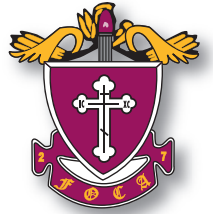


OCJ Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

WINTER 2019 volume 93 number 4

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- Support the Tabitha Orphanage Project!
- Metropolitan Tikhon's Moscow Visit & Study Guide
- Spring National Sports Tournaments



The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



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OCJ Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

is the official publication of the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America
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The mission of the

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL is to
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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
Fellowship of Orthodox
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BY
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Orthodox Christian JOURNAL (ISSN 15247562), is published four times a year [Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall] by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, c/o 892 Scott Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705.

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

Subscription Prices: Single Copy \$5; Yearly subscription \$30 in the United States and possessions, \$35 in Canada; other countries upon request. *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL* © copyrighted 2019 by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America. Reproduction in whole or part prohibited except by permission. All rights reserved. Title and ® trademark registered US Patent Office.

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

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable please send form 3579 to the *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL* at c/o 892 Scott Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705.

Printed in the United States by
Sir Speedy Printing 4573 Campbells Run
Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Allison Steffaro

44th National FOCA President

I have just met with the National Board of Trustees at our annual Spring Board meeting in Columbus, Ohio. It is my pleasure to report that our organization continues to remain active in our parishes, dioceses and across the Orthodox world! It is my sincere hope that you read the Gifts of Love article on St. Tabitha's Orphanage and encourage your parishes and chapters to donate to this worthy cause. Together we can make a difference in the secular and spiritual lives of Orthodox Christians half a world away. We urge our youth



to participate in expressing their faith through their creativity with our annual Celebrations of Faith contest; entry information is available on our website and the details are in this issue of the *Journal*. Make sure to mark your calendars and join us in the many upcoming events for our young, old and young at heart members during the Spring and Summer. Our host chapters are well into the planning stages for faith, fellowship and fun at our National Basketball, Bowling and Golf tournaments. Last but certainly not least, the Ohio District will certainly pull out the red carpet to welcome us to Columbus! Join us Labor Day weekend for our 93rd Annual National Convention.

From my family to yours, I wish you all a most Blessed Pascha!

Metropolitan Tikhon Celebrates Orthodoxy Sunday in California



Metropolitan Tikhon spent the first weekend of Great Lent paying an archpastoral visit to the OCA Diocese of the West and several parishes in northern California. He gave the homily at the Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers celebrated on Sunday evening, March 17th (note: not on Saturday) at the historic Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco. Other hierarchs joining him were Archbishop Kirill (ROCOR), Archbishop Benjamin and Bishop Daniel. His Beatitude's sermon quoted extensively from his own "namesake" Bishop Tikhon (later Patriarch of Moscow), who spoke in the very same cathedral in 1898 upon his arrival in North America.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas D. Ressetar

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

Welcome to the latest issue of your *Orthodox Christian Journal*. Gracing our front cover is 1972 artwork by the late Nick Konon, a talented Chicago artist who drew many original works for the *Russian Orthodox Journal* as it was known. It features a traditional Slavic Easter table with a kulich, sirnaya or cheese paskha, eggs and candles. And Pascha is our final destination for this Great Lenten journey in the words of Fr. Schmemmann – see the Kidz Corner for the multi-lingual greetings (from an old Fr. Dan bulletin) and our patrons extend their own – many thanks!

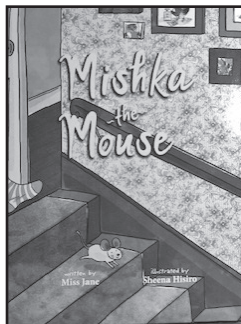
This issue contains a variety of stories and promos. President Allison, in addition to her message, asks that we support the Tabitha Orphanage in Kenya – this year's Gifts of Love project. Rebecca Kozak reminds the youth to enter the 2019 Celebration of Faith creative arts contest. National Secretary Danielle Ilchuk invites applications for the scholarship program with new, all-electronic forms – and Marywood University is accepting applications for the Peter Kohudic scholarship established by his wife, Nancy. The Ohio District and Becky Tesar call all explorers to "Discover Columbus" at the Labor Day weekend national convention. And Sami Exler is seeking your photos for the annual contest – all the details inside.

Our spiritual leader, Metropolitan Tikhon, has had a busy winter. We cover his Moscow trip for the celebration of Patriarch Kirill's 10th anniversary of enthronement, publish his letter inviting all to use the new study guide for "Of What Life Do We Speak?," and include a few photos from the Sunday of Orthodoxy celebration in San Francisco. Dimitri Ressetar reports on the recent Orthodox youth and camp worker conference at Antiochian Village. Longtime contributor Larry Skvir recounts the 82nd Novogodny Ball – the premier FOCA winter social event and the gift to St. Tikhon's Summer Camp (back from vacation this July!). Archimandrite Luke (Murianka) was consecrated ROCOR bishop at Jordanville's Holy Trinity Monastery – Axios! And we continue to follow the ongoing "Crisis in Orthodoxy" in the Ukraine where the schism is intensifying – Lord have mercy.

In sports, we feature both spring national tournaments – basketball in Campbell (May 3-5) and bowling in Baltimore (May 17-19) – entry forms and promos are included. Plan to participate now! Rounding out this edition are transitions, an updated calendar, the new "Mishka the Mouse" book and more. The *Journal* will return in late June after Pascha/Easter. Allow us to wish you and your families an early "Christ is Risen" and, until then, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK: "MISHKA THE MOUSE"

The talented duo of "Miss Jane" Svitchan and Sheena Hisiro has recently released their newest read for children. "Mishka the Mouse," written by Jane Svitchan, is the delightful tale of a little mouse who ends up living in "Miss Jane's" house. The wonderful illustrations are by Sheena Hisiro, who has provided drawings for more than 35 books; she's also a past national FOCA and Central PA District scholarship recipient. Their new book is available from St. Tikhon's Bookstore: www.stspress.com or 1-888-454-6678. Proceeds benefit charities. It makes a perfect Easter basket gift!



2019 Articles Deadline for the OCJ:

Spring due May 15th

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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

FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA 2019 EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM



New electronic application & reference forms this year!

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is now accepting applications for the following 2019 national scholarships:

- **Fred Lewis**
- **William Fekula**
- **John Klimkosky**
- **Nicholas Torsky (engineering students) and**
- **Mischa Michaelson (seminarians).**



Last year \$8,000 in national scholarships were distributed by the National Executive Board at the 92nd National FOCA Convention in St. Louis. Eligible to apply are those entering freshmen or enrolled undergraduate students in a 2-year, 4-year or certificate-granting institution or a seminary. Graduate students are also eligible for scholarship awards as are military academy students. In addition, applying for a national scholarship may make an applicant eligible for various district scholarships (Central PA, Colonial, New Jersey, Ohio or Pittsburgh).

To be eligible to apply, one must have been a member from July of the previous year (i.e., July 2018) and the year of application (2019). This year, application and reference forms are editable pdf's and may be submitted via email.

Follow this link to access the forms:

<https://www.orthodoxfellowship.org/scholarships>

The forms can then be emailed directly to: focasecretary@gmail.com (or mailed to FOCA Scholarships, 321 School Street, Sewickley, PA 15143). Questions may be addressed to Danielle Ilchuk, national recording secretary, at (412) 855-3748 or dilchuk@pitt.edu.

This year's deadline is June 15th. Applications must be emailed or postmarked on or before that date. Apply now!

82nd Novogodny Ball

by Larry Skvir



When you sponsor an event in the middle of January, the weather is always a concern. The 82nd Novogodny Ball sponsored by St. Stephen's OCF on January 20 was no exception. The weekend weather forecast caused the cancellation of the celebration of the Blessing of Water at the Schuylkill River, scheduled for earlier in the afternoon. But the Ball went on as planned later that evening, in spite of the snow, freezing rain, bitter cold, and strong winds that affected the tri-state area. While there were a few cancellations, most of our faithful patrons, including friends from Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland, braved the weather and were on hand to welcome the New Year with music, fellowship, and dancing.

As is customary, the Novogodny Ball weekend began on Saturday, January 19 with a Colonial District Executive Board meeting held at St. Stephen's Cathedral and chaired by Walter Alesevich, District Governor. Unfortunately, later in the evening Walter had a medical emergency and spent several days in Torresdale Jefferson Hospital in Northeast Philadelphia. Walter is doing fine and taking a week off for some rest and recuperation in Connecticut. Walter has been a faithful friend of the Novogodny Ball and has served as Colonial District Governor for decades. His presence was greatly missed and we are glad that he is doing okay after a very eventful weekend.

After a great debut for their first chairmanship of the 81st Novogodny Ball, Andre and Alex Cox were again co-chairs of the 82nd Ball. With the assistance of Ball Chairman Emeritus, Paul Fedoronko, reservation coordinator Martha Sisko, and other Chapter 82 members, all the pieces fell into place for an evening of fun at the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast in Trevese, PA. Following a leisurely sit-down dinner which was enjoyed by

some of our guests, the talented Kauriga Orchestra took the stage at 7:30 PM to get the party started. In spite of the winter weather, over 200 guests were on hand, including the large and growing number of teens and young adults who gather at the Ball every January.

During the first intermission, Andre Cox welcomed Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of St. Stephen's Cathedral, who thanked everyone for braving the weather to attend the Ball. Fr. Victor introduced His Eminence, Archbishop Mark, from the OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, who extended his diocesan welcome. Many Years were intoned for Alexander Cox who was celebrating his 30th birthday. At subsequent intermissions, there were line dances and contemporary music that kept the dance floor filled, door prize giveaways to lucky ticketholders, and a 50-50 raffle.

The balloon drop at 11:00 PM to welcome in the New Year (it was 12:00 midnight somewhere over the Atlantic) went off flawlessly and sent kids scrambling to find one of the prizes in the balloons. The assembled crowd gathered around to cheer the traditional HOPAK circle, which included a few very young dancers. And then the 82nd Ball was history, and folks headed home in the bitter cold, already looking forward to the 83rd Novogodny Ball

St. Stephen's was glad to welcome Nick Ressetar, OC Journal Editor, to the Ball. The chapter also appreciated the financial support from FOCA friends who couldn't be with us this year. Profits from the Ball benefit Orthodox and other worthy charities, including St. Tikhon's Summer Camp. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 19, 2020. Plan to be with us for the 83rd Novogodny Ball and bring your friends!



2019 Orthodox Youth and Camp Worker Conference, Antiochian Village, Bolivar, Pennsylvania

by Dimitri G. Ressetar



addresses by Dr. Chris Thurber. A child psychologist active in summer camps since childhood, Dr. Thurber converted to Orthodoxy in college and continues to be involved in camp programs as well as consultation, coaching, and training faculty and staff at schools and camps. His first keynote topic was “Kids Do Dumb Stuff”, reflecting on the tendency for kids and younger camp staff to sometimes have perplexing behaviors making poor choices, and how to handle those situations and set good examples while still being able to have fun in a camp setting. The second keynote “XXX-Posed: Youth Development in the 21st Century” covered some scenarios children can be exposed to in their day to day lives, such as violent video games and racy magazines, and how to handle those topics should they come up in a camp setting. He encouraged a careful discussion by experienced camp staff with open-ended questions so that the youth may be able to work it out themselves why such things may be self-destructive.

After each of the keynote speeches, the audience would break into four smaller groups to discuss the topic further and share their experiences. These small groups as well as breakout sessions the following day provided opportunities for networking.

Friday included a total of six short “TED Talks” throughout the day. The first was “Spiritual Self Care” by Mother Christophora, abbess of the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration: “As an abbess of a monastery, I often received the advice to ‘take care of yourself’ and then the caring person would walk away. Good advice, but I received no hint or assistance in how to do that. I

Nearly 100 Orthodox Christians from across the country gathered for the 18th annual Orthodox Youth and Camp Worker Conference at the noted Antiochian Village in Bolivar, PA from January 24-26. Hosted by Metropolitan Joseph and the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, it was sponsored by the Orthodox Youth Directors in North America with the blessing of the canonical Assembly of Bishops. Participants had a busy schedule of liturgical services, including a supplication to St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn, whose gravesite is on the grounds, lectures, roundtable discussions, and social activities. The conference’s “objective is to offer an enriching and uplifting experience that will connect youth and camp workers and provide them with inspirational and challenging ideas to help them refine and improve their work.”

Many jurisdictions, including Greek, Serbian, Carpatho-Russian, and OCA were represented at the conference. The attendees came from the east and west coasts, points in between, as well as Canada, covering many different aspects of youth work. Volunteer church school teachers from small parishes were there as well as several full-time paid youth directors from large parishes. Parish priests along with priests working in education and curriculum development

were present, as were several seminarians. Many Orthodox camps—small and large—were represented by their directors and staff members.

The packed schedule included two full days preceded by a Wednesday evening arrival and succeeded by a conference conclusion on the final half-day Saturday. Thursday included two keynote



St. Tikhon's Summer Camp



March 4, 2019

St. Tikhon's Summer Camp
Downingtown, Pennsylvania
Attn: Katya Hubiak, Co-Director

Dear Katya:

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

On behalf of St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Fellowship, Chapter 82 of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (F.O.C.A.), I am pleased to enclose our check in the amount of \$1,000 made payable to St. Tikhon's Summer Camp. The check represents a share of the profit that our chapter earned from the recent 82nd Novogodny Ball, which we are proud to sponsor. In your communication with Paul Fedoronko, the former long-time chairman of the Ball, you indicated that a priority for the Camp this year is to replace the rescue boat on the lake. Please apply our gift toward the purchase of that boat or any other priority item for the Camp.

The past several years have seen a large and growing attendance of young adults at the Novogodny Ball. Many of them met at St. Tikhon's Summer Camp and have continued that friendship into their early adult years. With our contribution, we hope to continue to make the Camp a special place to help grow another generation of campers who share a common bond in their Orthodox faith.

Best wishes to you, your co-directors – Rebecca Oliver, David Drobish & Dimitri Ressetar, Father Tim Hojnicky, camp chaplain, the staff and all the campers for a successful and spiritually rewarding 2019 camping session.

In Christ,

Larry Skvir
President – St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Fellowship
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

cc. Archbishop Michael, Rector of St. Tikhon's Seminary,
OCA Diocese of New York & New Jersey
V. Rev. John Parker III, D. Min., Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary

finally realized that self care is not a gift from anyone to us, but a gift from ourselves to ourselves". After her introductory remarks she presented ways to keep ourselves spiritually healthy by covering 12 items in 12 minutes on the importance and need to "take time off to be with the Lord" in order to have the spiritual and physical energy to do youth ministry. Next, Father Michael Nasser, pastor of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, MI spoke on "How to Accept & Love Others when it Counts the Most" covering topics that come up in youth ministry and camps and the importance of "unity in diversity" especially when dealing with the different personalities and behaviors of children and staff in camp settings. Finally, Jenny Mosher, director of The Telos Project, spoke on "Creating Leadership Opportunities" for young adults in church settings and parish ministry programs.

In the afternoon, Bishop Thomas spoke on "Staying Focused in the Orthodox World" and the importance of celebrating the liturgy together as part of a serious effort to move ourselves and the youth towards the Kingdom of God. He stressed that praying for those in different vocations and not getting distracted by political things are necessary to keep from drifting away. Next, Katrina Bitar, YES program director, FOCUS North America spoke on "Exploring Our Youth Ministry Motivations" covering how every job can be sacred and how different approaches are needed to work towards goals. Concluding the TED Talks, Kira Senedak presented "Having Difficult Conversations" in the context of camp and youth activities. She stressed the importance of planning and prayer to keep the conversations rooted in Christ so that God's grace can "heal what is infirm and complete what is lacking in us".

Also on Friday, two breakout sessions occurred where each attendee could choose among four topics. These included "Social Media" by Natalie Saliba, director of operations at Antiochian Village Camp (AVC); "Money and Ministry: Modeling Good Financial Stewardship" by Father Ben Kjendal, pastor of St. Michael Orthodox Church in Cotuit, MA; "Medical Best Practices" by Dr. Peter Gagianas; "What About Those non-Orthodox [Curriculum] Materials?" by Father Tony Vrame, director of the department of religious education, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; "Increase Your Fundraising Success" by Nick Chakos, Orthodox Ministry Services; and "Mental Health" by the mother-son team of Kh. Janet Shadid, a psychotherapist and counselor at AVC and Chris Shadid, a psychotherapist and assistant camp director at AVC. Additionally, tours of the Antiochian Village camp facilities were offered by Cade Scott and other AVC staff.

The Fellowship's own Michael G. Herzak, president of Insurance Systems Group, Independence, OH (and a past national president), gave a presentation on "Risk Management & Youth Protection" during the breakout sessions. Representing St. Tikhon's Summer Camp was one of its new directors, Dimitri G. Ressetar, Harrisburg "O Club, #199 (who worked last year at the Ohio District's St. Vladimir Camp).

Next year the Orthodox Youth and Camp Workers Conference will be hosted by the Serbian Orthodox Church in January 2020. Candidate cities include Los Angeles, Phoenix, Chicago, and Orlando. Visit orthodoxycc.org for more information.

Metropolitan Tikhon, OCA Delegation Participate in Anniversary Celebrations

MOSCOW, RUSSIA [OCA]

As reported earlier, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and a delegation from the Orthodox Church in America joined the representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the election and enthronement of His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow as



Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Accompanying Metropolitan Tikhon were His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa; Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor; Archpriest Daniel Andrejuk, OCA Representative to the Moscow Patriarchate; Melanie Ringa, Treasurer; Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak; and Subdeacon Roman Ostash.

Upon their arrival in Moscow on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, Metropolitan Tikhon and the delegation were greeted by His Eminence, Metropolitan Ignatius of Vologda and Kirillov; His Grace, Bishop Matthew of Sourozh; Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, Department of External Church Relations' [DECR] Secretary for Inter-Orthodox relations; and Dimitri Petrovsky, DECR staff member.

Patriarch Kirill welcomes Metropolitan Tikhon, delegation. In the



evening, Metropolitan Tikhon and the delegation were received by Patriarch Kirill at the Patriarchal Residence at Moscow's Danilov Monastery. After initial greetings, His Holiness welcomed Metropolitan Tikhon in the Patriarchal Chapel, where they venerated the holy altar before exchanging formal greetings and remarks.

"I would like to welcome your delegation, and in particular Father Alexander Rentel, who visits for the first time in his capacity as Chancellor," Patriarch Kirill said in his welcoming remarks. "We will have a chance to talk about issues related to world Orthodoxy and bilateral relations. I would like to emphasize that our bilateral relations have stood the test of time and have never been overshadowed by anything since the establishment of the OCA. I would like to highlight that whenever our delegation visits the US they meet with you and your representatives, and if your bishops come to Moscow they are always considered to be dear guests of ours."

His Holiness went on to speak about the initiation of the Summer Insti-

tutes at Saints Cyril and Methodius Institute of Post Graduate Studies, which offers hospitality during the summer months to representatives of other Local Churches and offers an opportunity to get acquainted with the life of the Russian Church. In June 2018, a number of OCA clergy participated the inaugural program.

"I would also like to stress the role our Representations play in our bilateral relations," His Holiness continued. "Your Representation here and ours in New York enable us to maintain close permanent contacts. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the OCA Representation in Moscow. I am very glad to witness that your representative is doing a very good job representing your Church. Recently I received a letter in which you asked that I contact the government of Moscow to find the necessary funds to help with the restoration of your representation church here in Moscow. Certainly we are going to submit such a request to the government of Moscow. And, I do know the response they are going to give is going to be a positive one. The only issue that can arise is the time frame for this restoration. Moscow allocates certain budget funds for these purposes, and what is important is that the restoration work fit both the financial and time limits of this budget."

His Holiness also spoke of his satisfaction with regard to the Patriarchate's Representation Church of Saint Nicholas in New York City and the relationship it maintains with the OCA through His Grace, Bishop Matthew of Sourozh, Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA.

In response, Metropolitan Tikhon congratulated Patriarch Kirill on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his enthronement and offered his "personal prayers for many more years of such steadfast service to Christ, to the Russian Orthodox Church, and to world Orthodoxy.

"Our delegation from the Orthodox Church in America is grateful for the warm welcome offered to us by His Eminence, Metropolitan Ignatius of Vologda, and His Grace, Bishop Matthew of Sourozh, upon our arrival here in Moscow, and we look forward to the celebrations that have been planned this week," Metropolitan Tikhon said, adding that Patriarch Kirill has "borne a tremendous burden with respect to recent developments in Ukraine, developments which are being debated by all the Churches but which have most directly and painfully affected the clergy and faithful of Ukraine. The Orthodox Church in America has articulated its position in the recent Archpastoral Letter of our Holy Synod of Bishops.

"I would like to assure Your Holiness in person that our commitment to the upholding of canonical order remains firm and our gratitude to the Russian Church remains constant," Metropolitan Tikhon added. "In spite of these global difficulties, the relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church in America remain strong and have grown during the ten years of your Primatial ministry, and I pray that this week's celebration will be full of joy

and the hope that comes from fraternal concelebrations and continued collaboration on matters affecting world Orthodoxy.”

Metropolitan Tikhon continued by offering examples of the positive relationship between the OCA and the Russian Orthodox Church; the desire to increase cooperation in the area of youth ministry, joint exchanges and pilgrimages; plans for the celebration in 2020 of the 50th anniversary of the granting of autocephaly and the glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska; and other matters of mutual interest. Metropolitan Tikhon especially thanked Patriarch Kirill for his support of Father Daniel Andrejuk and the ministry he exercises as OCA Representative to the Moscow Patriarchate and Dean of the Representation Church of the Great Martyr Catherine in Moscow.

“One of the crucial projects for Father Daniel is the ongoing restoration at Saint Catherine’s, with which we hope to move forward especially in this year which marks the 25th anniversary of its establishment as the OCA’s Representation Church,” Metropolitan Tikhon said.

At the conclusion of their meeting, Patriarch Kirill presented a triple panagia set to Metropolitan Tikhon, who in turn presented a hand-crafted silver cross with jewels from the OCA Diocese of Mexico.

Meeting with Serbian Patriarch, US Ambassador, Canadian Chargé d’affaires, and anniversary concert. On the morning of Thursday January



31, Metropolitan Tikhon met with His Holiness, Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, at which time they discussed the current situation of their respective Churches and discussed possible fraternal visits in the future.

Metropolitan Tikhon and the OCA delegation then visited the United States Embassy to Russia, where they were received by Ambassador Jon Huntsman and met Canada’s interim Charge d’Affaires, Stephane Jobin. Ambassador Huntsman thanked Metropolitan Tikhon for the important role in the international community played by Saint Catherine Representation Church, which the Ambassador visited for the annual 9-11 Memorial Service and on numerous other occasions.

On Thursday evening, Metropolitan Tikhon and delegation members attended a concert in honor of Patriarch Kirill and the tenth anniversary of the Russian Church’s 2009 Local Council, at which His Holiness was elected to the Patriarchal Throne. A choir of 700 voices performed the concert, which featured pieces by numerous Russian composers, at the State Kremlin Palace.

Patriarchal Anniversary Liturgy at Christ the Savior Cathedral. On Friday, February 1, Metropolitan Tikhon, Bishop Daniel and the clergy members of the OCA delegation joined the Primates and representatives of the Local Churches for the celebration of the anniversary Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at Christ the Savior Cathedral. His Holiness, Patriarch John X of Antioch, Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, and His Beatitude, Metropolitan Rastislav of the Czech Lands



and Slovakia, together with the representatives of the Churches of Alexandria, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland, also concelebrated. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Patriarch John congratulated Patriarch Kirill on the anniversary of his

enthronement, after which His Beatitude, Metropolitan Onufry of Kyiv and All Ukraine read the congratulatory address of the members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church and presented gifts on their behalf, to which His Holiness responded with deep gratitude. [A video of the Divine Liturgy is available online.]

Visits to the Donskoy and Sretensky Monasteries. Metropolitan Tikhon and the OCA delegation visited Moscow’s Donskoy Monastery on Saturday, February 2, where they were received by His Grace, Bishop Paramon, Bishop of Bronnitsy and venerated the relics of His Beatitude’s heavenly patron, Saint Tikhon the Confessor of Moscow that are enshrined in the monastery’s Cathedral of the Don Icon of the Mother of God. They



also visited the Sretensky Monastery and Seminary in central Moscow, where Metropolitan Tikhon and Bishop Daniel served at the All-Night Vigil with Bishop Matthew.

Sunday Divine Liturgy at OCA Representation Church. The following morning—Sunday, February 3—Metropolitan Tikhon, Bishop Daniel and Bishop Matthew concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at the OCA Representation Church of the Great Martyr Catherine, where they were welcomed by Father Daniel Andrejuk. Concelebrants included Father Alexander Rentel; Archpriest Leonid Kallinin, Director of the Church of Russia’s Architecture and Renovation Department; Archpriest Alexei Kurenkov, Rector of the Belgorod Seminary and a graduate of Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, South Canaan, PA; Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak; and the parish clergy. [A series of videos of the



Divine Liturgy is available online.] Following the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Tikhon thanked Father Daniel and Matushka Vera as they begin their second year of service in Moscow.

After enjoying a luncheon at Saint Catherine’s Church, Metropolitan Tikhon and the OCA delegation departed for the airport, accompanied by Metropolitan Ignatius, Bishop Matthew, Father Igor Yakimchuk, and Dmitri Petrovsky, for their return flight to the US.

The Fellowship's 2019 Gifts of Love Project: St. Tabitha's House Orphanage - Kisumu, Kenya



St. Tabitha's House is a Christian orphanage under the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria started in the Kibera slums of Kenya in Africa. They currently house 26 children, providing food, shelter, academic and spiritual education, and so much more. St. Tabitha's House was founded by Father Agapios Lipesa and his wife, Papadia Dorah. He was assigned as rector of St. George the Great Martyr Orthodox parish in the Kibera slums in the Kisumu Diocese in Kenya. As part of his work as a parish priest, he consistently saw the horrific

conditions that the people of Kibera lived in. At the same time, he felt a strong love for the orphans who make up the most vulnerable part of the population.

After the country's post-election violence in 2007, many parents from the Kibera slums died and their children were left as orphans. Father Agapios was then assigned to be the parish priest at St. George's also in Kibera (one of the biggest slums in all of Africa). As he was feeding the children of the parish and watching the orphans suffer, he decided to start the St. Tabitha's House to take care of the orphans and widows of the Kibera slums. He took the neediest kids to his own house to care for them as his own until St. Tabitha's was built.

Currently, Father Agapios and Papadia Dorah have moved the children from Nairobi to Kisumu (a more safe, affordable and sustainable environment where they have a quieter, more peaceful life). They are hoping to raise a



small flock of chickens and dairy cows which will be used to both feed the children and to provide a small but sustainable income for the orphanage.

How can the FOCA help St. Tabitha's House?

Our Gifts of Love campaign this year will be earmarked to send money directly to Father Agapios at St. Tabitha's House. As Jesus Christ asks us to feed the hungry and clothe the poor, we are asking your chapters/parishes to open their hearts to do His work. Although they have a new home in Kisumu, they are still struggling to meet the basic needs of



the children and drive them to school in Nairobi and church in Kibera. They spend nearly \$1 on every child for food daily (\$26 daily for food), and \$150 yearly for school fees for all the children. For those in High School, they spend \$400 yearly for school fees.

During this Great Lenten period, kindly consider contributing your "alms" to this wonderful Orthodox Christian orphanage. Donations are welcome from members, chapters, districts, parishes and friends of the Fellowship. Please remit on the FOCA website – www.orthodoxfellowship.org -- or mail directly to National FOCA Treasurer, Michael Bowan, 2100 Lincoln Park West, #9ES, Chicago, IL 60614-4713. May God bless you for helping the children!



Submitted by Allison Steffaro
National FOCA President

Discover Columbus with the **FOCA!**

Calling all explorers! The Ohio District is excited to invite you to discover our host city of Columbus, Ohio for the first time in FOCA Convention history! Located in the heart of Ohio, our capital city is a port of entry and a major commercial, distribution and cultural center. Named for explorer Christopher Columbus, the 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.

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!

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

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon's Introduction to *Of What Life Do We Speak?: Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church*



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

This year, we celebrate the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the Valaam missionaries to Alaska. Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the glorification of St. Herman, one of the very first acts of the Orthodox Church in America, which was granted the prophetic gift of autocephaly in 1970.

Over these 225 years, the seeds for a local Church in North America have been planted and watered by the prayers and labors of many saints and faithful Christians. It is a great treasure that we have inherited and we

should give thanks to God for this. But we should also be mindful of our responsibility as the guardians of this gift and our calling to nurture and increase what has been handed down to us.

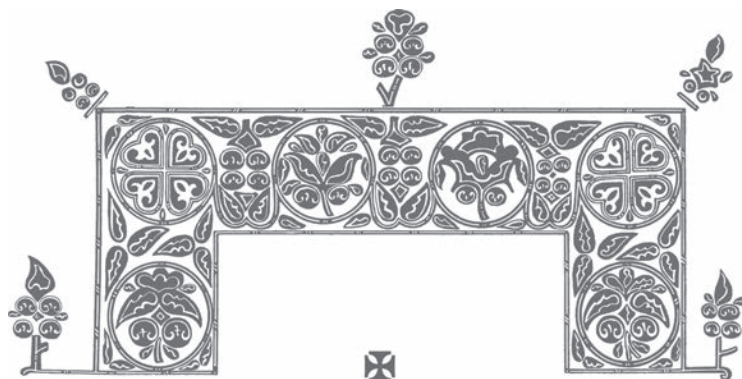
At last year's All-American Council in Saint Louis, I offered a broad outline of a vision by which we, as the Orthodox Church in America, might accomplish this, through my small booklet, *Of What Life Do We Speak: Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church*. My intention in publishing this work was to provide, not a comprehensive handbook, but a tool for the interactive involvement of all members of the Church, whether on the diocesan, institutional, parish, or individual level.

To help with this, we have prepared a study guide for the Four Pillars which you may find posted on our website. I know of several parishes that have already begun to explore the Four Pillars in their parish educational programs and I hope that this Study Guide can assist more to do the same. Broader programs, such as a symposium in May of this year, are also being planned.

I would invite all of you, individually or collectively, to reflect upon the vision and the enduring goals that are proposed in the four pillars, to make use of the study guide that has been prepared, or to establish your own creative approach to the questions and challenges that confront us today as the Church in North America.

As we look towards the future, we must also be sure to incorporate and build upon the experience of our beloved saints and forebears, examining ourselves honestly with respect to both the successes and challenges of the past. The coming season of Great Lent is the perfect opportunity to both enter into this self-examination and to be spiritually strengthened and enlightened for the work that lies ahead.

May the intercessions of our Venerable Father Herman comfort and strengthen us on our Lenten journey and on our path together as the local Orthodox Church in North America.



OF WHAT LIFE DO WE SPEAK?

*Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the
Apostolic Work of the Church*

The Most Blessed
TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

To obtain the study guide, visit <https://oca.org/cdn/PDFs/synod/mettikhon-four-pillars-studyguide.pdf>

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

Global Crisis In Orthodoxy Continues: The Pseudo-autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox "Church"

By The Editor

On January 6th, the Patriarch of Constantinople (Istanbul, Turkey) followed through on his fall announcement and issued a "tomos" of autocephaly to the schismatic so-called "Orthodox Church in the Ukraine" under the leadership of Mr. Epiphanius Dumenko, a self-styled "Metropolitan." President Peter Poroshenko of the Ukraine was present in Istanbul when the decree was issued by Bartholomew after liturgy on the Great Feast of the Lord's Epiphany. The written agreement on the "autocephaly" between the two, however, was kept secret in violation of Ukrainian law. At Dumenko's enthronement at St. Sophia's Cathedral in Kiev on Sunday, February 3rd – his 40th birthday – only representatives of Constantinople participated, and Bartholomew himself did not attend.



Patriarch Kirill of Moscow – Orthodox Sunday

As of this writing in late March, not one other Local Orthodox Church in the world has recognized this new, schismatic "Orthodox Church in the Ukraine" despite much pressure and politicking by Constantinople. Several churches have expressly refused to recognize it and, in fact, have forbidden their clergy from serving with its schismatic clergy. The Russian Orthodox Church upon the autocephaly's announcement in October 2018 immediately severed communal relations with Constantinople; the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR), a constituent part of that church, soon followed suit.

Perhaps the strongest opponent of Constantinople's uncanonical actions to date (other than the Russian Church) has been the Serbian Orthodox Church under Patriarch Irenei. According to a statement on February 28th: it "does not recognize the artificial 'confederation' of Ukrainian schismatic groups, which has been proclaimed, yet from a canonical viewpoint does not exist, being, rather, essentially forced, as 'the autocephalous church of Ukraine' – "the schismatics remain schismatics" and "someone who becomes a schismatic once will always be a schismatic, excepting instances of sincere and deep repentance." "The only Church that the Serbian Church knows and recognizes is the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church led by Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev and All Ukraine." The invasion by Constantinople into the Russian Church's territory was uncanonical and its unification assembly was "a dividing false assembly, which has dug an even deeper pit of division and societal collapse for the poor country Ukraine." Serbian clergy are forbidden from liturgical and canonical communion with the schismatic clergy.

The Polish Orthodox Church's position corresponds closely to that of Serbia. Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw wrote to Patriarch Bartholomew (January 3rd) and stated that he had acted in defiance of canonical tradition and that the Ukrainian schismatics lack the grace of ordination. The "so-called 'unification council,' which was held in December in Kiev, did not eliminate the problem but, conversely, strengthened it, introducing a host of painful not only ecclesiastical, but also socio-political phenomena into the life of society." Representatives "of the schismatic church groups who have been deprived of their priestly and episcopal orders took part in the 'the unification council.'" "Mr. Philaret Denisenko was deprived of his order and reduced to the position of a layman. Then he 'ordained' his new followers. These are people without the grace of the Sacrament." Sawa again urged Bartholomew to convene a pan-Orthodox Council to address the crisis; Polish clergy are not to serve with the schismatic clergy.

Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania wrote Bartholomew a lengthy letter (January 14th) in which, after first criticizing the Russian Church for not attending the Crete

Council and for "hastiness" in breaking communion with Constantinople, he refused to recognize the schismatic Ukrainian church. "While Filaret was deposed and excommunicated, he performed uncanonical liturgical actions, which do not constitute valid mysteries. Therefore the ordinations performed by him are non-existent, void, deprived of the divine grace of the Holy Spirit. Among them are the ordinations to deacon, priest and finally bishop of his pupil Sergei Dumenko, now 'Metropolitan Epiphany.' [You] state that you '... have returned them to the hierarchical and priestly ranks...' We question, nevertheless, whether the ordinations performed by Filaret, while he was excommunicated and anathematized, acquired thereafter, without canonical ordination, validity from the Holy Spirit and a genuine seal of apostolic succession." "[I]nstead of making peace among and unifying the Orthodox of Ukraine, the unity of Orthodoxy throughout the world is threatened with division." Anastasios, joining many other Orthodox leaders, called upon Constantinople to convene a pan-Orthodox synaxis of primates or council "in order to prevent the imminent danger of creating a painful schism that endangers the credibility of Orthodoxy and her persuasive witness to the contemporary world."

This letter met with a sharp, lengthy and arrogant rebuke by Bartholomew (February 20th). He wrote that the Ecumenical Patriarchate has always had "the responsibility, not the privilege, to foresee the need of solving any problem at any local Church"; the bestowals of autocephaly by it have one and only one aim: "the orderly functioning of any individual Church, and not the production of false impressions and division of the One, Holy, United and Apostolic Church of God": "history has endowed him with exceptional prerogatives"; he made the decision to restore Filaret and the others to their clerical ranks as "forgiveness" just as the Russian Church "forgave" the schismatic ROCOR church under "brazen political pressure" [Editor's note: a completely false assertion]; "We are at a loss as to how this impertinence and slander against the Mother Church and our Modesty personally is tolerated by some and – wittingly or unwittingly – sometimes espoused in the form of affirmation or repetition of arguments by those who avenge their benefactor"; "At the Phanar, we preach the genuine inheritance of ecclesiology because we draw from the wellspring of our Fathers and not from self-interest or other trivial motivations and political expedencies. Consequently, it is the responsibility of all others to assimilate these disclosed truths – not, of course, in order to validate them, inasmuch as they are already authentically validated by ecclesiastical practice, but rather to restore the precious and authentic experience of the Fathers, who hoped in God alone, to the proper and sanctified way."

Shortly before Metropolitan Tikhon participated in the Moscow celebrations marking Patriarch Kirill's 10th anniversary of enthronement, the Orthodox Church in America released a statement on behalf of its Holy Synod of Bishops (January 28th). They expressed "our deep sorrow and distress over these developments" – "the full breaking of communion" between Moscow and Constantinople, "the creation by the Patriarchate of Constantinople of an ecclesial body consisting of two schismatic groups, the convening of a 'Unification Council' which recognized these groups as a new and unique body and which also elected for it a Metropolitan for Kyiv," and "the proclamation of a form of autocephaly for this new body by the Patriarchate of Constantinople." The bishops "determined at this time," *inter alia*, "[t]o continue to recognize and support Metropolitan



Mr. Epiphanius Dumenko

Onufry as the canonical head and Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church” and “[t]o withhold, with several of our sister Churches, recognition of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine” [the new, schismatic “church”]. And the synod once more urged Bartholomew to initiate “a conciliar process” to discuss “primacy and synodality” generally but not in regard to “this specific ecclesiastical dispute.” Although the OCA did not address whether its clergy may concelebrate with the schismatics, at least one of its bishops — Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia & Eastern PA — has forbidden his clergy from doing so in an archpastoral letter.

A few churches, such as Greece and Georgia, while not recognizing the schismatic Ukrainian church, have deferred a formal response pending further study of the matter.

In the meantime, criminal conduct by Ukrainian state authorities and “mobs” has escalated against canonical Ukrainian Orthodox churches, clergy and parishioners who refuse to “join” Constantinople’s new “church.” Paramilitary groups have forcibly entered churches during divine services and dragged the priests out onto the street in their vestments; others have randomly searched clergy and their rectories, and subjected them to interrogations; and the parliament has passed mandatory “renaming” of canonical churches and organizations, forcing them to include the “Russian Orthodox Church” in their names although they are Ukrainian citizens and legal entities under Ukrainian law. This is baseless and onerous discrimination and intimidation.

The United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights has called upon Kievian state authorities to respect and protect the rights of believers in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in a report issued mid-March. “Although tensions between Orthodox communities in Ukraine existed prior to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, they have been significantly exacerbated by the ongoing autocephaly process.” It documented ten examples of persecution of the canonical church by state authorities and others, including the interrogation of clergy and searching of church and personal property. The Office recommends that Kiev “promptly improve the protection of fundamental freedoms, not least ahead of elections” and “uphold Ukraine’s international human rights obligations[.]”

In response to these troubling developments, the following statement was adopted at a meeting of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, under the chairmanship of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, on February 26th (Journal No. 2):

The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church views the drastic worsening of the situation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church with profound alarm.

The granting by the Constantinople Patriarchate of a “tomo of autocephaly” to the so-called “Orthodox Church in Ukraine,” artificially created by the merging of two schismatic organizations, has exacerbated the division among Orthodox Christians of Ukraine, and substantially aggravates inter-confessional relations.

The overt meddling by the government of Ukraine in the internal life of the Church is troubling, along with the efforts by politicians to exploit the Church in their own political interests. Fundamental human rights and freedoms which are also guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine are being violated.

The Supreme Rada of Ukraine has passed and enforced discriminatory laws, the aim of which are to deprive the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of her name and to legalize the seizure of her churches and monasteries. Believers of the canonical Church suffer a blow in other rights: their clergy are deprived of the opportunity to fully minister to military and security officers and prisoners.

It is becoming more apparent that the aim of ruling state representatives is to liquidate the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Local authorities and security services were instructed to maximally transfer communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church into schism.

Threats are being made to take away the biggest monasteries and historic holy sites—the Kiev Lavra of the Caves and Pochaev Lavra—from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

In most cases the confiscation of churches from religious communities goes against their decision to remain in the canonical Church. A religious community’s decision is being replaced by a vote of a public gathering of citizens who by no means are always members of the parish. The minutes of such meetings are immediately confirmed by local government

organs, after which the church is closed with the aid of paramilitary formations.

This lawlessness has led to spurts of violence towards clergymen and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Despite assurances by the leaders of Ukraine and the Constantinople Patriarchate of the peaceful character of this so-called “unification of Ukrainian Orthodoxy,” dozens of churches have been confiscated through break-ins, by militant formations, with frequent cases of brutalization of clergymen and believers of the canonical Church who strive to protect their holy sites. Dozens of communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church have been forced to gather for prayer in private homes or on the streets.

In this difficult situation, we call upon all the faithful flock of the Russian Orthodox Church to redouble their prayers for our suffering brethren in Ukraine, that they be granted courage and Christian patience in their standing for Holy Orthodoxy.

We appeal to the government of Ukraine to cease the persecution of its own citizenry who refuse to join the schism.

We ask the fraternal Local Orthodox Churches to prayerfully support the persecuted Ukrainian Orthodox Church headed by Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev and All Ukraine.

We call upon the global community to pay heed to the scandalous violation of human rights and properly condemn the harsh intervention of the Ukrainian government in matters of the Church.

The crisis of Orthodoxy in the Ukraine — directly caused by the Patriarch of Constantinople’s uncanonical misconduct — has intensified and caused a world-wide split between the largest and most influential Orthodox Church of Russia and that of Constantinople, necessarily creating adverse ramifications for other Orthodox churches and believers. For example, on the Sunday of Orthodoxy in Chicago this year, ROCOR and the Serbian Churches held their own service, apart from the usual pan-Orthodox celebration. Both the Moscow Patriarchate and ROCOR have withdrawn from the various Assemblies of Orthodox Bishops, including that in the United States. Calls for a pan-Orthodox synaxis of primates or council, however, have been repeatedly ignored and now rejected by Bartholomew. It’s increasingly clear that the sole option is for the ancient patriarchates of Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem to convene a meeting on their own, without Constantinople, to invite all the other local Orthodox Churches to participate, and then to rectify the “Ecumenical” Patriarchate’s ecclesiastical malfeasance.

Let us continue to pray for persecuted Metropolitan Onufry and all the clergy and faithful of the one, canonical and holy Orthodox Church of the Ukraine!

SOURCES: patriarchia.ru, synod.com, orthochristian.com, pravmir.com, mospat.ru, orthodoxie.com, oca.org, interfax-religion.com

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



Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev – Orthodoxy Sunday



Pres. Poroshenko, Pat. Bartholomew & Mr. Dumenko

Archimandrite Luke (Murianka) Consecrated Bishop of Syracuse at Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, New York

On February 12th, the feast of the Three Great Hierarchs – Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom (OC) – Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America & New York, first hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR), celebrated Divine Liturgy and led the episcopal consecration of Archimandrite Luke (Murianka) as Bishop of Syracuse, vicar of the Eastern American Diocese, at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Monastery in Jordanville, NY where he has been abbot. He is also rector of Holy Trinity Seminary there.

Despite a pending snowstorm, hundreds of clergy and faithful assembled in the monastery's Holy Trinity Cathedral. Many of the clergy are or have been the spiritual children of Father Luke, and were under his guidance as one-time dean of students of the Holy Trinity Seminary. Many also came to rejoice at the fact that, once more, the monastery will have a bishop-abbot. Since the 1940s, the monastery has had as its abbot a bishop, until the repose of Metropolitan Laurus (Skurla) in 2008.

The First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad was co-served by Metropolitan Luke of Zaporozhye & Melitopol (canonical Orthodox Church of the Ukraine), Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal & Canada, and Bishop Nicholas of Manhattan, as well as over 40 diocesan and monastery clergy.

After being presented with the archpastoral staff, Bishop Luke blessed the faithful for the first time. A festal luncheon was prepared for all, where congratulatory addresses were read from hierarchs, monastery brethren and seminary students. *Axios!* Editor's note: Bishop Luke is from the family who owned and

operated the Murianka Funeral Home on Rising Sun Avenue in Philadelphia for many years as older Fellowship members will undoubtedly recall.

SOURCE: eadiocese.org (with photos)



79th National FOCA Bowling Tournament Vladicon "O" Club, #131, Baltimore, Maryland May 17-19, 2019

You are invited to join the Vladicon "O" Club, Chapter No. 131, of St. Andrew's Orthodox Church in Baltimore, MD for this year's national bowling tournament on May 17-19, 2019. Our national spiritual advisor, Archpriest Theodore Boback, is the host pastor and rector.

BOWLING: Country Club Lanes, 9020 Pulaski Highway, Middle River, MD 21220. Team bowling starts on Friday, May 17th at 6:30 p.m.; Doubles and Singles bowling on Saturday, May 18th at 10 a.m. Junior bowling is at 12 noon on Saturday; Juniors are covered by the Sutyak Sports Fund.

HOTEL: Hampton Inn, Baltimore/White Marsh, 8225 Town Center Drive, Baltimore, MD 21236. Call 1-800-HAMPTON to make reservations using the group code FOC. **Deadline is April 17th.** Note that the Preakness Stakes is on May 18th so don't delay booking the hotel.

Great Vespers will be celebrated at St. Andrew's Church at 5 p.m. and the awards banquet will follow at St. Andrew Hall. Banquet

prices: \$40 for adult and \$25 for junior. For non-bowling reservations and junior tickets, contact Roxanne Yaroshevich at rmyaro@gmail.com. Please support the commemorative program book, too, by sending ads to Sue Stratton, St. Andrew Orthodox Church, 2028 East Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21231. **Registration and ads are due April 29th.** Forms, which have been mailed, are also available on the FOCA website: www.OrthodoxFellowship.org

Please support this year's bowling tournament – see you at Country Club Lanes!



Send Entry Form along with Fees To:
 Roxanne Yaroshevich
 2205 Arden Road
 Fallston, MD 21047-1401
 (410) 276-3422

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS
 April 29, 2019**

**FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
 79th ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

NET & HANDICAPPED - Open to FOCA Members and all Orthodox Christians
May 17-18, 2017; Banquet Sat., May 18 at Saint Andrew Church Hall following Vespers
 Reservations: Hampton Inn, 8225 Town Center Drive, Baltimore (White Marsh) MD, 21236 – 800.HAMPTON
 RATE: \$129 per night – Reference FOC Bowling for rate – Firm Deadline of April 17, 2019
 Sponsored by: VLADICON "O" Club, Chapter 131
 For Information Contact: Roxanne Yaroshevich (Chair); (410) 276-3422; rmyaro@gmail.com

AMIF Country Club Lanes, 9020 Pulaski Highway, Middle River, MD 21220; (410) 686-2556
 Banquet: Sr. \$40 / Jr. \$25 (Jr. participants covered by the John Sutzyak Fund)
 PRIZE FEE RETURNED – 100%; All entrants must buy Banquet Ticket

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

ENTRY NO. _____

DATE REC'VD _____

AMT PD _____

AMT DUE _____

FEES per Person per Event \$10.00
 Bowling Cost: \$5.00
 Prize Fee: \$5.00
 TOTAL: \$15.00

Bowler 1: _____

AVG: _____ Is this a league AVG? Y N

(check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLES	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLES	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> TEAM	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> ALL EVENTS	\$5	\$
BANQUET (required)	\$40	\$ 40.00
TOTAL PAID	\$	\$

Bowler 2: _____

AVG: _____ Is this a league AVG? Y N

(check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLES	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLES	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> TEAM	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> ALL EVENTS	\$5	\$
BANQUET (required)	\$40	\$ 40.00
TOTAL PAID	\$	\$

Bowler 3: _____

AVG: _____ Is this a league AVG? Y N

(check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLES	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLES	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> TEAM	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> ALL EVENTS	\$5	\$
BANQUET (required)	\$40	\$ 40.00
TOTAL PAID	\$	\$

Bowler 4: _____

AVG: _____ Is this a league AVG? Y N

(check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLES	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLES	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> TEAM	\$15	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> ALL EVENTS	\$5	\$
BANQUET (required)	\$40	\$ 40.00
TOTAL PAID	\$	\$

TOURNAMENT RULES – PLEASE READ

- USBC rules will prevail throughout the operation of this tournament as will the FOCA sports rules.
- No person may bowl more than once.
- The winners of each event will be proclaimed National FOCA Champions and shall receive trophies and cash in net and handicap divisions.
- Failure to report for bowling at a designated time will be cause to forfeit all entry fees and be eliminated from tournament.
- Use current USBC average as of April 1, 2019. A bowler bowling in more than one league must use his or her highest league average regardless of the fact that her may participate in this tournament with the team from the league in which his or her average is lowest. (Minimum of 18 games). If a bowler has no average for this season, he is permitted to use average and further, if he has no average for either, then he is permitted to use the previous year's concluded average '14-'15. Those bowlers not having an established average are permitted to enter at an average of 160 for Men, 125 for Women. Bowlers need to be familiar with average adjustment requirements of USBC Rule 319e.
- Handicap will be 70% between average and 200 for men and 190 for women.
- Failure to use proper average or make a correction prior to completion of first game of a series shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than actual average or base winnings on submitted average if it is higher.
- All bowlers must report to alleys at least 1/2 hour before schedules bowling time.
- Substitutes may be used if their name appears on entry blank.
- Violation of above rules by team or bowler will subject the same to a one year suspension from FOCA tournaments.

Prize Ratio will be at least one prize for each five entries in each event, except All Events which may be 1-10. (USBC Rule 308 requires at least one of each ten for each event and 1-20 for All Events.)

TEAM – Friday, 6:30 PM

DOUBLES – Saturday, 10:00 AM

SINGLES – Saturday, 12:30 PM

I CERTIFY that the people listed on this entry form are FOCA members or Orthodox Christians.

I CERTIFY that the averages indicated are accurate and that any discrepancies in the averages will result in **DISQUALIFICATION**.

Applicant Signature _____

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 29, 2019
 Make all checks payable to:
 VLADICON "O" Club
LATE ENTRIES WILL BE RETURNED

MEN WOMEN MEN WOMEN

DOUBLES PARTNERS **TEAM BOWLING ORDER**

TM NAME: _____

1) _____

2) _____

1) _____

2) _____

Captain: _____ Ph. # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Chapter No: _____ City: _____

District/Parish: _____

Send Banquet Ticket Order Form and Entry Form along with Fees To:
National Basketball Tournament

c/o Stephan Elash
486 Sanderson Ave.
Campbell, OH 44405
Stephanelash@yahoo.com

Questions about tournament play or rosters, contact Melanie Clark, Nat'l Sports Director my3sons831@hotmail.com; 330.398-3700

Bantam Boys Junior Boys

**FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
2019 NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

Open to FOCA Members and all Orthodox Christians

May 3, 4, & 5, 2019

Sponsored by: Campbell "O" Club Chapter 27

For Information Contact: Stephan Elash: stephanelash@yahoo.com - 330.507.6110

All entrants must buy Banquet Ticket

\$r. \$35 - Jr. \$20 (FOCA Junior member banquet ticket covered by the John Sutyak Fund)

Seniors Super Seniors (35+) Women Junior Girls Bantam Girls

Lodging

Holiday Inn Boardman
7410 South Ave.
Boardman, OH 44512

Call 330.726.1611 for reservations and ask for ST. JOHNS ORTHODOX CHURCH
Standard Room - \$99.99 per night
ALL ROOMS ARE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

Team Name/District/Orthodox Parish/Chapter No./Coach/Mgr

Address/City/State/Zip

E-Mail/Phone ()

Player's Name (player may only be on one roster) PLEASE PRINT	Birth Date Mo/Day/Yr	Grade	FOCA Member Y/N	Parish Name/Parish Priest	Priest Phone #
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

New Grade Cutoffs:

8th and Under - Bantams
9th to 12th - Junior
Post 12th - Senior/Women
Age 35 & up - Super Seniors

Entry form Deadline APRIL 19, 2019

**Games will be played at Campbell Elementary & Middle School and Campbell Memorial High School

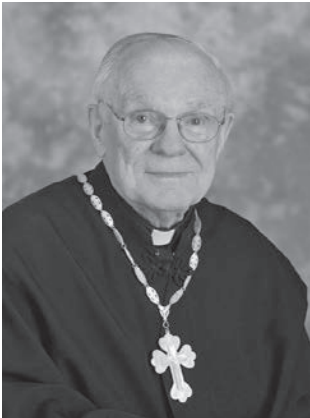
**The FOCA sponsoring chapter cannot take responsibility for any accident to, from, and during the Tournament.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "Campbell "O" Club"

Entry Fee - \$100 per team \$
Make-Up Team Fee - \$15 per person\$
Late Fee: \$15.00 after April 19, 2019\$
TOTAL. \$

Transitions: *Winter 2019*

DEPARTED: Archpriest John Mason, age 90, fell asleep in the Lord on January 31st in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Born in Scranton, PA, he graduated from St. Tikhon's Seminary in 1950, married Doris [Daria] Millian and then was ordained to the holy priesthood. Father John served parishes in Robins, OH, Altoona, PA, Meriden, CT, Akron/Mogadore, OH, Yonkers, NY and Wilkes-Barre, PA. Upon retiring to Hagerstown, MD, he continued to serve at area parishes of several jurisdictions. After the repose of Matushka Doris, his beloved wife of 63 years, Father John



moved back to his former parish of St. Nicholas in Mogadore where he was attached. On St. Nicholas Day 2018 he became the first priest of the OCA Diocese of the Midwest to be awarded the Order of St. John of Chicago in honor of his 67 years in the priesthood.

During his 1970 trip to Alaska for the canonization of St. Herman, Father John visited the saint's grave on Spruce Island which was a special moment in his life. His steadfast leadership resulted in new churches being built in Meriden and Mogadore. He was known as a kind and loving pastor by generations of faithful. Father John served as dean of the Ohio Deanery (12 years), a founding member of the OCA pension board (23 years), and national spiritual advisor of the FROC/FOCA. He is survived by his children Deborah; Gregory (Susan) Mason; Tamara (Mark Kocsis) and Susan; daughter-in-law Mary Susan; grandchildren and brother, Archpriest James (Patricia) Mason. In addition to his wife, Father John was predeceased by their son Serge and his sister Kathryn. Funeral services and divine liturgy were celebrated at St. Nicholas Church with Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest presiding. Interment was at St. Tikhon's Monastery Cemetery in South Canaan. Memorial donations may be sent to St. Tikhon's Seminary, P.O. Box 130, South Canaan, PA 18459 or St. Nicholas Church Annual Parish Project, 755 South Cleveland Avenue, Mogadore, OH 44260-3547. May Father John's memory be eternal!

SOURCE: adapted from oca.org with photos



DEPARTED: Michael E. Snyder, age 49, passed away peacefully at home in Akron, OH on January 22nd. Born and raised in Akron, he was a 1987 Firestone High School graduate and earned a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. As a youth, Mike caddied at Portage and Firestone Country Clubs, and he especially loved caddying in the Pro-Am at the Firestone Tournament of Champions. He worked in the golf industry for many years and was a youth basketball coach.



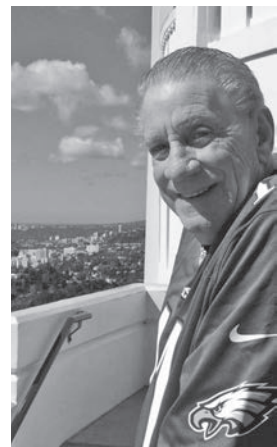
Mike was an extremely active member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Mogadore and the Russian Brotherhood Organization (RBO); he was a 20-year president of RBO Lodge #204 and had been the RBO's National Secretary and Treasurer since 2003. Mike was also an active member of the FOCA's Akron "O" Club and Ohio District, and he participated in many national and district conventions and sports tournaments. He was an avid golfer and tremendous story-teller, and he will be deeply missed.



Preceded in death by his father Merle and uncle George Mihaly, he is survived by his mother Carol; brother Benjamin (Gretchen) and their daughters Emma and Gerika; aunts Mary Mihaly, Margie (Dan) Fagan and Lana (Wes) Nestor; and many loving cousins and friends. Calling hours, parastas and funeral services were all held at his church with Father Nicholas Wyslutsky officiating followed by interment at St. Nicholas Cemetery. Donations in his memory may be made to the parish.

Cards and messages of sympathy may be sent to his mother and family: Mrs. Carol Snyder, 137 Idlewild Avenue, Akron, OH 44313-6550. May Michael's memory be ever eternal!

DEPARTED: Richard A. Grunwald, age 71, passed away on March 17th after watching the final round of The Players Championship. Born in Philadelphia, he spent his career in textile management in New York City and in retirement, he worked with the Lehigh Valley Golf Association where he greatly enjoyed mentoring junior golfers. Richard was an avid golfer and taught his son, Craig, the game; he was greatly passionate about sports, especially the Eagles and Phillies. He and his wife, Marcia, were longtime members of the Fellowship chapter at the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ. Richard and his son competed in many national FOCA summer sports tournaments, and both took home many trophies and prizes over the years. In addition to his wife and son, he is survived



by a daughter, Lisa Rand, and two brothers, Carl and Stephen. Funeral services were held in Phillipsburg, NJ with interment at the Greenwich Cemetery, Greenwich Township, NJ. May Richard's memory be eternal!



DEPARTED: Olga (Federoff) Baldowski, 80, reposed in the Lord on December 27, 2018. Born in Little Falls, NJ, she moved to Dumont where she had resided for the past 50 years. She was a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Little Falls, a longtime, active member of the FOCA/FROC and the Hanover Rotary. Olga owned PTS Travel Agency which had sponsored several

recent trips benefitting the Fellowship's Gift of Love projects; she also served on the New Jersey District's 2017 national convention committee. Olga is survived by her loving husband, Joseph, past national FROC/FOCA president; daughters Kira (Robert) Leis, Karen (Stephen) Doyle and Alexis Baldowski; grandchildren Katie, Robert, Kyra, Olivia, Aidan & Ava; and sister Lorraine Tversky. Funeral services were celebrated at her parish with burial at Laurel Grove Memorial Park, Totowa. May Olga's memory be eternal!

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

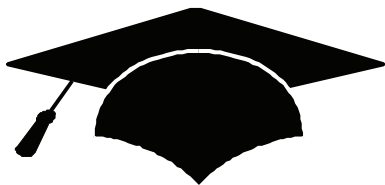


- March 8-9:** National FOCA Board of Trustees meeting, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, OH
- Monday, March 11:** Great Lent begins
- Sunday, April 28:** HOLY PASCHA
- May 3-5:** National Basketball Tournament sponsored by the Campbell "O" Club, Campbell, OH
- May 17-19:** National Bowling Tournament sponsored 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
- Aug. 30-Sept. 2:** 93rd National FOCA Convention, sponsored by the Ohio District, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Columbus, OH

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

MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDENTS

Students at Marywood University in Scranton, PA who self identify as communicants of the Orthodox Church are eligible to apply for the Peter Kohudic Scholarship which is available exclusively for Orthodox Christian students. Preference is given, but not limited to students at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan. For complete details, please contact Barbara Schmitt, director of financial aid, at schmitt@marywood.edu or 570-348-6225. Peter Kohudic was a past national president of the FROC/FOCA and the scholarship in his memory has been established by his wife, Nancy Kohudic.



REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

Counselors on April 6th & Campers on June 1st

Paschal Greetings from the *Journal's* Patrons

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Blessed Easter!



The Steffaro Family

Ohio District

Paul & Elizabeth (Betty) Kavchok, #78

Leon & Barbara Sheean, #7

St. Vladimir's "R" Club, #78, Trenton, NJ

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



PASCHAL GREETINGS



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

Arabic

Armenian

Eritrean

Greek

Latin

Romanian

Slavonic

Spanish

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





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



2109 National Basketball Tournament

The "Campbell Kids" Chapter 27 are on a ROLL, BOUNCE your way Friday May 3 thru Sunday May 5 for an event that you don't want to PASS by!!

Take it to the HOOP! Rooms are first come, first serve at the:

Holiday Inn Boardman, 7410 South Ave, Boardman, OH

\$99 a night +tax, complimentary parking and indoor pool included

RSVP CAN BE MADE BY CALLING THE HOTEL DIRECTLY AT 330-726-1611

ASK FOR ST. JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

SATURDAY, MAY 4th - 2019:

Games will start at approximately 9:00AM:

Campbell Elementary & Middle School, 2002 Community Circle, Campbell, OH and
Campbell Memorial High School, 280 Sixth St., Campbell, OH

VESPERS: 5:00pm: St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 301 Struthers-Liberty Rd, Campbell, OH

AWARDS DINNER/DANCE: 6:00pm: St. Michael's Byzantine Church Hall, 463 Robinson Rd, Campbell, OH
Seniors - \$35 • Juniors - \$20

SUNDAY, MAY 5th - 2019:

DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00am St John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 301 Struthers-Liberty Rd, Campbell, OH

Brunch to follow: Seniors - \$12 • Juniors - \$8

Championship games will start at approximately 1:00pm

Contact info:

Steve "Beaker" Elash; stephanelash@yahoo.com or phone: 330-507-6110 or

Linda Livosky; wlivo@sbcglobal.net or phone: 330-755-0818

