



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to the Church – Devoted to its Youth*

VOL. 49 NO. 4

JAN / FEB, 2003

## DR. DINAH M. FEDYNA

*“Ohio Family Practice Educator of the Year”*



*Dr. Dinah Fedyna and husband, Joseph Novicky*

(Columbus, OH) – The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) has selected Dr. Dinah Fedyna as the 2002 OAFP Family Practice Educator of the Year.

Dr. Fedyna is an active member of Sts. Peter and Paul UOL Chapter and Parish in Youngstown, Ohio. She is currently a Professor of Family Medicine and Director, Office of Predoctoral Education, in the Department of Family Medicine at the North-Eastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM). She also serves as Associate Director of Family Practice Residency Program at St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown, OH, where she maintains a clinical practice. Prior to joining St. Elizabeth's in October, 2001, she served for fifteen years as Associate Director at Akron General Medical Center's Family Practice Residency Program.

Dr. Fedyna is a graduate of Youngstown University and NEOUCOM. She completed her family practice training at Akron General Medical Center.

Dr. Fedyna has been invited to make numerous presentations on topics ranging from *“One-on-One Teaching Skills”*, to *“Common Dermatologic Problems.”* She has been involved in numerous professional and medical education activities including task forces and curriculum committees acting as lecturer, seminar leader or facilitator. She has been instrumental in designing, teaching and securing funding for many predoctoral offerings at NEOUCOM. In all, she has been awarded more than one million dollars in grants. Her areas of focus involve the physician patient interaction, clinical decision-making and the development of physical diagnostic skills. She has also been a strong advocate for promoting family practice as a challenging and tremendously rewarding career choice.

“I have worked with Dr. Fedyna for the past fourteen years and feel she is well qualified for this honor, because I have witnessed her commitment to curriculum innovation, teaching and development of our students' professional behavior,” wrote Ellen J. Wagner, M.S., Senior Program Coordinator in the Department of Family Medicine in NEOUCOM.

Many students wrote letters in support of Dr. Fedyna. “My initial encounter with Dr. Fedyna was as a third year medical student. At that time, I was in need of some career guidance, and Dr. Fedyna took time out of her busy schedule to sit down with me on multiple occasions to help me sort out all of my options,” said one student.

Another student writes: “One day while shadowing Dr. Fedyna, I learned about emphysema, fungal infections, and what it means to sit down and

*(continued on page 4)*

## BOHDAN HRYSHCHYSHYN

*“Ukrainian of the Year”*



*Bo Hryshchychyn and wife, Mary*

The **Ukrainian Technological Society** honored “Bo” Hryshchychyn with their Ukrainian of the Year Award for 2002 at their dinner/dance held at the University Club in Oakland, PA on November 16, 2002.

“Bo” was selected for the award in recognition of his lifetime commitment to serving the Ukrainian Communities in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Born in Philadelphia, he served in the US Army in the Panama Canal Zone during 1946-49. Upon returning from the service, he married Mary Sowirka. He graduated from Drexel University in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Employed by the General Refractories Company, he was transferred from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh in 1972. He served as Manager of Customer Engineering for fourteen years and retired after thirty-four years with General Refractories. “Bo” and Mary have a son, Mark, and a daughter Mary Donna, and two granddaughters.

“Bo” began his Ukrainian service at the early age of eight folding papers of the predecessor newspaper of the Ukrainian Orthodox Word (UOW). His love of choir singing resulted in his joining the Alexander Koshetz Choir of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia, and he served as its youngest president from 1951 to 1957. He joined the church choir at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Carnegie, Pa in 1975. He also sang with the Western Pennsylvania Regional Choir of the Ukrainian Orthodox League, and currently sings with the Ukrainian Cultural Trust Choir of Western Pennsylvania.

While at St. Vladimir's Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA, he was a member of the Parish Board and was President 1951-1960. His service at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Carnegie, PA includes serving as Auditor from 1975 to 2000. He was an organizer and founding member of the Sts. Peter and Paul Museum that was founded in 1997, and has served as the Chairman of the Museum Committee since 1998.

“Bo” is known nationally for his service to the Ukrainian youth through the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA (UOL). A member of the UOL since 1950, he served on the UOL national executive board from 1955 through 1981. During his tenure on the national board, he served as President 1958-1961 and held numerous other offices. He also organized the Mid-Atlantic Region of the UOL in 1955, and served as Chairman of the 1962 UOL Convention, and Vice Chairman of the 1977 and 1987 conventions. Active with the Council of Eastern Orthodox Youth Leaders of the Americas (CEOYLA), “Bo” held a number of offices on the Council: Treasurer -1957-58,

*(continued on page 4)*

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The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 5th of the prior month. Photos will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 12 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

Advertising rates: Please inquire through editorial offices.

## “A SEASON OF RENEWAL” Letter of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

*To the devout and Christ-loving presbyters, deacons,  
monastics and faithful of our holy Metropolia:  
May God's peace and love abound with you!*

Another year has passed and once again we prepare to undertake a journey – a personal pilgrimage of renewal during Advent/Philip's Fast, which leads us to a two-fold 8 day observance – that which the Holy Fathers call “the nativity according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ and the commemoration of our spiritual rebirth through water and the Spirit as loudly proclaimed in the words of the Christmas/Theophany Trisagion, “All who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

This season invites us to focus attention on our own personal renewal, structured on repentance, abstinence, prayer, charitable works and our response to Christ's loving and gracious invitation, “With [reverential] fear, faith and love, come forward.” The season calls upon us to put aside personal ego, to become invisible, to open ourselves to Christ, to behave in a manner commensurate with the vocation to which we have been called as identified by Saint Paul, that of Christian – a follower of Christ, so that He alone might be visible through our words and actions.

The lamentable reality in this the third year of the 21st century is that many of our Metropolia family and possibly a goodly percent of cradle Orthodox Christians in America, will not even give nominal recognition to this Fast, this period of renewal. Many of us, while being extremely emotional in defending the right to celebrate “our Christmas”, think nothing about disregarding or compromising our way of life and the spiritual foundation upon which the celebration of the feast is structured.

If the focus of our attention is trees, lights, a secularized, all knowing and weight challenged Santa escorted by reindeer, Christmas parties, food and drink in abundance – something even less than a sincere pagan celebration – then renewal is not necessary. Christ in this kind of celebration is nothing more than an appendage, often used, abused and quickly forgotten. If, however, Christ, Who cautions us about losing our true identity (Mark 8; 36) is at the center of our preparations and celebrations, then our actions during Pylypivka/Advent will reflect a personal commitment to renewal and our behavior during the days commemorating His Nativity, Baptism and Presentation will draw others to the fullness of life promised by Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

In this very uncertain and troubling age, when the very fabric of the Holy Faith is being tested by power of darkness, we are reminded and remind you, the spiritual sons and daughters of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, to follow the light, which marks the place where the child – the Christ is to be found and to accept His invitation to holiness so that we might have abundant life.

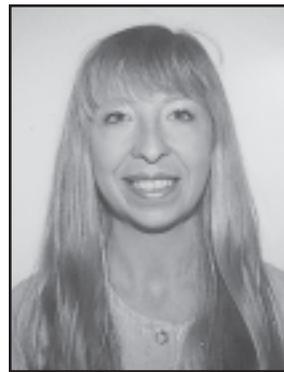
**May the journey, which we undertake this Pylypivka 2002 conclude with our being more mature in Faith and the practice of that Faith.**

*With the assurance of our prayers and love, we remain,  
Your servants in the all-encompassing love of Christ,*

+Constantine, Metropolitan  
+Antony, Archbishop +Vsevolod, Archbishop

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Daria A. Pishko



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

As we turn the page to a new year, 2003, there are a number of UOL events that must be penciled into everyone's calendar. The first is this year's **Pre-Lenten Retreat** which will be held February 14-16 at a retreat center just outside of Cleveland, Ohio. This retreat is open to both Seniors and Juniors and is an expansion of the very successful retreat that was held last spring in South Bound Brook. The Midwest location should facilitate

a large attendance from our Western Pennsylvania and Penn-Ohio constituents. Flights to Cleveland are reasonable that time of year (especially since most lake activities are virtually frozen). I hope all these pluses will draw an even greater attendance than last year. Natalie Kapeluck is being ably assisted on this project by Natalie Bilynsky (aka Natalie Sufler), this year's Junior League Advisor and Elizabeth Bowman, Junior UOL Recording Secretary. They've developed a great program to interest all ages so please see the associated article in this issue for more details and plan to attend.

Second is the **Junior UOL Basketball Tournament** to be hosted by St. Vladimir's Senior and Junior UOL Chapters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the weekend of May 16-18. The basketball tournament is open to teams comprised of both juniors and seniors. The last tournament was followed by a spaghetti dinner and DJ dance and was great fun for the whole family. Whether you play B-ball or not, please plan to attend. Enthusiastic spectators are always welcome.

Third but by no means least, is the **56<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to be held July 23 – 27** and hosted by the Sts. Peter and Paul UOL Chapters in Palos Park, Illinois. It's not too early to begin to make your plans. The ad forms for the yearbooks are already available. It would be great if each chapter supported the yearbook by purchasing an ad. If you need more ad forms please contact Anatol Bilyk at abilyk@uscanco.com.

We'll have plenty to discuss at this year's convention and also have lots of fun activities planned. I believe that the celebration of the UOL's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary was quite the turning point for the League and I hope that we can grasp the best of our traditions and practices from those 55 years and evolve into a new and better organization. We can do that at this convention. The task is not for the same old League members to assume the same old tasks but to reach into our membership and out into our parishes to get more members actively involved. I am calling out to all those who grew up in the League, who benefited from its training, coaching and counseling; who, as I very well know, have their own careers, families, and other numerous obligations but still have the flame that was instilled in our hearts as youngsters for our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and her League. The time has come for each of us to acknowledge that we must give back to that very organization which gave us so much. . . friends, laughs, valuable experiences, and sometimes a few heartaches. We must realize, if I may paraphrase from the General Motors commercial a few years ago. . . that “This isn't your fathers' Oldsmobile” now becomes “This isn't your fathers' UOL” anymore. This is the UOL of 2003. Our responsibility. We need more members to help the UOL evolve to the next step. We need the campers and junior convention attendees from the last 40 years to stand up and be counted. We need more fresh ideas, founded in the tradition of the last 55 years of successful UOL experiences. So I'm placing the call early. Please search your hearts. Please choose to contribute some time. Please make your family part of the greater UOL family. Our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and each of us will benefit. Plan now to come to the **56<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention** and make a difference.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and comments at anytime. I hope you all enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season. Until next month, I remain.

Yours in Christ's love,

Daria A. Pishko  
President

## UOL BULLETIN DEADLINE

**The deadline for each edition is the 5th of the prior month:  
September, October, November, January/February,  
March, April, and June.**

## JR. UOL PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Anya Priester*



Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Junior National Board is initiating many upcoming activities, and we are looking forward to a winter full of new events and fundraisers. Our first upcoming event is the **UOL retreat** at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio. The retreat will take place February 14-16<sup>th</sup>, and the theme is "Meeting the LIGHT in Your Life." Our corresponding secretary, Elizabeth Bowman, who is our Education Committee Chairperson, has spearheaded the planning of the junior retreat. She has been working closely with Natalie Kapeluck of the Office of Youth Ministry in the planning of this UOL retreat. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our Church's youth to unify and reflect upon our shared faith. Retreat speakers include Fr. John Nakonachny and Fr. Deacon Ihor Mahlay. The cost of attending the retreat is \$100 for seniors, \$90 for young adults, and \$95 for juniors. If you have any questions or want more information, please contact:

Natalie Kapeluck at [uocyouth@aol.com](mailto:uocyouth@aol.com), or call: 412-488-9664  
Elizabeth Bowman at [pixiemerchant@aol.com](mailto:pixiemerchant@aol.com)

Also planned for this winter, our annual fundraiser will be a **February Bake Sale**. This may be organized with a Valentine's Day theme, as all proceeds from the fundraiser will be sent to the "**Gift of Life**," a program that collects money to help transport and provide heart surgery to children and adolescents in Ukraine who need it. For more information about the organization, please visit the website: [www.ukrainiangiftoflife.com](http://www.ukrainiangiftoflife.com). We hope that all chapters have success in raising money for such a worthy cause.

We would also like to remind chapters of **upcoming deadlines**. Please send in your **chapter dues** and **project donations** as soon as possible. If **election report** forms have not been sent in yet, send these to Colleen Scannell. Also, remember that **travel grants** will be available for attending convention in Chicago this summer. The applications will be sent out soon, and please return them promptly. I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and holiday season!

## GIFT OF LIFE PROGRAM

**"A Program To Aid Children In Ukraine With Congenital Heart Defects"**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Hi everybody. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the Christmas season.

I just wanted to inform you about the *Gift of Life Program* and the idea the Jr. Board discussed at our meeting in Palos Park recently.

We decided that during the month of February, junior chapters should sponsor a bake sale and the profits will be sent to the Jr. UOL Financial Secretary (national). Once the Financial Secretary receives each chapter's checks, we will present a check to the Gift of Life.

For anyone who is not familiar with the Gift of Life project, it is an organization that is committed to saving the lives of children with congenital heart defects in Ukraine. These children need surgery that they are unable to afford or receive because of their family's economic conditions and the lack of medical technology in Ukraine.

For more information about Gift of Life, you can log-on to the website at [www.ukrainiangiftoflife.com](http://www.ukrainiangiftoflife.com). The money we raise will certainly be used for a very good cause. Hopefully, we will be able to make a difference in someone's life.

Yours in Christ,

Alex Brzyski  
Jr. UOL Treasurer

### **Change of Address?**

Please help the Coordinator of Bulk Mailing by submitting a correction if your address changes. However, please send your new address but also indicate what your old zip code was.

## ERIC SENEDAK

*Eagle Scout Award Recipient*

Eric Senedak, son of Diane and Tom Senedak of Austintown, OH, received the Eagle Scout Award, **Boy Scoutings highest honor**, at a ceremony at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Youngstown, Ohio.

Eric is a member of Scout Troop 75 of Austintown, Ohio. His Eagle service project involved constructing a handicapped walkway, landscaping and removing graffiti from the Pine Grove Pavilion at the Austintown Township Park. The completion of this project involved the help, knowledge and donations from local merchants, along with help from his fellow troop members, friends and adults.

Eric's scouting honors and activities include Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and the highest camp award, the **Fifth Year Pipestone Boy Scout Camp Honors**.

Eric, 18, is a senior at Austintown Fitch High School and is active in Symphonic and Marching bands where he won superior medals in band competitions. He is a letterman in Varsity Tennis and is on the Robotics Team and active in German Club. He was inducted into the **National Honor Society** in his junior year of high school.

Eric is an active church member where he is an altar server, president of the Youngstown Junior U.O.L., and is a three-time winner of the **National Ukrainian Orthodox Newspaper Award** for best articles submitted to the Bulletin during those years.

We are all so proud of you Eric! We wish you much continued success in your future endeavors.

Friends and Family,  
Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
Youngstown, Ohio.



*Eric Senedak*

## CARNEGIE, PA – JR. CHAPTER NEWS

**"We're Keeping Busy"**

Our Jr. Chapter has been very busy the past few weeks. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, our parish had an Arts and Crafts Festival. The Jr. members prepared and cooked all of the food for the entire kitchen operation. The menu included, sausage and kraut sandwiches, hot dogs, haluski, pyrohy (of course we got them from our Kitchen Workers) and soft drinks. The junior's helped to cut and chop.....under the close watch of our mothers who supervised the food preparation.

Also, during the Arts and Crafts Festival, Jr. members assisted with a great Basket Raffle. Each Jr. members was assigned to a schedule to sell raffle tickets for many many baskets. It turned out very good.

Then, we celebrated, along with the rest of our church members, the 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Carnegie, PA. Some of our members were assigned the task of taking pictures of the 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for an historical book that is being prepared for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in November, 2003.

We're now rehearsing for our St. Nicholas Play. All Jr. members have roles and we look forward to a great show. We will also help to decorate our Church for the Christmas Season.

Natasha Walewski  
Reporter

# Mission Trip to Ukraine

**A program of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA  
Office of Youth Ministry and  
The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund**

Join fellow Ukrainian Orthodox College Age Young Adults in extending a loving hand to our Brothers and Sisters at our two orphanages in Ukraine.

Make a difference in the life of an orphaned child.  
Experience the beauty and culture of your Ukrainian Heritage.

**Trip Dates—August 9-24, 2003**

For applications or for more information contact the Office of Youth Ministry at  
412-488-9664 or [uocyouth@aol.com](mailto:uocyouth@aol.com) or go to  
[www.uocofusa.org](http://www.uocofusa.org)

## BOHDAN HRYSHCHYSHYN

(continued from page 1)

Vice Chairman – 1959, and Chairman – 1960.

He joined the Sts. Peter and Paul UOL Chapter in 1973 and served as President of the Western Pennsylvania UOL Region from 1973 to 1978. In 1978, with Father Andrew Beck, he played a major role in founding All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Camp in Emlenton, PA. “Bo” was Chairman of the Camp Committee for its first twelve years, and served as Camp Manager, a volunteer position, for twenty-two years. The UOL recognized him for his dedicated service to the youth with the *Metro J. Baran Achievement Award* in 1981. In 2001, he was again honored by the UOL with the *UOL Distinguished National Service Award*. This award is to recognize a member of the Sr. UOL who truly exemplifies a superior sense of dedication and devotion to the League and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, and who has contributed excellent and sustained service to the Ukrainian Orthodox League on the national level.

“Bo” has also given distinguished service to the greater Ukrainian community. A strong proponent of the credit union system, he served as Treasurer of St. Vladimir Federal Credit Union (1950-60), and was also on its Supervisory Committee for a number of years. Elected to the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western Pennsylvania F.C.U. in 1989, he was Vice President of the Board for four years, and has been President for the past four years.

A member of the Ukrainian National Association (UNA) since childhood, he has served as Secretary of Branch 246, Carnegie, PA since 1974. He has also been active with the Ukrainian Technological Society serving as Treasurer and Auditor. “Bo” and Mary are supporters of the “Ukrainian Gift of Life.”

Bohdan Hryshchychyn exemplifies the UOL Motto, *Dedicated to our Church – Devoted to its Youth*, in his longstanding and distinguished service to Church, League and Ukrainian community on the local, regional and national levels. Congratulations “Bo”.

## DR. DINAH M. FEDYNA

(continued from page 1)

listen to the patient. Anywhere from Jr. High basketball games to the health of a patient's parents, Dr. Fedyna knew some piece of personal history about each of her patients. She taught me not only to respect my patients, but also to see them as human beings, who aren't just an illness, but a personal story.”

Dr. Fedyna and her husband, Joseph J. Novicky, reside in Austintown, Ohio.

## ST. VLADIMIR'S JR. CHAPTER – PARMA, OH “Pumpkins, Spatulas and Lazar Tag”



*Jr. UOL Members and Guests at Annual Pumpkin Party*

On October 20, 2002 St. Vladimir's Jr. UOL Chapter in Parma, OH sponsored its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Party. All parish youth were invited to this event which took place immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Children were given pumpkins to paint and decorate. While the pumpkins were being painted, older Jr. UOL members made caramel apples. A lot of fun was had unwrapping the caramels and melting them, and licking the spatula that was used to stir. Hotdogs and cupcakes were served as refreshments. As always, the Pumpkin Party ended with the breaking of the piñata and it was young Daniel Moysaenko who was the victor of the game.

The afternoon winded down with the Junior UOL members heading off to Lazer X-Treme for a friendly game of lazer tag. Lazer Tag is an obsession that the chapter participates in regularly. As always, the boys were a little too competitive but this didn't stop everyone from having fun.

### Welcome New Jr. Chapter Member – Natalie

Our chapter is pleased to welcome our newest Jr. UOL member, Natalie Demjanjuk.

Natalie is a fourth grade student at Central School. She loves to dance, swim and play basketball. She also has three sisters, Adriana, Sophia, and Daria who are up and coming Jr. UOL members.

May God grant Natalie many years in serving our parish and its UOL Chapter. Mnohiya Lita!

Christy Bohulslawsky, Chapter President

Calling UOL Members of all ages for the First Annual JR- SR

## U.O.L. RETREAT

*February 15-17, 2002*

**“Meeting the LIGHT in your life”**

**Jesuit Retreat Center**

**Parma, Ohio**

*Speakers include:*

*Fr. John Nakonachny Fr. Deacon Ihor Mahlay*

*Enjoy inspirational and thought provoking discussion,  
lodging, missionary trip to St. Herman's and all meals.*

*For more information contact:*

*Natalie Kapeluck at [uocyouth@aol.com](mailto:uocyouth@aol.com)*

*call - 412-488-9664*

*Elizabeth Bowman at [pixiemerchant@aol.com](mailto:pixiemerchant@aol.com)*

**Minimal cost of \$100.00. - Senior UOL Members  
\$90.00 - Young Adults  
\$95.00 - Juniors**

**Register by January 31, 2003.**

## PARMA SR. UOL CHAPTER Welcomes New Members

St. Vladimir's Senior UOL Chapter, Parma, Ohio recently completed its **fall membership drive**. We are pleased to announce that we are now sixty-nine members strong. The chapter would like to welcome its twelve new members;

Gene Boyko  
Nancy Cykalo  
Michael Dobronos, Jr.  
Hans M. Harasimchuk  
Andrew Zura

Olga Boyko  
Lidia Dobronos  
Vickie Dobronos  
Pani Matka Maria Mironko  
Christina Zura

The entire chapter would also like to give a special welcome to our two members who have graduated from the ranks of the Junior UOL to become Senior UOL members: Christina Aust & Andrew Kisil. *May God grant our new members many years Dedicated to our Church and Devoted to its Youth.*

Mnohiya Lita!

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## NEWS FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MN St. Michael's and St. Katherine's: A Combined Sr. UOL Chapter

*"We're still alive in Minneapolis!"*

We keep our chapter alive by the faith of our devotion to our Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Coffee hours are hosted by UOL Members almost every Sunday during the year, from September to June. During the summer months our Church Board assumes the coffee hour task. Much of the proceeds pay for the printing and mailing of our Church Bulletin-English Edition under the able direction of Ms. Cheryl Krochalk and her parents.

Our small but spirited English Church Choir is comprised mainly of UOL members, with individuals from our Ukrainian Choir also participating. And we cannot omit a great appreciation for the wonderful voice of Father Evhen Kumka who always conducts a beautiful service.

Our UOL members participate in all church functions—cooking dinners, working at the church bazaar, and other church events. Likewise, we recently purchased a new Epistle Book printed in English to make it much easier for the English choir to understand.

We have tried to maintain our presence in the community by doing these functions. With God's blessing, we will continue to carry on for our Church and the UOL.

Patricia Richly, Reporter (Novice)

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## ST. JOHN'S SR. UOL CHAPTER- SHARON, PA *"We're Still Trying"*

We continue to sponsor the Coffee Hour after Sunday Liturgy and help with the weekly pyrohy making and other church activities.

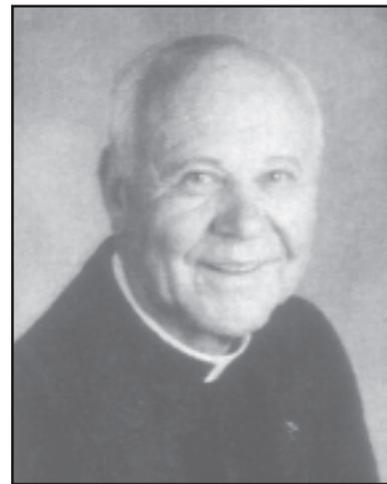
Our chapter officers are:

<b>President</b>	<b>Mike Brenick</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Ann Wortman</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Irene Oshinska</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jeanna Barker</b>
<b>Spiritual Advisor</b>	<b>Fr. Taras Maximstev</b>

On Sunday, November 24th, the chapter sponsored a breakfast following Liturgy for all parishioners at a nominal cost. The menu consisted of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and coffee. While it was designed as a fundraiser, the fellowship that was very evident made for a successful event. A large basket raffle was part of the fund-raising project.

Our reputation seems to be growing as Nick Sivulich drove in from Fort Wayne, IN, and Steve Sivulich came up from Pittsburgh, PA for the event.

## *In Memory of* VERY REV. STEPHEN HANKEVICH



*Very Rev. Stephen Hankevich*

Every fall the members of St. Vladimir's Junior and Senior Chapters of the Ukrainian Orthodox League in Parma, Ohio gather to remember fondly their departed pastor *Father Stephen Hankevich*.

Father Stephen's death in June 1997 came quickly and unexpectedly to the parish that he had served faithfully for over thirty-seven years.

A parish can build many many memories in thirty-seven years. To some, his memory is in the weddings, funerals, and baptisms of their loved ones. To others, Fr. Stephen's memory is in his gentle voice or kind laughter that still rings clearly in their ears. Yet, to the youth of the parish, it is something much more. To the youth, their memories of Fr. Stephen lie in the Ukrainian School Classes, Sunday School discussions, trips to soccer games and the countless trips (backwards) in Father Steve's maroon station wagon.

On Sunday, November 3, 2002, Father Stephen's memory was again remembered with a parish breakfast served in his honor. All proceeds raised from the breakfast will be donated in Father Hankevich's honor to the Youth Ministry Program of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

With this contribution, we pray that Father Stephen's hope for a strong, successful future for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA can be realized.

Melanie Nakonachny

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## CARNEGIE SR. UOL NEWS

We are enjoying a brief respite until we start writing eggs for our Annual Pysanka Sale scheduled for Sunday, April 13, 2003. To close our activities for the year, we awarded scholarships to seven young parish adults who are attending the following institutions of higher education:

Yuri Aleksandrov	Penn State University, Telecommunications
Melissa Haluszczak	University of Phoenix, MBA Program
Stephen Haluszczak	Univ. of Pittsburgh, School of Int'l. Affairs
Mark Losego	Penn State University, Material's Engr.
Rachel Losego	Clarion University, Elementary Ed.
Gretchen Reinhart	University of Pittsburgh, Medical School
Alexandra Sawchuk	W & J College, Cellomolecular Biology

We are also very excited about the plans for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of our parish that is scheduled for November 21-22, 2003. Tentative plans will include a Friday Vespers and reception, followed on Saturday with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and a Dinner-Dance at the Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport Hotel. Many of our Sr. chapter members are providing the leadership for this historical event.

Our congratulations to **Bohdan Hryshchysyn** who was selected **Ukrainian of the Year**, by the Pittsburgh Technological Society. Numbered among his many, many activities are: president of All Saints Camp Committee, president of Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western PA, offices in the Ukrainian National Association, parish board of directors, museum committee, and past president of the UOL.

"Bo" is to be commended for his dedication to the Church, the League and the Ukrainian Community. Well done, Bohdan!

Elizabeth Mitchell, Reporter

## SVYATA VECHERA – HOLY SUPPER

“January 6<sup>th</sup> – A Festive Ukrainian Tradition”

by Elizabeth Mitchell, Staff Writer

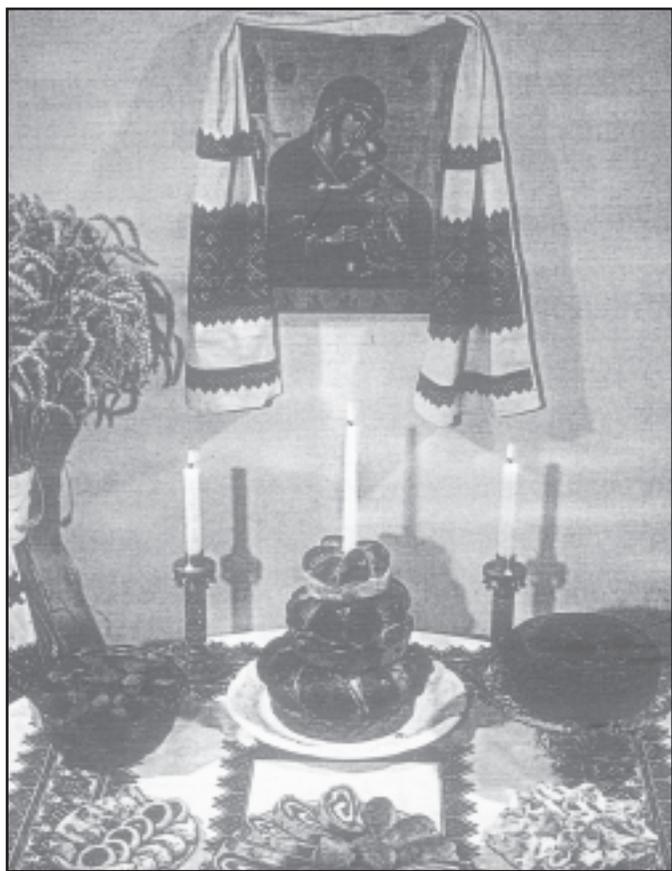
All the roads lead to home on January 6<sup>th</sup>, when Ukrainians gather together for the most beloved of all festivities—the *Svyata Vechera* or *Holy Supper*. Among Ukrainians, wherever they may be, the Holy Supper is basically the same. However, the *Svyata Vechera* differs from other holiday meals because it consists of twelve Lenten dishes, symbolic of the Twelve Apostles who gathered together at the Last Supper. The day of the Holy Supper is a strict fast in commemoration of the hardships endured by the Blessed Virgin enroute to Bethlehem.

According to time-honored custom, the table is covered with a white tablecloth upon which is placed hay in memory of the Christ Child in the manger.

A special bread – *kolach* – is set in the center of the table. The *kolach* consists of three round braided loaves placed on top of the other, with a candle inserted into the top loaf.

An old belief among Ukrainians was that a candle be placed in the window as an invitation to a homeless stranger, or perhaps a lost soul, to join the family in celebrating the birth of Christ. Another belief was to feed the domestic animals some of the food prepared for the Holy Supper, because the animals were the first to behold the New-Born Christ Child. It was believed that on this night the animals were granted the power to speak because they had shared their place of shelter, the stable, with the Holy Family, and had given up their manger for the New-Born Christ.

In Ukraine, when the first star appeared, the family prepared for the festive meal. The head of the household would bring in a shaft of wheat called the “*didukh*” (grandfather), which is an important symbol of the Nativity season, symbolizing the Christian belief of afterlife, as well as the bountiful fertility of Ukrainian soil. When tied around the middle, it was also a symbol of family gathering together at this holy time of the year. The “*didukh*” was placed in a corner of the dining room, and remained there until the New Year, when it was taken out and burned.



The first dish of the Holy Supper was the *kutya* (wheat) served with honey, poppy seeds, and sometimes nuts. In some localities, it was the custom for the eldest member of the family to throw a spoonful of *kutyka* to the ceiling—the more kernels of wheat that stuck to the ceiling, the greater the good fortune—an increase in the amount of crops, a larger amount of bees, more cattle or eggs in the following year. This ritual dish, of very ancient origin sets the mood in a very ceremonial manner. Scholars of folklore believe the wheat symbolizes a spiritual unity of all living and deceased family members. The menu would also include *sauerkraut*, *pyrohy*, *buckwheat barley holubsti*, *mushrooms*, *stewed dried fruit*, *fish* and many other traditional dishes. The menu varied from region to region, but all contained no meat or dairy products. There was one stipulation for those partaking in this Holy Supper—everyone would have to taste a small portion of every dish served before they could leave the table. After the supper, nuts and candies would be

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## SVYATA VECHERA – HOLY SUPPER

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scattered in the hay under the table for the little children to find.

The *Svyata Vechera* is the central tradition of the Nativity celebration in Ukrainian homes. Some traditions have survived over a thousand years; and although some may no longer be a part of our Holy Supper, learning about them enriches the significance of our celebration of the night when Christ was born—the night when love brings families together filled with memories of the past and hope for the future.

**CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!**

Condensed from:

Stechishin, Savella, *Traditional Ukrainian Cookery*, Trident Press, Ltd., Winnipeg, Canada; Vaughn, Mary Ann Voloch, *Ukrainian Christmas*, 1983; Internet: [Ukrainian Christmas Traditions DIDUKH—Christmas Traditions of Ukraine](http://UkrainianChristmasTraditions.DIDUKH—ChristmasTraditionsOfUkraine).

## NEW TRADITIONS

The Eastern Orthodox Church, especially our Ukrainian jurisdiction, is filled with many traditions. On Pascha, Easter, we bless baskets full of symbolism. In September, on the Feast of the beheading of St. John the Baptist we do not eat food that is circular. For Epiphany, many of our parishes construct ice crosses and for Pentecost, we decorate our churches with greenery to symbolize life.

Advent and the season of the Nativity are especially rich in tradition. These seasonal traditions may begin with a St. Nicholas program and last far beyond *Cviat Vechir*, Christmas Eve, when Ukrainians place straw under their table, throw *kutya* (wheat) at the ceiling and partake of twelve traditional dishes.

Our Christmas traditions should extend far beyond eating amidst hay and throwing food at the ceiling. These traditions should also include taking time for those less fortunate. It is not in our traditions of eating but our traditions of giving that we feel most full.

How can you not feel full of life putting a dollar in the Salvation Army's kettle, knowing that dollar will help someone less fortunate? How could you not feel full of joy seeing a homeless man, whose hands are bitter cold, smile at you as you pass him a plate of food? How could you not feel full of happiness when Christmas caroling for a person in a nursing home, taking them back to their childhood as you sing songs from their youth?

### A Tradition of Giving To Others

These traditions are especially important for our youth to be involved in. When you were young your parents may have begun a tradition of going to your Baba's house after church on Easter. Chances are, you still continue this tradition. Traditions of giving that are established when a child is young can last well through their adult life.

So this year, within your parishes, families, and groups of friends, begin a new tradition—a *tradition of giving to others*. It is in these traditions of giving that we are best able to find the true meaning of Christmas.

Melanie Nakonachny  
UOL Missions Committee

## U.O.L. ARCHIVES

“National UOL Material Needed”

The “UOL Room”, which is located in the Cultural Center at UOC Headquarters, South Bound Brook, NJ, will soon become an ARCHIVES ROOM. This room will be used to store and maintain historical information and materials for three church organizations: Ukrainian Orthodox League of USA, Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods of USA, and St. Andrew's Society.

The UOL Executive Board will be responsible for organizing and maintaining the historical records of the League since its inception and establishing administrative procedures to update UOL Archives annually.

While the process for organizing UOL Archives is currently being established by the Executive Board, a request is being made for historical material, records from national UOL commissions (such as Clergy Candidate Commission, Education Commission, convention year-books, etc.). Past National UOL Officers are asked to search their files and forward the abovementioned materials to:

UOL Archives (Attn: S. Sivulich), Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA,  
% P.O. Box 495, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

## “PRAISE THE LORD, AND PINCH THE PYROHY!”

Fr. Bohdan Hladio, Guest Writer

One day last week, I received a phone call at about 7:20 AM. I was reciting my morning prayers in front of the icon corner in my office, and upon hearing the phone ring, my first thought was “Oh no, who died?”.

Thank God, no one. It was a woman who was calling to find out where she might order pyrohy! At 7:20 in the morning! While I was praying! But I couldn't get mad, because from her perspective what she did was absolutely logical. She wasn't a parishioner, but she, like many parishioners, saw the Church as a service provider. And the service was making pyrohy.

We don't do the “pyrohy factory thing” at our parish. We try to teach the faithful that if they want to have a Church they should be ready to pay the bills themselves. But the attitude that we can get the “goyim” to pay our bills is all too common. And one of the most common ways to do so, if you're Ukrainian, seems to be by selling pyrohy.

I'm waiting for the day when I drive by a church somewhere and see a sign reading something like this:

*Ss. Peter and Paraskevia Pirogie Palace  
and Worship Centre*

Well, perhaps I'm exaggerating, but one thing is clear. Concerning ourselves too much with paying the bills, or with getting non-parishioners to pay the bills, tends to divert our attention from the real purpose of a Church. Churches exist so that we might praise God.

If we think about it, we see that there is one thing in this world which is due only to God. One thing which if we offer it to anyone or anything other than God will lead us straight to hell. This thing is worship. Every person, as well as every organization, need focus. The focus of the Church is God, and that focus is expressed most clearly in our common prayer and worship.

### ***Balance service with attendance!***

Just so no one thinks that I'm against pyrohy (I'm not, I love them), or against parishioners doing things together for the good of the parish (this is also extremely important, good and noble), I want to assure you that *what I'm getting at has to do with balance*. It has to do with putting first things first. Most of our Ukrainian Orthodox parishes on this continent are in decline. We often hear well intentioned people speak about the need for parish renewal, about engaging the young people, about “*turning things around*”. In my experience, though, the proposed strategies are almost invariably secular. I've heard all manner of interesting, half-baked, and downright ill-considered ideas about how we can get more people in the doors “*so we don't have to make pyrohy*”. One strategy that I've not yet heard mentioned is prayer.

If the real focus of the Church is worship, then a healthy parish will be a worshipping parish. Parish renewal will always involve liturgical renewal. It is not bad to get together on Tuesday or Thursday morning to make pyrohy, but if the same people are not in Church on Wednesday for the Feast Day Liturgy, on Sunday evening for the vigil, at the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified gifts during lent, then what does it mean? They are just paying the bills to keep open a building they don't use. And God will notice. And He won't be impressed.

### ***Attendance at all religious services is what gives our focus as Christians.***

The true path to parish renewal begins and ends with prayer—personal and communal. When every parishioner says their morning and evening prayers religiously, and attends every Sunday Liturgy, Vespers, Orthros, as well as Feast Day Services as often as possible, then things will begin to turn around. The Liturgy isn't the job of the priest. It is the job of the whole parish. It is what gives us our *focus as Christians*. It is what gives us the necessary knowledge, motivation, and grace to fulfill our calling as Christians. Any attitude towards the Church or the parish which doesn't put active attendance at worship services is bound to fail.

There are obviously good ways to support our Church as well as not so good ways to do it. Bingo is questionable at best, and renting out the hall for non-Christian worship services is just asking for spiritual retribution, but God gave all of us a brain and we should be able to resolve these things ourselves. There is nothing wrong with making and selling pyrohy for the good of our parish, nor is there anything wrong with festivals or other activities in which parishioners come together to work for the common good of the Church. But our first and most important calling is as *Homo Adorans—worshipping man*. In our worship of God we fulfill our calling, we support our Church, and we learn who and what we really are as people. Praising God will even teach us why we should be pinching pyrohy.

So go out there and pinch pyrohy if you like—just so your praise the Lord first, last, and always!

(Fr. Hladio is Pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and was invited by UOL BULLETIN Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Harvey, to prepare an article for this issue.)

## A PLEA TO “JUNIORS AT HEART”

As the newly appointed Jr. UOL Advisor I had the pleasure of working with the Junior Executive Board at our first meeting in October. The Junior Board is comprised of a talented group of young Orthodox Christians who are full of enthusiasm. The only downside to working with the Juniors is the acknowledgement that my first year as a Junior Executive Board Member is now over 20 years ago. Clearly, I am not a Junior, but always I am a “Junior at Heart.”

I have been working with the newly elected Board to orient them to their offices and have created a comprehensive binder of information for the Board members and a worksheet entitled “Making your Tenure on the Jr. Executive Board a Success.”

I know that there are many other “Juniors at heart” who have some advice based on their previous experience. This is a call for all of the Juniors at heart. I am asking for your views and suggestions for newly elected Junior Board members. Ultimately, this project will benefit future Jr. Board members as they continue their development in becoming leaders in our church.

I would also like to compile a resource guide for Junior Advisors. If you have ideas or suggestions for Jr. Board Officers or for advisors please e-mail them to me (nsufler@aol.com).

Also, if you have previous Junior UOL records and are unsure of what to do with them please e-mail or write (703 Pine Ridge Road, Wallingford, PA 19086).

Natalie Sufler Bilynsky  
Jr. League Advisor

## U.O.L. CHRISTIAN CAREGIVING AND MISSIONS

### ***Mission Parish Exchange Program***

By Jessica Burgan

The UOL Christian Caregiving and Missions Committee is currently working on many of the suggestions from the past UOL Convention. It was agreed to focus on our own diocesan mission parishes, those parishes which maintain an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm and vision in their development and growth. This enthusiasm prevails despite their lack of many of the necessities that well-established parishes take for granted.

Many of us do not realize that “mission parishes” even exist, let alone their efforts that not only strengthen our Church but also reach out to individuals in communities that have not had the opportunity of formally worshipping together.

Since these groups— aspiring mission parishes— are in the process of organizing and developing, they are in need of many religious and liturgical items. An exchange program is proposed that would enable the mission parish to indicate their immediate needs. Chapters, then, would have the opportunity to search for such items within their church's inventory to donate to the mission parish. Likewise, chapters might elect to raise funds to purchase the needed items.

Information regarding this project—**Mission Parish Exchange Program**—will soon be forwarded to all UOL Chapters. While financial and material support is vitally necessary for mission parishes, it is important to remember that the first and most important aspect of this type of outreach is to include the mission parish and its members in our thoughts and prayers.

UOL Chapters are asked to make a serious effort in supporting the Mission Parish Exchange Program. Equally important, as a League we should embrace and welcome every mission parish into our church family.

Surely, there is much that can be learned and gained from each other. To enhance this relationship, individual mission parishes will be featured in future UOL BULLETIN articles in an effort to introduce them and provide an overall awareness for all UOL members of their existence and their efforts.

Past caregiving and missions projects will be continued throughout the coming year. Suggestions, ideas, and questions should be directed to Co-Chairs:

Melanie Nakonachny, MelanieNak@aol.com, or  
Jessica Burgan, jmburgan@eudoramail.com.

### ***College Students!***

If you know someone who is away from home and might appreciate receiving the UOL BULLETIN, send his/her name to the Editor, UOL BULLETIN, 206 Christopher Cir., Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

## PARISH LIAISONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

### "UOL Mentor Program"

Throughout the country high school seniors are applying to college and touring campuses to determine where they will be spending the next four formative years of their lives. Jr. UOL members are also actively engaged in this process. The **Office of Youth Ministry** is working to establish a resource guide for all juniors who are applying to college. This resource guide will include a list of all parishes and suggestions for students as they plan to enter in to a new parish community. In addition, this guide will have names of "UOL Mentors" who can be contacted to answer questions and/or facilitate transportation to the parish nearest to a student's college or university.

#### UOL MENTORS NEEDED

As Junior Advisor I will be working closely with the Youth Ministry Director to compile names of people interested in becoming a "UOL Mentor." This system can also be used by juniors when they are visiting a college campus and wish to visit a local parish.

If you are interested in being listed as a "UOL Mentor", please write or e-mail (703 Pine Ridge Rd. Wallingford, PA 19086, nsufler@aol.com, 610-892-7315).

Natalie Sufler Bilynsky  
Jr. League Advisor

## UOL FISCAL YEAR & DEADLINES 2002-2003

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Annual Fund Drive Mailing</b>
	<b>4</b>	<b>Essay Contest - First Mailing</b>
	<b>10-12</b>	<b>Nat'l. Exec. Bd. Meeting, Maplewood, NJ</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>UOL BULLETIN Submission Deadline</b>
	<b>14-16</b>	<b>Pre-Lenten Retreat, Cleveland, OH</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>LSSK applications mailed to chapters</b>
		<b>Essay Contest - second mailing</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>UOL BULLETIN Submission Deadline</b>
	<b>30</b>	<b>Chapter Election &amp; Delegate forms mailed</b>
		<b>UOL Awards Applications Mailed</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>DEADLINE: CHAPTER PROJECT CONTRIBUTION</b>
		<b>Convention registration forms mailed</b>
		<b>DEADLINE: Essay Contest entries</b>
		<b>[TBD] Nat'l. Exec. Bd. Spring Meeting</b>

## 56<sup>TH</sup> U.O.L. CONVENTION Publicity Packet

Palos Park, IL - All members of the U.O.L. were mailed a publicity packet that included a letter from the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual U.O.L. Convention committee inviting you to attend this yearly event (**including very favorable rates for the hotel and free parking**), a flyer advertising the U.O.L. convention (join us if you can!), and a rate sheet for the commemorative ads/greetings in the U.O.L. yearbook.

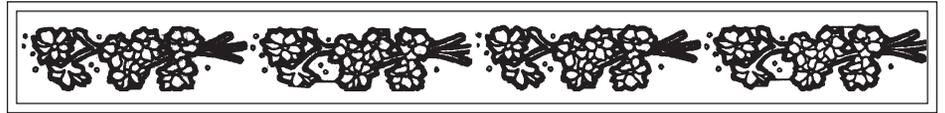
Not only is the U.O.L. convention a venue to conduct the necessary business required of the entire membership, it is also a fund-raiser to sponsor the various UOL activities deemed important to support our Church and youth.

Therefore, we ask you to participate by submitting your ad or greeting to this year's adbook. We're giving you plenty of time! This is especially important if you cannot attend this year. We'll miss seeing you. But we also want to see your name if you're going to be at the U.O.L. convention!

Consider being a booster this year and include your name in the commemorative U.O.L. yearbook; mail a completed copy of the rate sheet, and a check payable to "**56<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention**" to: **Anatol Bilyk, 705 South Vail Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.**

Enjoy the holidays and thanks very much for your support.

Also, if you know an organization or business that would be interested in supporting the U.O.L., please give them a copy of rate sheet. Thank you very much.



## UOL TRIBUTES

**A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group.**

**Your much appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.**

**All donations are published in the UOL BULLETIN.**

#### CONTRIBUTOR

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#### OCCASION

In Honor of Fr. John Nakonachny on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination into the Holy Priesthood on November 19, 2002. God Bless Him, Pani Matka Mary Anne, Melanie and John, and *Grant them Many Many Years!*

*In Memory of Rose Monaco.*

In Blessed Memory of St. Vladimir's (Parma, OH) parishioner, Dr. Alexander Cherniv, father of Tamara Kopystynsky, who entered into eternal rest on November 17, 2002. *Memory Eternal!*

## UOL Young Adult Events 2003

**Join fellow Ukrainian Orthodox Young Adults  
from across the country!**

#### Winter UOL Retreat

Parma, Ohio  
February 14-16, 2003

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Adult Memorial Day Weekend Fellowship

All Saints Camp  
May 23-26, 2003

#### Young Adult Days

Prior to the UOL Convention  
Chicago, IL  
July 21-22, 2003

Sts. Peter & Paul  
Ukrainian Orthodox G.C. Church  
c/o Dr. Stephen Sivilich  
206 Christopher Circle  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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