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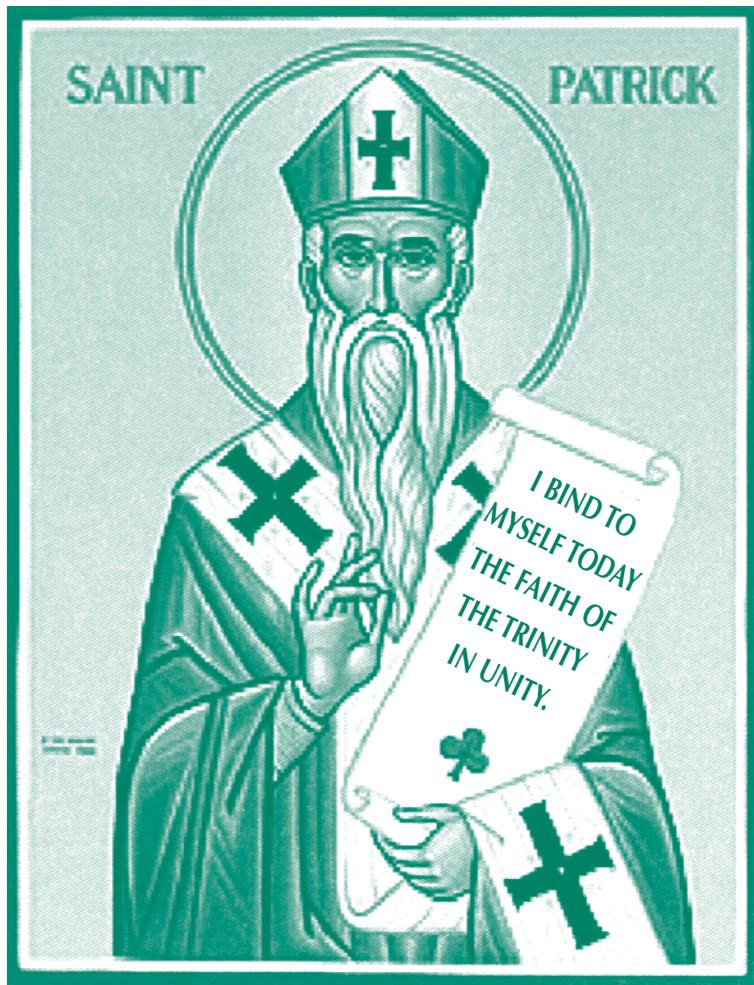
Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

WINTER 2006 volume 78 number 4

The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- The Central PA District Celebrates its 75th!
- Ohio District Board Goes Young
- Adopt a Seminarian Project Needs Your Participation
- Myrtle the Turtle
- Much More...



*"Rejoice, you hills and groves of the Irish land!
Leap up, you lakes and rivers,*

*For lo, through the grace of God, blessing and strengthening have come upon you from on high,
for your enlightener and spiritual father comes unto you.*

*Patrick, glorious among hierarchs, zealot of the Orthodox Faith, chosen by God for the apostolate.
Using the nature of your own island, he teaches you the mystery of the
Trinity by means of the simplest Shamrock."*

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

Mission Statement of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is a national organization of Orthodox Christians. ***Our mission is to proclaim, share and reveal our Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship and example.*** We accomplish this by:

- studying the tenets of our Faith
- supporting, encouraging and promoting Orthodox Youth ministries
- supporting, encouraging and promoting the missionary growth of our church
- encouraging and promoting unity among all Orthodox jurisdictions
- establishing practical means for Orthodox Christians to form enduring friendships on local and national levels through networking
- providing educational, cultural, social and athletic activities for the people of our Orthodox Faith.

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Dr. John Schultz

38th National FOCA President

Now that the Nativity Season has passed and we have started a New Year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the many people whose efforts make the Fellowship the organization that it is. Our members both noticed and unnoticed are dedicated to the F.O.C.A. and through that have an unmatched love and dedication to the Church.

Following the Convention, requests for members to take leadership roles and other positions within the Fellowship are sent out. In my two years of being President, over one hundred requests have been made and only a handful has been refused. Even those who have refused have done so with the belief that they have already contributed to a particular program and wanted others to have the opportunity for their ideas to be heard. To those who have accepted their role – **THANK YOU!**

At the Convention several motions were made creating Committees to review various aspects of the F.O.C.A. Five people were asked to Chair these Committees and five people said yes. Many others were asked to be members of these Committees and they all agreed. To those who have agreed to help chart the future of the Fellowship – **THANK YOU!**

At the District Conventions many of you were asked to serve as District Officers or on District Committees. These individuals also answered the call. To those who work to make our Districts strong and vital – **THANK YOU!**

At Chapter meetings officers are elected and members are asked to lead service projects. To the many who answer this call in their Parish – **THANK YOU!**

The work of the Fellowship, however, is not done only by those faces seen or voices heard most frequently at National and District Conventions, Board Meetings or Committee meetings. The work of the Fellowship is done by many who work without notice in their home Chapters and Districts. The work of the Fellowship is done by many who work behind the scenes at all the national and local events. These are the members who bake the cookies for the bake sale, who clean up after activities, who chaperone our Juniors at their activities, and who do all the other “little” stuff that always seems to just get done. To those who do that work without notice – **THANK YOU!**

Finally, members of the Fellowship do not work for the F.O.C.A. alone – they work even harder for the Church. Indeed, we are part of the very fabric of the Church. We are members of the Parish Councils and Choirs. We are the members of the Diocesan Councils and Committees. We are members of the Metropolitan Council and national Committees and Commissions. We contribute to the Church in immeasurable ways. We do this because we know that the Church must be and is first in our lives. The F.O.C.A. is and will remain a strong and vital part of the Church because of the efforts of every member.

To each and every one of you – THANK YOU!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas Ressetar

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

A new year brings a new issue of the *Journal*! We hope that your Christmas- New Year's-Theophany holiday season was spiritually rewarding and enjoyable. And now life returns to a more routine pace again.

Highlighting this edition are two significant district conventions. The Central PA District celebrated its 75th diamond anniversary over the final weekend of October in Harrisburg, led by newly installed Bishop Tikhon of Philadelphia. We bring the coverage including a summary of events, the banquet speeches, a brief history and plenty of photos. As that district celebrated its longevity, the Ohio District focused on youth and "generational change." A new district board was elected in Campbell, with Jessica Lazor as governor, consisting entirely of twenty-somethings! Of course outgoing gov and *Journal* photog Leon Sheean will stay on as the senior mentor. Congrats to all!

Feature articles are by Allison Steffaro on the "Adopt-a-Seminarian" project – we're all invited to participate, Betty Slanta on the Mission HOTLINE, serving missions, and yours truly on the "Feed My People" program, a hunger project of the Orthodox Division/LCBA open to all chapters. Cheryl Morse announces the details of this year's "Celebrations of Faith" creative arts contest on the back cover with rules on the inside – let's get those entries in Juniors! And speaking of youth, a reminder that the scholarship deadline is March 31st and grad names for the gift packs are due May 12th. Alice Woog announces the youth "leadership summit." If you haven't done so, support "Gifts of Love" and hurricane relief through IOCC – contact Kaye Garman.

The icon of St. Patrick of Ireland, the Orthodox Christian 4th century saint, graces our cover and the Kidz page has a fitting project for his March 17th commemoration. One OCMC short-term mission grant remains to be awarded. We review the remarkable "Tikhvin Icon" documentary, and urge you to buy a copy & help restore the monastery in which the icon resides. St. Mary's "Saints" report on their "rent-a-saint" program, a great idea for other chapters. And Kurt Booth contributes a moving poem all the way from South Africa – thanks Kurt!

In sports, we have promos and entry forms for this year's basketball tournament in Cleveland (April 28-30), sponsored by the Cleveland "R" Club, #4/6, and the 67th bowling tournament in Maple Shade, NJ (June 2-4), hosted by St. Stephen's OCF. New Jersey District's "Myrtle the Turtle" invites us to this year's 80th national convention in Myrtle Beach, SC (Aug. 31-Sept. 4) – check out the details. And President Dr. Schultz provides his commentary with transitions and the calendar rounding things out.

Last but not least, thanks to all those who've actively supported the *Journal* with patron listings – take a look at all the names of individuals and chapters. By the way, *don't forget to renew your Fellowship membership and invite new members, especially relatives, to join!* Invest in our Church's youth and the future. Until next time, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages.....

F.O.C.A.

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Letter to the Editor

"Greetings from Alaska! I would like to thank you for the Misha Michaelson award. It is such a blessing to have such an award for the furtherance of studies at St. Herman Seminary. This means a lot to me and especially the seminary.

This weekend (Nov. 13, 2005) God willing, I will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Please remember me in your holy prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Seminarian Deacon Elia
Larson"

Photo Credit:

John Sopchak of South River, NJ took the photo of Carol Deerson appearing at the top of page 13 of the last issue.

Cover Acknowledgment:

The St. Patrick of Ireland icon is courtesy of Monastery Icons. This and other icons may be ordered from www.monasteryicons.com, P.O. Box 1429, West Chester, OH 45071, 800-729-4952.

THE CENTRAL PA DISTRICT CELEBRATES ITS 75TH!

Over the weekend of October 29-30, 2005, members and friends of the Fellowship's Central Pennsylvania District gathered at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Harrisburg, PA to celebrate its diamond anniversary. Leading the celebrations was His Grace, Bishop Tikhon (Mollard), who was formally installed as bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern PA (OCA) that Saturday. Host pastor and district spiritual advisor was Fr. Daniel Ressetar; associate pastors participating were Frs. Michael Kovach and Neal Carrigan, all FOCA members. The sponsoring chapter was the Harrisburg "O" Club, #199, with president Mrs. Alice Mallick serving as general chairman.

Convention sessions under the leadership of Gov. Gary Lelo were held on Saturday with full delegations from all chapters attending. Fr. Carrigan led the opening prayer. National President Dr. John Schultz honored us with his presence and briefed the officers and delegates on the recent national convention and the priorities and initiatives established at it. The assembly voted to "adopt" a seminarian family at St. Tikhon's for the academic year and made contributions to the OCA Christmas stocking project, the FOCA seminarian family St. Nicholas fund, the "Gifts of Love" project for Hurricane Katrina, the OCA's FOS and other charities. A concise district history was distributed as was a printed report booklet.

Elected as district officers were Gov. Lelo; Lt. Gov. John Malinchok; new Treasurer Nicholas Lezinsky; Secretary Nicholas Ressetar, the immediate past governor; and David Keysock and Ellen Scrip, nominating committee. After sessions Fr. Carrigan led the installation service in church. A dinner prepared by Ron Hancher, Sr., was served in the social rooms. And

vespers was served by Fr. Ressetar later that evening with Bishop Tikhon in attendance.

The hierarchal Divine Liturgy was celebrated Sunday morning by Bishop Tikhon together with Frs. Ressetar, Kovach and Carrigan. Assisting as subdeacons were Anthracite District Gov. Gregory Hatrak and Alex Ressetar. Matushka Theodora Ressetar directed the choir. District officers and members joined parishioners in giving thanks to God for the 75 years of service to Christ and His Church.

The diamond anniversary banquet was prepared and served in the parish hall by Willard Brown with assistance from his wife, Sue, and other members.



Also attending were Fr. Tim and Matushka Anastasia Hojnicky, newly assigned to Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg and both FOCA members. Addressing the gathering were Bishop Tikhon, who congratulated the district and thanked its members for its many contributions to the life of the Church over the years (it was noted he was raised in the Reading area and went to F&M College

in Lancaster, making his return to Central PA something of a “home-coming”); Fr. Ressetar pointed out that an FOCA chapter is a benefit to every parish, providing opportunities for service and fellowship, and urged other parishes to establish or reactivate chapters; Gov. Lelo thanked the members and guests for attending the anniversary and the Harrisburg “O” Club for sponsoring the convention; and President Schultz, delivering the main address, stressed the vibrancy of the FOCA and extended his congratulations to the district on behalf of the executive board.

Gov. Lelo awarded the Matushka Prislopsky memorial scholarship of \$500 to Matthew Roberts, Bethlehem, and the others of \$300 each to Sheena Hisiro, Harrisburg, and Lauren Hutton, Minersville. Congratulations! Program books produced by Fr. Carrigan and Willard were given out. Among other committee members were Evelyn Krempasky and Libby Hancher on decorations and Jean, John and Paul Dotsey with setup. Many other members helped out. Jr. “O” Club members served the meal. After the program, fellowship continued to the music of the “Happy Slovenes” band, closing out a great weekend of Faith, Family and Fellowship.

On a historical note, the Central PA District was formed in 1930 when three chapters of the Anthracite District – the Coaldale American Russian Citizens Club of St. Mary’s Church (organized by Fr. Michael Fekula in 1928),



the Mt. Carmel “R” Club of St. Michael’s Church (organized by Fr. William Fekula and Prof. Peter Donskoy in 1929) and the St. Michael’s “R” Club of St. Clair (organized by Fr. Andrew Slepecky and Prof. A. Obletiloff in 1929) – decided that the geographic distance between north and south was too great and expressed a desire to organize a district in which they would be more closely knit. The FROC’s 1st president, Vladimir Prislopsky, appointed Andrew Bortnichak as the new district’s 1st governor. And the 1st convention was held the next year in Mt. Carmel.

Joining the district in subsequent years were the Berwick Russian Glee Club (founded in 1925 by Fr. & Matushka Bogan), the Tatra Club of St. Mary’s Church in St. Clair, the SS. Peter & Paul “R” Club of Minersville, the Frackville “R” Club, the Bethlehem “R” Club (now St. Nicholas “O” Club), the Catasauqua “R” Club, the McAdoo “R” Club, the Harrisburg “O” Club, and the St. John “O” Club of Alpha, NJ (which was given permission to join this district because many of its original members were from Frackville and Reading). Several Junior “R” or “O” Clubs were formed. Two national conventions have been held in the district: in September 1994 in Harrisburg, sponsored by the “O” Club and parish, and in September 2002 in Camp Hill, sponsored by the district itself. National Fellowship leaders from the district include Frs. Ressetar, Joseph Martin and Eugene Vansuch, national spiritual advisors, and national presidents Peter Kohudic, Michael Dorosh and John Petronko.

OHIO DISTRICT BOARD GOES YOUNG

by Matt Vansuch

At its district convention at Campbell last October, the Ohio District entered a unanimous vote for youth by electing three twentysomethings to the Executive Board: Jessica Lazor as Governor, Matthew Vansuch as Lieutenant Governor, and Mike Herzak II as Treasurer. They join Mary Bagby, who is currently in the second year of her term as Secretary. Leon Sheean remains on the Board as Immediate Past Governor, Director of the St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center, and mentor.

The feeling of those at the convention was that if the district is to survive and grow, it needs the youth to lead it back to prosperity. While the youth may bring a new perspective as to how the district operates, it cannot turn the entire ship around without the help of everyone, including their parents and grandparents. The Board filled district positions with young and old alike, from those new to the organization to those who have been around for a while. From this diversity of experience, the Board hopes to guide the district towards a bright future.

The Board met later that month to discuss strategy and planning, focusing on a few key areas. Just like the Fellowship, membership is its number one priority. Therefore, the Board appointed a committee to formulate a plan to broaden the district's appeal to young adults and families. Tough questions will be asked, such as, why do campers and their parents continue to support camping, but do not join the district. To accomplish its goals, the Board is hoping to tap the talents of its fellow young adults.

The district's largest project is St. Vladimir's Camp. For decades, the camp has served as a focal point for the youth and young adults of Ohio and the fellowship, and the camp will continue to do so in the future. The district's chapters support the camp and the campgrounds through money and labor. The district sponsors two weeks of camping for children between the ages of seven to sixteen; the camp will again play host to the National Junior Summer Sports Tournament, or, as it is more commonly referred to, "Junior Olympics." All of this is possible because of the generosity of "Lefty" Sutyak, who left part of his lottery winnings to the Ohio District and the Fellowship. The district used the funds to help finance the building of a new mess hall that provides double the space and the facilities than the previous hall.

A campgrounds committee has been formed to assist camp director Leon Sheean in the camp's upkeep and

maintenance. These individuals have a love for and interest in the camp such that they donate their time and effort to do the hard work that is required just to keep the facilities functional. The Board split the camping duties into a separate committee that will need only focus on planning and conducting those activities.

To expect an immediate turnaround may be unrealistic, but the Board hopes to begin laying the seeds for a stronger future.

From new Ohio District Gov. Jessica Lazor:

The FOCA's most recent focus, not only on a District level, but a National one as well, is the future. Many of our members find themselves wondering, "where is this organization going", and "who is going to bring it into that next chapter." As far as the "who" question is concerned, I think that the Ohio District has not only set a precedent for the rest of the organization, but they have also raised awareness, and I use the phrase "raised awareness" because now the gauntlet has been set for the rest of the organization. Because of the Ohio District, there can be no more "they're too young" comments - through the trust and support of our District membership, it has been proven that, given the opportunity, the young adults can and will step up to the plate and take on those leadership roles and positions. I have said in the past that the young adults want to be involved in the more intricate and serious workings of the organization, and I believe it to be an honor to have been given that opportunity. With all this being said, I think that it is very important to recognize a vital key to our Executive Board. And that is Immediate Past Governor Leon Sheean. He is most definitely my mentor, and I look up to him very much. I am so pleased that he has stayed on in such a vital way. It is such a blessing to have him remain so committed to helping our young board succeed. And finally, I think it's incredibly important to recognize all the FOCA members who have in one way or another affected each member of the board. Between the 4 of us, we have three Past National Presidents, two Past National Secretaries, and countless Past Ohio District Governors, Treasurers, Secretaries, etc. The wealth of knowledge regarding this organization that is floating around us as an Executive Board on a daily basis is tremendous. Most of us have lived and breathed this organization since we were born, it is important to us, and it is something we take very seriously. On a personal note, I have received so much feedback and advice from numerous members, and all of it has been taken into consideration and taken to heart. I appreciated it very much. The support has been incredible, and believe me, much needed!! It's a lot of work to be Governor, but it is well worth it!

Adopt a Seminarian Project Needs Your Participation

by Allison Steffaro

Four years ago, the FOCA adopted a national project entitled "Adopt a Seminarian". This project was born out of the need to assist our current married seminarian students at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's seminaries. Since its inception, the project has been able to raise over \$80,000 distributed directly on a monthly basis to those students in need.

Many of these students give up careers, leave (many times sell) their homes and parishes thousand of miles away, uproot their children, all to follow a calling to serve the Orthodox Church. In many situations, it is impossible for the student to work to help to defray daily living expenses and work for the spouses is minimal at best. These families get little outside support and many are forced to go on welfare and forgo medical insurance for their children.



How can we as Orthodox Christians help those who are called to serve? The best thing we can do today is help to ease their financial burden. The Adopt a Seminarian Project was created to ease this burden. How does it work? After meeting with the deans of St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's seminaries,

a list of the neediest families is compiled. Parishes who participate are assigned a family from these lists and are asked to pledge a monthly amount that they will send directly to these families. Once a family receives the total needed monthly it is taken off the list. There are 10 families currently on this list.

The most wonderful thing about this project is that parishes of all sizes can help these families. Parishes involved today raise the money through many different means. Some use coffee hour proceeds, others hold a fund-

raiser then use the money to fund the monthly pledge, others parishes get pledges directly from parishioners (no fund raising involved just collecting the pledge to send). For as little as \$50 a month a parish can pay for a family's grocery bill or help defray the cost of monthly living expenses.

Words cannot express the gratitude of the families we assist. Many parishes invite these families during school breaks to come and visit. This gives parishioners a face and name to those they are helping while the families get to express their love and appreciation. We know all too well that this may seem yet one more project to take on, but we pray that this will be as much a blessing to your parish as it will be to the seminarians. In the true spirit of giving, let's give to those Orthodox Christians who are dedicating their lives to our Church. If your parish or local chapter wishes to adopt a family, please call Allison Steffaro at 732-698-1952 for the name and address of a seminarian family.

Christmas Wish Lists

Five years ago the New Jersey District started a project to fill the "Christmas Wish Lists" of married seminarian students. At that time 10 parishes from the New Jersey District and New Jersey Deanery of the OCA filled the wishes of 24 families with approximately 40 children at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries. Since that time the project has grown and participation now comes from across the country. The New Jersey District facilitates the

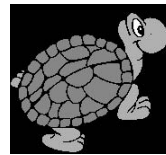


compiling and distribution of the lists to various parishes as well as individuals and then coordinates the day for distribution to the families. This year we had lists from 29 families with a total of 63 children. This was the largest amount of fam-

ilies and children to date! 14 parishes (from 4 different dioceses) and 5 individual families are to be thanked for their overwhelming generosity and love for the students. Words cannot express the gratitude and joy seen in the faces of the parents and most importantly their children.



Myrtle the Turtle



has a few predictions for Myrtle Beach, SC during Aug. 31-Sept. 4, 2006:

- Sun everyday • Cooling ocean breeze
- Temperatures in the high 80s-low 90s • And especially lots of *Fun* and *Fellowship* – guaranteed!

“I Second The Motion, Let’s Head for the Ocean!”

The 80th National F.O.C.A. Convention Committee suggests that you make your reservations **ASAP!**

Rooms at the fabulous oceanfront Kingston Plantation are booking faster than *Myrtle the Turtle* can say F.O.C.A.!

Embassy Suites

Single Room - \$130

Includes complimentary breakfast and happy hour specials, kitchenette, small refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker.

Or make yourself at home at the

Brighton Towers

1 Bedroom Ocean View Condo - \$119.00

Includes kitchenette, small refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker.

Fully furnished condominium units with:

2 Bedroom Ocean View - \$169

3 Bedroom Ocean View - \$199

2 Bedroom Oceanfront - \$199

For reservations, call 1-800-Embassy and mention the reservation code “OCA.”

Or visit www.kingstonplantation.com.

The NJ District is preparing to “Get YOU into the Mix in 2006!”

In addition to sessions, get ready for a Welcome Event that is shore to please; trips to local attractions like Barefoot Landing, Alabama Theatre, and Broadway on the Beach; and of course tons of beach fun in the sand!



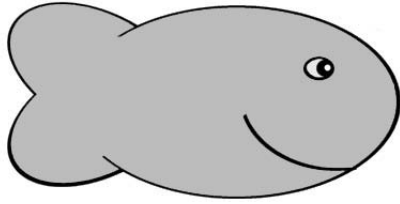
Remember: The *National Summer Sports Tournament* will be August 30th & 31st in conjunction with the National Convention – outstanding golf venues will be available.

These are just a few highlights. Check out www.njfoca.org for more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ken Baron (Kbaron@Interchangebank.com or 201-848-1505), Greg Cimboric (DevsWinCup@aol.com or 201-362-6636), or Michael Steffaro (michael.steffaro@sci-us.com or 732-698-1952).



A Hunger Project of the Orthodox Society Division/LCBA

“Feed My People”



Looking for a worthy humanitarian project for your Junior or Senior chapters? At no cost whatsoever to your group? With all proceeds going directly to a food-based charity of your choice? With all materials provided free of charge and a minimum amount of paperwork involved?

Consider the “Feed My People” program offered by the Orthodox Society Division (formerly OSA or UROBA) of the LCBA. In 1999 the LCBA began this project to establish a nationwide program to feed the hungry. Each year during the month of April, members and other groups adopt a local food charity. Fish-shaped crackers are distributed in customized packages with your group’s name in exchange for a nominal dollar or two donation. The crackers and promotional materials (posters, flyers, buttons, etc.) are provided free of charge. All the proceeds benefit the designated charity. The only paperwork is obtaining the crackers and letting the LCBA know how much was raised and to whom and when the funds were distributed.

Since its inception, the “Feed My People” project has been held from coast to coast, benefitting over 250 charities. Thousands of hungry families have received food from these charities. Over \$100,000 has been raised, and with many food banks and pantries able to turn each dollar into \$15 or more, it is estimated that more than \$1.5 million in food has made its way to those in need. Countless families have received a meal that would not otherwise have been provided.

The fish shape was chosen as it was used as an ancient symbol by early Christians to identify one another. The symbol has stood the test of time and continues to represent Christians throughout the world. As a Christian not-for-profit association, the Orthodox Society Division/LCBA invites chapters of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America to participate in the “Feed My People” program and to take to heart the teachings of Christ when He asked us to care for the poor.

How does it work?

1. Designate a local food-type charity (soup kitchen, food bank/pantry, mission) or International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). LCBA President Jackie Sobania-Robison has graciously approved the IOCC as an appropriate recipient of “Feed My People” funds.
2. Contact the LCBA with your chapter’s contact information, the designated charity and the number of free packages requested (100, 200, 300, 400 or 500). Visit the website at www.lcba.com.fmp1.htm and fill out the online form, or email fraternal@lcba.com or call 800-234-5222 for further information or forms.
3. LCBA will mail you the free crackers in late March. The packages will bear your chapter’s name. Also provided are customized posters, flyers & buttons to promote the project.
4. Select a Sunday or two during Great Lent this April and distribute the fish- crackers after liturgy in the back of church or at the social hour in exchange for a suggested dollar or two donation.
5. Once the packages have all been sold, send the monies to the selected charity and return the form to LCBA letting it know how much was raised and when the funds were distributed. That’s it!

Please consider having your Fellowship chapter join this worthy cause! Remember, the Orthodox Division/LCBA provides the crackers free of charge as well as all marketing materials. All the money raised goes to your selected charity. The sole requirement is that the funds go to feed the hungry in your local area or through the IOCC.

“The Return of the Icon”

The Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God



This inspirational documentary film tells the story of the famous Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, its history, its journey into exile and its momentous return home to the Tikhvin Dormition Monastery in Russia in July 2004. According to tradition, this icon was painted by the Apostle Luke himself. It appeared in Russia in 1383 near the Tikhvinka River in northern

Russia, and has since become one of the most revered icons of the Russian Orthodox Church.

For almost 600 years it was venerated at the Dormition Monastery near the village of Tikhvin. With the advent of Soviet Communism and the Second World War, the icon's very existence was threatened. Archbishop John (Garklavs), who would become the bishop of Chicago for the Metropolia/OCA, took the icon with him into exile for safekeeping where it was venerated at Holy Trinity Cathedral for many years. After his death, Fr. Sergei Garklavs, his adopted son, watched over the icon until the fall of the Soviet Union.

With the restoration of the Dormition Monastery well underway, it was decided that the time had come to return the Tikhvin Icon to its homeland. Metropolitan Herman, Fr. Sergei, his son, Fr. Alexander Garklavs – who narrates the film – and other pilgrims accompanied the icon on its journey to the Baltics, Moscow, St. Petersburg and finally to Tikhvin. This professionally photographed and produced 85-minute film captures the emotional, spiritually uplifting homecoming. The crowds, the singing, the scenes and the gratitude expressed by the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg to the Garklavs family in particular are overwhelming. Available in DVD or VHS formats, it should be in every family and parish video library.

Copies are \$29.95 (including postage in the US) and may be ordered directly from the Tikhvin Monastery Fund, c/o Dr. Constantine Kallaur, 108 Oakwood Drive, Syosset, NY 11791. Be sure to specify the format. Proceeds from the sale of the film will be used toward the restoration of the Tikhvin Dormition Monastery.

2006 NATIONAL FOCA SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention students! The Fellowship is now accepting applications for the 2006 national scholarships: the Fred Lewis, William Fekula, John Klimkosky, Nicholas Torsky Engineering and Misha Michaelson Seminary awards. Last year \$12,000 in scholarships were distributed by the Executive Board. Graduate students are now also eligible for scholarship awards (provided the course load requirements are met) as are military academy students. (An applicant can win up to (2) national awards only.) Applying for a national award also renders an applicant eligible for various district scholarships.

To be eligible, one must be a member from July of the previous year (i.e., July 2005 thru 2006) and the year of application. Sandra Kapelan, FOCA national administrative secretary, serves as scholarship program administrator. The Michigan District has been named by the National Board of Trustees as judge for a three-year term. Full details and the application form are available on the FOCA website: orthodoxfellowship.org. An application may also be obtained from the National FOCA Office by calling (570) 825-3158 or via email request to orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com. **Deadline is March 31st.** Apply now!

OCCM Short-term Missionary Grants: One \$1,500 missionary grant remains to be awarded by the National Executive Board upon recommendation of the National Spiritual Advisor and Mission Chair. Persons interested should first obtain an application from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center at www.ocmc.org and then request, in writing, an FOCA grant application from Fr. Daniel Ressetar, 5501 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17109; phone: 717.652.1825; email: frdanhbg@aol.com and return it by March 1st. The other grant was awarded to an FOCA student participating in a special mission trip to Argentina in January 2006; the next issue will feature her experiences together with photos.

FOCA Grad Packs – Chapters & individuals are asked to submit the names (& email addresses, if possible) of high school and college graduates in order that they may receive gifts courtesy of the Fellowship. Send them to the coordinator, Elizabeth Dutko, 626 Swallow St., Edwardsville, PA 18704; phone: 570.287.8513; email: lizziedizzie27@hotmail.com. Deadline is May 12th.

F.O.C.A. Mission HOTLINE:

Providing Assistance to
Orthodox Missions

by Betty Slanta

The FOCA Mission HOTLINE Project is a church article exchange service project of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA), the service and social organization which has been affiliated with the Orthodox Church in America since 1996. The FOCA Mission HOTLINE, begun in 1948, assists the needs of mission churches. The current Mission HOTLINE Administrator was asked to reactivate and chair the project about 20 years ago by Miss Nancy Franchak (now Matushka Nancy Gilbert of Salem, MA), then the FROC National Secretary, who realized the project was in hiatus and encouraged work to continue the FROC Mission HOTLINE.

The mission of the FOCA Mission HOTLINE Project is to serve all canonical Orthodox Missions in the United States as a "broker" for church articles from established churches to mission parishes which require church articles.

The FOCA Mission HOTLINE does NOT maintain an inventory; instead it matches already established Orthodox churches with mission churches in need of church articles. The Mission HOTLINE Administrator maintains a "wish list" of mission church article needs; missions are being added to the "wish list" weekly! In the past 20 years of the reactivated FOCA Mission HOTLINE Project, over 60 missions have been served with some of their "wish list" needs.

Church article donations are gathered at the same time the mission needs are identified. A Mission HOTLINE "wish list" is maintained; the lists are put together and a "match" is made. The established church is both notified of the match and instructed where to send the item(s), or if the Mission HOTLINE administrator receives the item, it is packaged and shipped to the mission.

The FOCA is divided into Chapters (from an Orthodox Church or group of surrounding churches) and the Districts (Orthodox churches from a state or group of states); the "Mission Specialist" on the Chapter level seeks out church article donations from local churches and the "Mission Coordinator" does the same for churches in surrounding states. One FOCA "Mission Coordinator" for the FOCA New Jersey District, Mrs. Marge Cimboric, gathered many items from surrounding Orthodox parishes in the New York-New Jersey area. Mr. Gary Lelo from the FOCA Central Pennsylvania District also acquired several items from his parish. And Mr. Apollo Manchuk from the St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, DC, contributed several items from his father's clergy days to Orthodox missions.

Parishes have donated many liturgical items through the years by families to commemorate events or in memory of loved ones...some parishes have many more church

articles than can be used; e.g., chalices, Gospels, etc. . . the remainder of the items sit in a closet or basement, not being used, due credit is given to the donating family or parish, and to the gaining mission church when a donation is made. Sometimes, donations to the Mission HOTLINE are acquired or recycled, from thrift or antique stores, or from flea markets or yard or "tag" sales, or from personal family collections. A few of the items now needed by Orthodox missions include:

- Baptismal font
- Chalice set and covers
- Censor
- Festal and Lenten Icons
- Byzantine Cross
- Altar boy robes
- Altar candle holders
- Hand Cross
- Processional banners
- Gospel and cover
- Fans
- Tabernacle
- Vestments in purple, white, green, red, blue
- Epitaphios (winding sheet)

Mission HOTLINE Project "wish list matches" . . .

- Chalice covers from New Skete Monastery; a priest donated them to the monastery.
- A tabernacle from Holy Trinity Church Baltimore, MD to an Orthodox Mission in Reno, NV: "...it seems the tabernacle was too large for the altar table, so the priest told the subdeacon to find a home for it. It stayed at the subdeacon's home, in the middle of the hallway, until he got in touch with the FOCA Mission HOTLINE...while he was looking for a suitable box to ship it in, his apartment caught on fire...the fire was contained to the bedroom, and part of the hallway, but did not travel down the hall to the rest of the apartment. The donor {subdeacon} credits the tabernacle for saving the rest of the apartment from fire...he stated, "I think the tabernacle being there was the reason."
- Gospel candle stand, holders, icons found at an antique shop to a mission in IN.
- Winding cloth (Epitaphios) from a church in NJ to an Orthodox mission in KY
- Liturgy books donated from a flea market find to missions in IL and MI.
- Processional Cross from PA to a church in Alaska
- Crosses, religious medals and icons from the FOCA Sales Office to an Alaskan monastery
- Three-branch candle stand, icons and music books to a mission in AK
- Winding cloth and altar boy robes from churches in NJ and CA to a DE mission
- 7-branch candle stand found in an antique store to a SC mission
- Blue vestment from a church in NJ to a TN mission
- Clerical garments, cassocks, shirts, etc...from a clergy donation to clergy in AK
- Altar and analog cloths from St. Nicholas Cathedral to missions in TN and GA
- Liturgy and Vespers books from a choir director to missions in TN and GA

- Altar candles found at a flea market to a mission in TN
 - Sick call kit from Mr. Apollo Manchuk (clergy son) to a TX mission
 - Candle stands from St. Nicholas Cathedral to a mission in DE
 - Vestments from St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, DC to a GA mission
 - Iconostasis from St. Nicholas Cathedral, first to St. John Church, Washington, DC; then to an OCA mission in MD
 - Lampada from a personal donor to a mission in SC
 - Tabernacle from a church in NJ to a mission in NJ
 - Old metal bell and holder from a personal donation to a mission in CT
 - Altar cloths from St. Nicholas Cathedral to a mission in VA
 - Festal icons from a church in MD to a mission in NV
 - Altar boy robes from St. Nicholas Cathedral to a mission in OH
 - Icons from St. Nicholas Cathedral iconostasis to an OH Orthodox hospital chapel
 - Vestment from St. Nicholas Cathedral to a mission in AK
 - Epitaphios (winding cloth) from NJ churches to missions in NJ, DE and UT
 - Icons from a church in OH and a white vestment from St. Nicholas Cathedral to the chapel at the US Military Academy, West Point, NY
 - Brass candle stands from St. Mark Church, Bethesda, MD to a NC mission
 - Altar boy robes from St. Mark Church to a DE mission
 - Paper icons from a clergy wife, Matushka Federonko, to Orthodox missions
 - English-language Liturgy books from a personal donation to an Orthodox church in Puerto Rico
 - A processional cross and white altar cloths from a church in PA and a three-branch candelabra from an antique store to an Orthodox mission in AZ
 - Wedding crowns from a church in NJ to St. Innocent Cathedral, Anchorage. There are also other ways you could assist Orthodox missions and their parishioners.
 - Sponsor a sister "mission" parish
 - Hold or attend a mission retreat
 - Volunteer for long-term mission service with the OCMC
 - Stock books on mission in your church library
 - Teach about Orthodox mission in your Sunday School class
 - Donate books on Orthodox mission to your public library
 - Contribute an item to or donate an item for a mission parish
 - Join an OCMC short-term mission
- Parishes willing to donate their duplicate or used church articles are asked to contact the FOCA Mission HOTLINE Administrator at 6610 Cypress Point Rd., Alexandria, VA 22312, or e-mail slanta@erols.com.

FOCA to Sponsor Leadership Training Summit

by Alice Woog

Young adult members of the FOCA* are encouraged to attend a Leadership Training Summit to be held on April 28, 2006 at the Woodside Party Center located on the grounds of St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, Ohio. The Summit is being held the Friday of the National FOCA Basketball Tournament—April 28-30, 2006. The Cleveland Chapter 4/6 of the FOCA Ohio District is the sponsor of this tournament and the site host of the Leadership Training Summit.

The purpose of the Leadership Summit is to present a meaningful Leadership Training activity that will inform, inspire, encourage and support the development and involvement of future leaders of the FOCA.

Young adult members 18+ years and older are encouraged to attend this 1 day Summit and begin to understand the many facets of leadership responsibilities in the FOCA. The presenters are members who have held numerous district and national offices and committee chairperson responsibilities. They are excited to share their experiences with the participants and help them in developing their leadership skills within the FOCA.

Registration information is available at www.orthodoxfellowship.org, the Orthodox Christian Journal; and at yya.oqa.org

*This Leadership Training Summit is open to all Senior Young Adult Members of the FOCA. Interested individuals who are not members of the FOCA should contact our National Headquarters at www.orthodoxfellowship.org to locate a chapter in your area regarding membership.

Questions regarding the Leadership Summit can be directed to: Paul Fedoronko at 610-328-6911 pfatsgd@aol.com

FOCA CALENDAR 2006



- Feb 9 – 12 “Spring” Board of Trustees Meeting (Myrtle Beech, SC)
- March 6 Great Lent Starts
- April 23 PASCHA
- April 28 – 30 National Basketball Tourney (Cleveland, OH)
- June 11 Pentecost
- June 2 – 4 National Bowling Tournament (Maple Shade, NJ)
- July 2 – 8 Ohio Camp Week (St. Vladimir’s Camp ~ Ohio)
- July 9 – 15 Ohio Camp Week (St. Vladimir’s Camp ~ Ohio)
- July 16 – 22 National Junior Summer Sports Tournament (Junior Olympics) St Vladimir’s Camp ~ Ohio
- Aug 30 – 31 National Summer Sports Tournament (Myrtle Beach, SC)
- Aug 31 – 80th National Convention
- Sept 4 (Myrtle Beach, SC)



2006 “Gifts of Love”

Project – This year’s project is to benefit the victims of Hurricanes Katrina,

Wilma and others. Over \$6,000 was raised at last year’s national convention alone and funds will continue to be collected through this year’s national convention. Funds are being distributed through the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Try to hold at least one fundraiser for this project if you haven’t done so already. Monies should be forwarded to the chairperson, Kaye Garman, 528 Sycamore Dr., Campbell, OH 44405; phone: 330.755.1670; email: garman528@aol.com. If you’ve sent funds directly to IOCC, please inform Kaye so that an accurate accounting can be made.

Jr FOCA "Celebrations of Faith" National Creative Arts Contest

GENERAL PARTICIPATION RULES

Theme

The theme for the contest will be the same as the theme chosen by the Holy Synod of Bishops for the OCA's Church-wide youth movement (i.e. Champions of Faith, 2004/05) Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme are acceptable.

Eligibility

All entrants in Celebrations of Faith must be communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America. It is the responsibility of the local priest, Sunday school teacher or Youth worker to determine each student's eligibility in this Celebration.

Grade Divisions

Under age 10(3rd grade), 4th-6th gr, 7th-9th gr, 10th-12th gr.

Arts Areas

Students may submit works in any of the four arts areas:

- Literature
- Musical Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

Number of Entries Submitted

There is no limit to the number of entries a student may submit.

Where Students May Create the Works

A student may develop an entry in or outside the Sunday School Class at the discretion of the parish priest and church school teacher.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter, change, or enhance the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed.

Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out and sign the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM in its entirety.

Deadlines

Each student must submit his/her work to the National Celebrations coordinator by **March 31st**. If a parish or region/deanery/district/diocese would like to organize a regional Celebration in coordination with the National program the regional coordinator would determine any deadline. These entries will be judged and displayed at district/diocese/national events including the National FOCA Convention.

Judging Criteria

All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

Return of Artwork

Following the district/diocese event the artwork may be displayed at a National Event such as the National Basketball Tournament or an All American Council. If your artwork is displayed as part of a National event the Youth Department will return photography and visual arts entries to the student if a self addressed/stamped envelope is included. Music and literature entries will not be returned.

Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you wish your entry returned to you.

Awards

All youth who submit an entry to the celebrations will receive small recognition gifts much like the participants in the essay contests.

The winning entries in each category will receive a savings bond.

"Celebration of Faith"



"PROJECT RENT-A-SAINT"



St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral's FOCA youth group, the "Saints," undertook "Project Rent-a-Saint" this November in an effort to raise money to send to the O.C.A.'s Christmas stocking project. The "Saints" offered their time, talents, and service for parishioners to purchase. The most popular services offered by the teens were to help out with things such as raking, baking, shovelling snow, babysitting, yardwork and housework. Some purchased gifts of service for a loved one or elderly person needing assistance. The proceeds of the first annual "Rent-a-Saint" exceeded \$400.00 and will help to give a small Christmas gift to needy children around the world. In addition to raising funds for a charitable cause, this project will also help to instill in our youth the importance of sharing our time and abilities with others and, as our Lord so perfectly exemplified, of our call to serve others. We are looking forward to the 2nd annual "Rent-a-Saint" project sometime in the future.

FOCA Meets with OCA Chancery

On November 4, 2005, several members of the Executive Board of the F.O.C.A. met with O.C.A. Chancellor Protopresbyter Robert Kondratik at St. Alexander Nevesky Orthodox Cathedral in Allison Park, PA. Members of the FOCA Executive Board present included Spiritual Advisor Archpriest William Evansky, President Dr. John Schultz, Vice-President Michael Steffaro and Treasurer Michael Bowan. Also attending with Fr. Kondratik was Archpriest David Brum, Secretary to the Metropolitan. This meeting took place with the blessing of His Beatitude Metropolitan HERMAN who, because of last minute changes in travel arrangements, was unable to attend.

The discussion lasted over two hours and was very productive and candid. Fr. Kondratik reiterated the Church's support for the work of the Fellowship. Among the topics discussed were ways to better promote the F.O.C.A. within the Church, possible joint activities between the F.O.C.A. and the O.C.A., ways to improve communication between the Fellowship and the Church, and other issues of joint concern. Both the Executive Board and Fr. Kondratik agreed to follow-up on several of these issues.



"GO AND SIN NO MORE"

*I feel the love of Christ in me the love He said I'd know,
If I'd just put my trust in Him and let my hatreds go.*

*And so I'll try to hate no man again the way I've done before,
Instead I'll try to do the best I can to GO AND SIN NO MORE.*

*I will pray, the hand of God, the love of Christ are in my daily life,
And I'll try to live in love and peace where once I dwelt in strife.*

*My life should be richer now than ever before,
For my Shepherd leads me in His steps on the path to Heaven's door.*

Kurt H.A. Booth

FOCA Member, Cape Town, South Africa

TRANSITIONS WINTER 2005-2006

BIRTH: Fr. Timothy and Matushka Anastasia (Harris) Hojnicky are the proud parents of their first child, Nicholas, born on January 7, 2006 in Harrisburg, PA. Both are members of the Central PA District's chapter-at-large. Fr. Tim is the priest of the new Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg, PA. Many years!

DEPARTED: Nancy Wusylko, the mother of Past National President Deacon Michael Wusylko, MD, fell asleep in the Lord on January 6, 2006. Following funeral services at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park, PA, burial was held at St. Tikhon's Monastery cemetery. Dn. Wusylko's address is 109 Burry Road, Bradford Woods, PA 15015. Memory eternal!

DEPARTED: Tessie Kuchta, 88, fell asleep in the Lord on January 7, 2006 in Phoenixville, PA. Her survivors include her son, Basil Kuchta, and his wife Anna, both members of the Harrisburg "O" Club, #199. After funeral services in Pottstown, burial was held in Frackville. Memory eternal!

DEPARTED: Julianna Bacsik, wife of Andrew Bacsik, long-time member of the FROC/FOCA, fell asleep in the Lord on December 23, 2005. She was the mother of Walter Bacsik, past New Jersey District governor and CP&O director; mother-in-law to Maryann Bacsik; and grandmother to Charissa, Tamara and Andrew, all Fellowship members. Funeral services were held at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Bayonne, NJ. Memory eternal!

DEPARTED: Michael Begian, long-time member of Detroit, #2/9, fell asleep in the Lord on November 18, 2005. He was the father-in-law of former Michigan Gov. Richard Tymoc. Memory eternal!

DEPARTED: Mary Stafursky, long-time member of Olyphant, #105, fell asleep in the Lord on November 16, 2005. She was the grandmother of former Anthracite District Gov. Ken Stafursky. Memory eternal!

DEPARTED: Lewis Dvorsky, father of Past National President Sandra Fedorko, fell asleep in the Lord on November 5, 2005 in North Fort Myers, FL. Funeral and burial services were held in Bridgeport, CT. Sandy's address is 4205 Loma Dorada, El Paso, TX 79934. Memory eternal!

INSTALLATIONS: His Grace, Bishop Tikhon (Mollard), was formally installed as Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA) in services at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia on October 29, 2005. His Grace, Bishop Nikon, was formally installed as Bishop of Boston and New England (OCA) in services at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Boston, MA on December 17, 2005. Both are honorary Fellowship members. Axios and many years!

ANNIVERSARY: Mary and Walter Sterzin were honored by over 100 parish members, family & friends on October 2, 2005 on their 65th wedding anniversary with a banquet at the parish hall in Herkimer, NY. Both have been dedicated members of the FOCA/FROC for many years – Mary joined the Herkimer "R" Club in 1937 and Walter did the same in 1939. They have been chapter and district officers and have participated in numerous district and national events in addition to holding many positions within their parish. The Sterzins also encouraged the Community

of Holy Myrrbearers with their building programs and worked tirelessly for the sisters. Many years!

ADMISSION: to the Ohio bar on November 7, 2005 is Matthew G. Vansuch, the new Ohio District Lt. governor and son of Past National President Nicholas and Monica Vansuch, all of the Campbell "O" Club, #27. He is associate attorney with Harrington, Hoppe & Mitchell in Warren. Also, the Champion High School symphonic band premiered his original composition, *A Slavic Fantasia*, at its concert on December 7th – the piece included instrumental settings of "Heaven and Earth," "There is Joy in Bethlehem," "As Many As Have Been Baptized," "S'nami Boh," "Carol of the Bells," and "O, Kto, Kto." Congratulations!

DEPARTED: Dr. Charles W. Denko, 89, a long-time member of the Lakewood "R" Club, #13/84, fell asleep in the Lord on October 18, 2005. He was a biochemist/physician at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland where he researched connective tissue diseases related to arthritis and rheumatism. His wife of 55 years, Dr. Joanne Denko, a psychiatrist, said that his major research discoveries centered on the biochemical abnormalities in various forms of arthritis that were previously believed to be caused by wear and tear of the joints. Dr. Denko, who published more than 100 scientific articles, lectured at medical schools around the world.

Born in Cleveland and raised in Ellwood City, PA, Dr. Denko overcame polio at age 1 but the symptoms returned in later years, forcing him to use a cane, a walker and finally a wheelchair. During World War II he worked at the Army nutrition laboratory in Chicago and was sent to Europe after the war to study the nutritional status of the Germans and others in displaced-persons camps; he also helped many Jewish orphans to be relocated with their relatives. He left the Army in 1947 with the rank of major.

Upon his return, Dr. Denko earned his medical degree at Johns Hopkins and taught at the universities of Ohio State, Michigan, West Virginia, Chicago and then at Case. In 1993 the medical world accepted his published findings that author Jack London died in 1916 of lupus, not suicide as widely believed. Although retiring several years ago, he continued to conduct research until becoming ill in July. Funeral services were held at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Lakewood and burial was in Ellwood City. In addition to his wife, survivors include sons Christopher, Dr. Nicholas and Dr. Timothy and their families. Vichnaja pamjat! – submitted by Dolly Manzuk, president, Lakewood "R" Club.

RECUPERATING: from extensive leg surgery in November 2005 is Dr. James Lazor, husband of National Recording Secretary Kathy Lazor, members of the Campbell "O" Club. He suffers from severe arthritis. Please remember Dr. Jim in your prayers.

ORDINATION: Patrick Gariano, Nation's Capital "R" Club, will be elevated to the diaconate on March 19th by Metropolitan Herman. He is a member of St. Luke's Serbian Orthodox Church, McLean, VA. Axios!

RELOCATING: to Philadelphia with her job is Lisa Lelo, Nation's Capital "R" Club president. She will join the St. Stephen's OCF and remain as Colonial District secretary. Best wishes!

Moral Support Sanction
High score extended to member

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:
National Sports Director
ROBERT STEFFARO
2212 Creekside Circle S
Irving, Texas 75063
(972) 869.0149

FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
67th ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
NET and HANDICAPPED — Open to FOCA Members and all Orthodox Christians
June 2-4, 2006 Brunch Awards Banquet noon on Sunday
Reservation: Quality Inn
531 Rt. 38 West Maple Shade, NJ, 08052 Phone: 856-235-6400
Reservation Deadline: May 15, 2006 Mention FOCA Bowling Tournament
Sponsored by: St. Stephen's OCF, Chapter #82 Chairman: Mark Skuby, 856-802-1664
skubydoo81@acninc.net
All entrants must pay Registration Fee and buy Banquet Ticket

Bowling: Laurel Lanes, Maple Shade NJ
Banquet: Sr. \$30 / Jr. \$15
PRIZE FEE RETURNED 100%

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
ENTRY NO _____ Four-Man _____
Singles _____
Doubles _____
All Events _____
DATE RC'D _____ Reg. Fee _____
Make-up team _____
Banquet Ticket _____
AMOUNT REQUIRED _____
AMOUNT DUE _____

FEES Per Person per Event
Bowling Cost \$9.00 **TOTAL**
Prize Fee \$6.00 **\$15.00**

CAPT _____ E-Mail _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
TEAM NAME _____ Chapter No. _____ City _____ District/Orthodox Parish _____ Phone (____) _____

| AVG | 4 PERSON TEAM - \$60.00 (ALL MEN OR ALL WOMEN) | \$15 PER | 4 PERSON TEAM - \$60.00 (MEN/WOMEN MIXED TEAM) | DOUBLES SINGLES \$15.00 PER PERSON PER EVENT | | ALL EVENTS | REG FEE | MAKE UP TEAM | ABC/WIBC NUMBER IF MEMBER |
|---|---|----------|---|---|---|------------|---------|--------------|---------------------------|
| | | | | Banquet Sr \$30 Jr \$15 | Doubles \$15.00 Singles \$5.00 Optional | | | | |
| 1. | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | | | | | |
| BOWLERS MAY ONLY BOWL IN ONE TEAM EVENT | | | | | | | | | Amount Sent \$ _____ |

Time Preferred — Doubles and Singles
Friday: 2:00P 6:00P

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: May 15, 2006

MEN / WOMEN TEAM EVENTS - Saturday 10:00 AM

I CERTIFY that the people listed on this entry form are FOCA members or Orthodox Christians. **I CERTIFY** that the averages indicated are accurate. That any discrepancies in the averages will result in **DISQUALIFICATION**.

Applicant Signature _____
ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BEFORE MIDNIGHT May 15, 2006
Make all checks payable to: 67th National FOCA Bowling Tournament
LATE ENTRIES WILL BE RETURNED

TOURNAMENT RULES - PLEASE READ
1. ABC rules will prevail throughout the operation of this tournament as will the FOCA sports rules.
2. No person may bowl more than once All bowlers must be from the same chapter, unless set up by the National Sports Director.
3. The winners of each event will be proclaimed National FOCA Champions and shall receive trophies and cash in net and handicap divisions.
4. Failure to report for bowling at a designated time will be cause to forfeit all entry fees and be eliminated from tournament.
5. Use current ABC or WIBC average as of March 15, 2006. A bowler bowling in more than one league must use his or her highest league average regardless of the fact that her may participate in this tournament with the team from the league in which his or her average is lowest. (Minimum of 18 games). If a bowler has no average for this season, he is permitted to use average and further, if he has no average for either, then he is permitted to use the previous year's concluded average '04-'05. Those bowlers not having an established average are permitted to enter at an average of 160 for Men, 125 for Women. Male bowlers to be familiar with average adjustment requirements of ABC Rule 319c.
6. Handicap will be 70% between average and 200 for men and 190 for women.
7. Failure to use proper average or make a correction prior to completion of first game of a series shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than actual average or base winnings on submitted average if it is higher.
8. All bowlers must report to alleys at least 1/2 hour before scheduled bowling time.
9. Substitutes may be used if their name appears on entry blank.
10. Bowlers who have qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any tournament event in the past 12 months must report score, position and amount at time of entry as per 319c.
11. Violation of above rules by team or bowler will subject the same to a one year suspension from FOCA tournaments.
Prize Ratio will be at least one prize for each five entries in each event, except All Events which may be 1-10. (ABC/WIBC Rules 309, 307a require at least one of each ten for each event and 1-20 for All Events.)

St. Stephen's OCF hosts "LIBERTY BOWL" June 2006



St. Stephen's OCF (annual hosts of the Novogodny Ball in Philadelphia) invites all of you to the "Liberty Bowl" – the 67th National FOCA Bowling Tournament to be held just across the Delaware

River from Philadelphia in Maple Shade, New Jersey over the weekend of June 2-4, 2006.

All bowling will be held at Laurel Lanes (www.laurellanesnj.com) a newly renovated 65-lane house complete with deluxe game room (arcade games and pool tables), a full-service bar, and a full-service restaurant. Check out their website for further details.

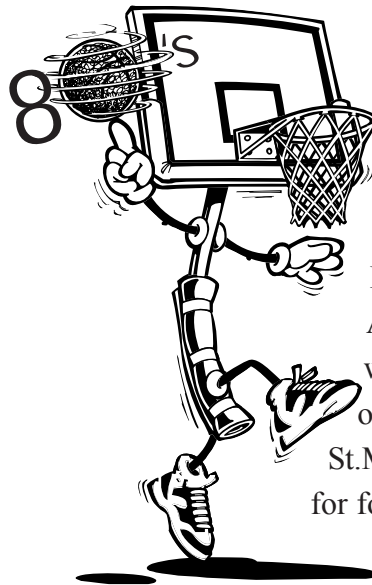
Lodging will be at the Quality Inn (www.qualityinn.com/hotel/nj129), just blocks away from the lanes in Maple Shade. Room rates (\$82 single and \$87 double) will be available through May 15, 2006. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 856-235-6400 and referencing the "FOCA Bowling Tournament".

Services for the weekend will be at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Medford, NJ (www.ochc.cc) – newly consecrated in September 2004 and just a few minutes' drive from the hotel and lanes.

Saturday evening we will offer a choice of activities to participate in – a Camden Riversharks Baseball Game (minor league baseball), "Lights on Liberty" (a walking tour of the historic area of Philadelphia), or a trolley tour of downtown Philadelphia. Atlantic City casinos are also only an hour's drive away for those wishing to try out their luck!

Look out for our mailing in February 2006 including our program book advertisement forms. MARK YOUR CALENDARS for June 2-4, 2006 and come on out to the "Liberty Bowl"!

2006 FOCA National Basketball Tournament



Take a most awesome trip back to the 80's with the Cleveland Sr. 'R' Club at the 2006 "Totally Rad" FOCA National Basketball Tournament April 28 – 30, 2006. We will begin the weekend on Friday night at St. Michael's Woodside Gym for food and fun. Games will begin bright and early Saturday morning at

the brand new Independence Field House.

Vespers will be served at St. Michael's and the banquet will follow at St. Michael's Woodside Party Center. Sunday's Divine Liturgy will be held at St. Michael's (followed by a Woodside Brunch) and then back to Independence for the championship games.

We have chosen the Courtyard Marriott Independence for our hotel at a rate of \$70/night plus tax. The hotel is less than FOUR miles from the Field House, and less than FIVE miles from the Church!!! Cleveland Hopkins International Airport is only 13 miles from the hotel!!!

We haven't set prices for the Friday night activity or the Sunday Brunch as of this article, but the Saturday Banquet will be \$20 for Juniors and \$25 for Seniors.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, don't hesitate to contact Tournament Co-Chairs Melissa Tesar (440-884-6662) or Bob Lucak (440-237-6284).

See you in Cleveland for a most excellent time!!

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO
 National Sports Committee
 Steve Visocky
 115 Valley Brook Oval
 Hinckley, OH 44233
 440-227-7228

FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
2006 NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
 Open to FOCA Members and all Orthodox Christians
APRIL 28-30, 2006
 Sponsored by: Cleveland R Club
 For Information Contact:
 Melissa Tesar, melissaitesar@hotmail.com 440-884-6662
 Bob Lucak, mjlucak@aol.com 440-526-7084
 All entrants must pay Registration Fee and buy Banquet Ticket

HOUSING
 Marriott Courtyard
 5051 West Creek
 Independence OH 44131
 1-866-964-7767
 For Reservation Ask for The
 FOCA National Basketball Tournament
Deadline is April 1, 2006

Bantam Boys Junior Boys Seniors' Super Seniors (40+) Women Junior Girls Bantam Girls

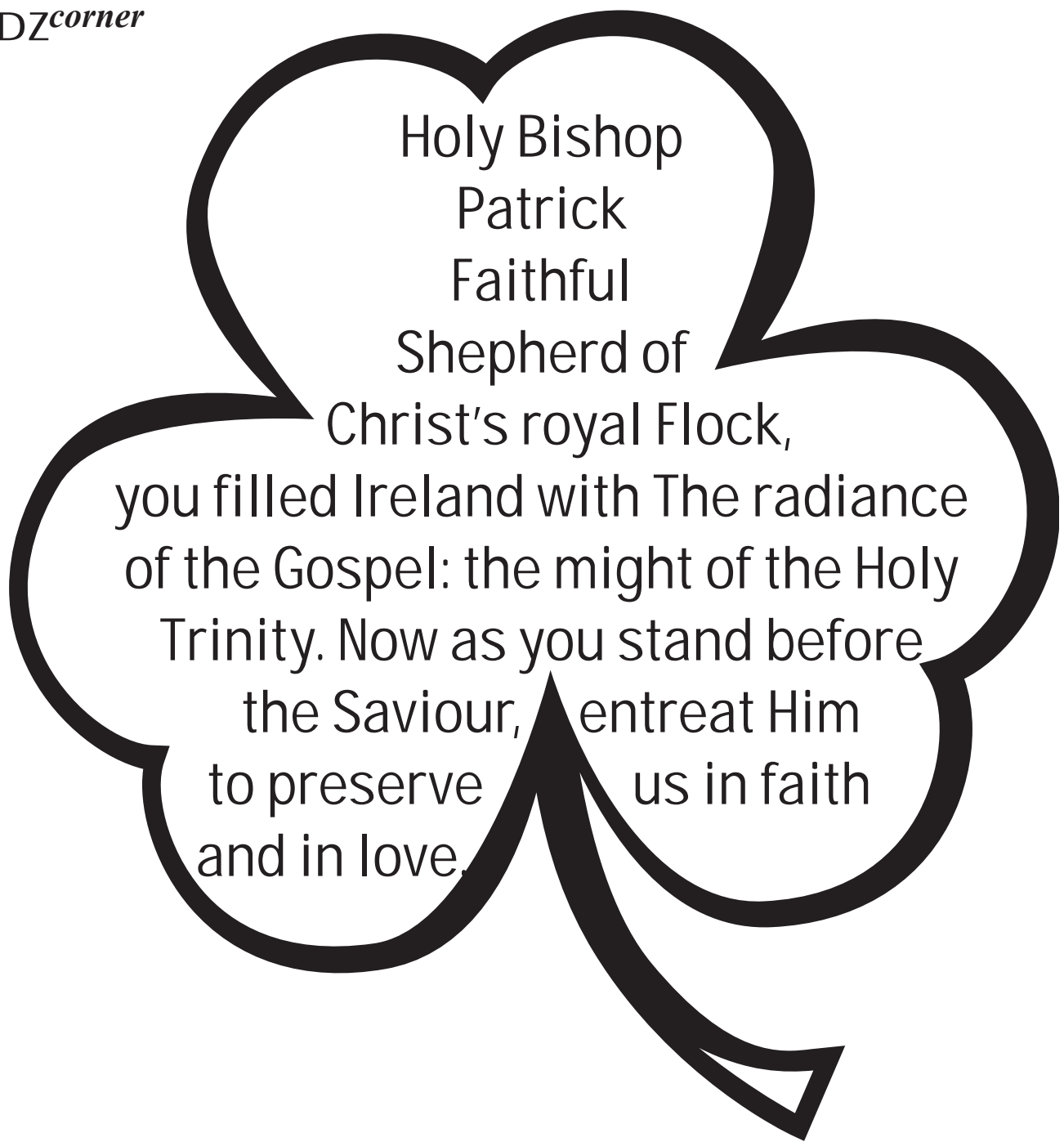
Team Name _____ District/Orthodox Parish _____ Chapter No. _____ Coach/Mgr. _____
 E-Mail _____ Phone (____) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

We have read the Tournament Guidelines below as described on this form.

| Players' Name | Birth Date Mo/Day/Yr | Age | TOURNAMENT RULES |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----|--|
| 1. _____ | | | 1) Juniors aged 14 and under are required to be housed unless staying with a parent in the hotel. No Juniors 14 and under may stay in a room without a parent. |
| 2. _____ | | | 2) ALL Juniors have a 12:30 a.m. curfew. |
| 3. _____ | | | 3) Alcoholic beverages, drugs, or cigarettes found on or consumed by Juniors will DISQUALIFY them from further participation in the Tournament for a one year period, and their parents will be notified. |
| 4. _____ | | | 4) Any Senior member providing a Junior with alcoholic beverages, drug, or cigarettes will be DISQUALIFIED from further participation in the Tournament for a one year period. |
| 5. _____ | | | 5) Attendance at Church on Sunday is expected. |
| 6. _____ | | | |
| 7. _____ | | | |
| 8. _____ | | | |
| 9. _____ | | | |
| 10. _____ | | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Ages as of December 31, 2005 10 thru 13 — Bantam 14 thru 17 — Juniors 18 thru 39 — Senior 40 & up — Super Srs. | DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS APRIL 1, 2006 | BANQUET/MEAL TICKET RESERVATIONS Sr. \$25 / Jr. \$20 Send in with meal ticket order form. Contact: Mary Jane Lucak 440-526-7084 | Entry Fee: \$ 95.00 per Team \$ _____ Make-Up Team Fee: \$ 15.00 per Person \$ _____ Late Fee: \$ 15.00 after April 8, 2006 \$ _____ Registration: Jr. \$.50 / Sr. \$ 1.00 \$ _____ |
| Make checks payable to: Cleveland R Club Event Fund Include FOCA Registration Fees for Each Name Listed On This Form. | | | |



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17 each year. St. Patrick was called the "Apostle to Ireland" because he was one of the missionaries who came to teach the people about Jesus Christ. To try to illustrate the idea of the Holy Trinity, St. Patrick showed the people of Ireland a shamrock (which looks a lot like a three-leaf clover), pointing out how the three petals are joined in a special way to make one shamrock.

Trace the outline of the shamrock. Cut it out and using it as a pattern, make a shamrock from green paper. Copy the words of the Troparion on the shamrock. Put in a place where all can see it on St. Patrick's Day and be reminded of the Saint who taught the Trinity.

OCJ Staff Thanks You...

For Supporting The *Orthodox Christian Journal* Publication, Happy New Year!

- | | | | | |
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“Celebration of Faith”



F.O.C.A.'s Creative Arts Contest

2006 Theme Is:

“Our Church and the Future: Become What You Are”

Calling all Orthodox youth to celebrate their faith!

Create and submit art projects in four areas:

- Literature,
- Musical Compositions,
- Photography,
- Visual Arts!

Celebrations of Faith is part of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America’s participation and support of the Holy Synod of Bishops’ Orthodox Church in America Youth movement (<http://yya.oca.org/ocay>).

A detailed list of rules for each category and entry forms may be found on the FOCA website or through your Jr. Advisor or your Youth Coordinator.

Dates to Remember

March 31, 2006: Deadline for all entries. Mail to: FOCA Celebration of Faith: C/O Cheryl Morse, 4746 137th St. W., Apple Valley, MN. 55124

April 28-30th, 2006: Entries will be displayed and awards announced at the National FOCA Basketball Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio. Entries will be posted on the FOCA website.

Celebrations program is sponsored by:

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (F.O.C.A.)

<http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org>

