex has been an altar server (1992-2006), choir member at every parish since 2009, a church school teacher since 2014 and was ecclesiarch at St. John's ROCOR Cathedral in Washington, DC for several years. He volunteered for many festivals and bazaars, was a member of "Propers" ministry and interned for the OCA department of youth, young adult and campus ministry. Alex was

a delegate at the 2017 national FOCA convention. In school he participated in many ministries including the OCF at UC Davis (president), Alpha Gamma Omega Christian fraternity, and St. Tikhon's mission choir (2016 to present). And Alex was a counselor at an IOCC conference, assisted in many service projects, helped at Carpenter Shelter in Alexandria, VA and volunteered at FOCUS Minnesota during the summer of 2017.

ROBERT D. WEST
FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP WITH MISCHA MICHAELSON DESIGNATION (\$1000)



Bob resides in Lansing, NY and is parish council senior warden of Holy Apostles Church there. After graduating from Lansing High School, he attended SUNY Brockport, Rochester Institute of Technology and Tompkins Cortland Community College in New York. Bob is currently a senior at St. Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA and enrolled in the master of divinity program. He is president of the St. Tikhon FOCA chapter, #121, a tonsured reader, monastery ecclesiarch, student government vice-president, and event photographer for the Tikhonaire, the student publication. Bob has participated in the past two national

FOCA conventions as a delegate and was present at the convention banquet in St. Louis when President Kovach awarded the national scholarships.

MELISSA J. ZURO
FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP (\$1000)



Melissa, who lives in Etters, PA, is a member of Christ the Saviour Church and its Harrisburg "O" Club, #199. Majoring in nursing (B.S.), she attends Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, PA. Melissa sang in both the youth and adult choirs, participated in the church school program and was a Junior "O" Club member. While at Red Land High School, she was in the women's chorale, chamber singers, concert choir, student nurse's association, and National and Spanish Honor societies, and she received the Phi Kappa Phi honor society recognition award. Melissa has volunteered at Holy Spirit Hospital, the milkshake stand at

the Farm Show, Special Olympics, magical memories event for children with disabilities and was a blood donor. And she was a nursing assistant at UPMC Pinnacle Health.

ZOE M. KALANTZIS
KLIMKOSKY SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)



Zoe, a resident of Portersville, PA, is a member of St. John the Baptist Church, Campbell, OH and its "O" Club, #27. She is a freshman at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg majoring in engineering. In her parish Zoe was a church school student since age 4, a past winner of the "Celebrations of Faith" contest, sponsored seminarian families for St. Nicholas Day, was active in the annual school drive with the stewardship committee, and visited nursing homes for Christmas caroling. Zoe served as a Junior "O" Club officer and participated in

Congratulations on the 2018 FOCA National Scholarships Awarded in St. Louis!



national FOCA basketball tournaments, attended St. Vladimir Camp since age 12, and helped serve spaghetti luncheons at her parish. A talented athlete, she was captain of both the softball and basketball teams at Ellwood City High School and was a National Honor Society member among other activities, including environment club. Finally, Zoe volunteers yearly to help get St. Vladimir Camp ready for the season.

ELENA M. YAROSH
KLIMKOSKY SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)



Elena lives in Canonsburg, PA and is a member of St. John the Baptist Church and its Junior "O" Club, #109-J. She is a freshman at Robert Morris University in Moon, PA and intends to major in nursing. Elena was both president and treasurer of the Junior chapter and attended Sunday school. Her parish activities included putting IOCC kits together, taking lunch to a Pittsburgh food shelter, cleaning up the church hillside, clothing sale, spaghetti dinner, seminary Christmas tree, basket party, shoeboxes for Alaskan outreach and worked at the City Mission. At Canon-McMillan High School, Elena was in the band,

student council, Lead CM, French club, ski club and both the National and French Honor societies. And her volunteer activities include Family Promise, food bank, a children's library and vacation Bible school.

LUKE A. CLARK
KLIMKOSKY SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)



A resident of Beloit, OH, Luke is a member of St. John the Baptist Church in Campbell, OH and its Junior "O" Club, #27-J. He is a freshman at The Ohio State University in Columbus and plans to pursue a double major in political science and security & intelligence with a minor in Spanish. In his parish he has been an altar server, a youth choir singer and helped setup the Good Friday grave. Luke was president of his Junior chapter (2016-2018) and secretary, participated in the parish Easterfest, played on the Junior basketball team, and has been a St. Vladimir Camp camper and counselor. He was senior

class president at Sebring McKinley High School, yearbook editor (3 years), National Honor Society, cross-country team captain (4 years), language club treasurer (4 years), quizbowl captain and ecology club member. Luke's volunteerism includes local community dinner, Red Cross blood drive, Humane Society, Salvation Army (bell ringer and breakfast), post office food drive, parent-teacher conference and cleanup at St. Vladimir Camp. And he was present at this year's national convention banquet to hear his selection as a scholarship recipient.

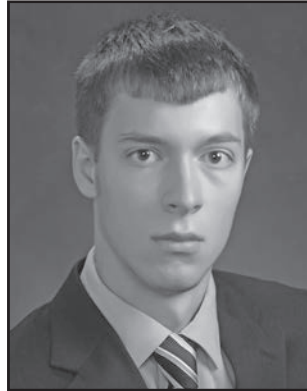
NICHOLAS D. REIMUND
KLIMKOSKY SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)



Nicholas, who resides in Akron, OH, is a member of St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore and its Senior "O" Club. He is attending Ashland University in Ashland, OH where his major is international business. In his parish Nicholas was Junior chapter president (2 years) and secretary (2 years), senior altar server, RBO lodge member, Russian youth dancer (12+ years) and balalaika orchestra player (5+ years), festival volunteer, pierogie worker and social hall volunteer. With the Juniors he helped with bagel sales, lockins, poinsettia and luminary sales, was a national FOCA basketball tournament player, and

assisted with the lenten meal setup, Superbowl sub sale and Christmas caroling. At Walsh Jesuit High School, Nicholas was on the track & cross-country team for 4 years (captain as senior); he is now on the university's team and also has been involved with the Kairos retreat, urban plunge retreat, journalist for "The Pioneer," Spanish club and serves on the Ashland student athlete advisory committee. And he has volunteered at Victory Gallup therapeutic riding center (5+ years) where he was volunteer-of-the-year in 2016.

WADE S. HISIRO
TORSKY SCHOLARSHIP (\$1000)



Wades lives in Harrisburg, PA where he is a member of Christ the Saviour Church and its Harrisburg "O" Club, #199. He is studying at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and majoring in electrical & computer engineering. In his parish Wade has been an altar server (since 2001), church school student, pierogie worker, and church softball team player (since 2011). He was treasurer of the Teen Titans Junior "O" Club, #199-J (4 years) and helped with pasta dinners, Souperbowl of Caring, and the Christmas stocking project & play; and Wade played in the 2012 national FOCA basketball tourney. He is a member of Theta

Tau (professional engineering fraternity), plays intramural football, soccer & volleyball, and is a math teaching assistant. Wade has volunteered for Habitat of Humanity and the former Agia Sophia Orthodox coffeehouse (2013-2016), and helped maintain/update the GBPA website. And he received the FOCA Fekula scholarship with Fred Lewis honors in both 2016 and 2017.

St. Nicholas Chapel Receives Alaska Historical Commission Grant

The St. Nicholas Chapel is an iconic part of the Holy Assumption of the Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Church National Historic Landmark in Kenai, Alaska. One of the most recognized landmarks in the area, it also sits in a prominent place on the seal for the City of Kenai. Each year, the chapel is visited by hundreds of visitors because it is the final resting place of the first Russian Orthodox resident priest, Father Igumen Nikolai, who arrived in Kenai around 1844.

This fall the Alaska Historical Commission approved a \$14,964 grant to replace the original roof of the St. Nicholas Chapel thanks to the FOCA Gifts of Love 2017 award which provided the matching funds portion of the requirement.

In addition, the National Park Service (which oversees all National Historic Landmarks) was able to purchase new cedar shingles for the project by donating \$2,786, and they also purchased new plywood and water/ice shield material for another \$1,465.

The shingles, plywood, and ice shield have already been delivered and are safely tucked away in a dry environment for the winter. Scaffolding plans are being prepared this winter, so Phase 1 of the construction will be ready to start when the ground thaws which is usually not till May.

As you can see, the FOCA Gifts of Love donation really got the ball rolling on this project. From the original FOCA grant amount, the chapel, through the direction of ROSSIA (Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska), was able to leverage additional contributions for a grand total of \$33,615 to date.

Phase 2 of the project will include foundation stabilization to secure the building with a strong structural framework, replacing rotten logs, restoring the dome, and replacing the cross.

Again, our special thanks to FOCA for your very generous gift toward the historic preservation of the St. Nicholas Chapel. We are deeply grateful for your support and will continue to update you on the progress of the chapel's restoration.

By Dorothy Gray
Kenai, Alaska

Editor's note: the official logo of the city of Kenai, which Dorothy has attached, includes an artist's rendition of the Saint Nicholas Chapel indicating its significance to Kenai and the local citizenry.



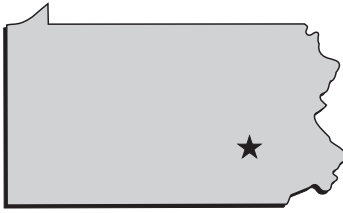
Cleveland Hosts Clam Bake to Benefit St. Vladimir's Camp

On Saturday, November 3, 2018, after Great Vespers, the Ohio District Camp Committee hosted its annual clam bake at St. Michael's Woodside Event Center for the benefit of the Ohio District's St. Vladimir Camp & Retreat Center. Last year's event was so successful we found it necessary to move from the shanty to the gymnasium for the 2018 event. Over 160 attended to support the camp and were treated to potato soup, steak or chicken, tender clams plus dessert – and while the numbers haven't been finalized at the time of this printing, the Committee is hoping that over \$3,000 was raised! Becky and Melissa Tesar co-chaired the benefit dinner virtually assuring its success. The Chinese Raffle featured more than 25 gift baskets; a fifty-fifty raffle and the donation of a large-screen TV by national FOCA President Allison & Michael Steffaro also contributed to the evening's excitement. If you are anywhere near Northeast Ohio about this time next year, plan to stop in. You will not go home hungry! And many thanks to all who by participating and contributing expressed their support for our youth and the campgrounds! Submitted by Leon Sheean with photos courtesy of stmichaelscleveland.org



Central PA District Holds 88th Annual Convention in Harrisburg

On Sunday, October 21st, the 88th annual convention of the Central Pennsylvania District was held at the social hall of Christ the Saviour Church in the Harrisburg area; it was sponsored by the Harrisburg "O" Club, #199. Joan & Bill Dupkanick prepared



a light luncheon before the sessions. Gov. Gary Lelo presided. Father Daniel Ressetar, spiritual advisor, intoned "Memory Eternal" for the recently reposed Paul Semanco, past district governor and longtime member of the former American "O" Club in St. Clair. Other officers participating included Bill Dupkanick, treasurer; Greg Ressetar, lt. gov.; and your Editor, secretary & imm. past gov. Delegates included: Anne Lelo, Joanne Wevodau, Joan Dupkanick and Matushka Theodora & Dimitri Ressetar.

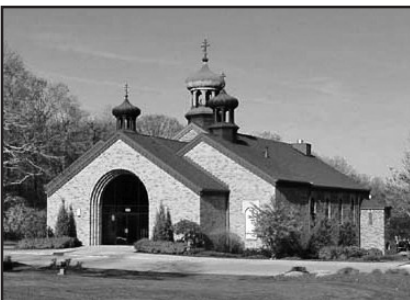
After the reports of officers and chapters, Gary read a detailed email greeting from our new national president Allison Steffaro, which updated members on the recent St. Louis national convention and plans for the forthcoming year. The Ressetar's reported on the 80th anniversary celebration of St. Tikhon's Seminary held the previous weekend at which the FOCA was again recognized for its \$300,000 gift for married student housing with Allison & Michael Steffaro presenting icons to Archbishop Michael at the banquet for the new apartments. District scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to Wade Hisiro (Matushka Prislowsky memorial) and Melissa Zuro. Congrats!

A general discussion was held on the state of the district and the parishes within it, many of which have decreased sharply in size in recent years; two more parishes within the OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania may close soon. The district again will have two summer outings: a baseball game/picnic and a Knoebel's Amusement Resort picnic for "Orthodox Family Day." Donations were made to a new Puerto Rican Orthodox mission (ROCOR) and the St.



Nicholas Day seminary gifts project. Approved was a written motion by Father Dan to offer two scholarships (a total of \$700) to college students for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship conference at Antiochian Village near the end of December. Next year's convention will be hosted by St. John's Senior "O" Club in Alpha, NJ. After adjournment, Father Dan – who has been district spiritual advisor for some 35 years – conducted the installation ceremony for the officers who were reelected with Mat. Theodora & Joan as nominating committee members. Although the district has just four chapters left (including the at-large), we strongly feel that it's important to keep Central PA intact and an active part of the Fellowship as it's been for the past 88 years!

Ohio District's Convention Held in Cleveland



Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights was the site of this year's Ohio District convention on Saturday, October 6th hosted by the Cleveland "R" Club, #4/6. Governor Melissa Tesar reports that the main topic of conversation "as always" was the district's St. Vladimir

Orthodox Camp & Retreat Center in Farmdale. The district approved the expenditure for the camp's new swimming pool and is in communications with the construction company to have it installed – we hope! – in the fall of 2019. Next summer's camp dates were also set: Ages 7-11: June 30-July 6; Ages 12-18: July 14-20; and National FOCA Junior Olympics: July 7-13.

The Ohio District awarded 8 scholarships to deserving students totaling \$2,000 as follows – Akron #20/32: Alexander Reimond, Natalie Rohweder & Andrew Rohweder; Campbell #27: Marc Elash; Cap City #254: Elexis Schultz; Cleveland #4/6: Nicole Gaydos & Daniel Kovalak; and St. Andrew's #220: Stefan Hutnyan.

Congrats to all! Plans are underway for the 2019 National FOCA Convention in Columbus over the Labor Day weekend, August 30-September 2; more details will be in the next issue of the OCJ. "Be sure to Discover Columbus with the FOCA!" District officers will remain the same for next year: Spiritual Advisor - Father Nick Wyslutsky, Governor Melissa Tesar, Lt. Governor Barb Yerian, Secretary Donna Tesar, and Treasurer Mike Herzak II. Many thanks to the Cleveland "R" Club for hosting the convention!



New Jersey District Holds Convention in Passaic



On Sunday, November 4, 2018, the New Jersey District met for its 67th annual convention at the Saints Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Cultural Center in Passaic, NJ. It was sponsored by the Garden State “R” Club. A luncheon was held prior to plenary sessions.

Gov. Daria Miskiv presided over the convention. Plans were made to co-sponsor a light reception following the Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir Christmas concert on December 9th at the cultural center to benefit the “Warm the Children” charity. The annual St. Andrew/St. Nicholas Vespers was to be held on Sunday, November 25th, also in Passaic. Two \$500 district scholarships were awarded to Maryanne Johnson (NJ District D. Kostovich scholarship) and Alexis Steffaro (Richard Miskiv scholarship). Also discussed was next year’s Mediterranean cruise to benefit the “Gifts of Love” project – the African orphanage. Among those participating in the convention were national FOCA president Allison Steffaro and Marge Kovach, immediate past national president.

The newly elected district executive board consists of the following: Gov. Steven Wasiliewski; Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kozak; Recording Secretary Danielle Kovach; and Treasurer Michael Kupec. Daria Miskiv becomes the immediate past governor (see photo – not pictured are Laura Johnson and Stephanie Johnson, nominating committee members). A “thank you” to Garden State for hosting this year’s district convention!



Pittsburgh District Convention Meets in Weirton



District reaffirmed our long-standing practice of providing a stipend of \$300.00 per semester to any Seminarian from the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh.



The Pittsburgh District held its 92nd Annual Convention on October 21, 2018. The Convention was hosted by the Weirton Orthodox Christian Fellowship at St. Nicholas Church in Weirton,

WV. After District Spiritual Advisor, Archpriest William Evansky, lead attendees in prayer, Governor John Schultz called the meeting to order, and the attendees were greeted by Reverend Andrew P. Nelko, the rector of St. Nicholas and the Spiritual Advisor for Weirton Chapter #58.

The Business Sessions began with the review of the reports of the Executive Board, the Committees, and Chapters. Included was a review of the National Convention and All-American Council by Governor John Schultz and National Recording Secretary Matushka Danielle Ilchuk. Matushka Danielle also read an address from National President Allison Steffaro. Other highlights included a report on the 2018 Archdiocesan Family Day which the District supports with up to \$500.00 towards expenses. The Youth Committee Report Highlighted the various events held in 2018 and provided the preliminary schedule of events for 2019. The Youth and Young Adult Committee continues to function as a joint Committee with the Archdiocese.

After reviewing the various reports, delegates considered and acted on several business items. The

The Archdiocese currently has one Seminarian who is attending St. Vladimir Seminary. The District also decided to hold a “Funraising” Social Activity in the Spring of 2019. Delegates also voted to have each Chapter in the District to hold one fundraiser in their Chapter with the proceeds earmarked to the District. Governor Schultz reported that he recently found the District By-laws which will require revision. In the final piece of business, the Convention Body passed a resolution to allow the Treasurer to work with the bank on the District accounts.

The District discussed potential venues for the 2020 National Basketball Tournament that will be hosted by the District. Delegates also agreed to begin preliminary considerations to sponsor a future National Convention possibly in 2021 or 2022.

2019 District activities will include the Annual Summer Board of Trustees Meeting which will be held in Weirton at a date and location to be determined. The 2019 (93rd) District Convention will be hosted by Ambridge on October 20. The newly elected District Executive Board is Governor Dr. John Schultz; Lt. Governor Matushka Danielle Ilchuk, Treasurer Sonia Schultz; Recording Secretary Matushka Debra Evansky; and Administrative Secretary Tanya Zehnder. The Spiritual Advisor will remain Archpriest William Evansky.

Following the traditional closing ceremony, Fr. Evansky installed the new Executive Board. The Convention concluded with a meal and fellowship.

83rd Annual Colonial District Convention

Sponsored by the Trenton "R" Club, #78
Trenton, New Jersey



On Saturday, October 27, the five chapters of the Colonial District met in Trenton, NJ for the 83rd Colonial District Convention, hosted by the Trenton "R" Club, Chapter 78. After the officers, delegates and alternates registered and enjoyed light refreshments, the Convention was called to order by our long standing and dedicated Governor, Walter Alesevich. Following the opening prayer, national anthem, and FOCA anthem, Walter appointed the parliamentarian (Allison Steffaro) and credentials committee (Paul Kavchok). He was pleased to welcome not one but TWO, FOCA National Presidents; newly elected President, Allison Steffaro, and her husband, Michael, a past National President.



The Convention body was also welcomed by Fr. Volodymyr Chaikivskyi, pastor of St. Vladimir's parish in Trenton and the Chapter 78 Spiritual Advisor. Following the roll call of district officers, trustees, and delegates, Fr. Ted Boback, District Spiritual Advisor, intoned Many Years for the departed members of the District and Many Years for the current members.

The report of the Credentials Committee was followed by the review of the minutes of the 81st and 82nd District Conventions which were held in Philadelphia, PA and Washington, D.C., respectively. The next items on the agenda were the reports of the District Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Ted Boback, reports of District Officers, and reports of Chapter Presidents. The final report presented was from the Sports Committee (sponsor of the annual District Bowling Tournament). The audit of the Treasurer's books is pending the receipt of the October bank statements. Motion to approve all reports as presented or corrected was approved by the body. Paul Fedoronko, Nominating Committee person along with Dcn. James Magruder, presented the report,

after which the morning session was adjourned for a delicious lunch.

After the session reconvened, Governor Alesevich presented the calendar for National FOCA and Colonial District events for 2019. He noted that the National FOCA Bowling Tournament will be held in a Colonial District chapter (Baltimore) on May 17, 18, 2019, and the 2019 National FOCA Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio over the Labor Day weekend. The 2019 District Religious Education Day will be hosted by the Vladicon Chapter during Great Lent next April. St. Stephen's will host the next District Board of Trustees meeting in January

2019, Nation's Capital will host the 2019 District Bowling, and St. Mark will host the 2019 District Convention.

Under old business, Governor Alesevich reported on the annual FOCA St. Andrew's Appeal and the recent 92nd National FOCA Convention, which was held in St. Louis in July. Walter passed around a thank





you note from the Seminarian at St. Tikhon's who had been the recipient of \$900 of support from the District during the Adopt a Seminarian project 2017 and 2018. The 2018-19 seminarian recipient will be a student at St. Vladimir's OTS. All District chapters should be supporting this district initiative. Finally, Walter encouraged District chapters to participate in the annual FOCA Seminarian "Wish List" project which is currently under way.

Under New Business, National FOCA President Allison Steffaro, reported on positive developments at the St. Louis Convention, which was held in conjunction with the OCA All-American Council. There was a positive feeling that came out of both gatherings, especially with respect to the role of youth in the Church and the FOCA. The successful floor drive at the AAC for the purpose of funding a Youth Director in the OCA was a significant development, as was the formation by the FOCA of a task force comprised of past FOCA Presidents and National Advisors. Todd Walker, newly elected National FOCA Vice President from Minneapolis, will be responsible for membership. The slogan for these activities is the "Road to 100" in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the original FROC which will take place in the next decade. Allison noted that the prior year Gifts of Love drive raised \$12,500 to be used for repairs to the St. Nicholas Chapel on the grounds of the Holy Assumption Cathedral in Kenai, Ak. That gift along with other gifts and a \$12,500 grant has enabled a total of \$50,000 of funds to be raised for the project. Monies raised for the 2018-2019 Gifts of Love project have been earmarked to support St. Tabitha's Orphanage in Kenya. Allison was pleased to report that the former orphanage property at St. Tikhon's has been converted into apartments for four married seminarians. The \$300,000, which was initially raised by the FOCA for purchasing the vacant school property in South Canaan and converting it to housing, is being used for rehabbing the orphanage property instead. The RBO has provided financing for the acquisition of the school property. It is possible the seminary may

construct additional married seminarian housing in the future on land owned by the seminary.

Governor Alesevich announced the winner of the \$400 Colonial District Scholarship. That award will go to Sophia Moyer. Sophia is the daughter of Vicki Moyer, the advisor to the Junior FOCA chapter in Columbia, MD. That parish does not currently have a Senior FOCA chapter.

Nancy Stanton, Treasurer, presented the 2018-2019 budget for approval. Her original budget called for a deficit, but after discussion it was recommended to increase the amount of revenue projected from the sale of District Stock Awards in 2019 due to the National Bowling Tournament being held in Baltimore. It was also pointed out that not all chapters contributed to the Adopt a Seminarian project in 2018. With these two changes to the budget, the District should have a net profit for the coming year and the revised budget was passed as per discussion.



Nominations and Election of District Officers were conducted by Paul Fedoronko. The following officers were elected for a two-year term through the 2020 District Convention: Treasurer, Nancy Stanton; Lt. Gov., Paul Fedoronko; Recording Secretary, Larry Skvir; and Two-Year Nominating Committee; Paul Kavchok.

Governor Alesevich thanked everyone for attending today, along with special thanks to Trenton "R" Club for hosting the Convention. Motion to adjourn was approved, followed by a closing prayer led by Fr. Ted Boback. Closing ceremony was led by Governor Alesevich. Newly elected officers and incumbent officers adjourned next door to St. Vladimir's Church where the Oath of Office was conducted by Fr. Ted and Fr. Volodymyr. Many Years to the District Officers!

Submitted by Larry Skvir

ANNIVERSARY: V. Rev. John R. and Matushka Carol Steffaro recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Father John, who is attached in retirement to St. Nicholas Church in Dubois, PA, is a past national spiritual advisor of the Fellowship. National FOCA President Allison Steffaro is their daughter-in-law and her husband, Michael, is their son and a past national president. Congratulations and many years to the Steffaro's!



Christmas Greetings from the *Journal's* Patrons
Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Merry Christmas!



The Steffaro Family

Ohio District

Paul & Elizabeth (Betty) Kavchok, #78

Leon & Barbara Sheean, #7

Becky Tesar, #4/6

St. John Senior "O" Club, #212, Alpha, NJ

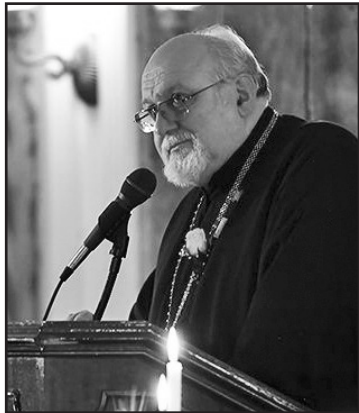
Gary & Pat Lelo, #212

Passaic "O" Club, #66, Passaic, NJ

Nick Ressetar, Editor

Transitions: *Fall 2018*

DEPARTED: Archpriest Joseph Martin, 76, of Lake Winola, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on November 9th at Penn



Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia after a brief illness. He was the dean of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre from 1995 until his retirement in 2014; the following year he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination. Father Joe was born in Frackville on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1942 and graduated from St.

Tikhon's Seminary in 1963. He married Gloria Matechak in 1965 – they just celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. Later that year he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Kiprian.

Father Joe and Matushka Gloria served parishes in



McAdoo (Holy Trinity for 29-1/2 years), Shenandoah, Saint Clair, Minersville and Mount Carmel in addition to the Wilkes-Barre cathedral. He served in various capacities in the OCA Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA including dean of the Frackville Deanery; he was the longest continuously serving board member of

St. Tikhon's Seminary and its Century Association; and he was a past national spiritual advisor of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) and very active in both the Central PA and Anthracite Districts. Father Joe was currently the chief of chaplains at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center, founding member and past president of the Wilkes-Barre Lions Club, chaplain of Lions District 14W, and was active in many more civic organizations.

In addition to his wife, Father Joe is survived by four daughters: Cathryn (Dr. John) Haber, Juliana (Jeffrey) Good, Marina and her fiancé James Turnbach, and Deborah (Judd) Good; eight grandchildren: Elena, Alex, Andrew, Anna, Aaron, Kyra, Stephen and Sara; brothers Melvin, David and Paul; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Frederick.

Viewing and funeral services were held at the cathedral with Metropolitan Tikhon as the main celebrant assisted by many priests, including Father John Parker, St. Tikhon Seminary dean, and Fathers Theodore Boback and Daniel Ressetar (current and past FOCA national spiritual advisors), and two deacons; Metropolitan Herman and Archbishop Michael were among the mourners. Father Daniel Kovalak conducted mixed and male choirs in the responses with your Editor singing in both. Divine Liturgy was celebrated the following day at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church followed by panikhida and interment in the monastery cemetery. Donations may be made to the Very Rev. Joseph Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund, St. Tikhon's Seminary, P.O. Box 130, South Canaan, PA 18459. May Father Joe's memory be eternal!

Source: adapted from oca.org

FOCA CALENDAR 2019

- Sunday, January 20:** 82nd Novogodny Ball, St. Stephen's OCF, Radisson Hotel, Trevese, PA – novogodnyball@gmail.com or (215) 290-4542
- Monday, March 11:** Great Lent begins
- Sunday, April 28:** HOLY PASCHA
- May 10-12:** National Basketball Tournament sponsored by the Campbell "O" Club, Campbell, OH
- May 17-19:** National Bowling Tournament sponsored by the Vladicon "O" Club, Baltimore, MD
- May 24-27:** Memorial Day Pilgrimage, St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA
- Sunday, June 16:** HOLY PENTECOST
- July 7-13:** National FOCA Junior Olympics, St. Vladimir Camp, Farmdale, OH



For updates and detailed info, visit www.orthodoxfellowship.org



Come, let us worship.

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New Orthodox Christian Coloring Book

A beautifully-drawn new coloring book – *Beautiful Things: An Orthodox Coloring Book for Children* (with illustrations by Megan Elizabeth Gilbert) – has been released by the publisher, Ancient Faith Ministries d/b/a Ancient Faith Publishing (ISBN: 9781944967420). It may be ordered as follows:

Web – <http://store.ancientfaith.com>; Phone: (800) 967-7377 (M-F, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. CT); Mail-in orders and checks should be sent to: Ancient Faith Ministries, P.O. Box 748, Chesterton, IN 46304. Order the new book as a gift for your children!



Feeding the Hungry through Feed My Starving Children

On Saturday, December 9, 2017, the Trinity “O” Club led a group of 23 individuals from Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago and SS. Peter and Paul parish in Burr Ridge, Illinois as part of a 3-day Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing event at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center. The entire group of 424 - people assembled that Saturday from church groups, schools and businesses - prepared enough Manna Packs in their two-hour slot to feed 249 kids every day for a year.

Over 5,000 volunteers gathered over the three day Mobile Packing event to hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Following the packing events, the “Manna Packs” are shipped by Feed My Starving Children to distribution partners around the world. Food and shipping costs are covered by generous volunteer donations. If you would like to learn more or make a donation to this Christian non-profit, visit fmsc.org.



New Married Student Housing at St. Tikhon’s Seminary Finally a Reality!

By Allison Steffaro, National FOCA President

Over 10 years ago, FOCA President Michael Steffaro proposed that we as an organization start a campaign to raise money to build married student housing at St. Tikhon’s Seminary in South Canaan, PA. The ambitious goal was \$300,000, more than any amount our organization has ever raised for a single project. Over the years there were many road blocks and “bends in the road” but throughout it all, our organization kept raising money. Countless dinners, raffles and events were held across the country. When at the halfway mark, many wanted to quit and just give what we had raised. Through your hard work and dedication, FOCA President Marge Kovach was able to present His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, seminary rector, with a check for \$300,000 in 2015 in Atlanta. We then waited to see if the housing would be constructed. In August, I had the pleasure, along with the seminary board of trustees, of touring the construction site of 4 new married student housing units. This past weekend, we were able to meet the families who now call that dream of ours a “home.” We sat down with the Lattier family of Washington State to ask them about the unit. Their response was that of extreme gratitude. Coming across the country with 5 children (ages 14- 4), they were faced with limited housing options. The new seminary housing was an answer to their prayers! Their unit has 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen and washer/dryer (there is one other exactly the same and two units with two bedrooms). They didn’t know how they were going to furnish their new home, but through donations to the seminary of furniture and a complete kitchen setup thanks to the South River “R” Club (pots, pans, dinnerware, glassware & utensils), all of their needs were fulfilled. The only downside to the housing is there are only enough units for 4 families and other seminarian families still struggle to find adequate housing. On a bright note, the Lattier’s see that the seminary views this living arrangement as necessary for its future; plans are in the works to obtain more houses and to build additional units. Though 10 years in the making, the dream of married student housing at St. Tikhon’s is now a reality thanks to all of your prayers and contributions to the fund! Those first families living in the units cannot thank all of you enough for your foresight and dedication to their seminary.



RECYCLE!

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2019 Celebration of Faith

(A Contest for our Youth)



The theme:

“What does Jesus see when he looks at me?”

The Task: Create and submit a project in any of the following areas:

Literature • Musical Composition • Photography • Visual Arts

A detailed list of rules for each category and the entry form may be found on the FOCA website in the Juniors Section under Celebration of Faith:

www.orthodoxfellowship.org

Deadline for entries is July 22, 2019

Mail entries to: F.O.C.A. Celebration of Faith

c/o Rebecca Kozak

34 Suffolk Avenue

Maplewood, NJ 07040

Rebecca.M.Kozak@gmail.com

All entries will be displayed and awards will be presented at the F.O.C.A.

National Convention in

Columbus, OH

Labor Day Weekend

August 30th - September 2nd