

OCCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

SPRING 2019 volume 94 number 1

Also Inside:

- Support the Tabitha Orphanage Project!
- 93rd National Convention - Columbus, OH
- Summer Sports Tourney – Canonsburg, PA



The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

God Bless America



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

C O N T E N T S

OCJ Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

SPRING 2019
VOLUME 94 NUMBER 1

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to showcase the talents of its membership
and, in so doing, to propagate the
Holy Orthodox Christian Faith.*

**Mission Statement of the
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Allison Steffaro

44th National FOCA President

Greetings! As the summer is officially underway it's a time to "relax" and enjoy family and friends. Our friends within the Fellowship are busier than ever this summer. Our Juniors are busy submitting entries to the Celebrations of Faith contest and attending the Junior Olympics held at St. Vladimir's Camp (which is full to capacity). On the Senior side, the Canonsburg O Club is getting ready to host the Summer Sports Tournament in August and the Ohio District is waiting to see



all of you at the National Convention in Columbus Ohio on Labor Day weekend. I am happy to report that as promised, the FOCA will be hosting a Leadership Conference on October 10-12 in Independence, Ohio. Through the hard work of Becky and Melissa Tesar, this conference has an exceptional group of presenters and will showcase our organization's dedication to provide educational venues for individuals to further their leadership capacities at the local, diocese and national Church levels. My hope is that many of you will join us at the convention in Ohio. The executive board is planning a few new opportunities to learn about our faith, compare ideas from our chapters as well as be a part of our future as an organization. Curious? Join us in Columbus!

St. Tikhon's Releases New Book on Metropolitan Leonty



The Life and Work of Metropolitan Leonty: 1876-1965, a new book edited by Dr. David Ford, professor of church history at St. Tikhon's Seminary, has just been released by St. Tikhon's Monastery Press in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day pilgrimage. According to Metropolitan Tikhon, the 276-page book "provides important glimpses into the life and heart of a true man of God, a prophet in the deepest sense of the word... May we all receive even a small crumb from the bountiful table of his life." Alexis Liberovsky, OCA archivist, writes: "This volume is the first comprehensive publication in English on the remarkable life and Church ministry of Metropolitan Leonty (Turkevich) – a life and ministry which mirror the tumultuous history of the Church both in Russia and America for most of the 20th century. It includes scholarly presentations given at the Symposium held in 2015 at St. Tikhon's Seminary commemorating the 50th anniversary of his repose, including funeral eulogies and other testimonials from those who remember him as well as a sampling of his extensive and diverse writings, some newly translated into English." The book (\$19.95) may be ordered at www.stspress.com or by contacting Fr. Mikel Hill at mikel.hill@stspress.com or by calling 888-454-6678. Source: adapted from oca.org

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas D. Ressetar

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

This is the newest issue of your *Orthodox Christian Journal* which Michael Schultz & I have just completed – and there's an All-American cover as we celebrate the Nation's Independence Day! Normally, the spring edition is highlighted by two of the Fellowship's national sports tournaments but, regrettably, both basketball (Campbell) and bowling (Baltimore) were cancelled for "lack of participants." So that void has left us with pages to fill. We profile two inspiring individuals who have overcome very different challenges: John Lahutsky, a Russian orphan, just graduated from college and Dan Priatko, severely injured in a car accident years ago, has become a good friend of Duke's Coach "K" – what remarkable life stories!

Our seminaries had a busy spring. We report on St. Tikhon's 77th graduating class, which included FOCA members Alex Norton, Robert West & Isaac Lampart and alumnus honoree Father Dan Ressetar; the newly-elevated Archbishop David (Axios!) presided over St. Herman's graduation in Alaska; and Father Chad Hatfield will remain president of St. Vladimir's for at least another 5 years. Congrats to all! And Metropolitan Tikhon led the annual Memorial Day pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery.

In Fellowship news, past national president Becky Tesar invites us to attend the 93rd national convention sponsored by the Ohio District in Columbus over Labor Day weekend as well as a first-ever Orthodox Christian Leadership Conference – "Thy Will be Done" – in Cleveland in October. Our good friend Eileen Telischak reports on the New Jersey District's beefsteak dinner in Singac, Kyra Schenken fills us in on the St. John Junior "O" Club's lenten service project in Canonsburg, PA, and Matushka Theodora contributes "Flowers for Church" in Kidz Corner (thanks for the drawing Sophia!).

In sports, the Canonsburg "O" Club hosts this July's national summer sports tourney (3 days) – let's see the golfers participate! Russian Metropolitan Hilarion offers a commentary on the ongoing Ukrainian Orthodoxy crisis and there's a new Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America. Our most senior past national president (the 15th) and former *Journal* editor Peter Melnik has reposed, a true "man of the Church," and we pay tribute to his life (your Editor was honored to be a pallbearer) – Memory eternal! We run several promos but the most important appears on the back cover: support St. Tabitha's House Orphanage in Kenya, our Gifts of Love project this year. And thanks to President Allison for her commentary. We'll see you at the Columbus convention and return in late summer for all the coverage but, until then, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

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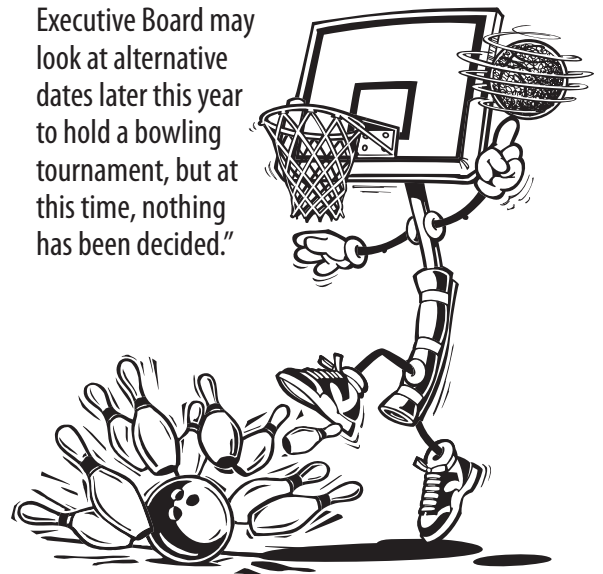
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F.O.C.A. HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS-IN-BRIEF

BOTH SPRING NATIONAL TOURNEYS CANCELLED

The national basketball tournament as well as the national bowling tournament, scheduled for this spring, were both cancelled. According to FOCA Communications: "Due to a lack of registrations – the 2019 National Basketball Tournament which was to be held from May 3-5, 2019 in Campbell, Ohio has been cancelled. We would like to THANK LINDA LIVOSKY and her committee in Campbell for the planning that went into the tournament up until this point." "Due to a lack of registrations – the 2019 National Bowling Tournament which was to be held from May 17-19, 2019 in Baltimore, Maryland has been cancelled. We would like to thank Fr. Ted Boback and his committee in Baltimore for the planning that went into the tournament up until this point. All monies collected for registration, ads, sponsorships, etc. will be refunded. The Executive Board may look at alternative dates later this year to hold a bowling tournament, but at this time, nothing has been decided."



Former Orphan Earns College Degree from Penn State Lehigh Valley



John Lahutsky did not start school until he was 9 years old

By Dennille Schuler, Public Relations Specialist, Penn State Lehigh Valley

“I’m a story teller,” said John Lahutsky. And John has quite the story to tell—his own.

He graduated with a degree in corporate communication on May 4 with 110 of his classmates from Penn State Lehigh Valley (PSU-LV) at ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.



He received limited interaction from adults and had no life experiences. Due to his birth defect, the baby house staff had low expectations for John, and they did not allow him to go to school in Russia.

Instead of school, John was moved to a mental asylum for nine months at the age of 5. He credits two of his friends, British couple

John has had an eventful and, at times, challenging road to earning a college degree. There were times in his life when going to college seemed impossible.

A thirst for knowledge



PSU-LV Chancellor Tina Q. Richardson and John Lahutsky posed for a photo after Richardson awarded Lahutsky his degree at the 2019 Commencement ceremony held May 4 at ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Image: Dan Z. Johnson

John spent the first nine years of his life in Russia. He was born early at 24 weeks with cerebral palsy. He uses a walker to get around. John and his sister were abandoned by their birth parents when John was 18 months old. He spent his early years in a Russian orphanage, known as a baby house, with 15 other babies and one staff member.

Alan and Sarah Philips, with saving his life. When Sarah discovered John had been placed in the asylum, she urged Alan to write an article for the Daily Telegraph exposing the horrible conditions of the asylum’s children wing. Alan published the article, and this exposure helped get the child removed from the asylum. He was placed back in the baby house and eventually in a foster care home.

John’s life changed when he was adopted by Paula Lahutsky, a school psychologist from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

“I wasn’t thinking about adoption. But I had read about John in my church’s bulletin. I just knew it was the right thing to do. I did it as a single mom. There was never really any doubt in my mind though. I loved him before I saw him,” Paula said.

Even though John did not speak English when he arrived in Bethlehem on Aug. 18, 1999, Paula knew he wanted to go to school. John was aware of what school was when he was in the foster home and felt like he was missing out.

“When he had the chance to come to school in the U.S., he was like a little sponge. By Christmas, he was fluent in English,” Paula said. “I think because he had no formal education until the age of 9, he recognizes the value of an education. Even with his challenges, he



Paula and John Lahutsky celebrated with David and Anna Quatrone after the 2019 Commencement ceremony held May 4 at ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. David and his wife Valeria Sajej adopted their two children (Andrej and Anna) from Russia where they learned of John. They returned home and put an ad about John needing a home in their church bulletin, which is how Paula found out about John and decided to adopt him. Anna Quatrone graduated from Penn State World Campus with a bachelor of arts degree in political science.

Image: Dan Z. Johnson

always wanted to go to school each day. He finds a way to deal with obstacles; nothing seems to stand in his way or upset him.”

John co-wrote a book, “The Boy from Baby House 10: From the Nightmare of a Russian Orphanage to a New Life in America” with Alan in 2009 that details his life up until age 19, but what has transpired in John’s life over the last 10 years is worthy of a book as well.

A determined mind

After graduating from Freedom High School, John attended Northampton Community College (NCC) from 2011 to 2015 where he earned his associate degree in communication studies. He then came to PSU-LV in 2015. It is John’s positivity and tremendous work ethic that he is known for on campus.

“John is kind, thoughtful, personable and optimistic. He shows generosity of spirit. He really became a leader on our campus and has excelled. I am delighted to get to witness him finishing his degree. It’s incredible.”

-- Leigh Cundari, assistant teaching professor and program coordinator of rehabilitation and human services at Penn State Lehigh Valley

Cundari served as John’s adviser when he was at NCC. John called Cundari an “amazing” support.

“I knew he was bright enough to earn a degree, but there are accommodations to think about. John was successful at NCC, but Penn State Lehigh Valley is really the perfect fit for him. He has come into his own at Penn State. He found a lot of support there and he’s grown up and felt very comfortable,” Paula said.

During his time at PSU-LV, John served as president of Lambda Pi Eta, the official honor society of the National Communication Association. In this role, he has facilitated several community service projects, including a stocking stuffer drive for homeless veterans, working at local family centers and animal rescue



Penn State Lehigh Valley’s Communication Honor Society, Lambda Pi Eta (LPH), delivered 20 backpacks filled with entertainment, art and hygiene items, along with numerous games, books and other generous donations to Valley Youth House earlier this month.

Image: Savannah Malesky

farms, and a donation drive for Second Harvest Food Bank and Valley Youth House. He also served on the Facilities and Maintenance committee of Student Government Association.

“I liked Penn State Lehigh Valley because I could stay for four years and be close to home. The fact that it is one building made it easy to navigate. And everyone here is so encouraging and supportive... I feel I’ve really grown in my confidence and abilities here!” John said.

A generous spirit

Giving back through service, in the community as well as on campus, is very important to John. He has been on the board of the Miracle League of Northampton County since 2010 and serves as an assistant coach. He earned Eagle Scout status in 2013. For his Eagle Scout leadership project, John collected more than 850 pounds of new clothing and raised nearly \$5,000 to cover the shipping costs for Warm the Children, a church-based charity that provides brand new clothing and other necessities to children in orphanages in Eastern Europe and Greece. He is currently a member of the troop committee for Troop 362 Minsi Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America. John is also a member of the National Slovak Society, Assembly RO59, a fraternal organization that raises funds for local, national, and international charities.

“John is involved with so many nonprofits. Since he was young, through both Cub Scouts and through church, he always thought of helping others,” said Paula. “It’s who he is. He is always kind.”

John is quick to point out that he can, and does, normal everyday things.

“I don’t let cerebral palsy stop me. I go camping, I have taken martial arts classes. I can do everything that other people can do,” John said.

At the PSU-LV Student Awards Ceremony held at the Lehigh Valley campus in April, John was awarded the Heart of the Lion Award, which is presented to a PSU-LV student who has overcome notable obstacles of any kind, and has demonstrated grit, gumption and sheer determination.

“John is the most gracious, humble, and inspiring individual I have had the pleasure to read about, speak to, and get to know here on campus,” said Heather Amatore, administrative assistant at Penn State Lehigh Valley. Amatore was one of multiple people who nominated John for the Heart of the Lion award.

“Simply by being himself, John reminds us all that his physical limitations make him differently abled in his pursuit of excellence and education,” said Beth Michalec, lecturer in corporate communication at Penn State Lehigh Valley. “Our corporate communication degree program and campus community are lucky and better for having John Lahutsky as a student.”

“The corporate communication major was perfect for me. I love what it offered with writing, marketing, event planning. There are a variety of options. I love communicating with people. It’s who I am. I love being around people and my communication professors have been amazing!” John said.

“John is the type of student any faculty member would love to have in their program... John has shown leadership, campus engagement, scholarship and professionalism. John is a great example of a truly dedicated student,” said Bob Wolfe, faculty adviser and coordinator of the corporate communication program at PSU-LV.

To students with disabilities considering going to college, John advises do not be nervous.

“If you ask for help, you’ll receive it. Do not be afraid to be a self-advocate. No one will spoon-feed you. Both at NCC and PSU-LV, I got great help. And don’t be afraid to experience what college can provide!”

In the days before commencement, John shared his current state of mind.

“I loved my time at Penn State Lehigh Valley. I have been reflecting on all of the hard work I put in, all of the help I got from my professors and friends, and on how much this campus means to me,” John said.

John drew a standing ovation as he walked across the stage at the ArtsQuest Center during the commencement ceremony on May 4. His mother, Paula, was beam-



John Lahutsky (right) served on a Student Disability Panel earlier this year at Penn State Lehigh Valley with three other students. The panelists shared the challenges they face with their fellow students, and described how they want people to interact with them and treat them as human beings.

Image: Pam Fleck

ing with pride. The feeling in the room was one of pure joy. It was clear in that moment: John had impacted the Penn State Lehigh Valley campus community just as much as it had impacted him.



John Lahutsky processed in to the commencement hall on May 4 for the Penn State Lehigh Valley 2019 Commencement ceremony held at the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Image: Dan Z. Johnson

John is doing his final internship this summer with Valley Youth House in the marketing department. He said he plans to stay in the Lehigh Valley and wants to be involved with Penn State Lehigh Valley Alumni groups.

Editor’s note: John’s adoptive mother, Paula Lahutsky, is a past Central PA District governor. They regularly attend the district’s annual baseball picnic outing usually held in Reading, PA. We reported on John’s book, *The Boy from Baby House 10* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2009), in the *Journal* upon its release. Congrats & many years to both John & Paula!

St. Tikhon's Seminary

Honors Fifteen Graduates of the 77th Graduating Class

STOTS Communications

South Canaan, PA – On Saturday, May 25, 2019, Saint Tikhon's Seminary held its 77th Annual Commencement Exercises, conferring Master of Divinity degrees on 13 graduates and Certificates in Pastoral Formation on 2 others. The joyful assembly began with a procession into the filled, newly-renovated Convocation Center, which housed the very first All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America in 1970.



Presiding over the festivities was His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America and President of the Seminary. His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL of New York and the Rector of the theological school, presented the candidates to His Beatitude for the conferral of degrees. Other hierarchs present included His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK of Pittsburgh; His Eminence, Archbishop DAVID of Sitka; and His Grace, Bishop THOMAS of Oakland, Charleston and the Mid-Atlantic of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese. Each of the hierarchs "hooded" the Seminary graduates from their respective Dioceses.

Very Rev. Archpriest John Parker, Dean of the Seminary, introduced the Class Valedictorian Benjamin Cabe. In his address, Ben reminded those assembled: "Often when we think of graduate degrees in theology, we imagine a classroom full of people discussing theological ideas, but this is not the thrust of our education here. God is not an idea; He is a person – and a person can only be truly known through personal contact."

Seven current graduates and one recent graduate received certification in Clinical Pastoral Education from Very Rev. Archpriest Steven Voytovich, former Dean and director of CPE for the Seminary. Father John Parker announced those who had graduated with honors: Benjamin Cabe, with distinction in Theology, and George Davis, with distinction in Church History.

The Commencement Address was delivered by His Eminence, the recently-elevated Archbishop David, a 1997 St. Tikhon's alumnus. The ruling hierarch of the Diocese of Alaska exhorted the graduating seminarians to be ever prepared to witness to inquirers, recognizing the "God Tests" in their lives:

You will have lots of "God tests" in life, and while you may be done with the classroom, you're not done with the 'Living' room. Every time you are approached by someone with a question about a life subject, you need to be ready to answer the test question. It may be that you find yourself in a checkout line [and] they may notice you're a priest. . . . You're going to get a God test. Be ready, be confident, but most of all, be humble.

His Eminence also fulfill the instruction of St. Herman of Alaska: "From this day, from this hour, from this minute, let us strive above all else to love God and to do His Holy Will" and to keep in mind the words of St. Innocent of Alaska:

It is indeed a holy endeavor, one equal to that of the apostles, to leave your homeland and go to places that are remote, wild, and devoid of many of the comforts of life in order to convert to the path of Truth people who are still wandering in the darkness of ignorance and to illumine with the light of the Gospel those who

still have not seen this saving light. Blessed is he whom the Lord chooses and places in such service! But especially blessed is he who with all fervor, sincerity, and love struggles to convert and to enlighten, enduring the labors and sorrows met in the course of his service, for great is his reward in the heavens.

During the gathering, St. Tikhon's Student Government outgoing president Fr. Joseph Sharman presented the "Fr. Alexander Atty

Memorial Community Service Award" to retiring Chief Financial Officer Very Rev. Archpriest Dennis Swencki (STOTS 1974), a most beloved member of the St. Tikhon's Community for many years. Father Dennis offered a heartfelt and tearful response upon receiving the award, which was given with great love from the graduating class and the entire community he has served for so long.

The Commencement ceremony also included the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award, as chosen by the members of the Seminary's Alumni Association. It was announced by Alumni Association President, Rev. Patrick Burns (STOTS 2009) that this year the award was being presented to two venerable elder priests: Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar (STOTS 1948) and Very Rev. Archpriest Eugene Pianovich (STOTS 1950), both of whom have been blessed with more than half-a-century of faithful service to Christ's Church in America. Two days later, at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of the Monastery Memorial Day Pilgrimage, Metropolitan Tikhon awarded Fr. Pianovich the privilege to wear the miter.

On Saturday evening, following the Vigil service at the Monastery Church, some two hundred persons attended a banquet, held at the Anthracite Center in Carbondale, honoring the 15 graduates of the St. Tikhon's Class of 2019. The speaking program focused on reflections by the students of their time together, being spiritually formed and theologically educated at the Monastery and Seminary.

Michael G. Herzak, past national FROC/FOCA president, is the longtime chair of the seminary's board of trustees.

We wish the St. Tikhon's Class of 2019 "Many Years!"



The Two-Headed Hydra of the Ukrainian Schism and World Orthodoxy

Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev), Orthodox Church of Russia



Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev)

The sixth of May marked four months since Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople signed the “Tomos” of autocephaly of the “Orthodox church of Ukraine,” according to which Epifany Dumenko was appointed the head of this newly-established structure with the title of, “Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine.” Patriarch Bartholomew sent out a letter to Primates of the Local Orthodox Churches, demanding that they recognize this structure as the canonical Orthodox Church of Ukraine instead of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church led by His Beatitude Metropolitan Onuphry of Kiev and All Ukraine.

For the past four months not a single Local Orthodox Church has recognized the act committed by Patriarch Bartholomew in flagrant violation of Church canons. A number of Churches officially expressed their disagreement with this act, as well as their non-recognition of the legalization of the schismatics, and expressed their support for the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church led by Metropolitan Onuphry. Other Churches took time to examine the situation. None of them has supported the lawlessness. Why?

Firstly, everyone knows that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church unites the majority of the Orthodox believers in Ukraine, having almost thirteen thousand parishes, over 200 monasteries and millions of members. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and not the group of schismatics which have now received legitimization from Patriarch Bartholomew, is the only canonical Church of Ukraine, as Patriarch Bartholomew has publicly stated himself more than once, the last time being in January of 2016, at the Synaxis of Primates of the Local Churches.

Secondly, it is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church led by His Beatitude Metropolitan Onuphry that is the national Orthodox Church of Ukraine. It is not a “Russian church,” as Petro Poroshenko who is stepping down from his Presidential post tried to call it. Its members are citizens of Ukraine, born and bred in their country, who have Ukrainian passports and love their homeland. Its administrative center is located not in Moscow, but in Kiev. Despite Poroshenko’s allegations, prayers in the Ukrainian Church are offered not for the Russian authorities and

the Russian army, but for the Ukrainian authorities and the Ukrainian army. The self-governing Ukrainian Orthodox Church enjoys all the rights that allow it to be the national Church of its country. It is linked with the Moscow Patriarchate by spiritual and historical unity dating back to the times of the Kievan Rus’. It has neither administrative, nor financial, nor any other dependence on Moscow.

Thirdly, it is common knowledge that the schismatic community legalized by Patriarch Bartholomew is made up of two groups, one of which had no canonical hierarchy when recognized by Constantinople. One group, the so-called “Kiev Patriarchate,” is led by a man whose excommunication was recognized by all the Local Churches, including Constantinople. The other group is traced to a bishop of the Russian Church, suspended from serving, and a man who not only never had an episcopal consecration, but even ordination into the priesthood. In common terms such people are called “self-ordained.” This false hierarchy was recognized without a proper study into its origin and even without formal re-consecration, but by Patriarch Bartholomew’s volition alone.

Fourthly, even after receiving the “Tomos” the schismatic community continues to demonstrate absolute canonical lawlessness, trampling upon all Church rules. This community, which calls itself the “Orthodox church of Ukraine,” has two heads with almost identical titles. One calls himself “Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine,” while the other, “Patriarch of Kiev and All Rus’-Ukraine.” The first one exists for external use, while the second one for internal use. It is the second one, not the first one, who governs the “Kiev Metropolia.” Here is what he has recently said: “The OCU is officially recognized by the Ecumenical Patriarch. Yet, in Ukraine there is the Kiev Patriarchate, because we are not satisfied with a status of metropolia. We have existed as a patriarchate for over 25 years. And people chose the patriarchs. I am the third patriarch. Before me there was Patriarch Vladimir, and Patriarch Mstislav. There were patriarchs! Therefore, for Ukraine we are a patriarchate. And for the outside world, that is for the Orthodox world, we are the Kiev Metropolia.”

Can any of the Local Orthodox Churches recognize such a two-headed hydra?

Fifthly, the schism demonstrates its complete spiritual and canonical failure. Provisions of the “Tomos” are subjected to ambiguous interpretation and not carried out in practice. For instance, the “Tomos” stipulates that the “Orthodox church of Ukraine” cannot include parishes outside Ukraine. However, from a point of view of false patriarch Philaret Denisenko such parishes can remain within the so-called “Kiev Patriarchate.” “We cannot make them leave and we cannot reject them,” he said, “Since they do not want to leave us, we consider them ours.” The two-headed hydra cannot but have double-entry bookkeeping. For an internal user there is still the “Kiev Patriarchate” with a network of “parishes” abroad, and for an external user there is the “Kiev Metropolia” without them.

Sixthly, with the involvement of the authorities who shamefully lost the elections, a campaign was initiated, which has not been stopped, of supporters of the schism seizing church buildings belonging to the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church. These seizures are carried out using force—masked men break into a church, beat up the faithful, drive them and a priest out of the building, and proclaim themselves the lawful owners. How should world Orthodoxy react to such lawlessness? Just as it has already reacted in the persons of Patriarchs Theodore of Alexandria, John of Antioch and Theophilos of Jerusalem, who assembled in Cyprus and along with Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus “called upon all people concerned to work on the one hand, to achieve Eucharistic unity, which constitutes the fullness of the Church in Christ Jesus, and on the other hand, to protect the faithful, their churches and their monasteries against all forms of transgressions and all acts of violence coming from any side, whatever the causes and motives are.”

Taking the unprecedented decision to legalize the Ukrainian schism, Patriarch Bartholomew expected that hierarchs of the canonical Church would join the structure created by him and that this structure would be recognized by the Local Orthodox Churches. Neither one thing nor the other happened; his “blitzkrieg” failed. Instead of healing the schism, Patriarch Bartholomew only deepened it, causing the rightful rejection of his actions in world Orthodoxy. And if earlier, as “the first among equals,” he could play a coordinating and consolidating role in the family of the Local Orthodox Churches, now, having declared himself “the first without equals,” he has liquidated himself as a coordinating center.



Photo: Romfea

Therefore, it is quite natural that the Primates of the Local Orthodox Churches begin to seek other formats of interaction. The first sign was a meeting of the four Primates in Cyprus. The communiqué adopted at the outcome of the meeting reads: “His Beatitude Chrysostomos, Archbishop of Cyprus, briefed them [the three other Primates] on his personal initiative of mediation. After listening to His Beatitude, the Primates of the three Churches gave their support for his initiative to bear it for the good of the unity of the Orthodox Church in Christ Jesus.”

What does it mean? It means that in the absence of a coordinating center in the person of “the first among equals” the Orthodox Churches will try to create another center of interaction. When the first in the diptych has in fact withdrawn and isolated himself, the second, the third, the fourth and the tenth can become a coordinator of the pan-Orthodox efforts aimed at overcoming schisms and disorders—anyone to whom the Local Orthodox Churches can entrust this mission because he has the necessary wisdom and humility and does not lay claims to primacy and supremacy.

When in the fifth century Patriarch Nestorius of Constantinople fell into heresy, Patriarch Cyril of Alexandria played a leading part in condemning this heresy at the Third Ecumenical Council. And when in the fifteenth century the Patriarch of Constantinople supported the Unia with Rome, other Eastern Patriarchs did not recognize that act. Now, when Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople has found himself on the side of the schism, world Orthodoxy has not been beheaded. The Head of the Universal Church has never been the Patriarch of Constantinople. It has always been and is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. And while within the Catholic tradition a concept developed about the Pope as the Vicar of Christ, His earthly representative, the Orthodox tradition has never known such concept.

“As man is subject to death and cannot be the permanent head of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, as the Head holding the helm of governance of the Church, governs it through the Holy Fathers.” Under these words the four Eastern Patriarchs—of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem—placed their signatures in 1723. And in 1895, in reply to Pope Leo XIII’s appeal the Synod of the Church of Constantinople was stated: “Relying on the Fathers and Ecumenical Councils of the Church of the first nine centuries we ascertain that the bishop of Rome was never regarded as the supreme leader and infallible head of the Church and that any bishop is the head and primate of his particular church, subject only to conciliar resolutions and decisions of the catholic Church as the only infallible decisions, and that the bishop of Rome was in no way, as the church history shows, an exception from this rule. The only eternal Chief Leader and immortal Head of the Church is our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The current Patriarch of Constantinople has, in fact, repudiated the pan-Orthodox teaching, unambiguously expressed in these texts, and considered himself the only infallible head of the Orthodox Church who has the right to accept appeals from any of the Local Churches, to interfere in their life, and to administer and arrange their affairs at his own discretion and self-will. However, a sad experience of his opportunistic interference in the Ukrainian situation has showed that while fully respecting the existing institutions stemming from the primacy of honor in accordance with the diptychs, the Plenitude of world Orthodoxy rejects such excess of powers by the Patriarch of Constantinople, just as in the past it consistently rejected attempts by any hierarchs to appropriate prerogatives that did not belong to them.

A schism is still a schism, and Orthodoxy only gets stronger through the ordeals it suffers, as is demonstrated by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church—which is today following the path of martyrdom, calmly and courageously responding to the external and internal challenges. In its heroic defense of the truth it enjoys the strong support of the Local Orthodox Churches, and it is such consolidated support that will ultimately help heal the Ukrainian schism.

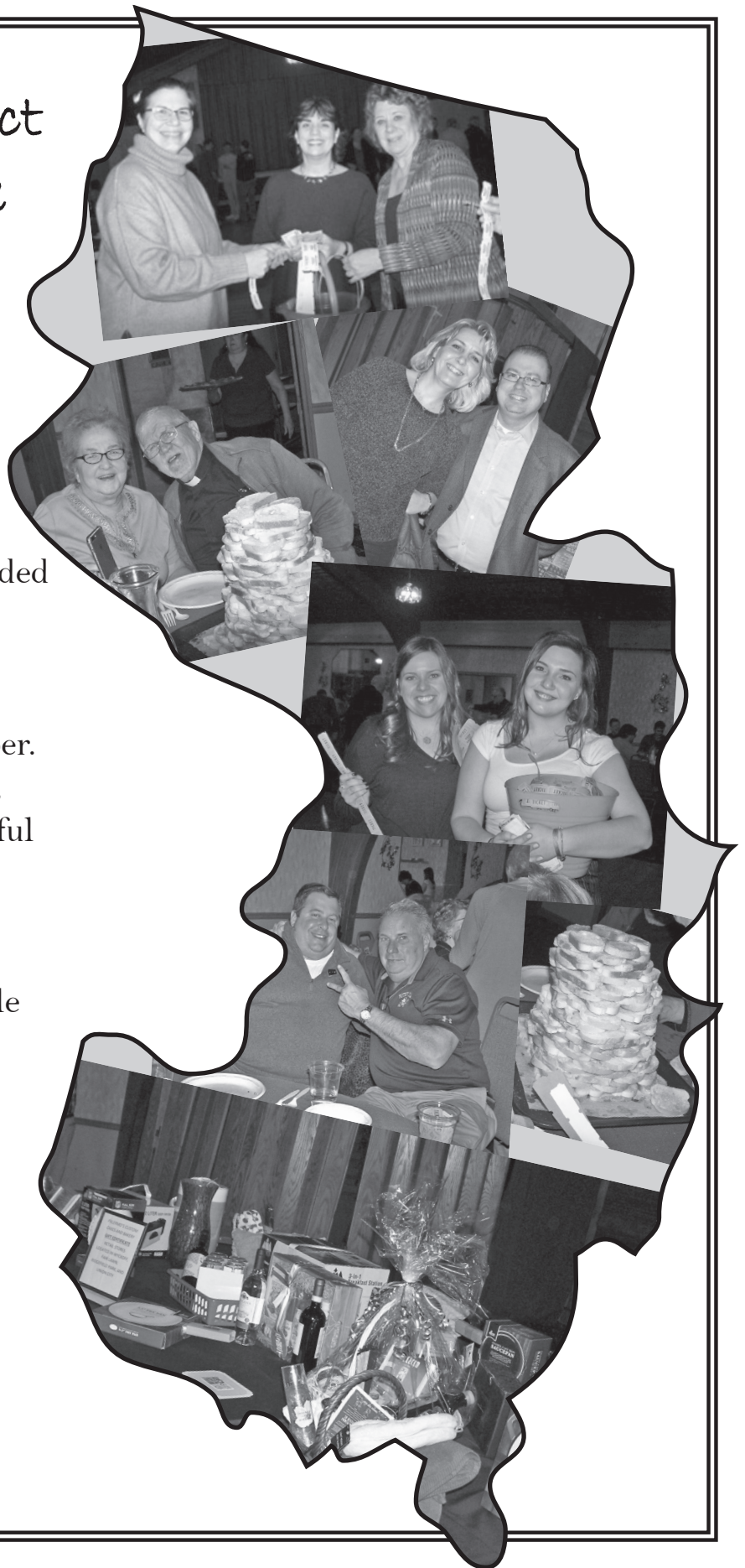
Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev), Chairman
Department for External Church Relations
Slightly edited by OrthoChristian.com
DECRC Communication Service
5/21/2019

New Jersey District Hosts Beefsteak Dinner

by Eileen M. Telischak

On February 22nd, the New Jersey District held their annual Beefsteak Dinner at the Russian Hall in Singac. About 100 members and friends attended the event. On hand was our National President, Allison Steffaro, who just happens to be a New Jersey District member.

The beefsteak was delicious, as always. We had many beautiful raffle gifts, donations from chapters and friends. The best part of the evening is always the fellowship. We get to mingle with our friends and catch up with old friends we don't see very often. All in all, an enjoyable evening!



Discover Columbus with the **FOCA!**

Calling all explorers! The beginning of summer gets us even closer to our Labor Day Weekend Convention! The Ohio District is excited to invite you to discover our host city of Columbus, Ohio for the first time in FOCA Convention history. Named for explorer Christopher Columbus, the capital city offers the perfect backdrop for our 93rd National convention as we encourage you to do some exploring of your own in this great city!

Our convention will be headquartered at the Hyatt Regency Columbus where we have secured a \$134 per night room rate. The hotel is conveniently located in Downtown Columbus and is within walking distance to the trendy Arena District, the Short North Arts District, and riverfront recreation on Scioto Mile. **Call 614-463-1234 or online at bit.ly/2019FOCA to reserve your room. DEADLINE IS AUGUST 8.**

The convention weekend will begin on Friday, August 30 as golfers head out for the President's Open golf tournament. Attendees who prefer not to golf will have the opportunity to explore the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, a living tribute to over 40 million Americans who have served our nation since its founding!

Our fun will continue as we gather together on Friday evening with our traditional welcome reception which will be held at the hotel. Greet old friends and meet new ones as we relax and re-connect. Our Akron chapter is planning some Jeopardy-style entertainment which is sure to have you laughing and reminiscing through the evening!

Following our Saturday Plenary Sessions and Vespers, we invite you to explore the city for the early evening. We will meet back together at the hotel for drinks, coffee, dessert, and a comedy murder mystery show. Our Cap City Chapter has organized this interactive "Who Dun It?" which is sure to tickle your funny bone and leave us all with some new "remember when" memories.

Our Fellowship youth won't be left out! While our plenary sessions are in full swing on Saturday, we've got a great team of young adults planning a fun filled day at COSI,



the Center of Science and Industry. This unique "center of science" is a hallmark of the Columbus experience. Enjoy hands-on experiences that are guaranteed fun for all ages! Lunch is included in the cost of the outing.

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, you'll have a free afternoon for more exploring before gathering for the evening banquet and dance. The Campbell Kids are old pros when it comes to glitz and glamour and under their direction, the banquet and dance are sure to enchant!

Our Labor Day weekend will wrap up on Monday, September 2 as we bid you farewell and safe travels as you return home!

The Ohio District Convention Committee has been hard at work planning a great convention. DISCOVER COLUMBUS with the FOCA and see all that this great city has to offer!

Important Deadlines:

Tickets: July 1

Ad Book: August 1

Hotel: August 8

Contact Convention Co-Chair Becky Tesar with questions. 216-403-4070 or bjtesar@gmail.com

THY WILL BE DONE

An Orthodox Christian Leadership Conference

Cleveland, Ohio // October 10-12, 2019

The FOCA is sponsoring a two-day workshop aimed at current and aspiring clergy and lay leaders within the Orthodox church and in secular business leadership roles. Attendees to this conference will gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be Christian Leaders and how Christian leadership means working together to discover and do the will of God. The keynote workshop will be supplemented by additional parish focused breakout sessions under the topics of Parish Council Effectiveness, Parish Future, and Engaging and Fostering Young Adult Leaders.

Following the conference, attendees should:

- Understand how to address leadership issues appropriately in an effective, harmonious, and ultimately Christian way
- Learn how to exercise Christian leadership in secular environments
- Gain perspective on engaging and fostering the leadership talents of young adults
- Discover methods for working effectively as a parish council
- Meet and network with other Orthodox Christian leadership peers

Schedule Overview:

Thursday, 10/10/19: 8pm Networking Reception

Friday, 10/11/19: 9am – 4:15pm

Session 1 Key Note Address/Workshop: Strategic Christian Leadership--Protodeacon Peter Danilchick
Session 2: Parish Council Effectiveness – Joe Kormos
Session 3: Building a Vision of a Bright Parish Future—Joe Kormos

Saturday, 10/12/19: 9am – 12 pm Session 4 and Closing

Session 4: Engaging and Developing Young Adult Leaders—Matushka Jenny Haddad-Mosher

Our Speakers

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick- Protodeacon Peter Danilchick has served domestic and overseas parishes and missions of the Orthodox Church for forty-four years. He is attached to St Mary Orthodox Church in Falls Church, Virginia, OCA Romanian Episcopate. He is married to Tanya, his wife of 50 years, and they are blessed with three children and eight grandchildren. He is also a retired ExxonMobil executive with over three decades of international operations, planning, and management experience, including as President, Exxon China Petroleum & Petrochemical Company, and Vice-President, Planning, ExxonMobil Asia-Pacific Ltd.

Joseph Kormos- For the past twelve years Joseph Kormos has focused on assisting and stimulating Orthodox parishes to become healthy, hopeful, vibrant 21st century Orthodox communities that grow in their commitment to living a life in Christ. Leveraging 40+ years of industry and church related experience in the areas of strategic planning, marketing, corporate consulting, group facilitation, and conference planning, Kormos is currently leader of the Parish Development Ministry of the Orthodox Church in America's Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania. In this position he develops and presents workshops, authors a parish leadership newsletter (Parish Pulse) and helps to create parish tools for stewardship, evangelization, parish administration and leading change. Kormos lives in Cincinnati with his wife of 43 years. They both sing in the parish choir. Their two children and six grandchildren are all active Orthodox Christians.

Matushka Jenny Haddad Mosher-- Matushka Jenny Haddad Mosher is the Director of the Telos Project at Hellenic College Holy Cross, a 5-year research project on how young adults and the Orthodox Church engage one another. Before beginning work at Telos, she worked as a grant writer for Orthodox social service agencies (FOCUS NA, Reconciliation Services), while simultaneously teaching in church school, camp, workshop, retreat, and graduate school settings in diverse Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox jurisdictions. She loves helping make the Orthodox tradition accessible and religious education experiences more joyful and effective. She is a doctoral candidate at Union Theological Seminary in Religion & Education and lives with her three sons and husband, Fr. Joshua, rector of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church (OCA) in Meriden, CT.

Conference Dates: October 10-12, 2019

Location: The Crowne Plaza Cleveland South-Independence, 5300 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Contact Information: Conference Coordinator-Becky Tesar, FOCALeaderConf@gmail.com, 216-403-4070

Conference Registration: \$260 per attendee. Registration includes the Thursday evening networking reception, Friday/Saturday continental breakfasts and Friday lunch. It also includes any conference materials and a copy of *Thy Will Be Done: Strategic Leadership, Planning, and Management for Christians*.

**For More Information and to Register,
visit www.focaleadership.com**

St. John's Junior "O" Club Lenten Service Project, Canonsburg, PA

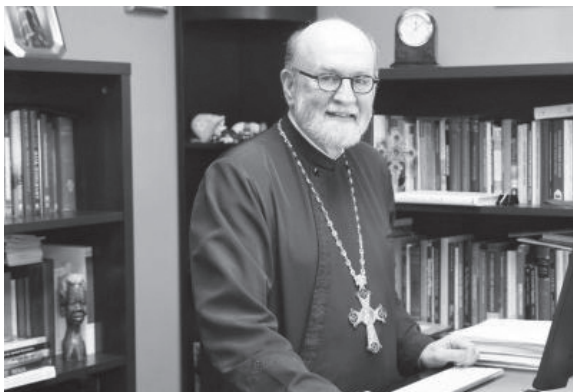
The members of St. John's Junior "O" Club in Canonsburg, PA held a clothing drive as their Lenten service project this year. With the help of parishioner donations and the kids cleaning out their own closets, they collected clothing each week during Great Lent. Before the start of Holy Week, the kids gathered all the clothing donations and packed them into vans. They took the much-needed clothing to the Marianna Christian Outreach in Marianna, PA. This area, located in the southern part of Washington County, is often referred to as the poorest of the poor. Twenty percent of its population lives beneath the poverty

line. The outreach center is run by volunteers from the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in nearby Scenery Hill, PA. It is open just six hours a week yet helps up to 160 people each week. Anyone who comes to the outreach center may take 2 bags of clothing or household items home with them absolutely free. After the kids helped the volunteers with their donations, they were able to tour the facility and learn more about the outreach's mission. The kids plan to help the outreach again by organizing a toy drive for Christmas. Submitted by Kyra Schenken, St. John's Junior Advisor.



Fr. Chad Hatfield to Serve New Five-Year Term as SVOTS President

SVOTS Communications • Yonkers, NY



Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Seminary President
(Photo: Alexandru Popovici)

The Board of Trustees of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (SVOTS) has appointed Archpriest Dr. Chad Hatfield as president of the Seminary for another five years.

The Board, chaired by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, primate of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), made the decision at its semi-annual meeting on Friday, May 17, 2019.

The trustees in attendance voted unanimously to appoint Fr. Chad to a new five-year term. His current term expires in June.

Father Chad has faithfully served the seminary now for twelve years, first as chancellor and then as president after the Seminary launched its new governance model in 2016," said Deacon Michael Hyatt, executive chair of the Board of Trustees. "We are excited about his vision for the Seminary's future and confident in his ability to lead us there."

"With the looming clergy shortage on the horizon and the challenges of an increasingly secular society, the Seminary's mission is as pressing as ever. That's why it's so important that we have a trusted, visionary leader like Fr. Chad at the helm," Hyatt added.

"The work of St. Vladimir's Seminary is so important, and it remains renowned all over the Orthodox world and beyond for its excellence in theological education and formation," said Fr. Chad. "So, I am humbled to accept this appointment and am grateful for the full support of the trustees."

Archpriest Dr. Chad Hatfield came to SVOTS in 2007 from St. Herman Seminary in Alaska, where he served as dean from 2002 to 2007. His experience in various pastoral, teaching and administrative roles, spread over some 40 years of ordained ministry, are now blended into his ministry at SVOTS. He holds multiple advanced degrees from Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Nashotah, WI, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Meet Dan Priatko, A Man Greatly Admired by Coach “K”

by Scott Brown



A father and son in 1989 could never imagine that they would be watching this year’s Duke-North Carolina basketball game at Cameron Indoor Stadium marking the 25th consecutive year that Dan and Bill Priatko of North Huntingdon will attend a game at Duke. That streak is symbolic of their friendship with Duke University head basketball coach, Mike Krzyzewski. Krzyzewski always sits Dan and Bill one row behind the Duke bench. This special kinship is a much larger story.

The story began in 1989 when Bill was working in the athletic department at Robert Morris University when Coach K was speaking at the Five Star Basketball Camp where Bill and Coach K first met. They exchanged greetings and in their conversation, Coach K was made aware that Bill’s two sons, Dan and David were West Point grads, just as Coach K. Coach K was filled with a sense of compassion when he heard that Dan had experienced deep, difficult adversity. Dan’s adversity traces back to his high school days at Norwin High School. Dan was always a model of discipline and determination. Class president, he played linebacker and running back for the Knight’s football team. He won team MVP honors and was a team captain as well as the most outstanding male student. Dan’s stellar high school career led to an appointment to the United State Military Academy at West Point where he majored in Russian Area Studies was a Battalion Commander and a place kicker on the Army football team. As a senior, he was the recipient of an award given to the varsity football letterman with the highest grade point average. After graduating in 1984,

Dan completed Artillery School and Army Ranger School, preserving through a case of frostbite during mountain training to achieve status that is even elite by West Point standards. Before he was to deploy to Germany, his first duty assignment, he and his sister Debbie went to West Point for one final goodbye. A major ice storm pummeled Hazelton, Pa. as they were driving home. Dan lost control of the car after it hit a patch of black ice on Interstate 81. The car careened into a concrete abutment. Debbie sustained minor abrasions but Dan suffered such significant head trauma that doctors didn’t think he would live. Even if he survived, they weren’t sure what kind of life he would have. He spent seven months in a coma and five more months in a semi-coma, drifting in and out of consciousness. Father Igor Soroka, his parish priest and for whom Dan served as an altar boy, immediately came to the hospital to visit and pray with him.

Coach K was so touched by Dan’s tragic accident that he wanted to meet Dan at the following year’s Five Star Camp. He asked, “he’s a West Pointer, isn’t he?” Upon meeting Dan for the first time, Krzyzewski hugged Dan and told him, “we have that bond. We were on the Long Gray Line together.” “Dan’s a fellow West Pointer who is facing incredible adversity. It’s something a fellow West Pointer should do for another West Pointer. There is a bond there for all graduates. We share the same oath. When you take the same oath, there is a bond. I admire greatly my bond with Dan.” “We have a bond that can’t be described”, Dan said of Krzyzewski. “I

had more of an appreciation after my accident for sincerity and genuine intentions and I saw that in him. I can tell when a person means what they say and do. The whole country should know the type of man Coach K is.” Long Gray Line is more than just a motto or those who make it through West Point. It links all its graduates because of their shared experiences. In the case of Dan and Krzyzewski, it also serves as a powerful metaphor for standing together as the cadets they once were. And always will be.

Krzyzewski once wrote that if all his players had Dan’s “competitive spirit”, Duke would win the national championship every season. Another time he wrote, “Dan, we are truly teammates having graduated from the best school in the world.” The two are loyal West Pointers. Their training prepared each for paths neither could imagine. Krzyzewski turned Duke from a good basketball school into the men’s pre-eminent program in the country. Dan, almost 35 years later walking and talking requires concentration. He uses a quad cane and a wheelchair for long distance. He volunteers two days a week at a retirement home in North Huntingdon, works out regularly and still inspires people with his resolve. With his 57th birthday approaching, Dan lives on his terms—and by the code that ties him to Coach K, the all-time winningest coach in men’s college basketball. “One of the things that you learn at the academy is no excuses,” said Krzyzewski a 1969, West Point graduate. “For Dan, there is no other choice except to be positive. Before (his accident), he had eliminated negative alternatives and excuses. Those things were embedded in him and they haven’t changed. They’ve been tested to a really high level and he has passed that test tremendously.” Indeed, once a West Pointer, always a West Pointer.

“People like Dan Priatko refuse to give up and accomplish a lot more than the medical people thought they could do.” Said by a man who played and coached against the toughest in the NFL, Dick LeBeau. Dick says, “I admire Dan’s toughness and it has nothing to do with football.” LeBeau gave Dan the football signed by Dick and all the Pro Football Hall of Famers the weekend that LeBeau achieved football immortality. Bill Priatko cherishes his time spent in the NFL. Especially with the Steelers and the Rooney family. Dan Rooney was instrumental in obtaining a West Point appointment for his son, David. Art Rooney, Jr. writes to Dan every week of the year that continues what his father (Art Rooney, Sr.) did, after Dan’s accident. Joe Mucci, a successful Western PA football coach, expressed admiration for Dan the night the West Point Glee Club performed at Norwin High School. Joe said, “When Danny joined the Glee Club and West Point alumni to sing the alma mater there were people that wanted to help him up to the stage. He absolutely refused it. He wanted to walk up to the stage and he made it there. That scene was powerful.”

Krzyzewski and the Priatkos are connected by more than just West Point. Krzyzewski’s mother was born in Keisterville, a small coal mining town near Uniontown. He fondly remembers visiting that part of Western Pennsylvania for family reunions even though his mother’s family moved to Chicago when she was young. “Whatever was in the water there was good stuff, Krzyzewski said of Keisterville. My mom was terrific and came from hardworking people.”

It had been 60-plus degrees in Irwin the day of Dan’s accident. In a pre-Internet world, there is no way Bill could have known about the ice storm that hit Hazelton. Yet that night at dinner, Bill told his wife, Helen, that he had an overwhelming sense of sadness. Shortly after that they received a call from their daughter, Debbie. She told them about the accident and that Dan, at the age of 21, as the state trooper said, “was fighting for his life.” What has transpired since then is nothing less than inspirational, if not miraculous. Bill wouldn’t be human if he didn’t experience sadness. “Every now and then I’ll see (Dan) walking slow and I say, “ You know Lord, what he could have been and what he would have been but I don’t let it bother me because I know I can’t change it. And it doesn’t bother him. All he says is, “When I get to Heaven, I’m going to have a new body.” Dan reads his West Point Bible every day and his faith is sustained by his favorite verse, Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Dan has no memory of the accident and the only thing that comes close to a concession of its terrible cost is his belief that his body will be whole again. A couple of his classmates are now Generals and Dan may well have attained that status too had fate not intervened. But the next time someone hears Dan complain will be the first time.” Deep down I never wondered why because of my upbringing, “Dan said. Dan’s car accident seemingly changed everything. To him, it changed nothing, at least when it comes to core beliefs that coalesced at West Point. That ties him to Krzyzewski- and at the root of why the Priatkos attending a Duke game every season is as much a privilege to the coach who has won five national championships as it is to them.

“I would hope that if placed in a similar situation I could do the job (Bill) has done. It’s at the highest level,” said Krzyzewski, who has three daughters and eight grandchildren. “Teams can accomplish a lot more than individuals can accomplish and teams can overcome adversity better than one person can overcome adversity. They’ve been a real team and I truly admire that. You talk about good people. Bill and Dan are at the top of the list.”

Editor’s note: a version of this story appeared in the “Duke Basketball Report” and elsewhere. Photo submitted to heraldstandard.com

Metropolitan Tikhon Presides at 115th Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery



The 115th annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA opened on Friday, May 24th as Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed the Hawaiian Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Iveron Mother of God at the monastery's iconic entrance arch. A molieben in honor of the icon was celebrated at the monastery church followed by vespers and matins. During the dinner at the refectory, Hieromonk Herman (Majkrzak) delivered the opening lecture, "Christ, the Fountain of our Life," which helped to set the spiritual tone for the weekend. On Saturday, Metropolitan Tikhon concelebrated the hierarchal Divine Liturgy with Archbishops Melchisedek, Michael and David. In the afternoon, St. Tikhon's Seminary conferred degrees and certificates on 15 members of the Class of 2019, including FOCA chapter members Alex Norton, Robert West and Isaac Lampart. Congratulations and many years! After the vigil service, a celebratory banquet for the graduates took place at the Hotel Anthracite in Carbondale.

Another hierarchal Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Sunday in the monastery church by Metropolitan Tikhon and the other bishops. In the evening, the world premiere of Benedict Sheehan's "Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 2018" was presented at St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre by the St. Tikhon Choir and the PaTRAM Institute Singers with Prof. Sheehan conducting. His setting of the liturgy is among the first to be composed in English "with the sumptuous a capella score drawing on the rich tradition of Russian Orthodox choral music with echoes of the diverse array of musical traditions that make up the Church in America today." On Memorial Day Monday, His Beatitude led the hierarchal liturgy with the other bishops, Archimandrite Sergius (monastery abbot), and numerous priests and deacons at the bell tower chapel. Prof. Sheehan directed the choir. Archpriest Eugene Pianovich was awarded the miter in recognition of his decades of priestly ministry. The afternoon was filled with other services and activities, including an akathist to St. Alexis Toth, whose relics are enshrined in the monastery church, a panikhida for departed veterans, and a molieben to the Mother of God with the anointing of all pilgrims. Children enjoyed craft activities and pilgrims browsed the vendors offering liturgical goods, books, artisan crafts and a variety of foods. Others paid their respects to loved ones in the monastery cemetery or prayed at the numerous shrines on the grounds or drank water from the well chapel in the woods. The Metropolitan Museum was also open for visitation. Vespers and matins closed the annual pilgrimage. Glory to God for all things!

Source: adapted from oca.org with photos



Canonsburg “O” Club to Host National Summer Sports Tournament

Thursday to Saturday, July 25 to 27, 2019

Hard to believe a year has passed since the last summer sports event.

Guess what? It is that time again so put this on your calendar and get ready to set your sails for Canonsburg, PA for the FOCA National Summer Sports Tournament/Golf Outing hosted by the Canonsburg “O” Club!!!

We will be Tee-ing off this year’s festivities a day early for a Meet & Greet warm up round at a nationally recognized golf course north of Pittsburgh that is ranked in the top 50 Public golf courses in the US by Golf Digest Magazine* and one of the Top Ten Unique Golf Courses in the US. Olde Stonewall is a very intriguing, picturesque, and memorable place to tell your friends about. Bring your camera phone to remember some of the breathtaking views but keep moving or you will get lost. There is no walking this course unless you bring hiking boots. If you do, we will laugh. Anyway, we will golf there on Thursday, July 25th (T-time TBD).

We have also reserved a block of rooms at the HILTON GARDEN INN at Southpointe in Canonsburg for everyone’s stay. Stockman got us the hook up on doubles and Suite’s, but you must reserve and book ASAP under “FOCA Golf Event”.

The July 26th Friday Challenge and fun stuff will begin at Hickory Heights Golf Club in Bridgeville, PA – very close to the Hilton Garden Inn. Get ready for more elevation changes, it will make your brakes fade. The course is really fun and challenging; yet can be welcoming to the novice golfer with a conservative attitude. After golf, we can hang out for a bit in Sammy’s Pin High Club, then off to the hotel to get cleaned up for some relaxing.

As in the past, the Canonsburg Group will be hosting a post-round fellowship hour at the world-famous Club Leaf & Bean on Friday evening. The Club Leaf & Bean is known for hosting some of the most prestigious events and special guests on the planet. From Rocky Patel and Hamlet Paredes



– cigar entrepreneurs, to Smokey Robinson – Entertainer and Wine aficionado, Vincent Pastore – from the Sopranos HBO series; Paul Cullen – Bad Company band member, Chef and Sommelier. We have reserved the lower level of the club as well as the bocce ball court. All our golfers will be able to relax and enjoy the Club’s amenities and ponder their Saturday round.

Saturday, July 27th will prove to be an additional challenge as you will need to bring your “long” game for a re-do of our last time finishing course at Quicksilver Golf Club. No, this course is not named for your host’s hair color transition, it is named for how fast you can lose some coin betting on each hole. If you remember this course, it is wide open and well worth you swinging out of your shoes!

Get ready, stretch a lot, and remember.....
“muscle memory”

(I forget what that means)

Below are website connections to get the
juices flowing.

BOOK NOW!!!

Hilton: <https://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/pennsylvania/hilton-garden-inn-pittsburgh-southpointe-PIT-SPGI/index.html>

Olde Stonewall: <https://www.oldestonewall.com/>

Hickory Heights Golf Club: <https://www.hickoryheights.golf/about-us/>

Quicksilver Golf Club: <https://www.quicksilvergolf.com/>

Club Leaf & Bean: <https://clubleafandbean.com/>

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:
Anthony Schultz
 4877 Founders Dr.
 Groveport OH 43125
 (614) 830-0492(H)
 (614) 477-5240(C)
 anthpschultz@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
2018 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT
 July 26-27, 2019
 Sponsored by: Canonsburg O Club
 Chairpersons: Bob Schenken (412) 295-3614 & David Stockman (412) 414-7628
 Open to all FOCA/Orthodox Christians
 All Saturday entrants must purchase Banquet Ticket
 Junior participants covered by the Sutyak Fund

ENTRY DEADLINE
July 15, 2019

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

Name	Age	Handicap Average	1-Day Friday \$45	1-Day Saturday \$65	2-Day \$110	Banquet Sr. \$40 Jr. Free	TOTAL
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

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 by Handicap or Age depending on the number of entries.
 Prizes will be based on number of entries.

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make all checks payable to **Canonsburg O Club**
 Include Banquet Tickets for each name listed on this form.
Friday Night
 Social at Club Leaf & Bean – Food and beverages provided
 33 Quail Acres Lane, Washington, PA 15301

Recommended Hotel
 Hilton Garden Inn – Southpointe – 1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317
 (724) 743-5000 – Ask for FOCA Golf Group Rate - \$115.00 Standard Double or King - \$125.00 Suite
 Prices do not include taxes. Book early as rates are good until July 12, 2019 or until property sells out.

GOLFING
 Hickory Heights Golf Club – 116 Hickory Heights Drive, Bridgeville, PA 15017 – (412) 257-0300
www.hickoryheights.golf
 Quicksilver Golf Club – 2000 Quicksilver Road, Midway, PA 15060 – (724) 796-1594
www.quicksilvergolf.com

Tee times will begin at 10 a.m. Friday and shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Saturday
 Banquet immediately following golf at Quicksilver

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

Peter Melnik: In Memoriam



Peter Melnik, 88, of Wilmington, Delaware, passed away peacefully on May 12th in his home after a lengthy illness with his wife, Elizabeth, by his side. He served as the 15th national president of the FROC/FOCA from 1957-1959 and was also editor of the *Russian Orthodox Journal*, contributing influential articles on Orthodoxy in America. Peter remained active in the Fellowship, participating in many national conventions and often serving as parliamentarian until his health declined.



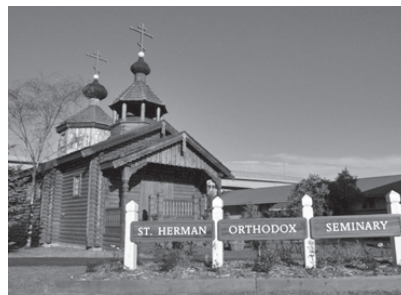
Peter was truly a product of the American Dream. His parents, John and Anastasia Melnik, emigrated from Eastern Europe at the

turn of the 20th Century and labored in the tanneries and factories in Peabody, Mass. to put their son through college. He graduated with a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1952. Most of his career was spent at Hercules, Inc., where he developed an expertise in the manufacture of polypropylene resins. Peter also received two Masters of Divinity degrees: from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in 1959 and from Harvard University in 1962 where he was a student of the late Fr. Georges Florovsky. These degrees served him well as he became a national lay leader in the Orthodox Church in America and served on committees of its All-American Councils. He was a gifted writer and speaker, and used those skills to advocate for the education and participation of the laity in the life of the Church. As his work with Hercules brought him and his family to various cities, Peter accepted many leadership positions in the parishes where he was a member. His family became used to waiting for him following services while he attended to church matters. Although Peter's life revolved around the Church and family, he also contributed time to other community

organizations, including volunteering with his sons' Boy Scout troops, coaching Little League baseball and teaching at The University of Delaware's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Peter leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth (Kuchta), and their three children: Philip (Kit Yezzi), Alexandra (Paul Makosky) and Vladimir (Susan Melnik). He also leaves behind four beautiful grandchildren who love their Dida: Herman, Xenia, Juliana and John. He now joins in rest his parents and siblings: Anna, John, Mary, Anthony, Harry and Sophia. A viewing, Divine Liturgy and funeral service were held at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Wilmington with Father Barnabas Fravel, pastor, officiating. Burial took place at St. Mary Orthodox Church Cemetery in Chambersburg, PA with Father Theodore Pulcini, pastor, presiding assisted by Fathers Daniel Resselar, Timothy Hojnicky and David Jacobs. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael Church, 2231 East Huntington Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808-4952 or Delaware Hospice, 16 Polly Drummond Center, Newark, DE 19711. Cards and messages of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Elizabeth Melnik, 1309 Chadwick Road, Wilmington, DE 19808-4115. He was a quintessential "man of the Church" as the Russian saying goes. May Peter's memory be eternal!

St. Herman's Seminary Holds 47th Commencement Exercises



On Sunday, May 12, 2019, Saint Herman's Orthodox Theological Seminary held its 47th Commencement Exercises at the Afognak Native Corporation that overlooks Saint Paul Harbor and the city of Kodiak, Alaska. OCA

Archbishop David of Sitka and Alaska opened the ceremony with a heartfelt greeting to the guests, faculty, and students. The greeting was followed by an inspiring keynote address from Rev. Dr. Patricia Wilson Cone, clinical pastoral supervisor of the CPE program housed at Providence Anchorage Medical Center. After Archbishop David presented a Reader Certificate to Joseph Evon, a 2nd-year seminarian from the village of Napaskiak, Dr. Cone awarded CPE certificates to several individuals, including Archpriest Dr. John S. Dunlop, seminary dean. The day concluded with a celebratory meal prepared by the seminary students and faculty.

Source: adapted from oca.org



SUPPORT THE ST. ANDREW'S FUND

Please contribute to this year's St. Andrew's Fund (formerly known as the United Fund) which is the sole source of support for the William Fekula national scholarships awarded each year at the annual convention (and also supports other charities). Enable the Fellowship to keep awarding these much-needed scholarships to our youth as they further their educations! Contribute through your chapter, by using the FOCA website's secure online giving feature, or by mailing a check (payable to "FOCA") directly to Michael Bowan, our national treasurer. "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning." Proverbs 9:9.

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

FOCA CALENDAR 2019



- July 7-13:** National FOCA Junior Olympics, St. Vladimir Camp, Farmdale, OH – www.stvladimirscamp.com
- July 7-13:** St. Tikhon's Summer Camp, St. Tikhon's Seminary & Monastery, South Canaan, PA – www.sttikhonscamp.org
- July 25-27:** National Summer Sports Tournament, Canonsburg, PA, sponsored by the Canonsburg "O" Club
- Aug. 5-6** Annual Pilgrimage, Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, PA – www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org
- Aug. 30-Sept. 2:** 93rd National FOCA Convention, sponsored by the Ohio District, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, OH
- Oct. 10-12:** Orthodox Christian Leadership Conference, "Thy Will be Done," Cleveland, OH – www.focaleadership.com

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



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

Ecumenical Patriarchate’s Holy Synod Elects Metropolitan Elpidophoros as New Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America



©GOA/Dimitrios Panagos

On Saturday, May 11th, the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Constantinople (Istanbul) elected Metropolitan Elpidophoros as the new archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, by far the largest Orthodox Christian jurisdiction in the United States. He replaces Archbishop Demetrios, age 91, who, according to Greek-American media (*The National Herald*), was forced into retirement after serving almost 20 years as the archdiocese’s leader. Elpidophoros was abbot of the Holy Trinity Monastery in

Halki, Turkey and a professor at the theological school of the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

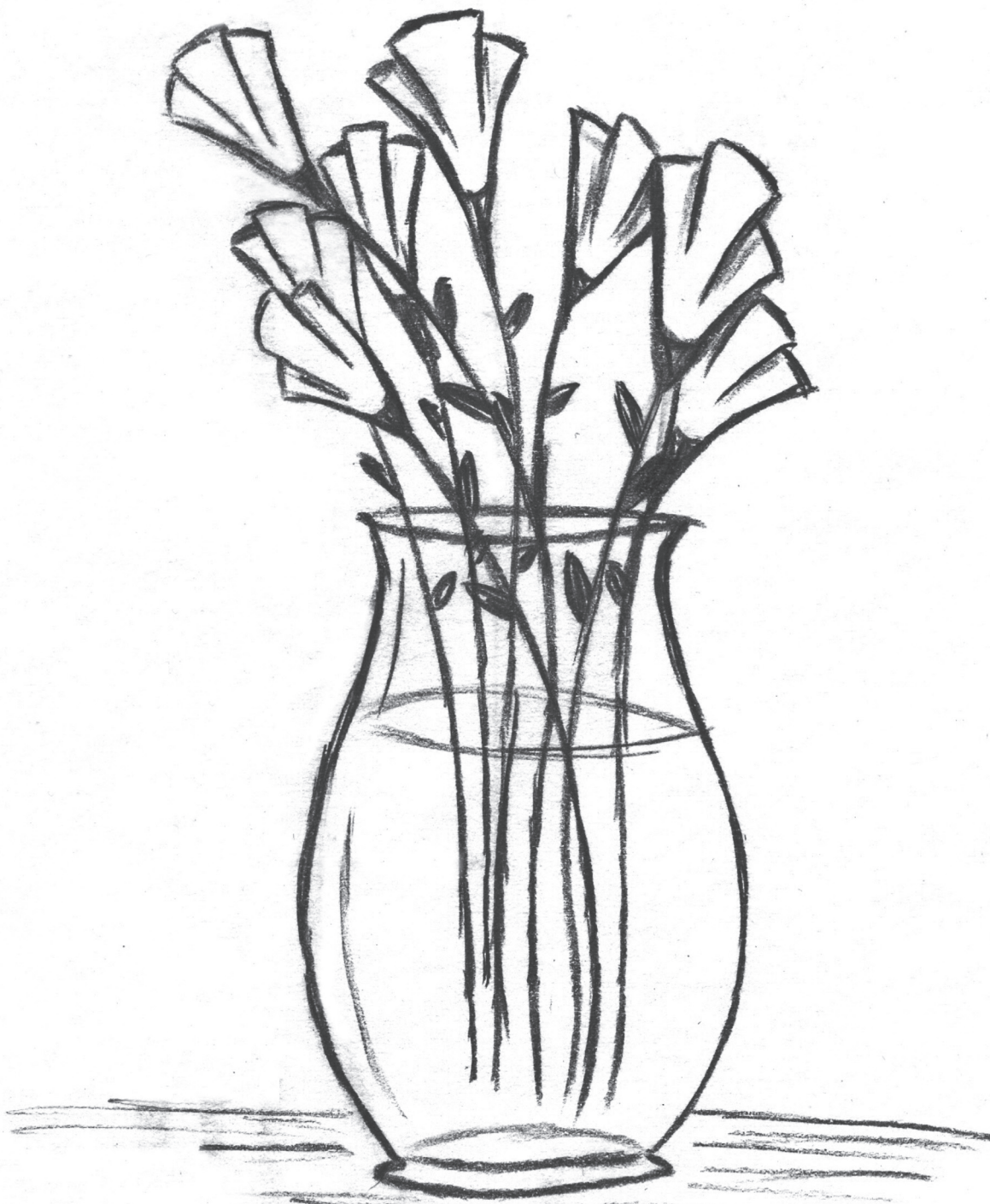
The election, however, was not without controversy. The Archdiocesan Council, which was meeting in Atlanta on May 9-10, passed a special resolution and urgently wrote to Patriarch Bartholomew asking him to postpone the election in order that it could participate: “To our surprise and concern, we were informed today, May 9, 2019, that the Ecumenical Patriarchate has afforded the Archdiocese only until 2 p.m. Eastern time tomorrow, May 10, to commence and complete the advisory process required by the Archdiocesan Charter and Regulations – a time frame that makes it impossible for us to complete this task. We stand ready to complete the required

advisory process with appropriate speed and diligence should we be permitted a reasonable time period of at least 30 days to conduct the process. In the interim, we respectfully ask that, in accordance with the Charter, the most senior member of our Holy Synod, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, be designated by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to serve as locum tenens, with the completion of a meaningful advisory process and subsequent election. In the meantime, we respectfully ask the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to give every possible consideration for election to the office of Archbishop of America a member of our esteemed and beloved Holy Synod.” This entreaty was ignored.

The enthronement of the new Archbishop was held on Saturday, June 22nd at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York City followed by a celebratory banquet at the New York Hilton (\$250 per ticket). He faces numerous challenges in the archdiocese as its Holy Cross Seminary/Hellenic College in Massachusetts has a serious budgetary shortfall and accreditation problems and federal and state prosecutors continue to investigate the financial issues surrounding the St. Nicholas Church & Shrine which is partially constructed at Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan, site of the 9/11 terrorist attack; the *New York Post* has reported that as much as \$15 million is “missing” from the project (which the archdiocese has officially denied) and its overall cost has soared from \$30 to \$80 million. The shrine is to replace the small church of St. Nicholas on Cedar Street which was destroyed on September 11th upon the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. Axios and many years to the new Archbishop Elpidophoros!

Flowers for Church

Some of the most beautiful things that God has created are flowers. There are so many varieties and colors and scents. One of the nicest things to do with flowers is to bring them to church to decorate God's home. In the summer, many of you have flowers in your yards. They can be cut and put in a vase of water to bring to church. Ask your parish priest where would be the best place to put them. Maybe in front of your favorite holy icon? If you don't have flowers, perhaps you could do a chore or two to earn some money and buy a few flowers for church. Go ahead and color this original drawing of flowers in a vase by Sophia Ressetar.





RECYCLE!

**Use This Issue To
Encourage New
Membership**

POSTMASTER - If Undeliverable

Please Send Form 3579 To: Orthodox Christian JOURNAL • c/o 892 Scott Street • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

SUPPORT THE FELLOWSHIP'S 2019

"Gifts Of Love" Project

**St. Tabitha's House Orphanage
Kisumu, Kenya**



This Orthodox Christian orphanage, under the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa, is operated by Father Agapios & Papadia Dorah Lipesa. Some 26 children live in the orphanage but attend school in Nairobi and church in Kibera. They are struggling to meet the basic needs of the children (food, clothing, etc.) as well as school fees. Please support this worthy project!

Donations may be made securely online at www.orthodoxfellowship.org or

by mailing them directly to

National FOCA Treasurer, Michael Bowan

2100 Lincoln Park West, #9ES • Chicago, IL 60614-4713

checks payable to "FOCA" and note "Gifts of Love" project.

May God bless you for helping the children of St. Tabitha's House Orphanage!