

# OCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL.

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The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



Bell Tower



Church



Memorial Day



Metropolitan Platon Chapel



Memorial Day May 30, 1941, Platon Chapel

# ST. PETERSBURG 100 YEARS OF ORTHODOXY

Celebrating its 100th Anniversary



Orphanage



Arch, 1920's



Pilgrimage May 30, 1906 Church

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## FOCA CALENDAR 2005

- May 20-22: National Bowling Tournament, Allentown, PA
- May 30: Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery, celebrating its 100th Anniversary
- June 4: NJ District Richard J. Miskiv Memorial Scholarship Beefsteak Dinner – Passaic, NJ
- June 19: Holy Pentecost
- June 29: Summer Executive Board Meeting – Teleconference
- July 17-22: 14th OCA All-American Council, Toronto, ON
- July 25: Deadline for ads for National Convention
- July 29-30: National Summer Sports Tournament, Broadview Heights, OH
- Sept. 1-5: 79th National FOCA Convention, Alexandria, VA

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**The mission of the 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**

*38<sup>th</sup> National FOCA President*

## President's Update

### 1. All-American Council

Our presence at the All-American Council will be in several ways:

- I will serve as a Delegate for the Sessions.
- The F.O.C.A. for the first time at an A.A.C. will have a report in the Council Report Book. The report was prepared and submitted by me with the input of the Executive Board
- We will have our display in the exhibit room. The display will be updated and will have a more professional and attractive look. We have some volunteers to man the display, but if any one is willing to help please contact me.
- We will provide our new brochures to be placed in the registration packet of all delegates, alternates, and guests.
- We will be sponsoring one of the Young Adult Activities.

### 2. Brochure

The National promotional brochure is done and available for any Chapter or District who needs it for promotional purposes. Please contact Sandy K. at the national office to get copies. We will produce more as needed.

### 3. Seminary Assistance

Allison Steffaro reports that we are currently providing approximately \$1,800.00/month in assistance. Another \$1,500.00/month would meet the needs of all the Seminarians requiring assistance. If your District or Chapter has not adopted a Seminarian and are able to, please contact Allison. Individual members may also contribute.

If your Chapter or District provides Seminary/Seminarian aid that is not coordinated through the National, please provide Allison and me with the details so that we may have the most accurate estimate of the amount of aid the organization provides.

### 4. Gifts of Love

The Gifts of Love for Blessed Arseny Institute of Canada is under way. The gift will be presented at the A.A.C. most likely at the Banquet. If your Chapter has not yet contributed you still have plenty of time to do so.

In preparation for the 2006 Drive, if anyone has a potential project please send me detailed information about the proposal prior to the Summer E Board Meeting. The E board will discuss the potential projects and if necessary gather more information. The final information will be presented to the Pre-Convention Board of Trustees meeting where the suggestions will be narrowed to a few choices to be presented to the Convention Body.

### 5. Journal

I apologize to those who received the last issue late. There was a miscommunication between the printer and me.

Beginning with this issue non-member clergy will not receive the Journal. They will receive a letter referring them to our Website for an electronic version.

### 6. National Junior Summer Sports Tournament

Because of several concerns including the need to develop and adopt clear guidelines on sexual and other types of misconduct and scheduling difficulties secondary to the A.A.C., the Board of Trustees at the Spring Board Meeting cancelled the 2005 Junior Olympics.

### 7. National Conventions

2005 – Alexandria, VA – Plans are moving along nicely. For those who did not attend the Spring Board Meeting, the hotel is outstanding. The Committee is finalizing plans for what should be a great Convention.

2006 – Myrtle Beach, SC – The Kingston Plantation has officially been chosen as the venue. This is a unique and outstanding complex. Look for more details in the near future.

## EDITOR'S NOTES

**Nicholas Ressetar**

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

Christ is Risen! On behalf of the Journal staff, I greet you with the Feast of Feasts, the Triumph of Triumphs, the Resurrection of the Lord! Many members and chapters extend their own paschal greetings here as they support us financially.

In this spring issue of our membership publication, the cover features the 100th anniversary of St. Tikhon's Monastery, the oldest monastic community in North America and a holy place visited and supported by many in the Fellowship. A collection of old photos, courtesy of Gregory Ressetar (who has just produced a documentary on the monastery's history – orders at Ressetar@yahoo.com), graces the cover. The Kidz Corner is a word scramble on the monastery grounds. And inside is an inspiring piece on how the movie "The Deer Hunter" – in which several members appeared as extras — led to one man's conversion to Orthodoxy. Never underestimate the power of visual media!

Mrs. Arlene Kallaur, OCA charity director, updates us on this year's Christmas stocking project and thanks the FOCA for helping it reach a new goal. Check out the photos of the grateful children. Speaking of gratitude, we print a number of thank you notes received from seminarians and families for their Nativity gifts and from scholarship and OCMC grant winners. Giving thanks is what it's all about.

President Schultz offers his commentary on Fellowship happenings and columnist Matt Vansuch focuses on "the right groups" – pre-Juniors and Young Adults. IPP/Managing Editor John Kruchok wins a Sports Emmy for NBC on its Athens Olympics coverage and Midwest Gov. Todd Walker is tonsured a reader – congrats to both! The Colonial District continues its promotion of the 79th national convention in Alexandria, VA – a truly outstanding hotel by the way as we discovered at the "spring" board meetings in Feb. And Marge Kovach & Marissa Hedge announce the topic of the Junior Essay Contest: "Why is being a member of the Jr. FOCA important to you?" Let's hear from the Juniors.

In sports, the Ohio District shows why it's among the most vibrant with full coverage and lots of pics on their bowling and basketball tournaments – thanks to Greg Mindala and Gov. Lee Sheean. The Cleveland "R" Club invites us to the national summer sports tourney – use the entry form in this issue. They are sports crazy in the Buckeye State – go Tribe!

Finally, the back cover is a two-page invitation to youth and young adults to participate in this July's 14th OCA All-American Council in Toronto – they will join many FOCA members already participating. Remember to support the "Gifts of Love" project designated to the Archbishop Arseny Institute in Winnipeg – we hope to make a generous gift to Bishop Seraphim and the Archdiocese of Canada at the council – as well as the 2005 United Fund which supports FOCA charities.

We'll return with a special mid-summer edition covering the "Celebrations of Faith" winners, the national basketball and bowling tourneys, and more. Till next time ...enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

### 2005 Articles Deadlines for the OCJ:

**Summer due June 15th**

**Fall due September 15th**

*Send all material to our Editor:*

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## F.O.C.A.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS IN-BRIEF

### **John Kruchok, Immediate Past National F.O.C.A. President, Wins Sports Emmy Award**

The 26th annual Sports Emmy Awards of the National Television Academy were presented at Lincoln Center in New York City on May 2, 2005. The Fellowship's own John Kruchok, an associate producer with NBC Sports, won his first Emmy as part of their team which broadcast the XXVIII Olympic Summer Games in Athens in the fall of 2004. The winning category was for "outstanding live event tournaround." The awards were presented by sports figures and TV personalities such as Bob Costas, Bryant Gumbel, Joe Buck, Dan Fouts and Joe Morgan. Leading sports broadcasters, athletes and executives attended the star-studded ceremony.

John Kruchok has the distinction of being the only national F.O.C.A. president to have served two separate terms. His Fellowship offices have included national vice president, governor of the Atlantic District and editor of the Journal. John currently serves on the national executive board as immediate past president. Congratulations and many years, John!

# FOCA 79th National Convention



Spring is in that air. Gone are the snowflakes (we hope), the cherry blossoms are in bloom, and the Paschal season is upon us. Soon our thoughts will be towards our upcoming vacations. The Colonial District invites you to spend the unofficial final weekend of summer with us at our “Monumental Event”. Our convention will be housed at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria VA September 1-5 2005. It’s time to visit our area, take in the new attractions in our Nation’s Capital and visit some of the old sites again. Our local committee has planned an exciting tour on Thursday afternoon to historic Mount Vernon. Tour the home and grounds of George Washington as we provide the bus transportation to and from the grounds to the hotel. For those who have never been there, this is a beautiful site to see. There will be plenty of time to tour.

Our committee is also offering three tours of the Hillwood Museum and Gardens, home of an extensive Russian collection of Marjorie Meriweather Post, wife of the 1930’s US Ambassador to the former USSR. The Museum houses many religious and secular artifacts. Only 50 people are allowed for a tour and we have exclusive tours on Friday morning, afternoon and possibly Saturday afternoon. Bus transportation will be included to and from the museum with a stop to see the recently renovated St Nicholas Cathedral (OCA) the National War Memorial Shrine. In addition to the newly written iconography, St Nicholas also houses the St Andrew kiot given as a gift from the F.O.C.A. United Fund donations.

The hotel offers free shuttle service to metro (subway system) with easy access to all the downtown Washington DC tourist attractions. Our Saturday evening event will be a trolley tour of “The Monuments by Moonlight”. Check our web site and your mailbox for more information on all of our exciting activities. “For up-to-date information about convention activities, please see our website at [www.FOCA2005.org](http://www.FOCA2005.org), you mailbox and future articles.”

Highlighting the weekend will be the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with visiting hierarchs, clergy and laity from the area and a multi voiced choir. An elegant State Banquet will be held in the evening followed by the traditional extravaganza dance featuring ball room and ethnic dancing. See your friends of former years and meet new friends.

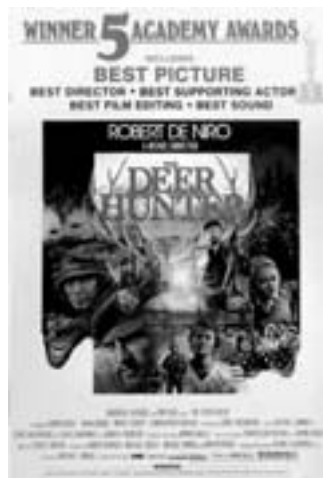


You can begin making your hotel reservations on line at <http://www.hilton.com> (search for Alexandria VA) and use the code “FOC” or you may call the reservation desk directly at 1-703-845-1010 option #1.

**We look forward to seeing all of you and will keep you informed of updates.**

**“The Deer Hunter”  
and  
Conversion to Orthodoxy**

Is the impact of Hollywood on American culture and values consistently negative? Answer - No, not always. Question - How long does it take for a seed, once planted, to bear fruit? Answer “Sometimes many seasons.” These are questions and answers with relevance to the experience of the V. Rev. T. Stephen Kopestonsky, recently retired from parish ministry in Cleveland, Ohio to the area near St. Tikhon’s Seminary and Monastery in north central Pennsylvania. Shortly after arriving in the area in late summer 2004, Fr. Stephen learned through a chance meeting with a visitor to the monastery church where he serves on Sundays and Holy Days, that unbeknownst to him, he had started a convert down the path to Orthodoxy many years before. Although it’s not quite clear how the subject came up, Fr. Stephen happened to mention to the visitor that he had been the priest, and that it had been his church (St. Theodosius Cathedral in Cleveland), that had appeared in several of the early scenes in the movie “The Deer Hunter”. The visitor recalled that a friend at his parish in Harrisburg, PA had told him at their first meeting years before that it was the wedding in that very movie that had been his first glimpse of the Orthodox Church, initiating a chain of events that led ultimately to his conversion to Orthodoxy. Fr. Stephen’s comment to the visitor upon learning this was that this one fact meant more to him than all of the critical acclaim and



commercial success the movie had received when released more than a quarter century before. He expressed a desire to meet the convert, never thinking that it might actually happen. On October 31st, 2004, that meeting did occur, arranged through the good offices of Basil Kuchta, the visitor who had first told Fr. Stephen about the movie’s impact on his friend. The occasion for the meeting was the ordination at St. Tikhon’s Monastery Church of Fr. Deacon Paul Fetsko, a son of the Harrisburg parish. At their introduction to one another that day, both Fr. Stephen and Larry Smith of Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Harrisburg, PA had their own stories to recount about the movie. - “Hollywood Comes Calling” Father Stephen recalled that at the time of the making of the movie (1977), he had been a young priest newly arrived at St. Theodosius Cathedral when movie location scouts for “The Deer Hunter” contacted him requesting permission to shoot wedding scenes for the movie in the church. Although he had reservations about the project, nothing would dissuade the moviemakers from the location. It was perfect for the movie - it just had to be shot at St Theodosius. Explaining that it wasn’t a simple matter and that he would have to obtain the permission of both his bishop and his parish council, Fr. Stephen was requested to “do whatever it takes” to win that permission. Feeling certain that one or the other would have major objections, he was amazed to find that both the bishop and the parish council said that they had complete confidence in his judgment and that the ultimate decision was his alone. After a good deal of

prayer and reflection about the decision, and upon obtaining the production crew’s assurances that nothing would be done to disturb the sanctity of the temple or to present the Church in a bad light, Fr. Stephen hesitantly agreed to their use of the location. However, there was one proviso: the bishop had been very clear during his meeting with Fr. Stephen that if he were ultimately to decide to permit the filming in the cathedral, under no circumstances was an actor to play the part of a priest. The director was in complete sympathy with the bishop’s concerns and readily agreed to Fr. Stephen’s taking that role. The movie was made in due course and was a great artistic and commercial success when released in 1978, garnering nine Academy Award nominations and actually winning five including “Best Picture.” - “Music Hath Charms” Larry a helicopter pilot who had served in Vietnam and whose greatest fear while there was being shot down and captured - recounted that he had seen the movie at a local theater with a friend and had left the theater after the movie in a cold sweat and with a case of the shakes resulting from some of the memories that it had elicited. However, what had impressed him most was the solemnity of the wedding ceremony in the movie and its beautiful and moving a cappella music. Though “un-churched” at the time, Larry had a love of liturgy and of liturgical music of all types engendered by his experiences as a boy soprano singing in one of the better Episcopal church choirs in Baltimore, MD while growing up. The movie’s wedding music was unlike any he had heard before, and he wanted to hear more. Larry happened to mention to his mother-in-law that he would love to get some recordings of Orthodox liturgical music if only he knew where to acquire

them. Several years later, she - who never forgot anything, no matter how small or insignificant - managed to find two such albums in a music store somewhere and presented them to Larry as a gift. The music on the albums was sung in Old Church Slavonic, but Larry was so taken with its beauty that he found himself playing it repeatedly, and returning to it regularly over the ensuing months and years. In the meantime, the music had moved him to renew a quest to find a church that could provide him spiritual fulfillment in its manner of worship. Although he was unable to articulate exactly what it was he was seeking, none of the services of the various denominations he visited seemed to be able to fill the void that he felt while at their services. - Turn Your Radio On Several times Larry had almost summoned up the courage to venture out to one of the Orthodox churches in the Harrisburg area, but each time he had gotten cold feet, feeling that he would be out of place among people whose language of worship was not English.

After several years of periodically listening to Slavonic liturgical music and performing some cursory research into the Orthodox church and its musical genres, he stumbled onto a Christmastime broadcast on a Harrisburg fine arts radio station of an hour of Orthodox liturgical music for the Feast of the Nativity. To his surprise, it was sung entirely in English. This was his first exposure to Orthodox liturgical music sung in a language that he could understand. A similar program aired at Pascha, and after listening to that and learning that the program was sponsored by Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Larry wrote to the pastor, the V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar, to find out where he might acquire copies of the recordings. Fr. Daniel wrote back, providing the requested information, mentioning that all services at his church were in English and also remarking that the parish had "quite a fine choir that you must come and hear some Sunday." That invitation was all that Larry needed to overcome his reticence, and the next

Sunday he paid his first visit to Christ the Savior Church. He found the welcome warm, the worship fulfilling, and "the rest", as they say, is history.

Larry has been attending Christ the Savior ever since and was chrismated in the fall of 1989, almost eleven years after having seen "The Deer Hunter". Since then he has become actively involved in the parish, serving multiple terms on parish council, teaching junior and senior high Sunday school for a number of years, and of course - singing in the parish choir. In Larry's own words, "The Orthodox Church in general, and this parish in particular, have been a godsend for me." No doubt they are exactly that, beginning with Fr. Stephen's reluctant accession to a moviemaker's request, continuing with a mother-in-law's loving gift to her son-in-law, and ending with the seemingly serendipitous discovery of a certain radio broadcast on a Sunday afternoon eight years later. Truly, "God moves in a mysterious way".

## Midwest District Governor Tonsured as Reader

Midwest District Governor, Todd Walker, was tonsured a reader by His Eminence, Archbishop Job, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Minneapolis, MN on Saturday, February 26, 2005. His wife is Polly, past Midwest District Governor. Axios!



# FOCA Helps OCA Christmas Stocking Project Reach New Goal

During this past Christmas season, 18,000 filled Christmas stockings or equivalent gifts were given out to children in Eastern Europe and Alaska. The additional 3,000 gifts (up from 15,000) were made possible by donations great and small, and included a substantial FOCA contribution.

Twenty-five Junior and Senior Chapters and one District participated in the project in 2004, providing a donation of \$6,155.30. The Christmas gifts were distributed among orphans, children from needy families and parish church school children in Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and several Alaskan villages. (The Ukraine was unable to accept gifts this year because of the political upheaval in their country at the time.)

Children from the Republic of Georgia were the new recipients. "With the high unemployment rate in that country, we felt that the Christmas gifts might be well received by the children there," said Mrs. Arlene Kallaur, OCA Project Coordinator. "Georgian Archbishop Nikolozis secretary wrote to us from Tbilisi that 'very many children were overwhelmed at the generosity and your gesture was covered by the national news on several stations.'"

Once again, United Cerebral Palsy workers in Roosevelt, NY stuffed toys, candies and a toothbrush in each stocking, giving them some pin money, and more importantly, a sense of worth. The OCA is among their dwindling clients as these types of low skilled jobs are being outsourced to other countries. An icon print with Metropolitan Herman's blessing on the back, accompanied each stocking.

Mrs. Kallaur expresses the grateful thanks of the Orthodox Church in America to all the FOCA Juniors and Seniors who continue to help bring that extra joy at Christmas to the many children who received the gifts and to their parents and caregivers who understand that Orthodox Christians in America are thinking of them and are with them in spirit.



Georgian girl receiving icon and Christmas stocking.



Metropolitan Sawa of Poland handing out OCA Christmas gifts.



Father Christmas talking to an orphan boy in Slovakia.

Christmas stockings and icons being handed out to Georgian children.

# Seminarians and Families Give Thanks for Fellowship Christmas Gifts

The Fellowship's annual gifts for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, presented appropriately on St. Nicholas Day, were gratefully received by our Orthodox Christian seminarians and their families. According to National Spiritual Advisor Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, gifts of \$50 each were sent to 39 families with 81 children studying at the seminaries. The total amount distributed was \$4,050. Numerous touching "thank you" notes, some with family photos, acknowledged these gifts. Here are some of them:

"My countenance was uplifted to see your \$50 check in my box at St. Tikhon's. I sincerely thank you for this gift. My son, little Seraphim, will be the beneficiary of your gracious thoughtfulness. Thank you, and may God bless you and your fellow laborers for Christ as you work, in this special way, in the Master's vineyard!"

– Seraphim Mitchell

"Thank you very much – always! Once again you have touched our hearts for our children. Love and prayers to you all at FOCA. Quyana!"

– Elia, Anna, Joachim and Alex Larson



"This is just a note saying thank you for your kind gift to our family! The money does help to make a special Christmas for our boys but more than that, it helps Matthew and me feel supported by a greater Orthodox world out there. I will never forget the first Xmas we received a check from you. Our son was just born and we were newly married. We couldn't help feeling totally overwhelmed, and we remembered what the Church is all about."

– Matthew, Katherine, Isaac and Elias Baker

"Thank you for the Christmas gift money for our son John. It is such a blessing. We are truly touched to be remembered during this season by those who don't even know us. It is encouraging to know that we are not alone."

– John, Katherine, John & Stanley  
(born 12/14/04)

"I wish to express that my family and I are joyous, especially in sharing with our daughter Martha's gratitude for her Christmas gift. Thank you."

– Reader Leonty, Katherine and Martha Johnston

"Thank you so much for your gifts to the children. It was so thoughtful of you to remember them at Christmas. Indeed, they miss Daddy when he is busy but they are proud of him and enjoy life at the seminary. God bless!"

– The Browne's



"Please accept this hearty thank you for your generous St. Nicholas gift for our children. We have wanted piano lessons for them but lacked an instrument. We're putting this gift toward an inexpensive digital piano for the kids to use for practice. May God bless you!"

– Fr. Basil, Dea, Julia, Sophia and Genevieve Biberdorf

"Quyana (thank you) for your generous donations that you sent these past four years we've been here at St. Herman's Seminary for Thomas, Elizabeth and Sarah. We sensed from them that there are people who love and care for them by the smiles on their faces. Thank you for sending your love."

– Reader Michael, Anna, Elizabeth, Thomas and Sarah

"We thank you for the amazing gift to our children. It came at a time when they were missing family and home very much. Thank you for your kindness!"

– Dn. Christopher, Kim, Elijah, Esme, Nikolai and Margaret

"Thank you very much for the kind gift. As we prepare to celebrate the Lord's Nativity, we are thankful for this manifestation of Christian love."

– Dn. Kirill, Sophia and Baby Nicholas Sokolov, St. Vladimir's Seminary

"Thank you for your generous gift to our children. We cannot express enough our gratitude for all that you have done for us during our time at St. Tikhon's."

– Mark, Sophia, Anna, Nina and Amber Tarpley

"Matushka and I would like to sincerely thank the members of the FOCA for the Christian love and charity they have shown toward our children with their generous gifts. I am reminded of the words of St. Patriarch Tikhon who said that the Nativity of Christ communicated to people an understanding of God, and one's self, and the purpose of life. The love that the members of the Fellowship have shown towards the children of our seminarians serves to strengthen that understanding, and teaches them that Christ is now, and ever shall be, dwelling among us."

– Fr. Deacon Stephen Kaznica

**Please remember to support the next Seminarian Christmas gift drive – the gifts distributed depend totally on the free-will contributions of chapters, districts and members.**



# Scholarship and OCMC Grant Thank You's

"I'm writing to thank you for choosing me for the William Fekula scholarship and for the great honor to receive the Fred Lewis award. This scholarship will help me greatly. I'm currently a freshman at the University of Akron where I'm majoring in middle school education. Thank you again."

– Kristin Ferrick

"I would like to thank you for awarding me the Fred Lewis scholarship. As a college student, every little bit of money helps. This semester my books alone cost close to \$500 for just five classes. At this rate, the scholarship will pay for my books for the entire year. . . . I thank you for all your support, financially and spiritually. With God, I know that anything is possible. It is comforting to know that the FOCA supports me in all my endeavors. Thanks again from the bottom of my heart. God bless."

– Sarah Vansuch

"I just wanted to thank you for your kind decision to generously offer me a scholarship for my college expenses. Every dollar is of extreme importance to me and my education. The rising cost of higher education makes this award even more valuable to me. Thanks again!"

– Peter T. Czerwinski

"I would like to give my most appreciative thanks to all members of the FOCA and for your selection of me as a scholarship recipient. I am well into my fall semester and am learning much in my intended area of study – medicine. The scholarship was an immense help in the way of books and tuition. Thanks again and God bless!"

– Mary Conroy

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the college scholarship. I am truly honored and humbled. The scholarship will greatly help to defray the cost of my tuition for the challenging program I'm entering. It was also a pleasant

surprise to learn that my fellow chapter officer and member, Mary Conroy, was also selected as a recipient. Mary and I have attended church together and have been good friends for as long as either of us can remember. The FOCA chapter is new to our parish and I have high hopes for the future. God bless."

– Erin McGuinness

"I want to thank you for your generosity in presenting me with the FOCA William Fekula scholarship. I am honored to be chosen out of so many worthy applicants. I am glad to know that Orthodox students have an organization supporting their academic pursuits. I am grateful to the members of St. Stephen's Cathedral [Philadelphia] and of the FOCA for their religious example and mentoring. They have been a positive influence on my life. Of the Fellowship functions I've attended, I can't think of one that I haven't enjoyed – my favorite is the annual Novogodny Ball. The FOCA is more than simply a club – with its strong religious base and faithful members it embodies something much larger. Because of the organization's worth I am even more humbled by the generous gift."

– Stephen Bondira

"Thank you so much for awarding me a scholarship to go on an OCMC mission trip to Korea. Your support of mission work and of me, as an FOCA daughter, means so very much. I pray that the Lord will bless you for your kindness and generosity. With love in Christ."

– Amy Barrett



# Focusing on the Right Groups

by Matthew Vansuch

We all know that the “youth” is the present and future of the Fellowship. We also talk a lot of talk about focusing on the “youth.” We need be specific about which “youth” we are talking about, and we need to have a different focus and approach depending on the particular group. I suggest that we could do a better job of focusing our efforts in a more appropriate manner that will yield better results than what we are seeing.

## 1. Pre-Juniors (3-10)

Whatever happened to Fellowship Kidz? We’d better find it soon!

We need a dedicated group of people to focus only on activities for these young children. At last year’s convention at Grand Island, Campbell sponsored activities—i.e., child care—each day during the convention sessions. Lunch was even provided for the children, and a separate “young kids only” dinner was held during the banquet. By all accounts it was a success; just ask the parents who brought their kids. (There are dozens of pictures available on the OCJ’s website, and I suggest that you check them out.) Fortunately, the Executive Board agreed to continue this at this year’s convention.

Yes, it may be an expense. Yes, it may be time-consuming. Yes, it may require just as much planning and preparation as any of the other convention activities. But I submit to you that we must do this.

Parents with young children need every incentive to come to the convention. Some of them won’t come if it’s more work than pleasure for them. So if the Fellowship provides supervised activities for these young children during the day, then these parents can get out and participate in the convention or take a well-deserved break. Next year’s convention in Myrtle Beach is a perfect example.

This must be a joint effort between the Fellowship/Junior Department and the local convention committee. The committee needs to provide, at the very least, individuals who are willing to help work and supervise, and the Fellowship can provide the overall organization to help coordinate with these individuals. One or two people need to be appointed to run this program for the Junior Department. Whether this constitutes the entirety of the Kidz program or not is open to debate, because the convention is really the only place where a local committee should be concerned about providing these types of activities.

When the modest stipend provided by the Executive

Board was quickly exhausted, the convention committee purchased the toys and supplies necessary to keep dozens of energetic children occupied for several hours, such as small folding play sets, balls, and craft materials. Just like the traveling display, the Fellowship can re-use all of this stuff at future events.

This service needs to be prominently advertised by the local committee in its earliest pre-convention literature. Word of mouth won’t cut it. Families need to know about this with enough time so that they can take it into consideration when they are making their vacation plans.

## 2. Young Adults (18-24)

There are several focus groups in this age category, and they each have different needs. For the single, 18-to-24 year olds, we need to provide them activities at the junior events. We want them to continue to be a part of the Fellowship but their turning 18 and graduating from high school does not mean that they won’t be friends with their ex-Juniors. Many of them continue to go to the basketball tournament, even if they don’t play on a senior team. We should encourage them to do so!

This presents a whole host of other issues that, as a soon-to-be-lawyer, I am well aware of, but these are better left to another article. Suffice it to say that these should not be reasons for shunning our college students into back corners and behind closed doors. We need to embrace them and to figure out the best way for them to have a safe and good time. As these young adults age, the farther removed they are from the juniors, but the closer they become with people their own age. Now I’m talking about the 22-to-30 year olds. Primarily, they are single. They maintain contact with each other with the latest technology, and they are interested in being part of something with which they can identify.

I think that Lara Herzak’s efforts are on the right track, and she should be commended for organizing the weekend community service project at Sts. Cosmas & Damian on Staten Island. More of these activities should be planned—both national and regional. A national “day (or weekend) of caring” with many regional activities. This would probably attract more people and would be a great way for the young adults to sponsor an activity for them that can also involve the “old” Seniors.

Again, I believe that the Fellowship needs to be a moving force behind this, particularly with coordination and, most importantly, publicity.

In conclusion, we need to respond to what our young adults and parents want. And our response needs to be serious and determined. We cannot lose this generation.

# Support this Year's "Gifts of Love" Project:



## The Archbishop Arseny Institute of Canada

All Fellowship chapters, districts, members and friends are urged to support the 2005 National F.O.C.A. "Gifts of Love" project which has been earmarked to benefit the Archbishop Arseny Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. An educational institution of the Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America, the institute was given the blessing in 2002 by His Grace, Bishop Seraphim of Ottawa to educate and prepare deacons, subdeacons, readers, singers and faithful for service in the Church. Twenty-four students are currently enrolled.

Archbishop Arseny was a beloved hierarch of the Orthodox Church, served as a bishop in Canada and later was instrumental in the establishment of St. Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary in South Canaan, PA. He is already venerated locally in Canada and is being considered for canonization by the Orthodox Church in America. For two reasons it is especially fitting that the 2005 "Gifts of Love" funds be given to the institute bearing his name: St. Tikhon's Monastery celebrates its centennial this year and the 14th OCA All-American Council will convene in Toronto in July.

Won't you show your love and support by contributing to this worthy cause and enable the Fellowship to present a substantial gift to Bishop Seraphim and the Archdiocese of Canada at the Council? Contributions may be sent to Margaret Hopkosky, the chairperson, at 6474 State Road, #I-16, Parma, OH 44134 (Phone: 440.842.2611).



## SPORTScorner



## ARE YOU READY FOR SOME GOLF??

Beautifully manicured fairways, deep bunkers, an abundance of water and woods and lightning fast greens await you.

The Cleveland "R" Club is inviting you to have a great golf weekend in Northeast Ohio on July 29 and 30, 2005. We have contracted with Briarwood Golf Club in Broadview Heights, Ohio as the site of the FOCA 2005 National Summer Sports Tournament. Briarwood is a SKYGPS enabled course. To see information about the club visit their website @ [www.briarwoodgolfclub.com](http://www.briarwoodgolfclub.com).

Plans for the weekend are coming along well. The first tee times are scheduled for 11:00 am on Friday. After the days play and a relaxing dinner at many of the finest restaurants in the area, members are invited to St. Michael's "Shanty" for some pizza and liquid refreshments. The days' scores and prizes will be distributed and the tee times for the following day will be announced by our illustrious Sports Director, Bob Steffaro.

Saturday's festivities will start with tee times beginning at 10:30 am. Following golf vespers will be held at the course, and a fantastic dinner will be served before the "green jacket" and other prizes are presented to the outstanding golfers.

For the ladies who do not want to play 18 holes, arrangements have been made for 9 hole tournaments on both days. If any ladies are just accompanying their husbands and do not wish to golf, there are plenty of shopping places close by to spend their husband's future winnings.

We hope that many of you will stay over to celebrate Liturgy on Sunday at Archangel Michael Church. We are in the midst of a renovation and beautification project and would like to show you our progress.

For those who will be staying overnight we have arranged a special rate at the Holiday Inn in Independence, \$69 + tax per night. To receive the special rate call the hotel at 216-524-8050 and identify yourself as being with the FOCA Golf Tournament. The hotel is located a short drive to both the golf course and the church. Bring your swim trunks as they have a fantastic pool area.

So make your plans to attend the FOCA 2005 FOCA Summer Sports Tournament on July 29 and 30, 2005. Enjoy the golf, the sun, (yes even in N.E. Ohio) the fellowship, and show everyone that you're ready to tee it up with Tiger.

See you in July!

John Mindala and Bob Lucak, Co-chairs



SEND ALL  
ENTRIES TO:

**Golf Sports Director**  
**Bob Steffaro**  
2212 Creekside Cir. S  
Irving Texas 75063  
972 869 0149

FELLOWSHIP of ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS in AMERICA  
2005 NATIONAL SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT  
July 29 - 30, 2005

Sponsored by Cleveland R Club  
Chairman: John Mindala 440 582 0715

Open to all FOCA members and all Orthodox Christians

Non FOCA Orthodox members welcome with a \$25 additional fee.

*All entrants must pay Registration Fee and buy Banquet Ticket*

**DEADLINES:**

Hotel Reservations  
Must Be Made By  
July 1, 2005

All Entries Must Be  
Postmarked By  
July 15, 2005

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Handicap Average	2-Day \$90	1-Day \$50	Scramble 2-Day \$90	Scramble 1-Day \$50	Regist. \$1.00	Banquet Sr. \$30 Jr. \$25	TOTAL
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								

Please Read

**TOURNAMENT RULES- General Golf Rules**

- 1) Rules on score card will be followed.
  - 2) Special rules will be given before tee-off.
  - 3) All FOCA and District rules will be followed.
  - 4) Golfers will be flighted and must provide Handicap or Average.
- Prizes will be based on number of entrants.

**Special Entry**

**One Day 9 hole: \$25**

**Two Day 9 hole: \$45**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that I will abide by all the sports rules of the FROC.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make checks payable to: **Cleveland "R" Club**

Include Registration Fees and Banquet Tickets for each name listed on this form. Mail all entries to Bob Steffaro at the address above.

HOUSING

**Holiday Inn Rockside Road & I 77**  
Independence, Ohio  
Phone 216 524 8050

GOLFING

**Golfing Briarwood Golf Course 440 237 5271**  
**Tee-Off Time Friday: 11 am Sat Tee off 10:30am**  
**Vespers at course at 5:00pm Banquet at course 6:00pm**

# 2005 OHIO DISTRICT



## BOWLING TOURNAMENT

You can put another successful bowling tournament in the books for the Ohio District FOCA. The Cleveland "R" Club did a wonderful job getting over 100 bowlers to participate in this year's event at Brookgate Lanes in Brookpark, OH. The event started on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2005 at 11 a.m. with doubles followed by singles bowling. After bowling, many took a little rest and then made their way to St. Michael's Church for vespers which was immediately followed by a birthday party for the children of Yakov and Hanya at the Woodside Center. Games provided by the birthday children, such as pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, beanbag toss, and mini-golf, brought back many memories. After a delicious meal and the awarding of prizes, everyone dispersed into the evening to rest for day two of the tourney.

The teams arrived in full uniform at the bowling alleys on Sunday afternoon after Divine Liturgy and took their lanes determined to become the next champion. After the opening prayer, national anthem and FOCA anthem, Gov. Leon Sheean threw out the time-honored first ball, knocking down 9 out of 10 pins. Better luck next time Leon! (Editor's note: did he get the spare?!). The bowling commenced with teams rooting one another on and players bowling strike after strike. A close finish for first place was certain, and after bowling wrapped out, they headed back to the center for a light supper and distribution of prizes. Approximately 50 Juniors participated on Sunday, and I think the seniors could take some lessons from some of these kids.

The Cleveland "R" Club would like to thank all of you for participating in a fun-filled weekend. A special thanks to all who helped during the weekend, especially chairperson, Mary Jane Lucak, and her committee and also to Jennifer Pishko, Phil Tesar, Joey Uhrina and Steve Visocky for assistance in entering scores and organizing bowlers.

Gregory J. Mindala

Ohio District Sports Director



## *Spring 2005 Transitions*

**DEPARTED:** Dr. Alexander V. Prisley, 73, the son of the late Rt. Rev. Vladimir and Matushka Anne Prislopsky, passed away on April 7 in Athens, OH. He was a political science professor at Ohio University for almost 40 years. Survivors include Joanne, his wife, 40 Grosvenor Street, Athens, OH 45701; Michael, his son; Matushka Theodora Ressetar, his sister, Harrisburg #199. Funeral and burial services were held in Athens on April 11. Memory Eternal to Alexander.

**DEPARTED:** Mrs. Maria Paluch, 84, passed away on March 27 in Waymart, PA. She is survived by sons Martin and John of South Canaan; son William and daughters Veronica Bilas, Anita Ondreyka and Barbara Harp; sister Anna Baker; and brothers Peter and George Trudik. Funeral and burial services were held at St. Tikhon's Monastery on April 1. Memory Eternal to Maria.

**DEPARTED:** Mrs. Anna Osacky, mother of His Eminence, Archbishop Job of Chicago, passed away on March 27. Funeral services were held at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Burr Ridge, IL and burial was in Chicago. Her husband, John, died on April 12, 2004. Memory Eternal to Anna and John.

**RECUPERATING:** Faith Malinich, Upper NY State District Governor, underwent successful hip replacement surgery on March 22. She is recovering well and is looking forward to dancing with husband George at the national convention. Many years!

*Endicott "R" Club, #43, Endicott, NY*

**BIRTH/ADOPTION:** Father Alexey and Matushka Anastasia Karlgut, members of the Endicott "R" Club, are the proud parents of son Michael, born in Endicott, and daughter Maria, who was adopted in Russia. Congratulations and many years!

**BIRTH:** Congratulations to Rebecca Lynne and Gabriel N. Williams on the birth of their second daughter, Kayla Brooke. Rebecca is a member of the Endicott "R" Club as are the proud grandparents, Joan and William E. Dupkanick, who is chapter president. Many years!

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to grandparents Anne and George Sawchak, who celebrated the baptism of grandson Trygve George Aarestad in Denver, CO. Proud parents are Stacie and Tor Aarestad. Anne is a member of the Endicott "R" Club.

**ADOPTION:** Congratulations to Father Timm and Matushka Michele Holowatch, members of the Endicott "R" Club, who adopted sons Demid Michael and Paul Justin in Russia. Many years!

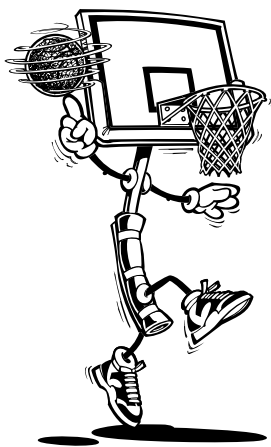
*St. Peter and St. Paul "O" Club, Chapter #96, Burr Ridge, IL*

**DEPARTED:** John Ehnatko, member of St. Peter & St. Paul "O" Club, fell asleep in the Lord on February 14, 2005. John's son, Gregory, fell asleep in the Lord two weeks later on February 28, 2005. Surviving John are his wife Mary (also a member of #96), a daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Surviving Gregory are his mother, daughter and grandchildren. Memory Eternal to John and Gregory.

**APPOINTMENT:** Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, National F.O.C.A. Spiritual Advisor, has been appointed executive director of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS) by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America effective June 1, 2005. Congratulations and many years!

**DEPARTED:** Helen Darak, a member of the Bridgeport "R" Club, #73, fell asleep in the Lord in April. Memory eternal and Christ is Risen!

**DEPARTED:** Nicholas Sinchuk, a member of the Bridgeport "R" Club, #73, fell asleep in the Lord in April. Memory eternal and Christ is Risen!



# 2005 Ohio District Basketball Tournament

The 2005 Ohio District Basketball Tournament was sponsored by the Cleveland R Club on March 12, 2005. The tournament was co-chaired by Fred DeBellis and Michael Herzak, II. They put together a well managed committee to help with the running of the tournament, and a big thanks goes out to all those that helped, and especially the Tesar Family and Mrs. Harley for furnishing the great food they always continue to prepare. Both the games and the banquet were held at St. Michaels Woodside Gymnasium and were carried out with a Cleveland Cavaliers theme.

The day started off with the high impact Bantam Boys championship game between Cleveland and Akron, in which the home team Cleveland Bantams were victorious. The next game played was the Junior Boys semifinals between Cleveland and Campbell. With the odds against Cleveland, coach Fred DeBellis and the Junior Boys were able to upset the towering height of the Junior Boys from Campbell, thus placing themselves into the finals against Akron.

What was to be a high intensity battle between the two Senior Men's make up teams, ended up being a bunch of out of shape guys, with some past their prime, barely making it down the court. However, the 43 year old grandfather of basketball, Jim (Toot) Kormos, was able to outlast all the younger so called athletes on the floor to pull out a victory for his team.

The game following the Senior Men was the Bantam Girl's championship game, and for the first time of the day the home team, Cleveland, was beat by the visiting Bantam Girls from Akron.

In a rematch from last year's semifinal game, the Cleveland Junior Boys were to take on last year's champions - Akron. Right from the start the Cleveland Boys came out charging against Akron and with an impressive show of 3 point shooting from Johnny Memorich. The Cleveland Junior Boys were able to hold onto the lead and were crowned this year's champion.

Following vespers a wonderful banquet was held, and the trophies were distributed to the championship teams and various all-star players. This truly was a tournament that had it all.

The parents of the Juniors should be commended for their cooperation in getting the kids to the games on time and their continued support makes the FOCA and the Ohio District a way for the kids to continue to be involved around the church and meet other Orthodox Christians.

See all of you in Minneapolis for the National Basketball Tournament on May 13, 14 & 15.

**Gregory J. Mindala, Ohio District Sports Director**

## 2005 Ohio District Basketball Tournament

*Sponsored by the Cleveland R Club*



### Game Winners

- Bantam Boys Championship Game: Cleveland (42) - Akron (18)
- Junior Boys Semifinals Game: Cleveland (38) - Campbell (28)
- Senior Men Championship Game: Make-up #1 (55) - Make-up #2 (51)
- Bantam Girls Championship Game: Akron (28) - Cleveland (7)
- Junior Boys Championship Game: Cleveland (57) - Akron (50)

### All Stars

#### ***Bantam Boys***

Nick Memorich	Cleveland
John Voytilla	Cleveland
Mike Gaydos	Cleveland
Brian Dubis	Akron
Dylan Papp	Akron

#### ***Bantam Girls***

Ericka Norris	Cleveland
Marina Memorich	Cleveland
Audrey Fagan	Akron
Nadine Ellis	Akron
Juliana Libertin	Akron

#### ***Junior Boys***

Seth Fuller	Campbell
Nick Higginbotham	Akron
Bill Bezbachenko	Akron
Rich Kowalchik	Cleveland
Johnny Memorich	Cleveland



**Calling all young writers to participate in...**

# **The Annual FOCA Junior Essay Contest!**

**The Essay contest topic this year is:**

## **Why is being a member of the Junior FOCA important to you?**

**The contest is open to all Orthodox Christian youth between the ages of 10 – 18.**

**Essays are judged in the following age categories:**

**10 - 11 (essay to be at least 250 words)**

**12 - 13 (essay to be at least 300 words)**

**14 - 15 (essay to be at least 400 words)**

**16 - 18 (essay to be at least 500 words)**

**The winner of each age category will receive a \$200 US Savings Bond.**

**Each participant receives a gift certificate to a national bookstore for entering.**

**All winning Essays will be published in the FOCA Journal and posted on the FOCA website.**

## **The deadline for submission is July 30, 2005**

**For all contest details and rules go to [www.orthodoxfellowship.org](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org). You can also contact the contest coordinators listed below. Good luck!**

**Marge Kovach  
732-815-9765  
[mjkovach@aol.com](mailto:mjkovach@aol.com)**

**Marissa Hedge  
973-401-1852  
[mhedge@castleventures.com](mailto:mhedge@castleventures.com)**



St. Tikhon's Monastery is Celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year.

There are many places on the grounds of the Monastery that are of interest. Below is a word scramble which describes the places that you will find on the Monastery grounds. See how well you can do.

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. LEBL WOTRE   | 8. SOKBORETO     |
| 2. NSTMOAREY    | 9. EORS NERGAD   |
| 3. NOELSYTSMTOB | 10. YRODMTIOR    |
| 4. NOV APILI    | 11. NOPTLAS BOTM |
| 5. URCHHC       | 12. YOWL ELWL    |
| 6. OTHETKOSO    | 13. RGAGAE       |
| 7. EARSYMN      | 14. GDNIINLAHL   |

.....  
Places To Be Found:

- |             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Pavilion    | Theotokos Shrine |
| Rose Garden | Platon's Tomb    |
| Seminary    | Bell Tower       |
| Church      | Book Store       |
| Dining Hall | Dormitory        |
| Holy Well   | Leonty's Tomb    |
| Monastery   | Garage           |

.....  
Answers:

1-Bell Tower; 2-Monastery; 3-Leonty's Tomb; 4-Pavilion; 5-Church; 6-Theotokos Shrine; 7-Seminary; 8-Book Store; 9-Rose Garden; 10-Dormitory; 11-Platon's Tomb; 12-Holy Well; 13-Garage; 14-Dining Hall

# OCJ Staff Thanks You...

For Supporting The *Orthodox Christian Journal* Publication,  
Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

- |  |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Rev. Michael &amp; Mat. Anderson</b><br><i>Chapter #240</i> | <b>Fr. David &amp; Shari Garretson</b><br><i>Chapter #167</i>               | <b>Dr. Joseph &amp; Barbara Jani</b><br><i>Chapter 97</i>        | <b>Dave &amp; Laura Johnson</b><br><i>Chapter 129</i>                     | <b>Stephen &amp; Olga Melnick</b><br><i>Chapter 221</i>               |
| <b>Vera Alesevich</b><br><i>Chapter 73</i>                     | <b>Steve and Marge Cimolic</b><br><i>Chapter 97</i>                         | <b>Kovach Family</b><br><i>Chapter #35</i>                       | <b>M/M Ed Junda</b><br><i>Chapter 66</i>                                  | <b>John &amp; Pam Petronko</b><br><i>Chapter 246</i>                  |
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| <b>V. Rev. Theodore and Hope Boback</b><br><i>Chapter 131</i>  | <b>Walt &amp; Carol Deerson</b><br><i>Chapter #167</i>                      | <b>John and Helen Kowansky</b><br><i>Chapter 63</i>              | <b>Metropolitan THEODOSIUS</b><br><i>Chapter At Large</i>                 | <b>Sasha Ressetar</b><br><i>Chapter 199</i>                           |
| <b>Philip Benda</b><br><i>Chapter #97</i>                      | <b>Joan &amp; Bill Dupranick</b><br><i>Chapter 150</i>                      | <b>Dr. Jim and Kathy Lazor</b><br><i>Chapter 27</i>              | <b>Joan Kost</b><br><i>Chapter 64</i>                                     | <b>Peter &amp; Joni Rezanka</b><br><i>Chapter #105</i>                |
| <b>Michael &amp; Veronica Burak</b><br><i>Chapter #167</i>     | <b>Paul Malinchok</b><br><i>Chapter #43</i>                                 | <b>Gary and Pat Lelo</b><br><i>Chapter 212</i>                   | <b>V. Rev. &amp; Mrs. Robert S. Kondratick</b><br><i>Chapter-At-Large</i> | <b>Olga &amp; Walter Romanofsky</b><br><i>Chapter #240</i>            |
| <b>Mike Bowan and Neena Konon</b><br><i>Chapter 146</i>        | <b>Sandi &amp; John Fedorko</b><br><i>Chapter 242</i>                       | <b>Helen Livosky</b><br><i>Chapter 27</i>                        | <b>Sonia and Bill Kraftician</b><br><i>Chapter 222</i>                    | <b>Foreen &amp; Russell Sakowych</b><br><i>Chapter 22</i>             |
| <b>Bob &amp; Betty Czech</b><br><i>Chapter #66</i>             | <b>George &amp; Barbara Freimann</b><br><i>Chapter #229</i>                 | <b>Clair and Phyllis Gindlesperger</b><br><i>Chapter 7</i>       | <b>John Kruchok</b><br><i>Chapter 92</i>                                  | <b>Barbara Sheean</b><br><i>Chapter #7</i>                            |
| <b>Greg Cimolic</b><br><i>Chapter 97</i>                       | <b>Rev. Michael Dahulich, Dean StTikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary</b> | <b>Michael &amp; Marcella Hydock</b><br><i>Chapter #229</i>      | <b>Jessica &amp; Jennifer Lazor</b><br><i>Chapter 27</i>                  | <b>Joe, JoAnn &amp; Stacy Sirilla</b><br><i>Chapter 27</i>            |
| <b>Mary Dubowchik</b><br><i>Chapter 44</i>                     | <b>Pete and Kaye Garman</b><br><i>Chapter 27</i>                            | <b>Lara Herzak</b><br><i>Chapter 4/6</i>                         | <b>Helen Lichatz</b><br><i>Chapter 80</i>                                 | <b>Larry &amp; Connie Skvir</b><br><i>Chapter 82</i>                  |
| <b>John A. Daniel</b><br><i>Chapter 47/135</i>                 | <b>Dr. &amp; Mrs. George Glosik</b><br><i>Chapter #4/6</i>                  | <b>Mike Herzak II</b><br><i>Chapter 4/6</i>                      | <b>Lisa Lelo</b><br><i>Chapter 79</i>                                     | <b>M/M Walter Mironchik</b><br><i>Chapter #229</i>                    |
| <b>Mary Durkot</b><br><i>Chapter 37</i>                        | <b>Diana Haverlack</b><br><i>Chapter 229</i>                                | <b>Daniel Herzak</b><br><i>Chapter 4/6</i>                       | <b>Ruth &amp; George Libertin</b><br><i>Chapter 27</i>                    | <b>His Grace, NIKON Bishop of the Albanian Diocese of New England</b> |
| <b>Julia &amp; Joseph Duffney</b><br><i>Chapter #54</i>        | <b>Mickey &amp; Paula Herzak</b><br><i>Chapter 4/6</i>                      | <b>Peter Holoiviak</b><br><i>Chapter 64</i>                      | <b>Robert &amp; Mary Jane Lucak</b><br><i>Chapter 4/6</i>                 | <b>Loretta Matyuf</b><br><i>Chapter 109</i>                           |
| <b>Paul &amp; Diane Fedoronko</b><br><i>Chapter 82</i>         | <b>Marissa &amp; Arthur Hedge</b><br><i>Chapter #222</i>                    | <b>Metropolitan HERMAN Archbishop of Washington</b>              | <b>Michael &amp; Alice Mallick</b><br><i>Chapter #199</i>                 | <b>Peter &amp; Elizabeth Melnick</b>                                  |
| <b>Helene Emerick</b><br><i>Chapter #109</i>                   | <b>Mildred Herzak</b><br><i>Chapter #4/6</i>                                | <b>Metropolitan of All America and Canada</b>                    | <b>John &amp; Kathy Mindala</b><br><i>Chapter #4/6</i>                    | <b>Helen Michak</b><br><i>Chapter 4/6</i>                             |
| <b>Cindy, Kelly &amp; Kristen Ferrick</b><br><i>Chapter 27</i> |   | <b>Harold Homiak</b><br><i>Chapter 219</i>                       | <b>George &amp; Faith Malinich</b><br><i>Chapter 37</i>                   | <b>Betty Ann Perschka</b><br><i>Chapter 17</i>                        |
| <b>Nancy Filak</b><br><i>Chapter 66</i>                        |   | <b>David, Stephanie &amp; Alex Homyak</b><br><i>Chapter #219</i> |   | <b>Andrew, Lisa, Alex Petty</b><br><i>Chapter 17</i>                  |
| <b>Leda Dzwonczyk</b><br><i>Chapter 131</i>                    |   | <b>Pat &amp; John Ihnat</b><br><i>Chapter #79</i>                |   |   |

# Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

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McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania

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**JR FOCA**  
East Lansing, Michigan

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**Gale & Jennifer**  
**Pishko**  
Chapter 2/9

**Henry Pishko**  
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**Sheean**  
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**Vladimir &**  
**Eleanor Skuby**  
Chapter 79

**John & Betty**  
**Slanta**  
Chapter 79

**Marie Stefanelli**  
Chapter 144

**Mary Ann Soltis**  
Chapter 54

**Pat Starkey**  
Chapter 219

**Becky Tesar**  
Chapter 4/6

**Bob & Karen**  
**Steffaro**  
Chapter #132

**William T. Soltis**  
Chapter 180

**Marion Stenko**  
Chapter 64

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Chapter 4/6

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**Spiwak**  
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**Michael and Paul**  
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**Phil Tesar**  
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**Alexis and**  
**Andrew Michael**  
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**Matushko Carol**  
**Steffaro**  
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**Fran Vansuch**  
Chapter #166

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**Barbara &**  
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**Walter**  
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Chapter #127

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**Nicoloff**  
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and  
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and **Chris**  
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**Taisia Zupancic**  
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Terryville, Connecticut
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"O" CLUB**  
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MICHAEL  
"O" CLUB**  
Burbank, Illinois
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"O" CLUB**  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
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CLUB**  
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Madison, Illinois
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"O" CLUB**  
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania
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CLUB**  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
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**HOLY TRINITY "O"  
CLUB**  
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CLUB**  
New Jersey
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CLUB**  
New Jersey
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CLUB**  
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"O" CLUB**  
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THE PROTOMARTYR  
"O" CLUB**  
Longwood, Florida
- Chapter No. 248J  
**ST. ELIA  
JR "O" CLUB**  
Akron, Ohio

### The Canadian National Tower



### Ontario Place Amusement Park



### Ontario Science Center

### Paramount Canada's Wonderland Amusement Park



### Liturgical Worship

### "Become What You Are" - St. Gregory of Sinai

Educational sessions for youth and young adult observers will focus on this quote from St Gregory of Sinai (14th Century), challenging them to explore and achieve the potential with which God created them as they reflect on their role in the Council's theme "Our Church and the Future."

**Youth are NOT just the future** During recent All-American Councils, youth and young adult observers have taken on an increasingly important role. All-American Councils have become a place for youth and young adults of the OCA to discuss their ministry and involvement in our church, resulting even in statements to hierarchs and delegates, e.g. "Our Dream for the Church and Our Mission in the Church."

Every participant comes home with life-long memories, support from new friendships made with hundreds of other Orthodox youth and young adults, and a renewed commitment to a role in the life of the Church.

**Ages** The 14th All-American Council will feature a full schedule of fun and educational activities for the following age groups:

- 6 and under (no registration required)
- 7 - 9
- 10 - 12
- 13 - 17
- 18 +

**Arrival and departure** Participants are encouraged to arrive on Saturday, July 16 to participate in pre-AAC events and activities, including Sunday's Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the welcome reception later that evening. Activities will officially begin on Sunday evening with a participant / parent orientation at 8:00 PM. Activities will conclude at 1:00 PM on Friday, July 22.

Start planning now! Dozens of parishes have already reported that their entire parish youth groups will be attending. Participants can look forward to spending the week with approximately 400 other Orthodox youth and young adults.

So don't wait! Start making plans now to be part of the largest gathering of OCA youth and young adults ever assembled.

**The Sheraton Centre**  
123 Queen St. W.

Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2M9, Canada

**Phone:** 416-361-1000

**Fax:** 416-947-4854

**Web:** [www.sheratontoronto.com](http://www.sheratontoronto.com)

**Supervision** Youth observers are signed in once at the beginning of the day and then signed out according to the times noted on the youth activity schedule. There is no staff making sure that every youth attends every activity, nor will the staff monitor youths' behavior when not signed into a scheduled youth activity. Parents and/or chaperones are responsible for youth at any time they are not signed into one of the Church's youth activities, including all evenings.

**How to participate** To participate in the youth or young adult activities of the 14th All-American Council, you must register as a youth observer or young adult observer.

**Youth Activities (7 - 17)** Registration as a youth observer includes:

- Participation and materials for all education / discussion sessions
- Transportation and admission to local attractions as indicated in the schedule
- Continental breakfast following the Divine Liturgy
- Lunch every day
- Dinner on Tuesday and Thursday evenings
- T-shirts to wear at local attractions
- A dufflebag / backpack
- Admittance into the evening "Crash Room" for teens

**Young Adult Activities (18+)** Registration as a young adult observer includes participation in activities open to Council observers as well as a schedule of activities especially for young adults such as:

- Monday night dinner
- Daily young adult workshops and discussions
- Community service project
- The option to take part in the youth activity trip on Tuesday
- Relaxed fellowship at the "Meeting Place" each night
- Continental breakfast following the Divine Liturgy
- Grand Banquet Thursday evening

**Cost** Thanks to the hard work of the department members and the generosity of people from across the Church, we are able to offer all this for **\$200** (U.S. Funds).



RECYCLE!

Use This Issue To Encourage New Membership

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The 14th All-American Council  
Youth and Young Adult Activities  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada July 17 - 22, 2005

**OUR CHURCH AND THE FUTURE  
BECOME WHAT YOU ARE**

**Travel documents** (For U.S. citizens traveling to Canada from the U.S.)  
People traveling will need:

1. proof of U.S. citizenship such as
  - a. your U.S. passport or
  - b. original or certified copy of your birth certificate (with raised seal), plus photo identification,
2. children under 18 must have a notarized letter (see "International travel with minors" below),
3. a copy of the completed registration form, and
4. copies of his/her proof of citizenship to be kept by parents and adults accompanying him/her.

For information on obtaining a U.S. passport, go to <http://www.travel.state.gov/> or visit your local post office. Visas are not required for U.S. tourists entering Canada from the U.S. for stays up to 180 days.

If you are a naturalized citizen and do not have a passport, you should travel with your naturalization certificate. A driver's license or Social Security card is no longer valid proof of citizenship. People who reside in the U.S. but are not citizens must check with their country of origin to see if a visa is required to enter Canada.

**International travel with minors** (including Canada & Mexico)  
Due to international concern over child abduction, many governments have initiated additional requirements at arrival and departure points when children under 18 years old are not traveling with both parents. Many countries require documentary evidence of the adults' relationship and permission of the parent(s) or legal guardian before they will allow the child to cross the border. These requirements are in addition to passport or proof of citizenship requirements.

Single parents, grandparents, guardians, or chaperones traveling with children need notarized letters from the other parent or both parents authorizing travel, or proof of custody.

If only one parent has legal custody, that parent should be prepared to provide a court order of child custody to airlines and international authorities.

If a child traveling has a different last name from the mother and/or father, the parents should be prepared to provide evidence to airlines and official authorities, such as a birth certificate with the raised seal or adoption decree, to prove that they are the parents.

If one parent is deceased, a death certificate is required.

If the birth certificate (with raised seal) shows that the minor has only one parent, it will be sufficient to hold only a notarized copy of the birth certificate.

If this documentation is not provided, the child will not be able to leave or enter the country.

**For more info** For more information, including registration materials, check out the official web site of the Orthodox Church in America at [www.oaca.org](http://www.oaca.org) or contact the Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries at 516-922-0550 ext.138, or e-mail at [yjacm@oaca.org](mailto:yjacm@oaca.org).



Orthodox Church in America  
Department of Youth, Young Adult,  
and Campus Ministries

PO Box 675  
Syosset, NY 11791

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Web: [yja.oaca.org](http://yja.oaca.org)