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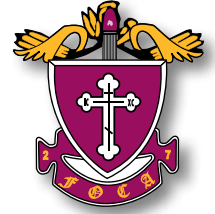
Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

SUMMER/FALL 2022

volume 95 number 4

Also Inside:

- 95h National Convention
- 2022 Summer Sports Tournament
- Ohio Camp
- In Memoriam: His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman



The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Witnessing our Faith...



By Charitable Works...



...Through Fellowship



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Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

V. Rev. Nicholas Wyslutsky
755 S Cleveland Ave, Mogadore, OH 44260-3547
frnick65@gmail.com
Cell - 330-608-2092

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Allison Steffaro
38 Beryl Street, South River, NJ 08882
Cell: (732) 395-1651
email: michaelsteffaro@comcast.net

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Cell- 330-418-4584
kochanbasil@sbcglobal.net

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(773) 456-5295, e-mail: mickeybowan@mindspring.com

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8 Ginesi Drive, Clark, NJ 07066
Tele: (732) 815-9765, Cell: (917) 887-5023
email: mjkovach@aol.com

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Sandy Kapelan
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America
FOCA C/O Sandra Kapelan,
892 Scott Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705
Phone: (570) 824-0562
Office E-Mail: orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com
website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

To receive membership information contact
the administrative office of the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.
CALL: (570) 824-0562

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Marge Kovach,
FOCA Communication Director
8 Ginesi Drive Clark, NJ 07066
E-mail: FOCACommunications@Gmail.com or
mjkovach@aol.com
Phone: 917-887-5023

MANAGING EDITOR **Michael Schultz**

LAYOUT EDITOR **Michael Schultz**

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

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BY
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Allison Steffaro

44th National FOCA President

Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

As we celebrate the Birth of our Lord, we are reminded that not all gifts come in packages.

One of the greatest gifts we received this year was the fact that we were able to come together and hold a National Convention! It was so nice to see so many familiar faces. While the format was not the same as in the past, our delegates came together to discuss, debate and then draft a proposal that will allow our organization to exist for another 95 years!



At the national convention in Baltimore, our delegates drafted a proposal that was presented to the Holy Synod. In this document we asked that the FOCA be a partner with the Church to work together to create a platform to hold activities for the youth of our Church. (This proposal can be viewed on our website.) We currently have members of the executive board serving on a committee with OCA clergy and lay persons to enable this vision to come to fruition.

Another blessing that bestows on our organization is your generosity towards the Saint Nicholas Wish list program. This year we filled 40 family lists not to mention the thousands of dollars of gift cards and monetary donations that were sent to St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska! My husband and I had the pleasure of delivering those packages to Tikhon's in early December. I cannot tell you how grateful those families were to receive the gifts. The faces on those children, when they saw their packages, were priceless. This was truly a remarkable undertaking and the blessings you provided will live long after the holidays.

I am so proud to be the president of this amazing organization. Your hard work, contributions and prayers for our future are coming to fulfillment before our eyes.

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

Marge Kovach

Interim Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

This semi-annual issue offers highlights from several successful events as well as events and activities planned for the next few months. The F.O.C.A. Calendar serves as a quick reference.

The feature story is the rescheduled 95th National FOCA Convention, held in July 2022 in conjunction with the OCA's 20th All-American Council in Baltimore, Maryland. Although the convention gathering was smaller comparatively speaking, it was magnificent to assemble delegates, guests, and friends in person, after what has seemed like forever. A large portion of convention deliberations centered around crafting a vision for the future. Once again, holding our convention in conjunction with the OCA All-American Council provided the opportunity for several members of the Holy Synod of Bishops to participate in the weekend events making Vespers, Liturgy, and the Grand Banquet extra special. Genuinely special, was the presentation of the Life Member honor bestowed upon V. Rev. Mitered Achpriest Daniel, of blessed memory, and Matushka Theodora Ressetar in recognition of their many years of support and dedication to the FROC/FOCA.

FOCA Gifts of Love Campaign provided much appreciated support for the youth program during the AAC. Additionally, many of the adult volunteers were FOCA members including program organizers Father Benjamin Tucci (Minneapolis, MN) and Matushka Elizabeth Wyslutsky (Mogadore, OH). Deacon Peter Ilchuk wore several hats that week, not only serving as the FOCA Convention Planning and Organizing Chair, but also as the All-American Council Manager in addition to his new position as Executive Secretary to the Metropolitan. Understandably Deacon Peter stepped down as the FOCA CP&O Chair. The Fellowship was very fortunate to have had Deacon Peter dutifully serving in the position for 6 years.

Once again, the "Transitions" section includes several memorials for extremely dedicated, long-time members and supporters of the FOCA on local, district, and national levels. We are thankful for their contributions - they will be missed. As Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, Metropolitan Herman served as the FOCA's Spiritual Leader from 2002 until his retirement in 2008. At each National Convention, His Beatitude opened his banquet address by thanking the Fellowship for supporting the Church and ended with his prayer for the strength to continue the good works. Memory Eternal!



2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL "VIRTUAL" CHRISTMAS CONCERT SPONSORED BY THE FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA



Celebrate the feast of the Nativity of our Lord with parish choirs from across the United States singing the hymns and carols of the season.

Join us for a "Virtual" Christmas Concert livestreamed via YouTube on Sunday December 25th. Details available on our website.

<https://www.orthodoxfellowship.org/upcoming-events-1/2021/12/26/national-virtual-christmas-concert-wwjpz>



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Send articles, photos, and information to:

Marge Kovach, FOCA Communication Director
8 Ginesi Drive Clark, NJ 07066

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FOCA Faithful Successfully Navigated to the 95th National Convention

The 95th National Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) convened in Baltimore, MD, July 15-18, 2022, at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel.



On Saturday morning, members of the Board of Trustees and Past National Presidents, lead by the American Flag and the Icon of All Saints of North America, processed into

the ballroom to the singing of the Troparion - O Lord Save Thy People. National Spiritual Advisor, V. Rev. Nicholas Wyslutsky, and CP&O Director Dn Peter Ilchuk, led the opening prayer service, followed by a Panikida for all the departed members of the Fellowship. Beloved Hierarchs, clergy, and members of the FOCA, who have passed since the last convention held in 2019, were remembered individually.



Plenary sessions were called to order by National President Allison Steffaro followed by the singing of the national anthem and FOCA anthem. Recommendations, questions, and updates to the reports of the Executive Board, District Governors, Department Directors, and Committee Chairs were addressed. The rest of the morning was dedicated to an open forum entitled Navigating our Future. Three topics were presented for discussion: *Virtual Outreach* headed by Fr. Wyslutsky; *FOCA proposal to the Holy Synod on Youth and Young Adult Programs* presented by Vice President Basil Kochan; and *Reimagining the National Convention* led by Michael Steffaro. Following the youth proposal discussion, a motion passed, reallocating \$50,000 from the building fund for youth programs.

Kenneth Kidd, FOCUS Executive Director updated the body on the work of FOCUS. He also passed along a message from a previous seminary family Christmas gift recipient who asked that Kenneth be sure to send thanks to the FOCA for the wonderful Christmas our gifts provided his family. He said that he had to manage his family's expectations – because future Christmases would never be that grand.



On Saturday evening, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, several members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, and FOCA convention participants attended Great Vespers in the ballroom of the



Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel, which was transformed into a beautiful chapel for the week. The hotel was the site of the 20th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, which formally opened on Monday evening, July 18.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and members of the Holy Synod of Bishops concelebrated the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning along with other clergy, and deacons. Juliana Woodill, Conductor of the Archdiocesan Choir of Washington, DC, directed the choir and The Right Reverend Gerasim, Bishop of Fort Worth, Auxiliary to the Diocese of the South, delivered the homily.



Our convention grand banquet was an afternoon event with members of the Holy Synod intermixed at the various banquet tables and interacting with all in attendance. Toastmaster Basil Kochan graciously orchestrated the brief program. In her presidential address, Allison Steffaro thanked the members of the board and especially Father Nicholas Wyslutsky, our national spiritual advisor, for guiding us through this most difficult time; finding ways for us to continue to come together in prayer and fellowship while also continuing to help those in need. She highlighted the successes of each of these programs, pointing out that, in a few short weeks, Gifts of Love raised over \$8,000 for the AAC youth program. (See related article page 9, FOCA raised funds to





provide AAC youth program necessities) Allison finished by announcing four scholarship recipients, each receiving a \$1,000 award.

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America honored the Very Reverend Daniel Ressetar (Reposed) and Matushka Theodora

Rissetar with the distinguished designation of Life Member. Father Nicholas Wysklutsky and Metropolitan Tikhon presented Matushka Theodora with a plaque honoring the couple for their long history of dedicated service to the FROC/FOCA. As everyone rose to their feet, Dn. Peter Ilchuk intoned many years.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon addressed the group, commenting on how beautiful the Liturgy was this morning. He referenced the life



member recognition bestowed upon Matushka and Fr. Daniel Ressetar as truly inspiring for all of us to see the faithful service of those who have labored for so many years for the Church and the FOCA. After citing several FOCA



initiatives and the work that FOCA has done for so many years, His Beatitude commented on the proposal saying that he “prays that the spirit of generosity and of service that is found here in FOCA will spread even more throughout the dioceses and parishes of our Orthodox Church in America so that we may fulfill our apostolic commandment to spread the gospel and to do it by supporting our brothers and sisters in need.” His Beatitude ended his address by saying that he is “grateful to all of you for your support of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America and your support of the Orthodox Church in America.”



Plenary session reconvened on Monday morning with a good portion of the time focused on rewording and finalizing the youth proposal. The final product highlighted the founding of the FROC by Fr. Vladimir Prislopsky with the primary goal of keeping kids in the church. With the guidance of Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Michael, the FOCA drafted a proposal that offered us up to “create activities, programs, and retreats

open to all youth of the OCA”. The targeted age groups being toddler through college age. The 96th National Convention, to be held in 2023, was awarded to the South River, New Jersey Chapter. The 97th was awarded to the Akron, Ohio Chapter to be held in 2024. 2025 will be an AAC year and a location has not been identified by the OCA. The Summer Sports Tournament has been awarded out to the year 2025. Nominations were held and the entire Executive Board was reelected for another term and duly installed. Many years was intoned for Matushka Theodora and Marge Kovach who both celebrated birthdays that day. Session ended with the traditional hand clasp and reciting of the FOCA Motto. Singing of the FOCA Anthem followed, and the president gavelled the convention closed, to be reconvened in 2023.



Social events for the weekend began with a welcome reception on Friday evening, providing a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new connections. Saturday activities included tours of the “Charm City” in the afternoon and group access to the National Aquarium in the evening. On Sunday evening, the group enjoyed private access to the B&O Railroad Museum. Following the self-guided tour, we indulged in a spread of decadent desserts. Fabulous acoustics within the roundhouse inspired an impromptu performance of the FOCA anthem.



Key takeaways from the 20th All American Council included the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America canonically electing Bishop Daniel, Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest. **(See related article on page 9, His Grace Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa Enthroned as the Twelfth Hierarch of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest)** During the final council session, Fr. Nicholas Wyslutsky reported on the recent works of the FOCA and inquired as to the status of our proposal to the Holy Synod. Metropolitan Tikhon offered that the synod has appointed Bishop Andrei and Bishop Gerasim to work with us on a final proposal with plans to be presented to the Holy Synod hopefully this fall.





FOCA Raised Funds to Provide AAC Youth Program Necessities

In a few short weeks, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America raised well over \$8,000 to provide T-shirts, backpacks, water bottle sleeves, classroom necessities, snacks, and more for the 20th All-American Council Youth Program. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Gifts of Love and purchased items from the Amazon shopping list.

A very special thanks to Father Benjamin Tucci and Matushka Elizabeth Wyslutsky, program organizers, and to the many FOCA member volunteers for helping make the youth program a success.



His Grace Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa Enthroned as the Twelfth Hierarch of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest

On Monday, July 18, 2022, a few hours before the opening of the 20th All-American Council, the Diocese of the Midwest convened a special assembly, under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, to consider an episcopal nomination following the falling asleep of Archbishop Paul of blessed memory. The Diocesan assembly nominated His Grace Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa who had been serving as Locum Tenens of the Diocese. Later that day, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, meeting in a Special Summer 2022 Session under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, canonically elected Bishop Daniel, Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest, as the twelfth hierarch of the Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest.

The enthronement of His Grace Bishop Daniel took place September 30 through October 2, 2022, at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL. Hierarchs, clergy, and faithful from all over the diocese and the local area took part in the three-day celebration.

One month later, on November 11, 2022, the Holy Synod unanimously decided to elevate His Grace Bishop

Daniel of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest to the dignity of archbishop.

The Diocese of Chicago and the Midwest encompasses many FOCA Chapters.

May God grant His Eminence Archbishop Daniel many years!

Sources: <https://domoca.org/>



FOCA Sponsored Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

October 16-28, 2023

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America will sponsor a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October of 2023. Led by National Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Nicholas Wyslutsky the trip will include visits to Holy Sites in the Cities of Nazareth, Bethlehem, Bethany beyond the Jordan and many more. We invite you to join us as we walk in the footsteps of our Lord and the Apostles and Saints. Plan to join us in the Holy Land for the best in faith and fellowship.

The trip will include first class accommodations, most meals, and the best tour guides. Brochure with itinerary and reservation materials available on the FOCA Website orthodoxfellowship.org. Email Father Nicholas with any questions at: focaspiritualadvisor@gmail.com



Home Parish to FOCA Chapter 4/6 Celebrating 100 Years!



Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, OH celebrated the parish's 100th anniversary on the weekend of November 4-5, 2022. Co-chairs of the year-long observance were Becky Tesar (FOCA Past National President #42) and Melissa Tesar (Ohio District Governor).

On Saturday, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with His Beatitude were His Grace Bishop Daniel, Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest along with OCA Secretary Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Archpriest John Memorich, and 12 other clergy. During the service, Deacon Daniel Kovalak (Director of the FOCA's Ohio District Camp) was elevated to the rank of Protodeacon, and Michael Herzak (FOCA Past National President #24) was tonsured to the rank of Reader. Metropolitan Tikhon presented the parish with a Synodal Gramata in recognition of 100 years of service. A large celebratory banquet followed.

Bishop Daniel celebrated a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Following its conclusion, Gramatas were presented to five individuals in recognition of their service to the parish. An icon of the Holy Archangel Michael was presented to the newly tonsured Reader Michael Herzak for his service to the parish, St Tikhon's Seminary, and the Orthodox Church in America. Mat. Catrina and the newly elevated Protodeacon Daniel received an icon honoring their service to youth of the parish and their work with St. Vladimir's camp. Mat. Theodora Ressetar accepted an icon as an everlasting remembrance of her father, the V. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Prislopsky, who faithfully served this parish for 37 years. A fun-filled afternoon, specifically geared toward the youth of the parish, followed.

May God grant the clergy and faithful of Archangel Michael parish many years!

Photos: OCA.org

86th Colonial District Convention

Submitted by Larry Skvir
President, St. Stephen's OCF

On Saturday, October 8, the five chapters of the Colonial District met at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia for the 86th district convention. Because of the late morning convention start time, the members present were only able to listen to the tail end of President Allison Steffaro's Zoom Caucus. The members gathered for the Caucus sang Happy Birthday to Colonial District Governor, Walter Alesevich, on the occasion of his 68th birthday.

Following the convention call to order by Governor Alesevich, District Spiritual Advisor, Theodore Boback, intoned Memory Eternal for departed members of the district, including Nation's Capital member, Elizabeth Manchuk, who reposed this year at the age of 102. Memory Eternal.

A quorum of all five district chapters was present. Reports were given by the district Spiritual Advisor, the district officers, chapter presidents or representatives, and committee chairpersons. All reports were accepted and the convention was adjourned for lunch. Following lunch, Governor Alesevich was presented with a beautiful birthday cake and the members sang Happy Birthday to him.

Following lunch, the Nominating Committee chairperson, Deacon James Magruder, presented a slate of candidates for district offices. Deacon James had the difficult task of finding a replacement for Governor Alesevich, who is stepping down after an incredible 28 year run as district governor. He will be retiring from his position with the US Postal Service and relocating to Connecticut. Parliamentarian Paul Fedoronko ruled that since the Nominating Committee is not an Executive Board position, it was acceptable for Deacon James to also serve as the district Recording Secretary.

Under Old Business, it was reported that only a small amount was collected by the annual FOCA St. Andrew's Appeal since there was no formal solicitation of individual chapters. St. Stephen's OCF was one of the few National chapters that contributed to the drive. The district Seminarian Support Project supported a seminarian from St. Tikhon's in 2021-22. The 2022-23 project will support a seminarian from St. Vladimir's. There were no applicants in 2022 for the Colonial District Scholarship. Under New Business, the convention body approved the 2022-23 district budget and a motion to increase the district monthly seminarian support from \$100 per month to \$150 per month, for a total of \$1,350 for the academic year.

The following officers were elected for two-year

terms: Governor, Larry Skvir and Corresponding Secretary, Darice Keyes. Deacon James Magruder was elected for a one-year term as Recording Secretary, and Herman Meyer was elected to the Nominating Committee for a two-year term.

Under announcements, St. Stephen's OCF is tentatively planning to hold the annual Novogodny Ball in January 2023 after two-year COVID related hiatus. To honor Walter, the chapter presented him with two dinner-dance tickets to the 2023 Ball and a one-night hotel room at the Radisson Hotel. Vladicon (Baltimore) will participate in the annual St. Andrew's Golf Tournament and Bull and Oyster Roast in 2023 and St. Mark (Bethesda) will host its Fall Festival on November 5-6.

In recognition of his 28 years as Governor, on behalf of the Colonial District, Paul Fedoronko presented Walter with the hand carved triptych that has been a part of every Colonial District Board of Trustees Meeting and district convention for many decades. Fr. Ted presented Walter with a certificate in recognition of his years of service and dedication as governor. Many Years was intoned and sung to Walter.

The convention was adjourned. Following the singing of "It is Truly Meet" and the FOCA anthem, and the closing circle, installation of the newly elected officers and Executive Board was held in the main church of the Cathedral.



ST. VLADIMIR'S CAMP UPDATE

Submitted by Melissa Tesar, Ohio District Governor (and Camp Cook)

We were very happy to be back to three weeks for Camp in 2022! As you know, we didn't hold our Camping season in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With careful planning, along with guidelines approved by Archbishop Paul (of Blessed Memory), we were able to hold 2 weeks of Ohio District Camp in 2021. In early Spring 2022, we began planning for the FOCA Junior Olympics to return and to hold our normal 3 weeks of Camp.

We did have a major improvement that needed to be tackled between the end of the 2021 Camping season and the beginning of the 2022 season. During the Older Kids Camp week (week 2), we had quite a bit of rain. The Cooks realized that we couldn't always flush the toilets in the Cook's Cabin, especially in the morning. Nick Memorich did some reconnaissance work and determined that we needed to correct a 50' belly in the sanitary sewer line that led from the Cook's Cabin to the sanitary sewer. With Nick's plumbing experience, he led a team of volunteers to replace the entire sanitary sewer line. Nick's early estimates were that the project would cost around \$20,000. With a lot of hard work, sweat (any most likely a few tears of joy from the Cooks), the job was completed for just about \$10,000.

I was able to witness some of the work that went into this job, and I don't have the words to rightly thank them for the time and effort they put into it! Those volunteers are Nick Memorich, Dcn. Dan Kovalak, Danny Kovalak, Leon Sheean and Greg Turk. Greg reached out to a friend who owns an excavating company to purchase the stones needed for the project, and the company donated almost \$900 worth of stones. We did price the job out with various contractors, and that estimate was approximately \$27,000.

Our 2022 Camping season was a great success! We did see challenges in attendance (especially in our Junior Olympics week), but we were excited to have many first-time Campers with us. In fact, 10 of the 25 Campers in the Younger Kids week were new, and another 9 were in their 2nd year! Our theme for all three weeks was "Surf's up with the Be-attidudes" and the focus was on emotions as well as learning the Beatitudes. Dcn. Dan and his JO Staff introduced some new events this year, including Corn Hole, KanJam, Ping Pong and even Mario Kart!



Campers participating in a Panihida for +Archbishop Job and +Archbishop Paul

During Junior Olympics, a Panihida was held after Divine Liturgy to pray for both Archbishop Job and Archbishop Paul. Both of our beloved Archbishops spent time at St. Vladimir's Camp with the Campers. May the memories of Archbishop Job and Archbishop Paul be Eternal!

We were grateful to have the following Priests at Camp this year – Ohio District Camp Younger Kids week (week 1 – ages 8-12) was Fr. Jan Cizmar from St. Theodosius, FOCA Junior Olympics was Fr. John Baker of St. Mark 's

in Rochester Hills, MI, and Ohio District Camp Older Kids week (week 3 – Ages 13-17) was Fr. John Steffaro. We pulled Fr. Steffaro out of retirement as our last week of Camp was also the week of the OCA's All-American Council in Baltimore, MD. Unfortunately, having these events at the same time was a result of having to reschedule the AAC due to the pandemic.

Overall, we had 72 campers during our three weeks (with some campers overlapping between their week of Ohio District Camp and JO). These Campers came from all over Ohio, as well as Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Illinois, along with 2 non-Orthodox campers. We had 18 staff members from Cleveland, Campbell, Warren, Akron, Columbus, and Michigan, many of which are former Campers! We had 9 cooks over the three weeks, and they were from Cleveland, Columbus, and Akron.

We are so very grateful to everyone who donates their time, talents, and treasures to St. Vladimir's Camp. We simply can't run our Camp without your generosity! May God repay you tenfold for your prayers and donations! If you would like to donate to Camp and have PayPal, you can send money to Camp using our email address of stvladscamp@gmail.com. We also have an Amazon Camp Wish list. Items that are purchased from the wish list can be sent directly to my house, so you don't have to worry about getting them to Camp! <https://bit.ly/stvladscampoh>

It's never too early to get ready for the next camping season! The 2023 dates are:

July 2-8 – Ohio District Younger Kids Camp (ages 8-12)

July 9-15 – FOCA Junior Olympics (ages 10-18)

July 16-22 – Ohio District Older Kids Camp (ages 13-17)



Picnic tables and benches donated by Josh Gaydos for his Eagle Scout project



New Mural on the back of the bath houses



Sanitary Sewer line work



Josh and Dcn Dan

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THE 96TH National in Colonial Williamsburg!

July 28-31, 2023



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EVENTS: Planned but more on the way!

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- Walking Evening Tour of Historic Sites
- Private Tours and activities for Children
 - Afternoon Luncheon after Liturgy
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Colonial Williamsburg is located in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is part of Virginia's Historic Triangle, which includes Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown. We're located midway between Richmond and Virginia Beach, and 150 miles south of Washington, DC.

By Train

Amtrak serves the Williamsburg Transportation Center with a connecting train from Washington, DC. The center is just blocks from Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area and offers car rentals and taxi service.

By Plane

There are more than 200 flights daily into three nearby airports: Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport (PHF) (20 minutes), Norfolk International Airport (ORF) (45 minutes), or Richmond International Airport (RIC) (45 minutes)

2022 Summer Sports Tournament

The 2022 National Summer Sports Tournament, held August 19-20, was hosted by St. John's Sr. "O" Club in Alpha, NJ. Golfers who traveled from multiple states joined many from the local area to enjoy the challenging fairways and true-rolling greens at the Green Pond Country Club. Following golf on Saturday, participants and many local guests attended an awards banquet held at the course.

Results ONE DAY EVENT



Actual

1. Michael Steffaro South River NJ 87

TWO DAY EVENT MEN

Actual

1. David Stockman Canonsburg PA 149
2. Joe Lear Ambridge PA 174
3. John Lord Garden St. NJ 190

Callaway HDCP

1. Mark Marton Sun City West AZ 148
2. David Schenken Canonsburg PA 150
3. Kip Yarosh Canonsburg PA 153

Friday

#5 Drive Closest to Line Anthony Schultz – Columbus OH
#6 Closest to Pin
#15 Closest to Pin David Stockman - Canonsburg PA
#16 Long Drive Mike Aiello - Phillipsburg NJ
#17 Closest to Pin Kip Yarosh - Canonsburg PA

Saturday

#5 Drive Closest to Line Jess Kiefer - Phillipsburg NJ
#6 Closest to Pin David Stockman - Canonsburg PA
#15 Closest to Pin David Stockman - Canonsburg PA
#16 Long Drive Mike Aiello - Phillipsburg NJ
#17 Closest to Pin David Stockman - Canonsburg PA



FOCA CALENDAR 2022 - 2023



November 30, 2022	Virtual St. Andrew Day Celebration
December 25, 2022	Virtual Christmas Concert
January 14 – 15, 2023	Family Weekend
January 15, 2023	Novogodny Ball
July 2 – 8, 2023	Ohio Camp – Children ages 8 - 12
July 9 - 15, 2023	Ohio Camp - FOCA Jr Olympics
July 16 - 22, 2023	Ohio Camp – Children ages 13 - 17
July 28 - 30, 2023	96th National FOCA Convention in Williamsburg, VA
October 16 – 28, 2023	Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

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



In Memoriam.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman

On September 6, 2022, His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman (Swaiko), retired Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, fell asleep in the Lord at the age of 90. He had served as Metropolitan of All America and Canada from 2002 until his retirement in 2008.

His Beatitude was born Joseph Swaiko in Briarford, PA on February 1, 1932, and was baptized at St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Curtisville, PA. As a youth and young adult, he sang in the parish choir, taught Sunday school and, eventually, served as a member of the parish and diocesan councils. After completing his elementary and secondary education with honors in the West Deer Township PA schools, he enrolled at Robert Morris School of Business (later, Robert Morris College and now, Robert Morris University) in Pittsburgh, where he received a certificate in secretarial science. Subsequently, he served in the Adjutant General Corps of the US Army while stationed in Labrador.

After being discharged from the military in 1959, at the urging of his parish priest Father Gabriel Davidiuk, Joseph Swaiko enrolled at Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA, from which he graduated in 1963. While still a seminarian, he was appointed personal secretary to His Grace, Bishop Kiprian (Borisevich), who became Rector of the seminary in 1961. After ordination and graduation, Fr. Joseph also assumed the duties of seminary Registrar. Following his ordination to the Holy Diaconate on March 21, 1964, and to the Holy Priesthood on April 7, 1964, Father Joseph served as Rector of Saint John the Baptist Church, Dundaff, PA and Saints Peter and Paul Church, Uniondale, PA while continuing administrative work and teaching Church Slavonic at the Seminary. He was appointed to the Seminary's Accreditation Committee and was instrumental in organizing the formation of its Board of Trustees, of which he was a charter member and Secretary-Treasurer. As Bishop Kiprian's chief assistant, Father Joseph Swaiko facilitated construction of a large new building for the Seminary and renovation of the monastery church. He also served as Secretary of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania (today known as the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania). Father Joseph was also appointed General Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the historic 14th All-American Sobor, convened at Saint Tikhon's Monastery in October 1970, which - on recognizing the Church's autocephaly granted earlier that year - became the 1st All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America.

In his ministry to youth, Father Joseph organized the first summer camp for children at the Seminary and Monastery in 1965. He inspired the formation of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Bloomsburg State College and became its Chaplain. For many years, he also served as Spiritual Advisor to the Anthracite District of the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs (today known as the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America).

On December 4, 1970, he was tonsured a monk by Archbishop Kiprian and given the name Herman, in honor of Saint Herman of Alaska who had been glorified among the saints just four months earlier. Less than a year later, on October 17, 1971, he was elevated to the rank of Igumen and named Deputy Abbot of Saint Tikhon's Monastery.

On October 19, 1972, Father Herman was elected to the Episcopate and raised to the rank of Archimandrite three days later. He was consecrated to the episcopacy at Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA on February 10, 1973, with the title of Bishop of Wilkes-Barre, serving as auxiliary of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. The hierarchs participating in his consecration were Metropolitan Ireney (Bekish), Primate of the Orthodox Church in America; Archbishops Sylvester (Haruns) of Montreal and Canada; Kiprian of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania; Valerian (Trifa) of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate; along with Bishops Theodosius (Lazor) of Pittsburgh and West Virginia and Dmitri (Royster) of Hartford and New England.

During his episcopal service, Bishop Herman continued to reside and teach at Saint Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary. In addition to his ministry within the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, he served as Temporary Administrator of the Diocese of the West in 1975 and Temporary Administrator of the Diocese of New England in 1978-81. Following the death of Archbishop Kiprian in December 1980, Bishop Herman was nominated to be ruling hierarch by a diocesan assembly on February 19, 1981 and elected Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania by the Holy Synod of Bishops on March 17, 1981. His installation as diocesan hierarch took place at Saint Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia on April 29, 1981. During his tenure as ruling bishop of the diocese, several parishes were established and new church buildings were constructed and consecrated for both new and long-established parish communities.

Even after he was appointed Rector in May 1981, Bishop Herman continued to teach at Saint Tikhon's Seminary. Among the subjects he taught were Church Slavonic, Liturgics, Homiletics and Pastoral Theology. As Rector, he recruited new faculty members and sought to increase the student body. He oversaw modernization of the existing Seminary building and construction of a large new dormitory, and supervised several stages of the Seminary's academic accreditation.

As Deputy Abbot of Saint Tikhon's Monastery, he continually reinforced the monastic community by receiving new members. He also spearheaded construction of a new bell tower next to the church, which was the original home of an icon repository and erection of a mausoleum at the cemetery. He hosted several monastic and other conferences as well as continuing the tradition of an annual Memorial Day weekend pilgrimage for the faithful that have taken place since the monastery's founding in 1905.

In addition to his service to the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, Archbishop Herman served the greater Orthodox Church in America in a wide variety of capacities. He served as Chairman of the OCA Department of Finance; Vice-Chairman of the Department of Missions; Member of the Board of Theological Education; Vice-Chairman and Chairman of several Preconciliar Commissions; Episcopal Moderator for the Department of Stewardship; Chairman of the Pension Board; Vice-Chairman of the Office of Inter-Church Relations and Ecumenical Witness; and Member of the Lesser Synod of Bishops.

Bishop (later, Archbishop) Herman represented the OCA at numerous events abroad, often traveling with Metropolitan Theodosius to Russia and elsewhere. As an OCA hierarch, he participated in the historic conference of North America's Orthodox Bishops in Ligonier, PA in 1994. Several patriarchs and numerous hierarchs from around the world visited Saint Tikhon's Monastery for the annual pilgrimage or other celebrations throughout the years as guests of Metropolitan Herman.

Metropolitan Herman was well known as a proponent of the Sanctity of Life. For many years, he participated in the March for Life held in the US capital every January, leading the Orthodox participants, and addressing thousands in defense of the unborn. On September 29, 1999, he was named Acting Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, while also serving as Temporary Administrator of the Orthodox Church in America from May until September 2001, during Metropolitan Theodosius' medical leave-of-absence. On April 2, 2002, Metropolitan Theodosius submitted a petition requesting retirement to the Holy Synod of the OCA. The Holy Synod granted his request and announced

that the election of his successor would be held on July 22 at the OCA's Thirteenth All-American Council in Orlando. No candidate received the required two-thirds majority for immediate election during the first round of voting, which made a second ballot necessary. During the second round, the Holy Synod chose to elect Archbishop Herman. The enthronement of Metropolitan Herman took place during the Divine Liturgy on September 8, 2002, at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Numerous prominent Orthodox hierarchs and dignitaries from around the world attended the enthronement ceremony and the reception that followed.

During his primatial tenure, in 2005, the title of the Primate was changed to "Archbishop of Washington and New York", consolidating the two dioceses. This placed greater diocesan responsibility on Metropolitan Herman, who ably shouldered this additional burden until his retirement. In 2009, the two dioceses were once again separated as before their merger in 2005.

Metropolitan Herman received numerous awards and honors. In 1994, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America and awarded the Order of Saint Innocent Silver Class. He was granted an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Nashotah House Seminary in Wisconsin and an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree from his alma mater, Robert Morris College.

On September 4, 2008, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America granted Metropolitan Herman's request to retire as Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. The election of his successor took place two months later at the 15th All-American Council. During his retirement, Metropolitan Herman quietly resided in a house on the grounds of Saint Tikhon's Monastery until his repose.

Metropolitan Herman is especially remembered by those who were seminarians under his mentorship. Historically, in terms of the development of the Orthodox Church in America, he will be memorialized as the second American-born Primate of the OCA.

Funeral arrangements included a viewing and Panikhida at Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA followed by Matins Burial service for a priest, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, and burial at Saint Tikhon's Monastery. May Metropolitan Herman's memory be eternal!

Sources:

www.oca.org/in-memoriam/his-beatitude-metropolitan-herman

Transitions: *Summer/Fall 2022*

In Memoriam: Faith Malinich



Faith B. Malinich, 84, of Winter Springs, Florida, formerly of Binghamton, New York, fell asleep in the Lord on July 2, 2022, after a brief illness. Faith is survived by her two daughters and son-in-law, Lara and Bruno Mangiarelli; Neena Malinich; grandchildren Demetra (Justin) Nescott and Dante Mangiarelli; her great granddaughter, Sophia who arrived a few weeks later on July 21; and her sister Hope (Gene) Zemplansky. She also leaves behind many cousins, nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband George, and her parents George W. and Ann Billik.

Faith met George through a mutual friend on Halloween weekend in 1957 at an "R" Club district convention, a club which she was a member of for decades, serving as Upper New York State District Governor. She was a lifelong member of FROC in which she served as Recording Secretary. She spent immeasurable hours volunteering at her church.

Although an executive secretary for most of her life, Faith ventured into the candy business with her sister, Hope and Two Sisters Homemade Candies was born, a business that they both enjoyed. Not one to sit still for long, Faith had many hobbies. She folk danced with George, cross-stitched, cooked, baked for friends and family, and made the best lasagna ever. She loved to play bingo, cards, and board games.

Faith, known as Baba (grandmother) to many, will be remembered for her kind heart, outgoing personality, and dedication to the people and organizations she loved.

Funeral services were held at the Orthodox Church of St. Stephen the Protomartyr in Longwood, Florida and the burial was in Binghamton, New York.

Memory Eternal!

(Adapted from Banfield Funeral Home on Jul. 5, 2022)

In Memoriam: Archpriest John Kassatkin



On October 6, 2022, the feast of the Conception of the Holy Prophet and Baptist John, after a short illness, one of the senior-most clerics of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA, Archpriest John Kassatkin, rector emeritus of the Elevation of the Cross Church in Hackettstown, NJ, reposed in the Lord at the age of 82.

The Chancellor of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA, Archpriest George Konyev, performed the Sacrament of Unction and the Canon for the Departure of the Soul over the newly-departed just prior to his repose.

Archpriest John was born on September 28, 1940, into a priest's family of Priest Constantine and Matushka Josephine Kassatkin in Export, Pennsylvania.

Having lost his father early, John took care of his mother and younger brother and sister, combining work with schooling.

Despite a difficult childhood, John never abandoned his desire to receive a spiritual education and devote his life to serving God and the Holy Church. In his autobiography, the future priest wrote about it this way: "After the

death of my father, I was more and more possessed by an ardent desire to become a priest. I saw that in our material age, few of my peers were ready to devote themselves to the Church. And I understood that the priesthood was more of a burden than a blessing, but my love for the Church put those fears into hindsight."

In 1962, John Kassatkin entered full-time study at the Holy Trinity Theological Seminary in Paris. Due to family circumstances, he was unable to complete his studies. Returning to the United States, he married a parishioner of Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral in Passaic, NJ, Maxine Bernhardt.

In 1972, the Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in the USA, Bishop Macarius of Uman (+2007) ordained John to the holy diaconate, and in 1974 he was ordained a priest, being assigned to serve as a full-time cleric of St. Nicholas Cathedral in New York City.

In 1976, he was accepted for the distance learning program at the Leningrad Theological Seminary, where he completed his spiritual education under the rector, then-Bishop Kyrill, the current Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

In Memoriam: Laurissa Rusnak



Laurissa Sirilla Rusnak, 83, passed away peacefully on September 30, 2022, at home surrounded by family.

Laurissa was born Feb. 1, 1939, to her parents Joseph and Julia Graban Sirilla. She was a lifelong resident of Campbell and graduated from Campbell Memorial High School in 1956. On June 27, 1964, she married her husband of 58 years, Walter Rusnak.

Throughout her lifetime, Laurissa worked at various places, including Dollar Bank, Cafaro Company, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, P&LE Railroad, and Youngstown State University. She was also an active member of many organizations such as the Campbell PTA, Youngstown Opera Guild, and the Campbell Alumni Association.

Laurissa was also devoted to and very involved in her church, St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Campbell, her entire life where she is known for her fashionable holiday attire. She belonged to many of the clubs and organizations within the church including the Sisterhood, Ladies Altar Society, Eastern Orthodox Women's Society, and Campbell "O" Club, where she served as secretary at the local and district levels and was National Sales Director for the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA). In addition to being active in these clubs and organizations, her greatest love was singing in the church choir.

Along with her beloved husband, her memory will be cherished by her son, George (Tracey) Rusnak; daughter, Melanie Rusnak; son, John Rusnak; sister, Debbie (Tom) Zelinsky; sisters-in-law, JoAnn Sirilla, Mary Jane Puskas and Nadine Pallai; and brother-in-law Joe Rusnak. She also leaves to cherish her memory, her ever-loving grandsons, Zachary, George, Luke, Joshua, Joseph, and Adam; her Godsons, David Livovsky and John Davis; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Laurissa was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Priscilla Sirilla and Myrna Tucci; and brother, Joseph Sirilla Jr.

Funeral services were held at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Campbell, Ohio.

Memory Eternal!

(Source: www.waskofamily.com)

Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Home to FOCA Chapter 97, Celebrates 100th Anniversary

On the weekend of October 22-23, 2022, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael joined the clergy and faithful of Saint Peter and Paul Church, Bayonne, NJ for the celebration of the parish's 100th Anniversary.

The commemoration of this milestone event began on Saturday evening with both Hierarchs in attendance for Great Vespers. On Sunday morning, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon presided over the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the invitation of His Eminence Archbishop Michael. Concelebrants included Archpriest Sophrony Royer, Rector, Archpriest John Fencik and Priest Stephen Krivonak of neighboring St. Mary's Parish, Bayonne (ACROD), Protodeacon Peter Danilchik, Deacons Peter Ilchuk and Stefan Karlgut, Subdeacons Mark Federoff and Zachary Parisi assisted in the altar along with Readers Stephen Wasilewski and Philip Benda. At the conclusion of Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Tikhon presented Father Sophrony and the parish with a Synodal Gramota in honor of the 100th Anniversary. Additionally, Archbishop Michael presented six parish council members with Gramotas in recognition of years in service to the parish family.

A celebratory banquet followed at the Knights of Columbus in Bayonne, NJ. Parish Council President, Reader



Stephen Wasilewski, serving as toastmaster, welcomed parishioners, friends, and honored guests. Bayonne City Council Member-At-Large, Juan M. Perez presented the parish with a citation in recognition of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary. Remarks were offered by Very Reverend Sophrony Royer, Rector Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church; Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, Chancellor of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey; The Most Reverend Michael, Archbishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey; and The Most Blessed Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada.

The 100th Anniversary celebration, chaired by Marge Kovach (FOCA Past National President #43), was an inspirational and memorable one for the Orthodox faithful and friends gathered in Bayonne; expressing prayerful gratitude for the many blessings God continues to bestow on the parish of Saints Peter and Paul.



84th Novogodny Ball – We're Back!

When Alpha "R" Club, Philadelphia, sponsored their 50th Novogodny Ball, the chapter members decided it was time to pass the Ball (literally) on to the next generation. Thanks to chairpersons Paul Fedoronko, Vera Hubiak, Lisa Lelo, and Andre and Alex Cox, over the years, St. Stephen's OCF, Chapter #82, has kept the Ball alive and flourishing. The Ball celebrated its 75th anniversary and continued into the 80's – until 2021 when COVID turned the world upside down and St. Stephen's made the difficult decision to cancel the Ball. St. Stephen's made a valiant attempt to hold the Ball in January, 2022, but the rise of the COVID variant dampened the response and the chapter wisely, but regretfully, decided to postpone the Ball for the second consecutive year.

With conditions improving and more people being vaccinated, St. Stephen's is moving forward with plans to host the 84th Novogodny Ball on Sunday, January 15, 2023 (The Martin Luther Weekend) at the Radisson Hotel

– Philadelphia, in Trevose, PA. The Kauriga Orchestra will once again be providing the music for this wonderful event. In November, reservation forms will be sent out to the patrons on our mailing list. If you aren't on our mailing list and would like more information, please call Andre Cox at 215-290-4542, or send an email to novogodnyball@gmail.com. We look forward to once again seeing all of our FOCA friends for an evening of dancing and fellowship, with proceeds for the benefit of deserving charities.

Larry Skvir
President, St. Stephen's OCF





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**Reservation must be made by
Dec 30th, 2022**

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