

# OCJ Orthodox Christian JOURNAL<sup>®</sup>

FALL 2020/WINTER 2021

volume 95 number 1

## Also Inside:

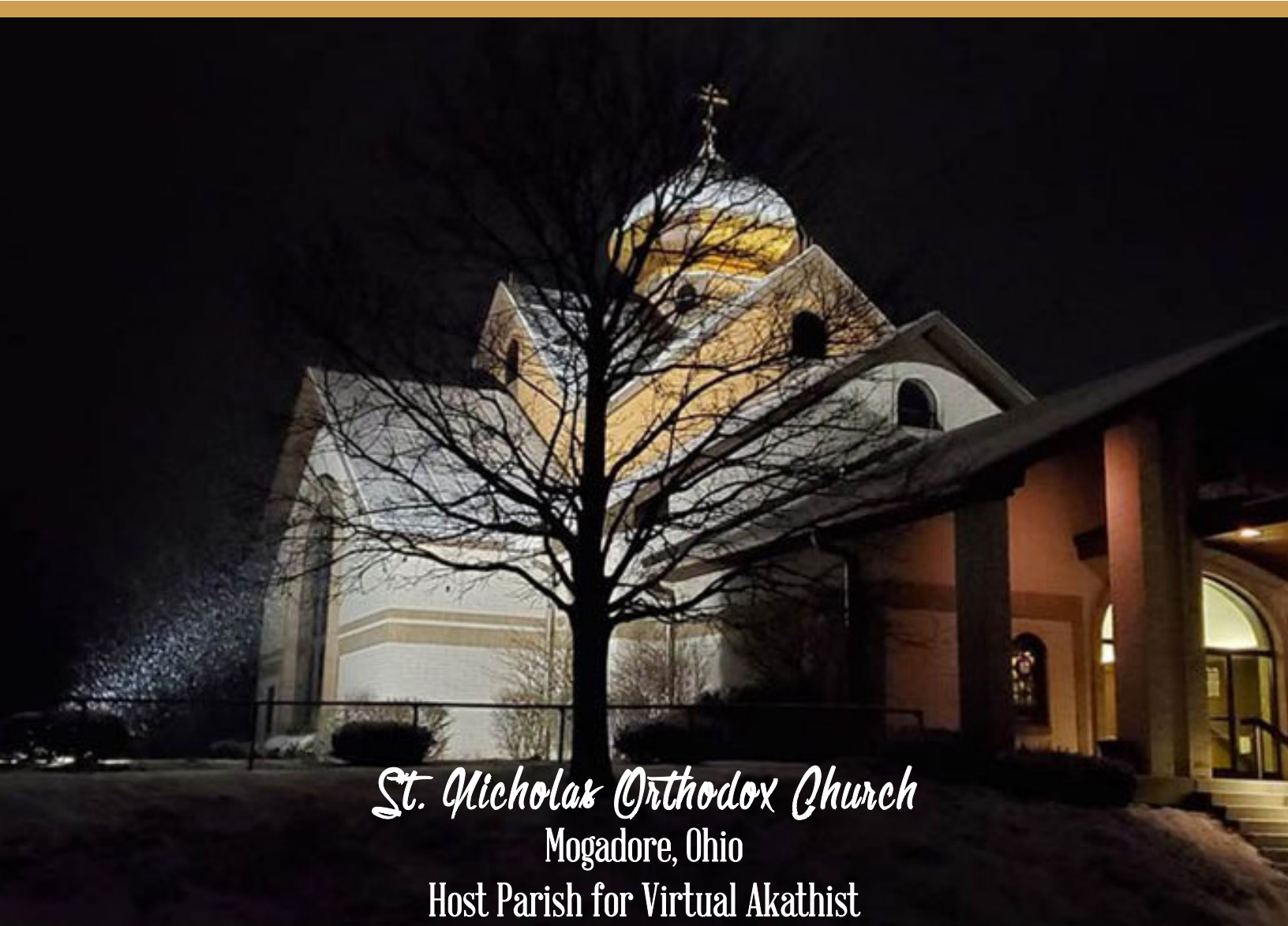
- Remembering Metropolitan Theodosius and Archbishop David
- Golfing in Weirton, WV
- Eagle Scout earns Alpha Omega
- National Scholarship Recipients



The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

## *FOCA Connected Virtually to Celebrate Patron Saint*

Akathist, Honoring St. Andrew, the First Called, Livestreamed by More Than 580 Households Across the Country



*St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*  
Mogadore, Ohio  
Host Parish for Virtual Akathist

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**OCJ** Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

is the official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America  
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**educate the membership of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, to showcase the talents of its membership and, in so doing, to propagate the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith.**

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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 2020 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*



Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

As we celebrate the Birth of our Lord, we are reminded that not all gifts come in packages. During the past 9 months, we have seen our lives disrupted in ways we could not have dreamed possible. Schools closed, work went remote, milestone achievements such as weddings, Baptisms, and even funerals had to be scaled down or not celebrated at all. We have found time with our families to have more meaning and that a slower pace of life is not such a bad thing. Throughout all this turmoil, one thing remains constant; our faith in God and his love for each of us. We may not be able to practice our faith the way we are accustomed but through creative and technological ways we are still able to pray with our Orthodox family near and far.

In the past 9 months, our organization has continued to do its good works as it has for the past 80+ years in prayer, helping others, and fellowship. In this issue, you will see just a few of the programs and events we were able to carry out.

I want to especially thank our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Nicholas Wyslutsky for initiating our first-ever "virtual St. Andrew's Service". I hope that many of you were able to join us in celebrating our patron saint. What a wonderful way for hundreds of people from across the country to come together and pray during such a troubling time. This was truly a labor of love and we thank Fr. Nick for orchestrating such a beautiful service.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of two of our most loyal supporters of this organization. His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius was an active participant in our organization as a spiritual leader and member. Please read the article on his involvement with the FOCA and his love for our members.

The second passing in recent weeks is that of Archbishop David of Alaska. With his help, the FOCA was able to touch the lives of so many Orthodox Christians in the diocese of Alaska. I am confident that we will continue to do good work in Alaska for years to come.

May their memories be Eternal.

Wishing all of a peaceful, healthy, and blessed Nativity and New Year!

## EDITOR'S NOTES

**Marge Kovach**

Interim Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

Last February, the Board of Trustees convened for two days at the Winter Board Meeting in Mogadore, Ohio. Several national events were slated for the upcoming months including the first Youth Fest planned for Weirton, West Virginia, three weeks of Ohio Camp, the Golf Tournament, and the 94th National Convention in Minnesota, just to name a few. Committees were charged with reviewing our current by-laws and constitution along with our current organizational structure. The Winter 2020 JOURNAL issue, promoting our upcoming events, was almost ready for print when the COVID-19 outbreak brought the presses to a halt. It simply was not practical to publish an OCJ issue, featuring upcoming events, when specific details were continually changing. Ultimately, these national events, except for Golf, had to be cancelled.

This pandemic has affected many of our friends and families. Sadly, several are listed in the Transitions section of this issue. Our lives have been altered in so many ways. Depending upon where you live, government mandates have either restricted or prohibited public gatherings. Attendance is limited at Church services, funerals, baptisms, weddings, graduations, and birthday celebrations. For many, "virtual" has become the norm for work, school, worship, and most social interactions. The need to maintain social distance and adhere to local restrictions has prevented us from experiencing fellowship, the very basis of our organization's existence. As a result, we embraced technology. The Executive Board and Board of Trustees met several times via Zoom. Just last month, Fr. Nicholas Wyslusky united over 580 households, from several states, together in prayer for our first virtual Aktathist service in honor of the organization's patron saint. Basil Kochan, National Vice President and choir director at St. Nicholas, recaps this event. His Eminence Archbishop Michael's inspirational sermon following the service, has been reproduced in this issue.

Also, in this issue, Matushka Myra Olenik pens a fitting tribute to His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius, with reflections from several FROC/FOCA members. Fr. Ted Boback, Past National Spiritual Advisor, remembers His Eminence Archbishop David. Both were strong supporters of our organization. Memory eternal!

I know you all miss your JOURNAL, and I am grateful for all who contributed to help make this issue possible.

On a personal note, I will really miss the proofreading services of Ann Fajvan. For the past several years, most notably during my tenure as National President, Mrs. Fajvan graciously offered her editorial advice whenever asked. Her bright smile and witty humor will be missed around the New Jersey District.

Stay well and stay safe.

Prayers for a Blessed Nativity

Marge Kovach

**2021 Articles Deadline for the OCJ:**

***Spring/Summer due March 15th***

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

### *St. Nicholas Project 2020*

*by Allison Steffaro, Program Coordinator*

This year's theme for activities has been "cancelled due to Corona" but the FOCA was determined not to cancel the St. Nicholas Wish list project. For over 20 years we have filled the wish lists of hundreds of seminarian families and this year was not going to be any different! Due to the pandemic, shopping for lists was not going to be feasible. An appeal went out across the country to all chapters, districts and parishes. What happened was short of a miracle. Over \$16,000 was collected and distributed to 35 married seminarian families (90 children) here in the "lower 48". Over \$3,000 was sent to St. Herman's seminary in Alaska. Thank you seems trivial for such an overwhelming accomplishment. You have touched the lives of many families, many of whom you will never meet but know in your heart they thank you and love you for your generosity. Almost \$20,000 collected during a pandemic is truly the work of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May you all have a Most Blessed Nativity.

*"Thank you" video from the families at St. Tikhon's Seminary is captured on page 23.*



**95th National FOCA convention** previously scheduled in conjunction with 20th All-American Council, will not be held in Baltimore, Maryland this summer. Other options for an FOCA gathering are being considered and details will be publicized when available.

**2021 Novogodny Ball canceled** – In an email to "Friends and Patrons of the Novogodny Ball," the Co-Chairmen Andre and Alex Cox announced "the difficult decision to cancel" the 2021 Novogodny Ball and encouraged Ball patrons to mark their calendars for Sunday, January 16, 2022.

# Participants, from across the country, came together for the first ever “virtual” St. Andrew’s Day Celebration

by Basil Kochan

Monday evening, November 30th brought the faithful of the FOCA together in a live and virtual celebration of the Feast of St. Andrew, Patron Saint of the Fellowship at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Mogadore, Ohio. Spiritual Adviser of the FOCA and host of the service V. Rev. Nicholas Wyslutzky suggested the idea of holding a service to gather our members together. Seeing that so much of our annual events were cancelled due to the pandemic, Fr. Nicholas suggested that we gather as an organization in both live and virtual fashion to do the one thing that cannot be taken from us in this time of uncertainty - pray. With the encouragement of the Executive Board of the FOCA, Fr. Nicholas reached out to clergy from across the country to become a celebrant in the Akathist service via live streaming. Through his efforts, five brother clergy gathered online to participate with those able to attend in person.

Joining Fr. Nicholas, V. Rev. Emilian D Hutnyan (St. Andrew, Maple Heights, OH), and Pdn. Samuel Slimak (St. Nicholas, Mogadore, OH) as live clergy were virtual clergy V. Rev. Theodore Boback Jr. (St. Andrew, Baltimore, MD), Rev. Nicholas Finley (Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Madison, IL), V. Rev. David Garretson (Ss. Peter & Paul, South River, NJ), Rev. Alexander Koranda (Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL) and V. Rev. Benjamin Tucci (St. Mary’s Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN). FOCA Vice President, Reader Basil Kochan, led those present in the responses for the Akathist. Tim Foster did a wonderful job of coordinating all of the video and audio for the virtual audience to participate without issue.

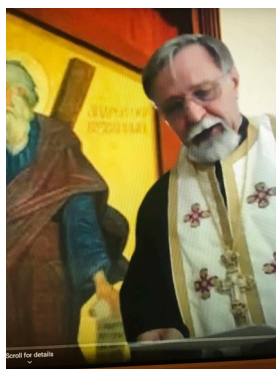
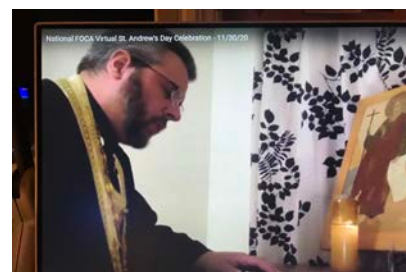
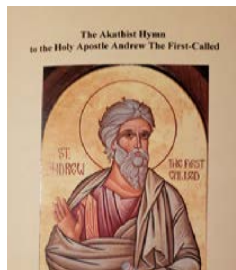
At the conclusion of the service, Memory Eternal was intoned for the departed members of the FOCA and staunch supporters Metropolitan THEODOSIUS and Archbishop DAVID. Many Years was offered for the leaders and all members of the FOCA to continue the good works of the organization.

Archbishop MICHAEL (Diocese of New York and New Jersey) presented a memorable sermon on the connection between St. Andrew and the FOCA. (Included within this issue) He brought the meaning of the works of our patron saint to a new light for all of us to consider as we constantly strive to uphold and move forward the mission of the FOCA. His words alone should give

one reason for watching the presentation online if you have not already done so.

The link for the YouTube video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cozi-imHTJg>.

Thank you Fr. Nicholas for putting this all together. We greatly appreciate the many days and hours spent coordinating all of the connections necessary to bring this to fruition. We all hope that this is the first annual event that fully recognizes the true roots of our organization and a reminder of our real mission.



# Address by His Eminence, the Most Reverend Michael Archbishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey



At the Akathist to St. Andrew,  
the First-Called Apostle

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

It is a joy for me to address the members of the FOCA, and all those who are watching this video – at this Akathist to Saint Andrew, the First-Called of the Disciples and the patron of the FOCA.

Saint Andrew doesn't play a large role in the Gospels, but every time we hear him, every time we read about him, there's something very important to note. The few times that he appears in the Gospel, **he is always leading others to Christ**. He doesn't come across as one who craves the spotlight, but his gentle and caring personality comes forth and invites others to *come and see* the Master.

The first time we meet him, he and John the Theologian are disciples of Saint John the Baptist. And when Saint John sees the Lord in the distance, he identifies Him for Andrew and John – "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" – and he encourages them, to leave him and follow Christ. Invited by our Lord to *come and see*, Andrew and John spend the rest of the day with their new Master, learning the teachings He espouses, learning the example He hopes to set for them, learning the expectations He has for the Church He is about to found. Not to keep the good news to himself, the first thing that Andrew does, is to go and tell his brother Peter, **"We have found the Messiah."** The Gospel of John says, "And he brought him to Jesus." From there this circle grew, Andrew and Peter, James and John, Philip and Nathanael, and the rest.

The second time we meet Saint Andrew, is at the feeding of the 5,000 in the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. This is the only miracle that Jesus performs that is in all four of the Gospels. Having taught them about the Eucharist, the people are starting to get hungry; and Jesus tests Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" Philip has no idea. Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn't be enough to feed all these people. But Andrew brings the boy who has the five barley loaves and the two fishes to Jesus. And you know the rest of the story. Again, Andrew brings someone to Christ.

The third time is when a group of Greeks are in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost, and they want to see



Jesus. Again, in the Gospel of John, Chapter 12, they come to Philip, but he brings them to Andrew ... and Andrew brings them to Jesus. You see, even the Apostles recognized that Andrew had a special intimacy with the Master and was particularly gifted in leading others to Him.

Outside of the Gospels, Church history records Andrew bringing others to Christ – in Palestine, through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, along the Danube to what is now Romania, along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, along the Dnieper River, all the way to Kievan Rus. No wonder so many

Orthodox Christians consider Saint Andrew their patron! He preached in the Synagogues, he preached on the seashore, he preached in prison ... **he even preached from his "x"-shaped cross, as he was about to be martyred.**

I was in the place where he planted the cross in Kievan Rus, where he said, "See these hills? Upon these hills shall come forth the beneficence of God. There will be a great city there, and God shall raise up many churches." And we know that his prophetic voice rings true.

We also know that the Ecumenical Patriarch traces his Apostolic succession to Saint Andrew ... and from Saint Andrew and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Church of Russia traces its Apostolic succession ... and from Saint Andrew and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the Moscow Patriarchate, the Orthodox Church in America traces our Apostolic succession. I'm blessed to be a bishop who can trace the succession of the Apostles all the way back to Saint Andrew, whose icon has a prominent place in this chapel.

From the Akathist that you just served, we read this to Saint Andrew, **"Rejoice, you who, first among the Apostles, were called to the Apostolic ministry by the Lord Himself. Rejoice, for you cried out to others with joy: 'Come, we have found the longed-for Messiah! Rejoice, for you lead us also to Him! Rejoice, you who zealously spread the glad tidings of Christ among the nations!"**

The formula of sharing Christ, spreading the good news of the Gospel, inviting others to the Church, is repeated in the missionary labors of Constantinople ... Cyril and Methodius ... Kievan Rus. It's repeated by the Russian missionaries, Herman of Alaska and the others with him, when they went to Alaska. The formula is repeated by the first Hierarchs of America – Innocent, Tikhon, and Raphael – throughout the United States. And it is repeated now,

by the hierarchs, clergy, and lay leaders of the Orthodox Church in America, in our outreach to North America.

**This, my friends, is the formula for us today. We need to tell others, "Come, we have found the longed-for Messiah!" We must lead others to Him. We must spread the glad tidings of Christ to our nation, to our city, to our parish, to our friends, to our own family.** It's no wonder that Father Prislopsky and the founders of the FROC chose Saint Andrew and followed his formula in growing the FROC and now the FOCA. "Come, we have found the longed-for Messiah!" We must lead others to Him. We must spread the glad tidings of Christ to others. That has been the work of this organization since its founding nine decades ago: bringing to Christ and the Church each other, the people we meet, come to know and love, doing the work of Christ and the church in our parishes, in the seminaries, in Alaska, in Africa, among young and old.

**The FOCA's mission is to proclaim and share and reveal our Orthodox Christian faith through service and fellowship and example, after St. Andrew's formula.**

For nearly a century the FOCA, formerly the FROC, has continued the formula. The work and the goals of Saint Andrew has brought thousands of Orthodox Christians together. It has brought youth from across the country to conventions, and sports tournaments, and other activities. It has sponsored scholarships year after year. It has raised millions of dollars of support for the Church, the seminaries, and charities here and abroad. It has sponsored Celebrations of Faith, Gifts of Love, Saint Nicholas Wishlists, etc. In whose name has all of this taken place? In the name of our Lord, but after the example of Saint Andrew, the FOCA's patron Saint.

We have faced a year of challenge throughout our country and our Church, our OCA, our dioceses, our parishes, and the chapters of the FOCA. But we must look beyond this pandemic. We must rise from it. We must be stronger than before. We must plan to revitalize, renew, re-strengthen the FOCA and the work of Saint Andrew, after the example of Father Prislopsky and the beloved founders of the organization.

For now, we must think of all the pandemic has kept us from; the national convention, the basketball tournament, the bowling tournament, district gatherings, all of those things. We must realize how much we miss these and each other. We must not let the COVID win. We must tell others about Christ, about what He has done for us, about our Church. We must tell all to **come and see**. We must tell others about the work of the FOCA and invite them to join us: **"Come and see."**

The FOCA has accomplished great things. Saint Tikhon's Seminary is the recipient of its greatest accomplishment, the raising of \$300,000 for married student housing – which you need to *come and see*. And we still have that FOCA room, that place where we house all of the

memorabilia, all of the accomplishments, all of the records of the organization, to be shared with future generations of Orthodox Christians in America.

But to the point, my friends, we must rise from this COVID, but already be planning for that moment. We must plan now. We must resolve now to attend the next series of events of the FOCA when they resume. We must plan now, and not let anything conflict with those plans. In the meantime, we must find creative ways to continue to support the charities of the Church, even amidst the COVID. We know, for instance, that we have just lost our beloved Bishop of Alaska, Archbishop David, who loved the FOCA. His widowed Diocese of Alaska will need the support, the love, the charity of the FOCA.

Seminarians in all of our schools continue to need the blessings and the support of the FOCA for scholarships, and for their children. And charities in Africa, likewise, continue to need the outreached love of your organization. We must support Father Nicholas, Allison, and the national officers, the district officers, the chapter members in every one of our communities, so that the work of the FOCA is not stalled, not merely resumes, but rises from the ashes of the COVID, like a phoenix, to the heights of the hills of Kiev where Saint Andrew proudly planted the symbol of the victory of Christ by his cross.

Tonight is a time, after having prayed the Akathist to Saint Andrew, to recommit ourselves to Saint Andrew and his formula – his formula for spreading the good news of the Gospel, of promising our service to Christ and His Church, our service to the FOCA and its work, to our fellow FOCA members, and those yet to join, to our church members and those yet to join – and to do it all after the example of Saint Andrew, to the glory of the God Who loves us more than we love ourselves.

Be assured of my prayers for the FOCA. Be assured of my support of the FOCA. Be assured of my love for the FOCA and my belief that, with the blessings of Almighty God, and the intercessions of Saint Andrew, and the motivation of Father Prislopsky, and all of the founders, and all of the members of the FOCA who have gone to their reward, that we can lift up the mantle of this wonderful organization ... following the example of its patron Saint and do the work that will bring the Gospel and its message and its meaning to others in the name of our Lord.

May God bless you. May God keep you. May God ever love you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

# Reflections of Metropolitan Theodosius of Blessed Memory

by *Matushka Myra R. Oleynik*

The Ever-Memorable Metropolitan Theodosius (Lazor) was the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Church in America from 1977-2002 and was affirmed as a Life Member of the FROC in 1995 at the 69th National FROC Convention in Parsippany, NJ. He joined the FROC at age seventeen and formed many friendships with the FOCA faithful over the years. He even received an FROC Scholarship as a young adult. His Beatitude was the fifteenth ruling hierarch on the North American continent and the first American-born bishop to be elected Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. As Father Alexander Schmemmann once wrote, "To love is to remember" and this article hopes to rekindle some of those wonderful memories and the love shared between Vladyka and FOCA members over the years.



Vladyka's 84th birthday in Canonsburg with "O" Club members and sisters: Loretta Matyuf, Mary Ann Zupancic, and Dolores Schinosi

Before entering St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary, he (Frank Lazor) served as the Lieutenant Governor of the FROC Pittsburgh District along with my father, John Rusinko (Northside Chapter #1), who served as its Governor in 1955. That working relationship grew into a lifelong friendship. Like many FROC members at that time, Frank enjoyed church picnics, amusement parks, dances, parades, telling stories and caroling with fellow members of the Canonsburg "R" Club and friends from other chapters. More recently and up until the 2020 Pandemic that changed all our lives, the Canonsburg "O" Club was honored to have our dear Metropolitan regularly attend our church services, join us for chapter meetings, help to decorate at Christmastime and chat with us during coffee hour while sipping his black coffee with plenty of sugar.



Helene Emerick, Canonsburg FOCA

Looking back at Metropolitan Theodosius' interesting life of the past 87 years it is important to remember where it all began. He was born in 1933 in the East End of Canonsburg, PA (20 miles south of Pittsburgh) and attended Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church on Vine Street. Our current Junior "O" Club takes a two mile walk on Pentecost every year that begins at the location of our original church on Vine Street to our parish's current location. It is a tribute to honor our forefathers and immigrants like Vladyka's parents who processed to their new church grounds with candles, crosses, and banners on June 21, 1964. We were honored that Vladyka was able to serve for our 75th Anniversary on October 10, 1993 and attend our 100th Anniversary celebration on October 7, 2018.



Father Theodosius with his parents, Mary Kirr and John Lazor

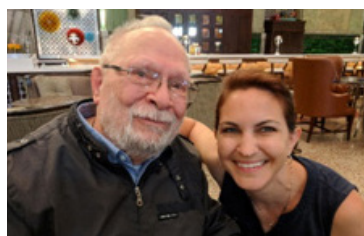
As a child, his cousin, Archpriest Paul Lazor of blessed memory, recalls, Frank was "always there" and ready to serve in the altar on Vine Street. Vladyka often spoke of his fond memories of playing church at home and being the priest with

Father Paul as his singer. He graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in 1957 and later attended and graduated from seminary in 1960. In 1961, he took his monastic vows and was tonsured a monk by Archbishop Ireney in Oyster Bay Cove, NY and given the name Theodosius. He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate four days later by Bishop Kiprian in New York City and then one week later was ordained into the Holy Priesthood in Homestead, PA by Archbishop Benjamin. From 1961-1966 he served as rector of Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church in Madison, IL and established the Madison Jr. "R" Club in 1964. Father Theodosius would spend time with the Juniors on many a Saturday either bowling or doing something fun and then going to Vespers together. He also served as an assistant military chaplain and spiritual advisor for the FROC Midwest District.



The Madison Juniors didn't think their new priest, Father Theodosius, could ride a bike. He proved them wrong.

Father Theodosius was consecrated a bishop in 1967 by Metropolitan Ireney



Greeting Matushka Anastasia Hojnicky, (daughter of Mitred Archpriest Nicholas Molodyko-Harris) at the 19th AAC in St. Louis who he knew as a child

and then on November 17, 1967 he was elected as Diocesan Bishop of Sitka and all Alaska. Mitred Archpriest Nicholas Molodyko-Harris who was assigned to organize the first mission parish in Anchorage in 1967 remembers, "His Beatitude's presence, often staying with us in between traveling to all areas of Alaska, was like having another family member. He baptized our eldest daughter, the

first of our children to be born in Alaska, and even babysat the first three of our six children. When we were homesick but did not have the resources for a trip home to the "Lower 48", he assisted us. This humble mission parish that began with a handful



Elsie Skvir, FOCA member, presenting the parish with a van that was used to transport parishioners from the hospital and other places to church.

of mostly Native Alaskan Orthodox Faithful, with our beloved Archpastor at the helm, years later became Saint Innocent Bicentennial Cathedral, inaugurating the Bicentennial of Orthodoxy in America with the visitation of His Holiness, Patriarch Alexei II to our cathedral in 1994. I also must mention that many years earlier, for the cathedral to be built, we realized that an additional parcel of land would have to be purchased. In his typical generosity, His Beatitude bought the parcel and gave it for the cathedral." These photos are just two of the many examples of the love Bishop Theodosius had for the Alaskan people and the relationships he fostered to grow the Church in Alaska.



John Kovtunovich, FOCA member with Fr. Molodyko-Harris with an artist rendering of our church to be constructed.



In 1972, His Grace was reassigned from Alaska to the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and West Virginia for five years. I was the Pittsburgh Jr. District Governor during the early seventies and remember when our Canonsburg Juniors organized a Lenten Clean-Up Day for Vladyka's grounds at his Pittsburgh residence on South Dallas Avenue. He was overjoyed with the results and even served us pop and potato chips.

Kyra Schenken, our current Canonsburg Junior FOCA Advisor, remembers as a child visiting this same residence in Pittsburgh with her parents, Serge Daniels (past Pittsburgh District Governor) and Carolyn Daniels, both currently Southside FOCA chapter members. At the time, Serge was the Diocesan Treasurer and in charge of paying bills, signing checks, and operating the addressograph for the Diocesan mailings in Vladyka's basement. Bishop Theodosius worked diligently to strengthen the life of the Pittsburgh Archdiocese on all levels and knew he could count on the lay leaders in the FROC for that support. While the adults helped with the mailings, Kyra, and her brother Greg, remember reading Vladyka's collection of Charlie Brown and Snoopy books beneath his big wooden staircase.

Michael G. Herzak, 24th National FOCA president and Treasurer of CEOYLA (Council of Eastern Orthodox Youth Leaders in the Americas) recalls on September 3, 1977 when many FROC members gathered inside the Pittsburgh Civic Arena



FROC PARTICIPANTS AT FESTIVAL: L to R — Joseph R. Baldowski, V. Rev. Igor Soroka, Bishop Herman, Bishop Theodosius, Fr. Paul Suda, Michael G. Herzak and Edward G. Onisko. Not in photo - Metropolitan Ireney, John and Florence Boyko and John Rusinko.

with 5000 Orthodox Christians from seven jurisdictions in prayer. More than 100 hierarchs, priests, deacons, seminarians, and altar boys walked in procession. Bishop Theodosius was the celebrating hierarch and delivered the main address on "Unity in Orthodoxy." Former National FROC Spiritual Advisor, V. Rev. Igor Soroka, directed the choir. I also attended that historic event since my father was one of the CEOYLA programming co-chairs and he recruited many FROC members to volunteer. I can still remember when the world's largest movable dome opened, and the sun shone brightly on the hierarchs. Gregory J. Nescott (Northside Chapter #1) details this historic event in his lengthy article in the Nov. 1977 Journal.

On October 25, 1977, His Grace was elected Metropolitan of All America and Canada at the fifth All-American Council in Montreal. His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius remains the OCA's longest serving Primate of 25 years. Metropolitan Theodosius was unable to attend the first FROC convention of his primacy because he was invited to the Coronation of John Paul I as Pope of Rome. Nevertheless, he shared a message in the Oct. 1978 Journal to Fr. Igor Soroka asking members to remember, "It is not enough to be called. One must also accept one's calling willingly and joyfully. What does this mean to us? It means that every member of the Orthodox Church and every organization within the Orthodox Church can be true to their calling only by measuring all values, ideologies and ways of life, against the Gospel of Christ."

V. Rev. Jason Vansuch worked with His Beatitude for seven years beginning in 1996, in Syosset as his personal aide/assistant, subdeacon and driver. Father Jason wrote, "Whether it was taking him to appointments, meetings, dinners, the store, or simply spending time with him after our day's work, I saw a person. I saw an individual who enjoyed life. I saw an individual who was honored, blessed, and humbled to be called by The Church to serve the faithful flock entrusted to his care. I saw an individual who also wanted to enjoy the quietness of life and all that it offers. He especially enjoyed attending the annual National FOCA



Official portrait of the Theodosius, Bishop of Sitka and all Alaska

Conventions. Every time His Beatitude would attend it was a given that he would attend the "Golden Agers" gathering on Friday Nights. A moment of great joy that His Beatitude loved as he spent the evening mingling with old friends and making new ones filled with fellowship and laughter. It was also a given that His Beatitude would be the last one to leave the gathering. Through our travels I saw him as an individual who, to the best of his ability, strove to be an example to the clergy and faithful of The Orthodox Church in America in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. If there is one thing that I learned while working for and knowing His Beatitude, it is how



V. Rev. Benjamin Tucci, St. Mary's Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN, Former FOCA Junior Department Director

to "Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12). Throughout his tireless travels and various engagements, Metropolitan Theodosius would remember people by name, even if he had not seen them in years. In 2018, Protodeacon John and I accompanied Vladyka to the 19th All-American Council in St. Louis where he was reunited with many old friends. We also took a side trip to Madison, IL for a visit to Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church where he first served as a parish priest. Many of his original parishioners gathered there to welcome him and were astounded when he greeted them each by name. It was such a joy to see this happy reunion. Robert Butchko, lay co-chair of the 19th AAC, FOCA member and past Midwest Governor, shared these old memories with me, "His Beatitude (our parish priest at that time) organized the Madison Junior "R" Club in 1964 along with my dad, George Butchko. I was the first president of the Junior R Club. My future brother-in-law Bob McBride and I stayed with him at some of the FROC Conventions. We did not let him get much sleep between our shenanigans that one year included disappearing ink. Later, when I was National FROC Junior Department Director (1976-1977), he visited us at Ohio Camp for the Junior Olympics. He would join us in some of the activities, spend time talking to the children and serving Liturgy at the camp. All the campers really enjoyed his visits mostly because he didn't have a pretentious air and enjoyed being with the children and young adults. He always related to everyone so well!"

Andrew Cvercko, the FROC Junior Olympics Coordinator, and Alice Woog, the FROC National Vice President are also pictured along with Bob Butchko in the first row seated to Vladyka's right.



FOCA clergy at 19th AAC Protodeacon John Oleynik, Deacon Peter Ilchuk, current FOCA annual convention planning manager and Father Jason, son of V. Rev. Eugene Vansuch of blessed memory National FOCA Spiritual Advisor during His Beatitudes' primacy



Meeting Fr. Finley the current rector of Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church



Sarah, Sharon, Robert Butchko and Lori Billy from Vladyka's first parish in Madison at the 19th AAC



Ohio Camp

1977 Junior Olympians, Counselors, and Guests



Madison, IL Jr. O Club with Father Theodosius

Dr. Alice Woog, 25th FOCA President, who served during his primacy writes, "One of the most treasured experiences was the privilege to work closely with Metropolitan Theodosius of Blessed Memory. I first met His Beatitude when he was a parish priest in Madison, IL. Traveling to District Conventions and Tournaments allowed me to associate with him and see how he supported and participated in the life of their local FOCA Chapter and parish. Visiting the Pittsburgh District as National Recording Secretary and then Vice President allowed me to get to know His Beatitude further and continue to see how his personality, sincerity, and interest in others helped our organization establish a solid and positive relationship with the leadership and faithful of not only the Orthodox Church in America, but other Orthodox jurisdictions within the FOCA. Communicating and working with him as Primate continued to be a very positive and encouraging experience. As Primate of the OCA, Metropolitan Theodosius consistently demonstrated the qualities of compassion, empathy, friendliness, and sincerity. One only needed to observe him in a group of mixed age and diverse people to see how he immediately connected on various levels."



Altar boys and Canonsburg Junior "O" Club members who often received small gifts from Vlada over the years

As Archbishop John of San Francisco of blessed memory wrote in his manual, *The Philosophy of the Orthodox Pastorship*, *The Pastor's Invisible Work*, "A pastor is called to do his work in different cultural layers of society. His pastorship will be much easier for him if he can adapt himself to the intellectual level of each one of them --- be a philosopher with philosophers, and simple with the simple."

Alice would agree, "When talking with Metropolitan Theodosius, you could tell that he was



V. Rev. Michael Anderson  
Former OCA Youth Department  
and FOCA  
Junior Department Director

focused on you, listened to you, and when necessary, provided you with empathy, sincerity, love and compassion. During my tenure as president, our organization experienced tensions among members from several Orthodox jurisdictions. One of our strengths as an organization rested in the fact that we were an organization of Orthodox Christians from several Orthodox Jurisdictions, such as Carpatho-Russian, Romanian, Albanian, Antiochian, and the Russian Patriarchal parishes. Within the FROC, (name at that time) parish affiliation had no impact on member participation at all levels—chapter, district and national. This tension focused on the belief by many, including many members of the Board of Trustees, that the FROC should pursue a stronger relationship with the Orthodox Church in America. As with any relationship, there are issues and differences of opinions, and oftentimes unknown or unfounded fears about how a formal relationship would result in compromises within the organization. Metropolitan Theodosius was a constant positive encourager of our Executive Board and Board of Trustees to pursue our mission and to alleviate fears related to a more formal relationship to the OCA. He was consistent in his efforts and the FOCA's efforts to create a long-lasting and positive relationship with the Orthodox Church in America. He wanted to set a table where all Orthodox Christians could meet, serve others, pray, and enjoy fellowship."

V. Rev. John Steffaro, national spiritual advisor to the FOCA when Metropolitan Theodosius was installed as Primate, remembers, "Before each of our national conventions, the Executive Board and I would have a private audience with Metropolitan Theodosius to discuss the future of the FOCA and how we could become an integral part of the Orthodox Church in America. It was through these meetings, and convention actions that the FOCA eventually became an arm and an integral part of the Orthodox Church in America. During my time as national spiritual advisor, I was in constant contact with Metropolitan Theodosius and it was evident that he did everything he could to encourage others to accept our organization. At our conventions, he was never too busy to have an open dialogue with the youth and would spend time socializing with the older members of the FOCA. He always offered inspirational sermons during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at our national conventions. One of his inspirational phrases was, 'Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.' He will always be remembered by the members of our organization with love and with the knowledge that he enriched our lives by his presence."



Marge Kovach, 43rd National FOCA President

Mark Soroka interviewed Metropolitan Theodosius in the July-August 1993 issue of the *Journal* and asked him, "What needs to be done to foster a smoother relationship between the OCA and the FROC?" His Beatitude answered, "As in any relationship where there is already basic goodwill, the main ingredient for a smoother relationship is good communication. . . . But also, as with any relationship, you have to expect ups and downs. You have to be ready to go to each other and clarify problems, offenses, and misunderstandings. And the sooner the better. As St. Paul said, 'Do not let the sun go down on your anger.'"



In 1994, the convention body of the FROC petitioned the Holy Synod of Bishops to be officially recognized by the Orthodox Church in America. In the spring of 1995, the Holy Synod blessed this request. In his address to the FROC convention body that same year, Metropolitan Theodosius was especially thankful that the FROC was prepared to assist the Church in developing two ministries vital for its mission in America: the areas of youth work and the establishment of mission

parishes across North America. He stated, "The desire to work for the young people of our Church and to assist and encourage our fledgling communities is truly noble and holy." Four years later, at the 1999 National Convention in Albany, New York, delegates approved the organization's name change to "The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, FOCA."

Tamara Petronka who has known His Beatitude for her entire life and shares the same hometown and place of worship at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church was faced with a slight challenge in 1999. "That year the National Convention of the FROC was held in Albany, NY and hosted by the Upper New York District. I was the Master of Ceremonies for the Grand Banquet and was honored to be chosen for the position though I had one true dilemma... how to introduce someone who did not need an introduction, Metropolitan Theodosius. I had not completed writing the introduction when the convention began, but my problem was resolved, when Vladyka was called to a funeral of a young priest who had died unexpectedly. The Metropolitan would not be attending the convention. Although his introduction never materialized, I will always remember what was to be the ending of that introduction. It would end with the words from a sign posted on each of the major roads leading into Canonsburg. An honor to several native sons of Canonsburg but also a tribute to our beloved Vladyka who never forgot where he came from and whose humble beginnings led him to be an admired and loved leader. The sign reads, "Hometown of Perry Como, Bobby Vinton and Theodosius Lazor, Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America."



Tamara with her parents, Peter and Dorothy Petronka at a National Convention

Dr. Woog also noted how often Metropolitan Theodosius continued to make himself available for both local and national FOCA events. "He truly enjoyed gathering at our national conventions. He was approachable and connected with the faithful of all ages. He had a keen sense of humor and wit that showed a truly human and personal side. Yet, he never forgot, nor did those around him forget, who he was and what he represented to the Orthodox world. Upon entering a room, one could see the smiles on the faces of our members and the smile on his that silently said, "I'm so happy to be together with you." He brought us a sense of calmness and friendliness that is unmatched." Gary and Pat Lelo, from St. John's Senior "O" Club Chapter #212 from Alpha, NJ Chapter attended the 76th National Convention in Washington DC and Pat remembered when Metropolitan Theodosius accompanied them on a bus tour of the city. "He happily pointed out the famous sites and even gave us an informative tour of St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral and his home."

Kiprian Yarosh, current parish president of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Canonsburg remembers. "The Metropolitan never failed to attend one of our gang's 'by invitation only' parties held between the Grand Banquet and Ball at the FOCA National Conventions. He often came near the end of the appointed time and waited for everyone to leave. Then he would sit and visit with his 'Canonsburg kids.' My sister Kira and I were always delighted to visit with our grandmother's Godson! Vladyka insisted, because of that connection, we were family."



Walter Alesevich, FOCA Colonial District Governor

Mickey Herzak recalls being the emcee at a Central PA District Convention at the time of the transition between Metropolitan Theodosius and Metropolitan Herman. "I knew them both fairly well including their favorite colas. Metropolitan Theodosius favored Coke while Metropolitan Herman preferred Pepsi. They were

both seated on the dais and laughed when I speculated that stock in Coca Cola would soon plummet while the stock in Pepsi would skyrocket."

Metropolitan Theodosius retired in 2002 and returned to live in the Canonsburg area. My mother, Olga Dano Rusinko, graduated Canon McMillan High School with His Beatitude in 1952. She often invited Vladyka to our home for dinner and holidays were always extra special when he visited. He remained an active member of our parish community while serving in the altar, lending a hand with kolbassi-making, writing cards to friends, and sharing stories while enjoying his favorite snack, peanut butter M&M's.



Signed senior yearbook picture

His Beatitude received honorary doctorates from Georgetown University in 1988, St. Vladimir's Seminary in 1986 and Washington and Jefferson College in 1973. Longtime friends of Metropolitan Theodosius and W & J professors, Richard and Patricia Easton, visited with Vladyka at his 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood in Canonsburg and recently shared the following with me, "Our friendship with him extends from 1973 and we were close in heart to him. I think we were his 'civilian' friends, and he knew our entire family. He seemed to enjoy having friends like us—no formality, insisting we call him Fr. Theo. He traveled to London with us and we can still hear his joyful laughter when we ventured out to a famous Russian restaurant and he insisted we take the underground rather than a cab. What seemed like an endless underground ride was worth every minute of the journey and laughter when we realized we were only a three-block walk from our hotel. We knew he had been a guest at the White House several times and traveled the world to meet church leaders and notable dignitaries but one evening when we were watching on television the investiture of John Paul II, Pat leaned forward and said, 'My goodness. Please recognize who is sitting on the dais third from the Pope. It's Father Theo!' He was as real as could be, too, had a marvelous sense of humor, and a very loving spirit. We are sure he has been elevated yet again, this time to the very best place."

On October 21, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, V. Rev. William Evansky (Former National FOCA Spiritual Advisor, 2005-2012) and current Pittsburgh District Spiritual Advisor; V. Rev. Andrew Nelko Sr., Chapter Spiritual Advisor in Campbell, OH; our current pastor/Chapter Spiritual Advisor, Rev. John Kotalik, Rev. John Parsells from Berlin, MD; Protodeacon John Oleynik and Reader Barry Migyanko received Vladyka's remains into his home parish for the final time. Metropolitan Tikhon officiated the memorial services in Canonsburg (October 21-22) with brother bishops, Chancellor V. Rev. Alexander Rentel, former Chancellor Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak and brother priests. V. Rev. Joseph Oleynik, Canonsburg former pastor/Chapter Spiritual Advisor,



Former Pgh District Governor & District Treasurer, John Rusinko and his wife, Olga, Canonsburg "O" Club members and lifelong friends with Metropolitan

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Metropolitan Tikhon officiated the memorial services in Canonsburg (October 21-22) with brother bishops, Chancellor V. Rev. Alexander Rentel, former Chancellor Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak and brother priests. V. Rev. Joseph Oleynik, Canonsburg former pastor/Chapter Spiritual Advisor, delivered one of the homilies. On Friday,



Ever-Memorable Metropolitan Theodosius 1933-2020

October 23, funeral services were held at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, PA and Metropolitan Theodosius was laid to rest four days prior to what would have been his 87th birthday. (October 27, 1933)

V. Rev. Thomas Soroka directed the beautiful choirs which included various FOCA voices and Rev. John Parsells coordinated the livestreaming for all the services so that during this pandemic faithful and friends could attend from a distance. Alice Woog remembered, "While standing close to him in his home parish of St. John's and offering prayers for his repose, I was comforted like so many people who labored with him in Christ's Vineyard. A sense of compassion and love overcame me which was the feeling I had when I was honored to stand next to him as the President of the FOCA. May his memory be eternal!"

As we prepare to receive the true light of the Lord's Nativity this year, I wanted to conclude with an excerpt from Vladyka's 2000 Annual Christmas greeting. His words from twenty years ago are still quite applicable to us today in 2020.

December 25, 2000 (an excerpt) <https://www.oca.org/holy-synod/statements/metropolitan-theodosius/the-feast-of-the-nativity-of-our-lord3>



Christmas in Canonsburg with altar servers, John Nicholas Oleynik and Nicholas Havrilak, 2009

"While celebrating this feast of our Savior's Nativity in the Flesh we live between His incarnation and glorious second coming. Between these two poles of salvation history we are challenged by the Gospel we preach to show the world that evil will never be victorious. Our celebration compels us to reveal that God incarnate now confronts the hatred, strife, and injustice which shrouds the world in darkness. Our joy must point to the One who, emptying himself and taking the "form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7) now seeks to change the minds and hearts of the arrogant and vain.

Entering the Feast of our Lord's Nativity, let us be generous in extending the joyous news of eternal life to all people. Celebrating God's descent to earth and our ascent to heaven, let us also remain vigilant. For through watchfulness, the gift of the incarnation—the gift of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection—will never cease to be embraced as life-giving and life-transfiguring.

Accept my heartfelt best wishes for a celebration of the Lord's Nativity that is rich in divine blessings. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

With love in the newborn Christ,

+ THEODOSIUS  
Archbishop of Washinton  
N + Theodosius Canada



FOCA members, Matushka Myra Oleynik with her husband, Protodeacon John in St. Louis, 2018.

"Vladyka was very excited to see the Gateway Arch completed as he was there when its construction began."

## 2020 Gifts of Love Campaign Extended into 2021

At the 93rd National Convention in Columbus, two very worthy causes were designated as recipients of the 2020 Gifts of Love. The first \$5,000 collected would benefit St. Herman's House in Ohio and all additional funds collected would go to the Diocese of Alaska to assist with the influx of groups of pilgrims scheduled to attend the 50th anniversaries of the granting of Autocephaly and the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska.

St. Herman House received a check for \$5,000 thanks to your generous donations. Paul Finley, Local Director, St Herman House FOCUS Cleveland thanked the members of the FOCA upon receipt of the gift. In his letter (below), Paul explains that the replacement of a vertical platform lift was less expensive than originally budgeted. Since the grant covered the entire expense, our gift will be used to paint the exterior of the building in 2021.

Plans for the many pilgrimages to Alaska were altered due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, the Board of Trustees approved a motion to continue collecting money for the Diocese of Alaska, designating the money in memory of His Eminence Archbishop DAVID. They also extended the campaign into 2021.



**FOCUS**  
NORTH + AMERICA  
ST HERMAN HOUSE • CLEVELAND

September 4, 2020

Dear Allison,

I am writing to thank you and the members of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America for selecting St. Herman House — FOCUS Cleveland as a 2019-2020 Gifts of Love recipient and your recent donation of \$5,000. In these challenging times, we are strengthened and encouraged by your generosity and support.

Originally, we intended to use the funds toward a vertical platform lift. Fortunately, we received a grant which covered the entire cost of the lift (which was less expensive than originally budgeted). We then planned to spend the funds toward the exterior painting of St. Herman's. Due to the pandemic, that project is temporarily on hold until we can fundraise the rest of the needed funds. We intend to apply your donation to the house painting in 2021.

I want you to know that despite the pandemic, our work at St. Herman House continues uninterrupted. People continue to rely on us daily for shelter, food, and other necessities. In fact, they need our help now more than ever. We continue to provide shelter, carry out bagged meals every day, clothing, grocery bags, and the hospitality for which we have become known in Ohio City. All services are taking place outdoors. Be assured that Cleveland's most vulnerable continue to receive your care and concern at 4410 Franklin Boulevard.

May God bless and prosper you and the FOCA members amid the challenges you may face during this time, and again, thank you so much for remembering us as we all continue to work together for the common good.

Your fellow servant,

*Paul Finley*

H. Paul Finley  
Local Director

St. Herman House — FOCUS Cleveland

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve - "An Orthodox Christian House of Hospitality"

*Allison, I am so grateful to you, FOCA, and for the tremendous support we receive from the OCA - stay safe! Paul*

Monetary Donations Only:

St. Herman's FOCUS Cleveland  
PO Box 932812  
Cleveland, OH 44193

Phone: 216-961-3806

Email: [pfinley@focusna.org](mailto:pfinley@focusna.org)  
Fax: 216-961-4947

Physical Address and All Other Mailings:

St. Herman's FOCUS Cleveland  
4410 Franklin Blvd.  
Cleveland, OH 44113

# Archbishop David Memorial

In Ecclesiastes we read there is a “time to be born and a time to die.” His Eminence, the Most Reverend David (Mahaffey) fell sleep in the Lord on November 27, 2020. We had just offered prayers on the 40th day of the falling asleep of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius and then in the evening, we were notified of the falling asleep in the Lord of Archbishop David (Mahaffey) after a grave illness. Both were supporters of our organization - Fellowship of the Orthodox Christians in America.



91st FOCA National Convention Hershey, PA 2017

Archbishop David was born Sterry David Mahaffey in Altoona, Pennsylvania on May 25, 1952. He was married to the former Karen Meterko on May 5, 1973 in Saints Peter and Paul Church, Urey. He enrolled in the Late Vocations Program of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, graduating in 1980. Bishop Theodosius (Lazor) tonsured David Mahaffey a reader in 1977 before leaving the Pittsburgh see after Metropolitan Theodosius was elected OCA Primate in 77. He was ordained subdeacon and deacon April 12, 1981 by Bishop Kyrill (Yonchev) of Pittsburgh. He entered Saint Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary and graduated in 1997. He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Bishop Kyrill in 1993 and was assigned to service Saint Michael Church Old Forge, PA and was assigned as rector of the parish in 1997. He continued his education earning two bachelor's degrees (2003) magna cum laude, in theology and philosophy and a master's degree (2005) in theology from University of Scranton.

Father David served Holy Trinity Church in Pottstown in 2006 where Matushka Karen fell asleep in the Lord after battling cancer. He was transferred to Saint Nicholas Church in Bethlehem in 2009. On September 15, 2012, the delegates to the Assembly of the Diocese of Alaska nominated Fr. David to fill the vacant Alaskan see. Afterwards, he was tonsured a monk by Archbishop Tikhon of Philadelphia at St. Tikhon Zadonsk Monastery. He was tonsured to the Lesser Schema on February 10, 2013 by Igumen Sergius (Bowyer) Abbot of Saint Tikhon Monastery. Archimandrite David was elected by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA to fill the vacant Episcopal See of Sitka and Alaska on October 16, 2013. He was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska on February 21, 2014.

Archbishop David is survived by his four children, Nikolas David and wife, Angela and their sons, Daniel and Benjamin; Sterry Michael and wife, Cassandra and their children, Caitrin, Emilia and Abaigeal; Seth Robert and wife, Denise and Kyra Ann Lezinsky and husband, Peter and their daughters, Brooke and Victoria; a sister, Sally Long and husband, David; and a brother, Robert Mahaffey.

Over the years, His Eminence Archbishop David attended and participated in several FOCA National Conventions. This involvement resulted in the FOCA Annual Gifts of Love

being dedicated to Alaskan initiatives in both 2016 and 2017 - \$10,000 for the printing of instructive coloring books in the Yupik language and \$12,500 toward the preservation of the historic landmark of Saint Nicholas Chapel on the Kenai Peninsula. In 2017, at the 91st FOCA Convention in Hershey, PA, he provided a very thought-provoking message to the Fellowship. He stated: “I want to express my gratitude on behalf of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska for the love and support that has been given to us by the FOCA...The role that the FOCA is

playing in the present stage that is Orthodox America cannot be overstated...The world is again looking for that shining light upon the hill that will show the way to a life of clarity and strong moral direction. The FOCA has always been that kind of light, not only to Orthodox Christians, but to the communities in which they live...the chaotic society we engage daily needs a source for leadership and fellowship. Who has more tools to that end than the FOCA?...I urge you to use the tools you have kept sacred all these ninety plus years to that end, Pray – every day, for God to make your efforts fruitful. Study – what has been successful and what has failed and learn from them. Toil – give earnest efforts to what is needed. And finally be Temperate – do not pull all your desires into one idea or action, do not be over passionate about one thing while ignoring others, or becoming impatient when you do not see immediate results...In closing I want to again state my gratitude for all you have done for the Diocese of Alaska. We shall do our utmost to use these resources wisely and to a fruitful end. May God continue to bless the work of the FOCA and grant you all many years of health, wealth and happiness.”

His Eminence was interred at Saint Tikhon Orthodox Monastery Cemetery. May God grant Archbishop David rest eternal in His Heavenly Kingdom where there is neither sickness nor sorrow but life everlasting. MEMORY ETERNAL!

Source: adapted from oca.org and the Summer 2017 OCJ.



90th FOCA National Convention Chicago, IL 2016

Framed drawing of the St. Nicholas chapel presented to the FOCA



# Congratulations to the 2020 FOCA National Scholarship Awardees!



## KATRINA FETT

### FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP WITH FRED LEWIS HONORS (\$1000)



Katrina is from Clifton, NJ and a member of Chapter 44, Singac. She is currently a sophomore at Lehigh University where she intends to obtain a BS in Economics and a BA in Political Science. Although Katrina's parish does not have a Junior chapter, Katrina took it upon herself to be active in NJ district activities including organizing fundraising efforts for Gifts of Love and spearheading the St. Nicholas Project for her parish. Katrina is actively involved at her parish including visiting shut-ins during

Christmas-time and helping to organize the Yolka and Easter egg hunt. She is currently a reporter for Lehigh's student-run newspaper and member of the club soccer team, and was recently selected as a Lehigh TRAC Fellow. As a member of the Alpha Phi sorority she continues her track of volunteerism and community service. She also participates in the Best Buddies program which connects Lehigh students with members of the community with special needs, and St. Peter's Haven food pantry.

## JOHN SCHULTZ, JR.

### FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)



Johnny is from Weirton, WV and is a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and it's Chapter #58 Weirton O Club. He is a freshman at West Virginia University where he is majoring in finance. At St. Nicholas he is an altar server, reader, and a member of the grounds/landscaping rotation. He was president of the 58J club, participated in basketball and golf tournaments, and has attended many national conventions. At Weir High School he was vice president of the Future Business Leaders of America, participated in the photography and foreign language club, and was a letter winner

in varsity golf. Through his participation in the Boy Scouts he is extremely active in the community. His Eagle Scout project was designing and building a sign for St. Nicholas Church and earned the Boy Scouts Orthodox Religious Award - Alpha Omega 2020. Johnny is also the founder and owner of Rukamade, a business that sells handmade patriotic products such as wooden American Flags with a percentage of sales going to local charities.

## ANDREW ROHWEDER

### TORSKY - ENGINEERING (\$1000)



Andrew, who is from Uniontown, OH is a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and the Akron 20 club. He is currently a junior at the Georgia Institute of Technology majoring in Mechanical Engineering with minors CS Systems & Architecture and German. When he is home Andrew is an altar server and while a Junior participated in Russian dance, was an officer of the club, and volunteered at the Something Russian Festival. At Green High School he was a member of the National Honors

Society, was a 4-year letter winner in swimming and was awarded the All-Ohio Student-Athlete honor award. His community activities in both high school and college include participating in food packaging events for the underprivileged, helping with dinners for veterans and seniors, and helping to mulch parks in his hometown.

## NATHANIEL WILLISON

### FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)



Nathaniel is from Slippery Rock, PA and is a member of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Campbell, OH. He is a freshman at Youngstown State University, majoring in mathematics. At St. John's Nathaniel is an altar server and as junior member he has helped with many luncheons and food collections, assisted in charity events, and participated with the choir in caroling to shut-ins during the Christmas season. Nathaniel also attended St. Vladimir's camp. At Slippery Rock High School he was an avid athlete participating in soccer, football, baseball, and basketball. He was a member of

the jazz band and chamber singers, was an officer in the National Honors Society, and was a member of the Math Club.

## LENA KALANTZIS

### FEKULA SCHOLARSHIP (\$750)



Lena is from Portersville, PA and is a member of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Campbell, OH. She is currently attending Ohio University majoring in journalism. As a member of the Chapter 27J Club she played basketball, attended the church lock-in, helped serve lunches, and attended St. Vladimir's camp. At St. John's she sings in the choir and was in the church school and participated in the annual Yolka program. At Lincoln Jr/Sr High School she was extremely active, participating in numerous sports and clubs including track & field, soccer, concert choir, jazz band, marching band, French club, book club, and many others. She also volunteered to clean highways through the school, coached soccer, and attended/contributed to two mission trips.

# How can we attend Church and be faithful during a pandemic?

Since early March of this year many of us have experienced things we never would have imagined in our lifetime. None of us, as we began the season of Great Lent, would have thought that soon our lives would change so dramatically. Stay at home orders, travel bans, mandatory social distancing and CDC guidelines helped us flatten the curve and protect our hospital workers, first responders and those most vulnerable among us. We know that since that time until now many have been infected with the virus and many have died and there is still a road to be traveled until we reach an end. The one question we faced as our Churches were closed and reopened to limited capacities was how will we pray? Where will we gather to worship and receive the Sacraments most importantly Holy Communion?

We know there is no real replacement for standing in Church (the Kingdom of heaven) in the presence of God to offer him praise and receive His precious and life creating Body and Blood. Yet we were forced to find new ways to pray and gather as the living, breathing, body of Christ .... The Church. Many of us moved to Live streaming our services so that while people were forced to stay away in isolation, they could still in some way experience the services of the Church. Though this has been a blessing it has also required that we examine what worship is for us and how we can accomplish that in the fullest way possible. For many of us, before the pandemic and its' restrictions we "attended" Church regularly and began to do the same virtually as we became more restricted. But then we began to share stories of "watching" services in bed, or while having our breakfast or morning cup of coffee. This certainly indicated we were missing something.

One of the most asked questions we have heard during this time of Pandemic besides "why", or "How long" has been "what is it that God wishes for us to learn from this?" It was said, before the pandemic by many of us, that we "attended" services. What does it mean to "attend" Liturgy or vespers? Does it simply mean we come to fill a seat or something more? When our priest or deacon offer us the

invitation "Let us Attend" it asks for something more than just our physical presence. To truly offer prayer we must participate. Our attendance at a service is only the first step of worship for us. We go to Church to have a relationship with God. Much like doctors practice medicine we Christians must also practice our faith, living it each moment of each day God blesses us with. If we understand that, then we must also understand

that simply attending a service offers us extraordinarily little.

So, if there is little benefit in just attending a service what did we gain by going virtual and "watching" one. From what we have previously discussed, it can be said that we do not attend services to be spectators, but rather need to be participants. A virtual service offers us a vehicle to do the work of our faith. It allows us while being separated from our Churches and our brothers and sisters in Christ to be present in a moment with them. To help us gain the attitude of prayer and do the work of our faith. It requires that we offer the same preparation to participate as we would to go to Church. We cannot just sit on the couch and watch. We must participate in the fullest way we can. COVID-19 has offered us a time to reflect on our spiritual life. Having realized what we are missing and what our weaknesses are to use these days of separation and isolation to grow closer to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To come out of this like lights to the world showing the others the life and truth of our Lord.

At the onset of this Pandemic, our Holy Synod of Bishops sent out prayers for us to pray each day recognizing the uncertainty, and anxiety we were facing. Let this prayer be our beginning to those prayers we offer each day in hope that soon our God will lead us out of and beyond these times stronger in faith and spirit than ever before.

***O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in thine ineffable goodness, look down upon us, thy people gathered in thy Holy Name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. Thou knowest our weakness. Thou hearest our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who lovest mankind, deliver us from the impending threat of the Corona Virus. Send thine angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians, nurses, and health care professionals and preserve those who are healthy. Enable us to continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace that together we may glorify thy most honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.***

**Amen**

V. Rev. Nicholas Wyslutsky  
National Spiritual Advisor

# St. Vladimir's Camp & Retreat Center



We did it! I am so very happy to report that St. Vladimir's Camp has a brand-new pool!!! It was a long time coming, and quite honestly, some of us on the Camp Committee weren't sure it was actually going to come to fruition, but the pool is in! Our pool contractor had some staffing issues just as we were going to sign a contract with them and was unable to be reached for a period of time. Once we were back in contact with them, they had to provide a new bid which we accepted, along with their explanation and apologies. Leon Sheean, Champion of our Camp, got busy hiring local contractors for the other jobs that needed to be completed with the new pool, such as demolition of the old pool, concrete sidewalks around the new pool, new fencing, etc. Just as our pool contractor was getting ready to get down to business, COVID hit. Parts that they needed were unable to be obtained as companies shut down. After a bit of time, they were able to continue with the construction. A new pool-house was constructed by what Leon is calling the 'Kovalak Construction Committee', comprised of Dcn. Dan, Leon, Phil Kall, Matt Roach, Nick Memorich, Danny Kovalak and Alex Clark. While there are still some finishing touches that need to happen, I can tell you that the pool will be ready, God-willing, for the 2021 Camping season! Many updates have also happened at Camp, including building a new bedroom in the Cook's Cabin. We weren't using the kitchenette area, so Dcn. Dan's crew built the room, which will also double as a cooling room used when campers get overheated. The entire interior of the Cook's Cabin received a fresh coat of paint, along with an area in the Rec Hall.

Melissa Tesar, Governor  
The Ohio District of the FOCA





# 2020 Summer Sports Tournament

On August 21 and 22, 2020 the Weirton "O" Club, FOCA Chapter #58, hosted the National Summer Sports (Golf) Tournament. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic this was the only National event held by the FOCA in 2020. This was the most attended Tournament in many years. Thirty-six golfers including eight members of the Clergy and one Junior gathered from eight states ranging from Arizona to Massachusetts.

National Spiritual Advisor, Archpriest Nicholas Wyslutzky opened the weekend on Friday afternoon with prayers for a safe and successful weekend of fellowship. Golf on Friday was at the historic and award winning Williams Country Club in Weirton, WV. From this course the golfers enjoyed panoramic views of the Ohio River Valley. On Saturday, the tournament moved to Highland Springs Golf Course in Wellsburg, WV. On this unique course, golfers tee off the first hole in West Virginia, cross over into Pennsylvania on the tenth hole, and finally return to West Virginia to finish the back nine.

Following Golf on Saturday, the golfers and guests enjoyed an awards banquet. Tournament Chair, John Schultz, Sr., welcomed everyone to West Virginia. All golfers received a door prize. Junior Golfer, Andrew Steffaro, received a participation gift. National Sports Department Member, Anthony Schulz then presented the awards and winners. The winners are listed below.

Saturday Great Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy were held at St. Nicholas Church. His Eminence Archbishop MELCHISEDEK celebrated the Liturgy on Sunday. Fr. Andrew P. Nelko, Rector of St. Nicholas, and Deacon Peter Ilchuk also served.

In addition to John Sr., the Committee included Co-chair John Schultz, Jr. who organized the Saturday events, Michael Schultz who organized the ads and sponsorships, and Chapter Treasurer Bob Rohal.

The Weirton "O" Club and the National FOCA would like to thank all our sponsors and advertisers. Many FOCA members, Districts, and Chapters stepped up to become sponsors in this only opportunity to support the FOCA in 2020. We especially thank Tournament Sponsors Greco-Hertnick Funeral Home and Weirton Medical Center. Thanks to your generosity over \$4,000.00 was raised. The National share was over \$2,000.00 including a donation from the Weirton "O" Club of over \$400.00 to the National FOCA.

Golfers can look forward to gathering in Columbus, OH for the 2021 National Summer Sports (Golf) Tournament. Look to the FOCA Website for more details as they are released.

## 2020 Summer Sports Tournament Results

### ONE DAY EVENT

#### Actual

- |                    |             |    |
|--------------------|-------------|----|
| 1. Robert Willison | Campbell OH | 91 |
| 2. George Gresko   | Weirton WV  | 94 |

#### Callaway HDCP

- |                      |                 |    |
|----------------------|-----------------|----|
| 1. Bob Stotler       | North Canton OH | 74 |
| 2. Dcn. John Oleynik | Canonsburg PA   | 76 |

### TWO DAY EVENT WOMEN

#### Actual

- |                    |                 |     |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Theresa Stotler | North Canton OH | 179 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----|

### TWO DAY EVENT MEN 54 and Under

#### Actual

- |                    |               |     |
|--------------------|---------------|-----|
| 1. David Stockman  | Canonsburg PA | 152 |
| 2. Anthony Schultz | Columbus OH   | 182 |
| 3. Andy Petty      | Mason OH      | 186 |

#### Callaway HDCP

- |                     |               |     |
|---------------------|---------------|-----|
| 1. David Schenken   | Canonsburg PA | 152 |
| 2. Fr. Andrew Nelko | Weirton WV    | 153 |
| 2. Alex Schenken    | Canonsburg PA | 153 |

### TWO DAY EVENT MEN 55 and Over

#### Actual

- |                |                  |     |
|----------------|------------------|-----|
| 1. Joe Lear    | Ambridge PA      | 170 |
| 2. Mark Marton | Sun City West AZ | 181 |
| 3. John Lord   | Garden St. NJ    | 191 |

#### Callaway HDCP

- |                       |               |     |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----|
| 1. Fr. John Steffaro  | Dubois PA     | 151 |
| 1. Fr. Nick Wyslutzky | Mogadore OH   | 151 |
| 1. Kip Yarosh         | Canonsburg PA | 151 |

#### Friday

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| #6 Closest to Pin  | Nathanael Nelko   |
| #8 Closest to Pin  | Anthony Schultz   |
| #12 Closest to Pin | Fr. John Steffaro |
| #18 Longest Putt   | Fr. John Steffaro |

#### Saturday

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| #5 Closest to Pin  | Bob Schenken      |
| #8 Closest to Pin  | Dcn. John Oleynik |
| #14 Closest to Pin | Joe Lear          |
| #17 Closest to Pin | Andy Petty        |



# Junior FOCA Member Earns Eagle Scout



On Sunday February 9, F.O.C.A. Junior member John Schultz, Jr. was awarded the Boy Scouts highest honor – The Rank of Eagle Scout. John became the fourth Eagle Scout in his family. He joins his father John Schultz, Sr. and his Uncles Anthony Schultz and Michael Schultz. All are very active in the FOCA.

John's Eagle Court of Honor was held at he Fellowship Hall of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. The Court of Honor was attended by nearly one-hundred of John's family, friends, and fellow Scouts. During the ceremony, fellow Eagle Scouts explained the Eagle badge. In addition to John's dad and uncles other presenters included John's Scoutmaster, Keith Huntzinger, St. Nicholas Parishioner Gary Lengyel, and John's Cousin Kevan LaPosta. John Sr. read the Eagle Charge to John, Jr.

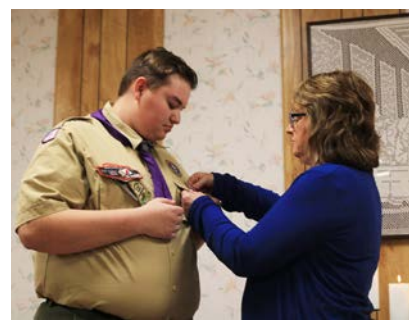
John pinned the Eagle parent pins on his father and his mother, Sonia. He gave his Mentor Pins to his teacher Ms. Candice Dotson and Assistant Scoutmaster Roger Criss. He also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Mark Koscevic. Mark was a contractor whose help was invaluable in John's Eagle Scout Project.

During the ceremony, John was presented a Proclamation by the West Virginia State Senate This was presented by State Senator Ryan Weld. His parents also presented him with the Eagle Scout Neckerchief and a U.S Flag flown over the U.S. Capital. He received Certificates of Achievement from The United States National Park Service, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration, the National Rifle Association, The Marine Corps League, and Hancock County Schools.

John received letters of congratulations from Archbishop MELCHISEDEK; President Donald Trump; WV Governor Jim Justice; United State Senators Joe Manchin and Shelly Moore Capito; The Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States; General Mark A. Milley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States; Former President George W. Bush; City of Weirton Mayor, Harold Miller; Mr. E. Gordan Gee, President of West Virginia University; Mr. Neil Brown, Head Football Coach of WVU; Mr. Mike Tomlin, Head Coach Pittsburgh Steelers; Mr. Elvis Duran; Mr. Mike Lindell; and Mr. Bill Gates.

In order to earn the Rank of Eagle, a Scout must show his leadership by completing an Eagle Scout Service Project. John's Eagle Project was to raise money to purchase and construct an informational roadside sign for his Church – St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Weirton, WV. He organized and held several food sales to raise the funds for the sign. With the guidance of Fr. Andrew P. Nelko, he then designed the sign. He then worked with a sign maker to create the sign. Finally, he organized volunteers to prepare the site for the sign, to build a planter base for the sign, and to erect the sign.

Only two percent of all Scouts achieve the Rank of Eagle.



# Junior FOCA Member Earns Alpha Omega

On August 23, 2020, John Schultz, Jr was awarded the Alpha Omega Award. The Alpha Omega is the Orthodox Religious Award for the Boy Scouts of America. John is currently a member of St. Nicholas "O" Club, Weirton, WV - Chapter #58. The Award was presented to John by His Eminence Archbishop MELCHISEDEK. His Eminence also presented John with a Certificate from the Archdiocese.



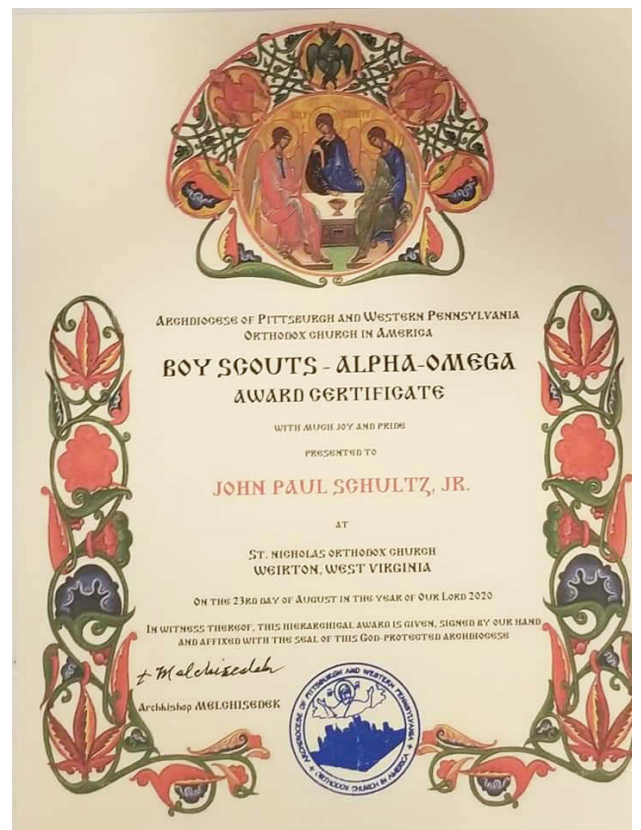
To earn the Award, a Scout works with his Parish Priest to learn about the Orthodox Faith and how that Faith is expressed in his personal, parish, and community life. The Scout must also complete several service projects.

John's primary service project was to organize and produce the live-streaming of the Divine Liturgy of his Parish, St. Nicholas Church when attendance at services was limited due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. John's project played a large part in keeping the St. Nicholas Parish Community connected during difficult times. Members who were not able to attend Divine Liturgy were able to watch through the Parish's Facebook page.



Other Service Projects performed by John were to help with landscaping and beatification of the Church grounds. He also read Old Testament Readings during the Vespers Liturgy of Great and Holy Saturday.

John earning the Alpha Omega along with dedicating his Eagle Scout Project to St. Nicholas Church shows John's love of and commitment to Christ and his Church. Congratulations to John. Axios!



# Colonial District



The Colonial District has faced the coronavirus pandemic, by doing its business completely on-line. In September, in lieu of its physical convention, it held votes on the matters confronting this district on-line. As has been the custom over the last decades, we sponsor a seminarian family alternating between St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's through a monthly stipend. With the assistance of Fr. Hatfield, the Dean of St. Vladimir's, Dn. John Black was selected as the recipient of this year's FOCA gift. Dn. John is a native son of Pottstown, PA, and served as a choir director at St. Stephen's in Philadelphia. He, his wife Alexandra, and two children are residing in one of St. Vladimir's on-campus apartments. In addition, St. Stephen's has also designated its November charity for him and his family. We are trying to adapt to the social distancing requirements as best as we can. In fact, we held our Stock Award drawing at a local park, with many of the officers and members attending. On a sad note, if people were not aware, a long-time member and one of our officers, Paul Kavchok, passed away in March. Since there were extensive restrictions on attendance, many of our members could not pay final respects to Paul. Another casualty of this coronavirus pandemic is this Winter's Novogodny Ball, which has been cancelled for this year; we hope to renew this tradition next Winter. With many of the churches facing reduced capacity and in-person events cancelled, the various chapter have worked individually to at least keep up contact with its members. Indeed, after Liturgy at St. Mark, they host a weekly virtual coffee hour.

Walter C. Alesevich, Governor

# Ohio District



Greetings from Ohio! We hope and pray that our friends from across the FOCA are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times! We had to cancel our 2020 Camping Season at St. Vladimir's Camp but are hoping (and praying) that we are able to serve the youth once again in the summer of 2021.

Ohio District Camp – ages 7-11 – June 27 – July 3

NJSST – JO – July 4 – July 10

Ohio District Camp – ages 12-17 – July 11 – July 17

Please see the article on St. Vladimir's Camp in this issue of The Journal for highlights!

Our Chapters seem to be plugging along as well as they can. A couple of the churches have had modified fund raisers this year. Akron's Something Russian Festival has turned from a fantastic 2-day extravaganza to a few monthly fund raisers. Campbell served up a Drive-Thru BBQ in October. Kudos on the creative ways to bring some sunshine into these crazy days.

We have lost some members of the Ohio District, including those with a long-standing history with the organization. Please keep in your prayers Robert and Elizabeth Spiwak (who reposed in the Lord a few months apart) and Russell Harvischak, who reposed in the Lord in November, and pray for comfort their families. We are also praying for those who have been affected by, and also afflicted with CoVid-19.

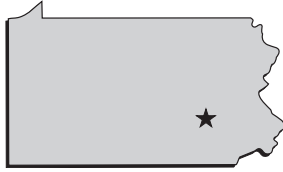
Many thanks to Fr. Nick Wyslutzky and those who put together the St. Andrew's Day virtual celebration. It was a wonderful event and so nice to know that we were watching the service with our friends and family across the FOCA.

On behalf of the members of the Ohio District, I'd like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a healthy and happy 2021.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Melissa Tesar, Governor

# Central PA District



## 90th CENTRAL PA DISTRICT CONVENTION

Because of the 2020 pandemic, we were unable to hold an in-person meeting. Governor Gary Lelo requested that all Board of Trustee reports be sent to him and he would combine them and send them out as one e-mail.

There were no large district gatherings this summer, that is, a minor league baseball outing or a picnic at Knoebel's Park. Approval was given for these events in 2021.

No one applied for the district scholarships. It was decided to award the \$1000 scholarship to a seminarian at St. Tikhon's.

The district donated \$100 to the Seminarian Christmas Fund and agreed to sponsor ads for the National Convention and all National sporting events.

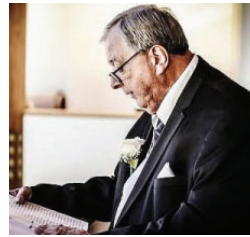
Father Dan noted that some of the boys in his area are interested in forming a basketball team and attending an FOCA basketball tournament. (Incidentally, he had checked into airfares to MN and is still receiving quotes. Prices were very tempting as of October.)

Harrisburg Chapter #199 will again adopt a Seminarian and his family for Christmas.

St. John's Senior "O" Club, Alpha NJ #212, through their Christmas in July fundraiser, was able to send a check for \$750 for the children of St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska.

Gary Lelo  
Governor

## Transitions: *Fall 2020/Winter 2021*



**John Sutko**, director emeritus of St. Peter and St. Paul Orthodox Church, Burr Ridge, IL, fell asleep in the Lord on June 9, 2020 after battling various health complications.

In addition to serving as choir director at Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church for over six decades,

Mr. Sutko is well known for his musical arrangements of classic as well as recently composed liturgical hymns. His entire life has been dedicated to the Church, her services, and her musical traditions.



Photo 1: (Source: <https://www.oca.org/in-memoriam/mr-john-sutko>)

Photo 2: John Sutko directed the choir at 90th National FOCA Convention.

John was recognized by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America with a Synodal Gromata in 2013 and

the Order of St. Romanos was bestowed upon him in 2017 in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the field of liturgical music in the Orthodox Church in America.

**Alice Sutko**, nee Gabrysiak, John's beloved wife of 62 years, fell asleep in the Lord on July 4, 2020. They are survived by their children David (Michele) and Cynthia (Gregory) Koranda; grandchildren Priest Alexander (Dr. Carly) Koranda, Marissa (Ethan) Rucker, Aaron Koranda, and Michael Sutko; and great-grandchildren Magdalena and Anna Koranda.

John and Alice were longtime members of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America Chapter #96 in Burr Ridge, IL. In 2016, John directed the choir at 90th National FOCA Convention in Chicago, IL.



([https://stmichaelscleveland.org/news\\_200603\\_2](https://stmichaelscleveland.org/news_200603_2))

Bob & Liz Spiwak on their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2011

**Elizabeth Spiwak** (nee Kisha) passed away June 3, 2020 and her beloved husband of 59 year, **Robert "Al" Spiwak** passed away on August 11, 2020. Both were longtime members of the Cleveland "R" Club and great supporters of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America. They are survived by their sons Mark (Karen) and Stephen (Rebecca), grandchildren Abby, Kyra, Melissa, Valeri (Robby) Horn and Ryan.

**Russell Harvischak**, loving father and grandfather passed away on November 20, 2020 at the age of 53, in Youngstown, Ohio due to complications of Covid-19.

Russ worked as a saw operator at Polaris Windows and Doors and as a caretaker at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Campbell, where he was a lifelong active member. In addition to holding the Treasurer position on Church council, he was also a member of the Campbell Chapter, # 27 of the Fellowship

## Transitions: *Fall 2020/Winter 2021 continued*

of Orthodox Christians in America. Russ enjoyed camping, spending time with friends, attending church sponsored basketball, bowling, and conventions. He especially loved spending time as "Papa" to his baby granddaughter, Samantha.

Russ is survived by his mother, Sonja Harvischak; his son, Lukas Harvischak, daughter, Sydney Harvischak; his granddaughter, Samantha Harvischak; his sister, Ellen (Devin Bennett) Harvischak; and his niece, Grace Anna Bennett. He also leaves behind his large extended family; his work family at Polaris; his church family; his childhood friends; and the many other people who got to know Russ during his life. Russ was preceded in death by his father Thomas Harvischak; and his son, Nicholas Harvischak.



Katherine L. Garman  
1925-2020

**Katherine L. "Kaye" Garman**, 94, fell asleep in the Lord on April 2, 2020.

Kaye was a longtime member of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Campbell. She served as the president of church council for at least one year, as well as serving on church council for many years. She belonged to the Altar Society, Eastern Orthodox Women's Society, St. Tikhon's Century Club, was a former church school teacher and Junior "O" Club adviser, and member of the Campbell "O" Club Chapter #27, holding several positions on the local level. She was the longtime writer of the church bulletin and especially enjoyed including activities and jokes for the children. Kaye was an active member of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) and held many offices, such as past national recording secretary and past Ohio District Secretary. Kaye spent many summers in Green Township at St. Vladimir's Camp. She was an avid fundraiser for the church, and someone no one could say "no" to. Her familiar "hoo hoo" was heard as she was heading your way to ask for support. If there was a project to be completed, she worked tirelessly for it.

Kaye was truly a "Baba" or "Momma" to all. You could not visit her without being sent home with an armful of halushki, kolachi, hot peppers, jelly or some other treasure from her home.

She will be deeply missed and always remembered by her three granddaughters, Kristen Gitler (Brian) of Ambler, Pa., Jessica Swindell (Andrew) of Peabody, Mass., and Dr. Jennifer Lazor (Matthew Lombardo) of Cleveland; her four great-grandchildren, whom she loved "a bushel and a peck," Danny, Grace, Joshy and Brady; and her son-in-law, Dr. James Lazor (Belinda) of Newton Falls.

Her husband, Pete (Past National President #26), preceded her in death, May 11, 2011. Kaye and Pete had one daughter, Kathleen Susan Lazor, (Past National Recording Secretary) who also preceded her in death, Dec. 4, 2010.

**Paul Kavchok** 76, of Hamilton Township fell asleep in the Lord peacefully surrounded by his devoted family on Tuesday March 17, 2020 at home. Born and raised in South Philly, he has been a Trenton and Hamilton resident for the past 54 years. He worked for Verizon Corp. formerly NJ Bell for over 40 years before retiring in 2007. Paul had a passion for gardening, running, was a diehard Phillies and Eagles fan, as well as his Wednesday Happy Hours and singing in church choir. He was always known to lend a helping hand when needed and for any reason. Paul was deeply loved by his family and friends and he cherished the many good times especially on his family vacations in Ocean City, NJ, as well as his other vacations traveling domestically and internationally

with his beloved wife "Betty." He was past president of the Band Parents Organization of the Hamilton High West Band. Paul was also a very active member of St. Vladimir's always volunteering and supporting for many activities and events. His selflessness, generosity and kindness will forever be remembered in the hearts in those who knew him. He was predeceased by his parents, Mary (Makara) and John Kavchok; two brothers, Ronald and John "Jack" Kavchok. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years "Betty" Elizabeth McAllister Kavchok of Hamilton; his three daughters and spouses Nancy (Joey) DeSandre of Highstown, Justine (Timothy) McCabe of Westfield NJ, Corinne (Phil) Luliucci of Atco, NJ; as well as seven grandchildren Tanya and Natasha DeSandre, Brendan, Megan, Andrew McCabe, Philip and Nikoli Luliucci; sister-in-law Irene Drozdowski.

Paul was a dedicated member of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, serving as President of the Trenton Chapter # 78 and strong supporter of Colonial District events.



**Veronica "Ronnie" Wrobel** passed away on November 12, 2020 from COVID. She was the mother of Jackie Justice "Wrobel", Paul Justice and the grandmother of Maddie & Monica. Ronnie lived a nice long life of 95 years. She was a member of the FROC/FOCA Chapter #162, Archangel Michael O Club in Burbank, IL since the start in 1962 however her membership in the organization's Midwest District dates back to the 40's. She loved her family, Church & the O Club.

Vacations would mainly consist of District Conventions, Bowling Tournaments & National Conventions. She enjoyed meeting people across the country who were Orthodox and attended the many club and convention events with Judy Krajewski. Ronnie was an FOCA mom to many. She will be missed. May her memory be eternal.



**Anna (Zazula) Fajvan**, in her 90th year, fell asleep in the Lord on February 18, 2020 after a brief illness. She was a lifelong parishioner of SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, Jersey City, NJ. Ann began her active membership in the Jersey City 'R' Club, Chapter #129 as a Junior and continued until her death, serving as chapter secretary.

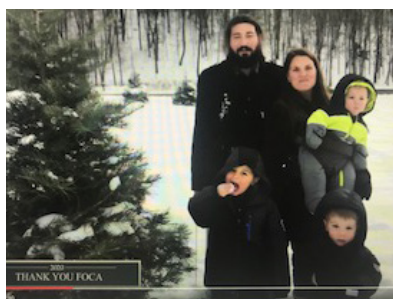
She was known as "Ma Fajvan" to many in the NJ District and participated in many National Conventions and Bowling Tournaments. Her life in the Church was exemplary, as she was an active member of several Church organizations and committees. Her greatest gift received was the lifelong friendships formed with so many through the Church and FROC/FOCA.

Predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Andrew, she is survived by seven children and nine grandchildren, including Mary Beth Stenko and son Paul, of the former Chapter #80, Terese Wisniewski, Chapter #129, Laura and Dave Johnson and children Stephanie, David, and Marianne, Chapter #129.

# St. Tikhon's Seminary Families Express Gratitude in a Video Message to the FOCA



Thank You FOCA! Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

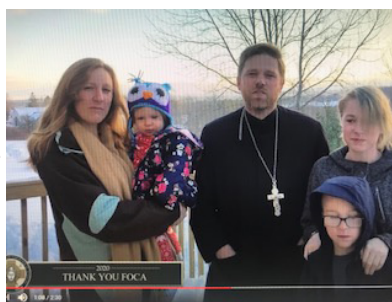


Thank you FOCA! Merry Christmas!



Hello from St. Tikhon's. We're the Gibson Family. We are so overwhelmed with gratitude for your generous gifts. Every year (this is our second year here) your gifts for the FOCA gifts for Christmas have just been overwhelming and beyond anything we could have ever hoped for so thank you very much. Merry Christmas! Thank you!

FOCA, thank you so much for your continued support and the kindness that you've shown our families this year through your gifts. From the McDonald Family at St. Tikhon's, Merry Christmas!



Thank Thank you! Merry Christmas! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

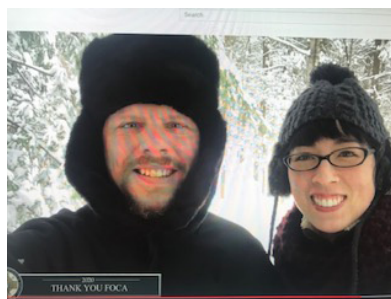


Hello, we are the Ramsey Family at St. Tikhon's Seminary. We want to say thank you to our friends at FOCA for thinking of us this Christmas season. Thank you for your generous gift. Have a blessed Nativity! Merry Christmas!

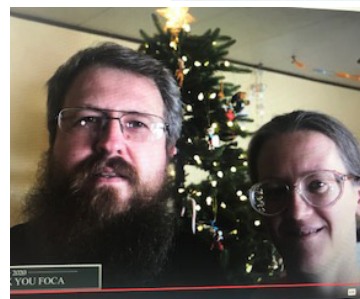
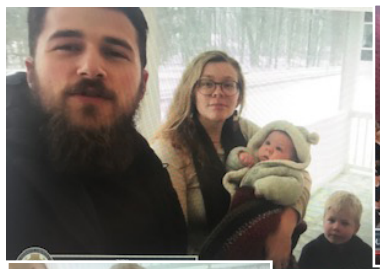


Thank you for all your generous gifts. Thank you FOCA!

From the McKinney Family at St. Tikhon's, thank you for your support and Merry Christmas!

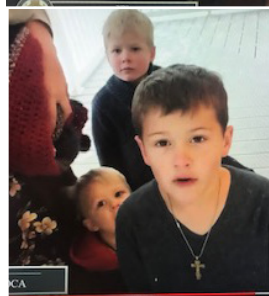


Thank you FOCA, from the Best Family. Merry Christmas!



Hello, we are Sergey and Irina Kakourin. We would like to thank you for the beautiful gifts that you gave to us. We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas! May the Lord bless you and grant you many years and may the coming year be happy, safe, and fulfilling for you. Thank you again!

STOTS thank you video may be viewed on the FOCA website: [www.orthodoxfellowship.org](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org)



To everyone at FOCA, thank you for your generous gifts and for making the holidays extra special. From Solomon, Anna, Robert, John, Henry, William, and Abraham. Thank you!

## FOCA CALENDAR 2021



- May 2** PASCHA
- June 1** Educational Scholarship application deadline
- June 27 - July 3** Ohio District Camp (ages 7-11) St. Vladimir's Camp in Farmdale, OH - [www.stvladimirscamp.com](http://www.stvladimirscamp.com)
- July 4-10** National FOCA Junior Olympics, St. Vladimir's Camp in Farmdale, OH - [www.stvladimirscamp.com](http://www.stvladimirscamp.com)
- July 11-17** Ohio District Camp (ages 12-17) St. Vladimir's Camp in Farmdale, OH - [www.stvladimirscamp.com](http://www.stvladimirscamp.com)
- January 16, 2021** Novogodny Ball sponsored by St. Stephen's OCF in Trevose, PA

For updates and detailed info, visit [www.orthodoxfellowship.org](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org)



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