

OCCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

FALL 2010 volume 84 number 3

Also Inside:

- Miskiv National Scholarships
- District Conventions
- Junior Logo Contest

The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Telling Our Story - Witnessing Our Faith by Charitable Works through Fellowship



**Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America
Celebrates 84th Annual Convention
Pittsburgh, PA**

CONTENTS

OCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

FALL 2010

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 3

FEATURE STORIES

- 5 FOCA benefit cruise for the St. Tikhon's Seminary Married Seminarian Housing Project
- 6 Richard J. Miskiv Scholarship Fund Winners
- 7 2010 Photo Contest Winners Announced at the Pittsburgh National Convention
- 8 Saint Tikhon's Apartments
- 8 FOCA Unanimously Supports Seminary Married Housing Project

COVER STORIES

- 9 84th Annual Convention - Banquet Speech by Polly Walker
- 10 FOCA Celebrates 84th Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, City of Its Birth, over Labor Day Weekend

DISTRICT NEWS

- 18 Holy Archangel St. Michael Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights/Cleveland Honors Its Late Beloved Pastor
- 19 Colonial District Commemorates 75 Years of Service to the Orthodox Church
- 19 59th Annual New Jersey District Convention
- 20 Max 21-J Club of St. Mary's Church Sponsors the 80th Annual Central PA District Convention
- 21 FOCA Logo Design Contest - Guidelines and Selection Criteria
- 22 Transitions
- 22 FOCA Calendar 2011
- 22 Christmas Patrons

Kidz Corner

- 23 Feast of the Presentation or Meeting of Jesus Christ: February 2nd

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 **President's Commentary**
- 4 **Editor's Notes**
- 4 **F.O.C.A. Highlights and News-In-Brief**
Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

Back Cover: Novogodny Ball

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

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

41th National FOCA President



On behalf of the Executive Board, I extend best wishes for a joyous Nativity Season and a Happy New Year. The New Year 2011 will be a critical one in the life and future of the Fellowship. Early in the year members of the FOCA will see the first fruits of the hard work of the Revitalization Committee. If you have not yet received it, the survey requested by the Delegates at the 84th National Convention will soon be in your hands. Please take a few moments to complete this survey and be a part of the process that will result in the “new” FOCA. Tell us what you believe has worked in the past and should be kept, tell us what you believe has not worked so well and should be changed, and finally tell us what you think has never been done and should be done now. We truly want your opinion!

Soon after the New Year, the Committee and Executive Board will review the data and that information along with the other work of the Committee will be discussed at the Spring Board of Trustees Meeting. What an exciting time to be part of the FOCA? Just as our founders did 85 years ago when the organization was created, we will be able to say we were part of the solution that recreated the Fellowship onto the organization that will serve the Church with honor and distinction into the future.

Now I would like to take an opportunity to remember a very special person in the recent life of the Fellowship. Kathy Lazor recently fell asleep in the Lord. Kathy was a tireless worker and unapologetic supporter of the FOCA. She was a very special friend to all of us. Personally speaking, in my first stint as President, Kathy served as the Recording Secretary. She was always someone that I could count on when something was needed. She was a willing sounding board and was never afraid to tell me when I was getting off track. That is a special quality and one of the many reasons I and many will miss her dearly. She was a true friend. Please take a moment to remember Kathy in your prayers and please keep a thought for her husband Jim and daughters Jessica and Jennifer. May Kathy receive her place in the Mansions of the Righteous. Memory Eternal!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Messages of condolence may be sent to Dr. James Lazor & Family, 506 Centennial Drive, Vienna, OH 44473, and to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Garman, 528 Sycamore Drive, Campbell, OH 44405. Past National President Pete and Kaye (herself a past national recording secretary) are Kathy's parents. Memory eternal!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas D. Ressetar

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

Hello and welcome to the “late” fall edition of the *Journal*, the FOCA’s flagship publication “telling our story”! This is the annual national convention issue, remembering this year’s in Pittsburgh where it all began and sponsored by the Pittsburgh District. We have comprehensive coverage of the sessions, liturgical services & events, outgoing Prez Polly Walker’s banquet speech, the “revitalization” committee’s report and lots of photos (thanks Leon and others). Great job Dr. John, Danielle & your committee!

Profiled inside are the five Richard Miskiv national FOCA scholarship awardees, all of whom are well-deserving and inspiring – thanks Ken & the fund’s committee! We take a look at the proposed St. Tikhon’s apartments and the \$75,000 the Fellowship awarded to new dean Father Atty and the seminary toward the project. Three district conventions are covered, including Colonial’s 75th. The Junior department brings us the details of the logo contest. St. Michael’s parish in suburban Cleveland commemorated Father Prislowsky’s 40th anniversary of repose last month, and we have a report courtesy of Cleveland.com. And a thank you to Matushka Theodora for the Kidz Corner project.

Also in this edition are the photo contest winners, the New Jersey District’s Bermuda cruise fundraiser & visit to the Statute of Liberty/Ellis Island, the yearly Novogodny Ball, our Christmas patrons (thanks for your support), new Prez Dr. John Schultz’s message and more. I greet all with an early (for those receiving this electronically) “Christ is Born” and best wishes for the New Year. Till next time ... enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

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

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

Often times sitting right in our own backyard may be a learning experience available that is overlooked or “put on the back burner” because we know it “will be there tomorrow.”

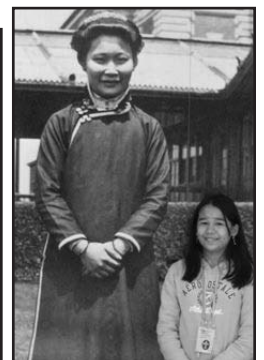
This was evident when a decision to visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island was made by Marge Kovach (Bayonne Chapter 97) and Laura Johnson (Jersey City Chapter 129). Invitational e-mails were sent to all New Jersey FOCA Chapters and local parishes, which resulted in 53 responses, 14 of which were children.

Meeting Sunday afternoon on October 10, 2010 at Liberty State Park in Jersey City at the ferry which transported them, the perfect weather permitted the participants to enjoy a marvelous day outdoors and indoors. The ferry took them to the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, then to Liberty Island where “Lady Liberty” stands. Everyone was also able to visit the museum inside the statue.

How many of us have had the chance to learn what our forefathers endured to begin their lives in this wonderful country and not availed ourselves of this opportunity? It is because of them that we are who we are and what we are today.

The children could hardly contain their excitement upon their return, relating how much fun they had, how impressed they were with the Statue of Liberty, and what they had learned at Ellis Island. The trip was particularly advantageous to one student who is currently studying immigration in school.

To culminate the experience, a sumptuous “International Buffet” awaited the hungry crowd at Ss. Peter and Paul’s church hall in Jersey City—a fitting ending to a great day enjoyed by all! - Ann Fajvan



FOCA benefit cruise for the St. Tikhon's Seminary Married Seminarian Housing Project

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Dear Friends of F.O.C.A. / PTS Travel

On behalf of the F.O.C.A. and PTS Travel, I would like to invite you to join us for our 2011 cruise! We'll be sailing aboard the Celebrity SUMMIT for a seven day cruise starting on MAY 8, 2011, from BAYONNE, N.J. The cruise will benefit the FOCA drive for the St. Tikhon's Seminary Married Seminarian Housing Project.

DATE	ITINERARY
SUN. May 8th	BAYONNE
MON. May 9th	AT SEA
TUES. May 10th	AT SEA
WED. May 11th	KINGS WHARF, BERMUDA
THURS- May 12th	KINGS WHARF, BERMUDA
FRI-May 13th	KINGS WHARF, BERMUDA
SAT- May 14th	AT SEA
SUN-May 15th	BAYONNE

To indicate your interest in the cruise, please return the enclosed confirmation of interest form by mail or by fax to Carol Deerson at F.O.C.A or PTS Travel. We will contact you to confirm your reservation and arrange for payment of your \$250.00 per person deposit. Deposits are due by Jan. 3, 2011. Cabins are selected when deposits are received. An early deposit will have a wider selection of cabins.

Final Payment is due Feb. 2, 2011

PER PERSON PRICES

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	Cruise Rate	Tax	Total per person	3rd & 4th person
Concierge Class (Veranda)	\$910.00	\$304.25	\$1214.25	\$784.25
Outside Cabin (Veranda) Category 2A	\$860.00	\$304.25	\$1164.25	\$734.25
Outside Cabin (Window) Category 8	\$529.00	\$304.25	\$ 833.25	\$584.25
Prices for other categories	TBD			

If you have any questions, please contact Olga Baldowski at PTS Travel at 201-385-1884. I look forward to welcoming you aboard the Celebrity SUMMIT.

Please contact Olga Baldowski for the "confirmation of interest" form.

RICHARD J. MISKIV SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Awards \$5,000 in national FOCA Scholarships

As previously reported in the *Journal*, the Richard J. Miskiv Memorial Scholarship Fund decided to fund 5 \$1,000 national FOCA scholarships for the year 2010. Miskiv fund chairman, Kenneth Baron, said: "In New Jersey, I've chaired a scholarship program founded 8 years ago in memory of my closest friend of 40 years, Richard Miskiv. He was a very active member of the FROC/FOCA for 35 years until his untimely passing at the age of 50 in 2002 from a rare disease. Several of his relatives and close friends joined me in establishing a scholarship fund which annually awards scholarships to members of the New Jersey District FOCA as well as the high school Richard attended. Upon hearing of the suspension of FOCA scholarships this year, the trustees of the fund decided unanimously to award \$5,000 in scholarships using the usual FOCA judging process. We congratulate the awardees' superlative academic, church and FOCA activities that warranted their special recognition!" And the Fellowship thanks Ken and the trustees of the Miskiv fund for their generosity.



Gregory Gaydos

Gregory is a member of Archangel Michael Church in Broadview Heights, OH (an altar boy and now sub-deacon) and its Cleveland "R" Club, #4/6-J, serving as president, vice president and on the basketball team for 4 years (MVP and all-star at national & district tourneys); he helped run coffee hours and other charity fundraisers and volunteered at the church fish fry. A member of the marching and other bands as a trombone player, he marched in the 2009 Hawaii parade and received the president's award and other academic honors. Gregory also was in the German, Debate, Italian and Key Clubs. He's worked as a baseball umpire, at the parish's Woodside Party Center and on the grounds crew for the Strongsville baseball fields. Athletics include soccer, baseball, track and flag football. Gregory is attending Bowling Green U. in Ohio and majoring in telecommunications.



Alison Inceu

A first-time scholarship recipient, Alison is a member of St. Nicholas Church, Cohoes, NY and its Junior "R" Club, #57-J, UNYS District. She is a native of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. A graduate of Shaker High School, Alison was president and founder of the Shaker New Global Citizens which supported the plight of street children in Serbia and the victims of the Haitian and Chilean earthquakes. She was also active as president of her school's Model United Nations and the Amnesty International chapter, English Council and Building Council, her school's decision-making body. Her FOCA activities include serving as president, vice-president and secretary of her Junior "R" Club which organized community activities such as the yearly Halloween party, the decoration of the church for Christmas, the Easter egg hunt for parish children, and as *Journal* correspondent and Lt. governor of the UNYS junior district. Alison also interned with the American Red Cross for 2 summers, spent a summer in her hometown working with children with cancer, and received many academic and other awards. She is now at George Washington U. in DC majoring in international affairs/English.



Laura Hadginske

A second-time national scholarship recipient, Laura is a member of Christ the Saviour Church in Harrisburg, PA and sings in its parish choir when home and at St. Andrew's Church in Baltimore, MD when at school. She belongs to the Harrisburg "O" Club, #199, and was active in its Junior "O" Club helping with bake sales and yard sales and serving as secretary. Now a senior at Loyola U. Maryland majoring in speech/language pathology, Laura is in its chorale and madrigals and is co-founder of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) chapter; she also is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Assn., and the speech-language pathology/audiology society. Her community activities include care-a-van (making sandwiches for the hungry), beans & bread meals program, community service council (e.g., blood drives, bingo nites at nursing homes) and Caroline Center (tutoring women studying for GED). Laura also received this year's Matushka Anne Prislopsky memorial scholarship from the Central PA District FOCA.



Natalia Hutnyan

Natalia is a member of St. Andrew's Church in Maple Heights, OH and its Junior chapter #220-J. The daughter of Father and Matushka Emil Hutnyan, she reads in church, including the Epistle, sings alto in the parish choir, and assists at events such

as fish fry and paprikash dinners and spring clean-up. Natalia has participated in national and district basketball and bowling tournaments, and has attended St. Vladimir FOCA Camp and the junior olympics/national summer sports tourneys for many years. In school, she played in the band and marching band for 4 years (senior field commander) and was in the book club, teen institute, National Honor Society, leadership council, and international and drama clubs. Her community activities include baskets of hope, relay for life and blood drives. Natalia is at the University of Toledo, Ohio with a major to be decided.



Nicholas Rudenko

A member of Holy Ascension Church in Frackville, PA and its "R" Club, #150, Nicholas has been an altar server, church reader, bass and tenor singer in the choir, church school student, and helps in church maintenance and clean-up. His

FOCA activities include operation stocking stuffer, spaghetti dinners, St. Tikhon's summer camp counselor, altar boy & FOCA youth retreats, coffee hour server and youth mentor. An accomplished musician, Nicholas is in the Penn State Marching Blue Band and in high school was in the marching and concert bands, jazz/percussion/woodwind ensembles, and National Honor Society. He also was in the ski club, Penn State blood bowl, wrestling pep band and dance marathon. In the community, Nicholas participated in the Hazleton liberty band, relay for life, and the funfest parade, and served as a math and science tutor and saxophone instructor. A recipient of this year's Central PA District scholarship, he is a sophomore majoring in aerospace engineering at Penn State.

2010 Photo Contest Winners Announced at the Pittsburgh National Convention

— by Mary Anne Soltis

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who entered!



18 to 45 Age Category: 1st Place
Susan Fett of the New Jersey District



46+ Age Category: 1st Place
Sandy Kapelan of the Anthracite District

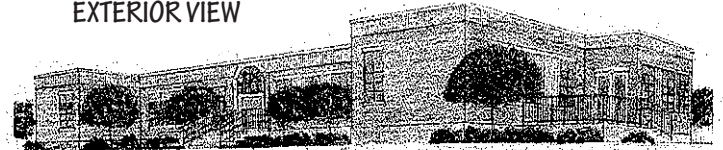


46+ Age Category: 2nd Place
Eileen Telischak of the New Jersey District

SAINT TIKHON'S APARTMENTS

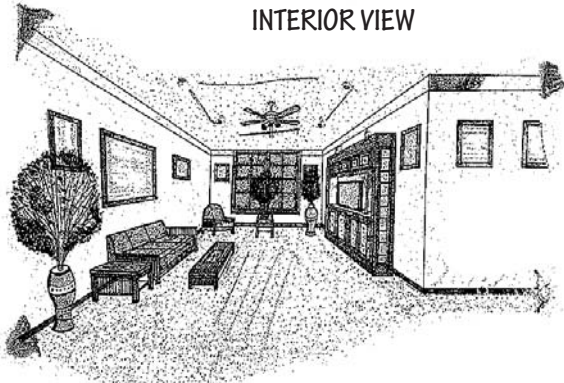
SAINT TIKHON'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IS CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF EXISTING WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. THIS BUILDING IS LOCATED IN SOUTH CANAAN, PENNSYLVANIA AND APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE FROM SAINT TIKHON'S MAIN CAMPUS. THE CONVERSION OF THIS FACILITY TO MARRIED STUDENT HOUSING SHALL FULFILL THE NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF OUR CURRENT STUDENTS.

EXTERIOR VIEW

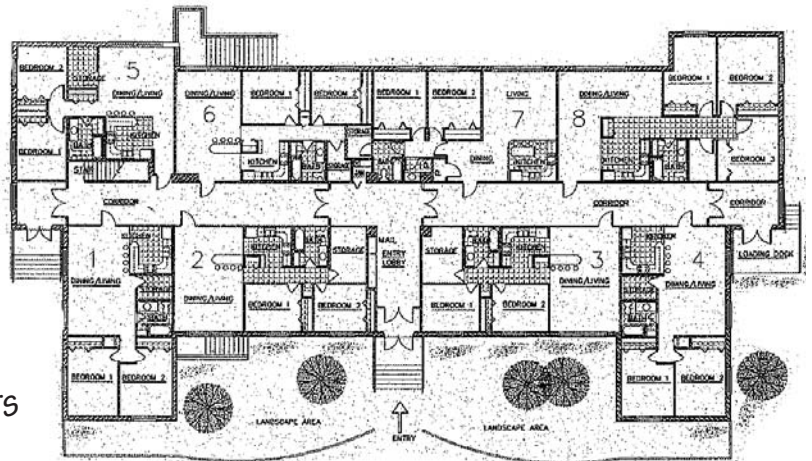


THE EXISTING BUILDING IS APPROXIMATELY TEN THOUSAND SQUARE FEET IN FOOTPRINT AREA. THE FACILITY IS A ONE STORY BUILDING WITH A PARTIAL BASEMENT. THE BUILDING EXTERIOR FACADE IS BRICK AND LANDSCAPING WILL BE DESIGNED FOR PRIVACY.

INTERIOR VIEW



APARTMENT LAYOUT PLAN - 8 UNITS



FOCA Unanimously Supports Seminary Married Housing Project with \$75,000 - 09/22/10



[Pictured left to right: Michael Bowan, Michael Steffaro, Polly Walker, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Bill Evansky, Ted Gregory]

PITTSBURGH - Meeting at its 84th annual national convention in Pittsburgh, PA, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) unanimously agreed to donate \$75,000 to St. Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA, in support of a married student housing project.

In 2007, at its national convention in Nashville, TN, FOCA delegates acted to spearhead a project to assist in providing mar-

ried student housing at the seminary, to meet a critical shortage of housing for students with families. Due to circumstances beyond the control of FOCA, the project stalled. Recently, the seminary was able to identify a building and property nearby that may be suitable for the project, and the FOCA will now focus its energy and support in the seminary's efforts to fulfill this need.

During its sessions on Friday, September 3, following a presentation by Fr. Alexander Atty, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, the FOCA delegates agreed to continue fund-raising to increase support for the married student housing. A committee will be reassembled to solicit new funds and to remind those who earlier made three-year pledges to the project of their commitments. Fulfilled commitments to date were included in the \$75,000 gift, with remaining pledge commitments totaling nearly \$125,000.

These pledges came from just 40 members of the FOCA, and do not include what the FOCA expects to raise with broader solicitations from within the membership and others outside the FOCA. It is anticipated that individuals will continue to embrace the project, and spearhead activities to raise the necessary funds.

If you would like to give to the Married Student Housing project, or for more information, please contact the St. Tikhon's Seminary office for details.

84th Annual Convention - Banquet Speech

by National President Polly Walker



Your Beatitude, Your Graces, Reverend Fathers, Matushki and Fellow Members:

As my beloved former priest, the Very Reverend Thaddeus Wojcik, is so often fond of saying, "Lord, it is good that we are here."

Daniel Webster defines change as:

To make the form, nature, content, future course, etc., of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone.

This past weekend we have had the opportunity to review the hard work and efforts of the Reorganization Committee as they presented their proposals for change. We also had the chance to voice our opinions about such change. Many of us agreed, many of us did not. This is what democracy is all about. While it is always nice to have someone on one's side in a particular matter, how very boring the world and the FOCA would be if we all thought the same way.

By the very laws of human nature we are creatures of habit, often resistant to change. But change we must if we are to endure. What does this mean? It means leaving our comfort zone, it means venturing out into the perhaps unknown, it means taking a chance, it means meeting a challenge, it means respecting others even if we do not totally agree with them, and it means not saying that oft-used phrase so common in every Orthodox parish..."but we've ALWAYS done it that way!"

I took the time to research some famous (and not so famous) quotes dealing with change and pondered how they affect us as the FOCA.

One of our own, Andy Warhol said:

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." Are we ready to make changes ourselves?

Harrison Ford said:

"We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less a second chance." Are we ready to give the FOCA a second chance?

James Gordon, MD stated:

"It's not that some people have willpower and some don't. It's that some people are ready to change and others are not." Are you ready to change?

King Whitney, Jr said:

"Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better."

I hope and pray that we are all confident and up for the chal-

lenge to make things better:

Gail Sheehy points out:

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living." Are you prepared to help the FOCA change and grow so that it remains a viable living organization?

Mahatma Gandhi states:

"We must become the change we want to see." What change are you and those around you?

The Very Reverend Vladimir Prislopsky, the founder of the FROC, now known as the FOCA, spoke at the 25th National Convention. He quoted Mr. Andrew Goidich (the 2nd National FROC President) as he addressed the convention:

"You are face to face with a serious problem. Upon your shoulders will fall the burden of making the Federation a success. Your minds will be called upon to decide the various questions which arise. Briefly, the fate of the Convention will be in your hands. Your decisions will, in time to come, decide the fate of not only our church but the preservation of our honorable ancestry as well. Your moves will be watched with interest throughout the country. You must decide, the issue cannot be evaded. Will you be equal to the occasion?" As the old saying goes...the more things change, the more things stay the same!

And finally, John Schaar, a futurist writes:

"The future is not a result of choices among alternative paths offered by the present, but a place that is created—created first in the mind and will, created next in activity. The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them, changes both the maker and the destination."

Let us all go forth and create the new future of the FOCA with new activities, new paths, new changes and a new destination with God's glory.

My heartfelt thanks to all who have worked so tirelessly for the FOCA during my tenure as president. To the Executive Board who steers our ship; to the Board of Trustees and committees who keep us on track; to all the members who keep us honest; and to my family who keeps me humble, my sincere and heartfelt thanks for your dedication to the FOCA.

I would like to close with another paraphrased quote from Fr. Prislopsky's 25th National Convention speech. He was referring to the FROC (FOCA's) upcoming year, 1932, but is also my desire for the next year and beyond.

"May it be our greatest, in strength and in influence. May we succeed this year where we have failed in the past, and may God bless, and richly bless, each and everyone who in a large or small measure make the FROC (FOCA) the outstanding Orthodox youth organization, not only in the United States but in the entire world."

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America Celebrates 84th Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, City of Its Birth, over Labor Day Weekend

Fellowship officers, members, friends and guests gathered to celebrate the 84th national convention in Pittsburgh, PA from September 2-6, 2010 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel. It was “Home Again in 2010 – An FOCA Family Reunion” sponsored by the FOCA’s Pittsburgh District. Although meeting in the city of its birth in 1927, this convention was more about the future of the Fellowship with its “revitalization” as the prevailing theme.

The convention program book’s dedication set the tone as it was “lovingly dedicated to those individuals who were first introduced at an FOCA/FROC event, fell in love, and eventually began families of their own. In the age long before social networking and Facebook friends, these were the individuals who became the vital network connecting friends from afar and near who shared the faith of their fathers. These members embodied the FOCA mission as a way of life through heartfelt service, fellowship and example. It is evident that their faithful commitment to Orthodoxy, family, and

each other has been joyfully proclaimed and revealed in the hearts of their future generations. . . . May we continue to keep the traditions that bind us together and be mindful of the significance of these loving couples that recognized and valued the importance of making connections that endure and allowed our FOCA Family to grow!”

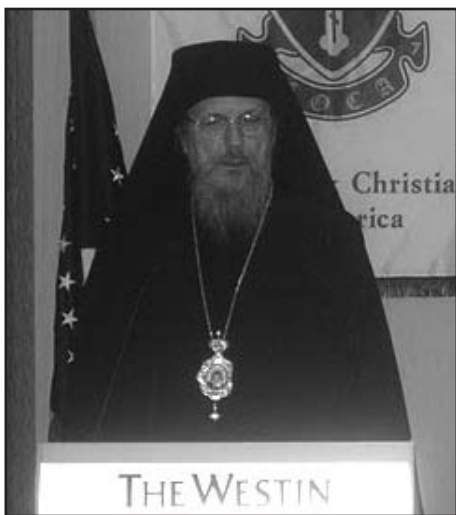
The FOCA’s spiritual leader, Metropolitan Jonah, in his official message wrote that in reflecting on the convention’s theme, “we can recall the many memories of past Conventions and even the friendships and marriages that have been initiated and forged through the FOCA, and successful endeavors that the FOCA has undertaken through the years. All this came about through the love, support, and labors of all members who truly came together as a family. As we contemplate the theme of family, we also need to take time to remember those members of the FOCA who have departed this life. Of special mention is the Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Prislowsky, whose 40th anniversary of repose we mark this year. Father Vladimir was a founding member and the first president of the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs (now FOCA), and it was through his hard work and vision that this organization has grown to the success that it has become over the years. To all of the departed members of the FOCA, and especially to Father Vladimir, may their Memory be Eternal!”

Pittsburgh Bishop Melchisedek welcomed the convention to his diocese: “In 1998, just as the old FROC became the FOCA, I left for Greece, thinking that I would spend the rest of



my life there as a monastic. However, God had different plans, and now I am here to greet you as the bishop of this diocese. Many things have been brought to my attention, as I confront and am confronted by the many changes which have taken place in the Orthodox Church in America during the period of my absence. Yet none has been more impressive than the transfiguration of the old FROC into the FOCA as a full-fledged organization of and in the Church.”

“The FOCA has always had worthy goals, yet I believe that in this new period it has the potential for greater accomplishments than ever before in its history. Besides all of the traditional projects concerning learning the faith and supporting youth ministries with their social and athletic events, you have widened your vision to include positive missionary activity, networking and other social activities, as well as encouraging and promoting Orthodox jurisdictional unity. A prominent theologian of the last century once said that the Church which lives to itself will die to itself. With your broadened vision, and your



renewed commitment to the Church as the Body of Christ, you are in a position to insure that the Church will not die to itself.”

As national FOCA spiritual advisor as well as that of the host committee, Father William Evansky, referring to St. Paul’s epistle to the Romans, stated: “May this unity of purpose in a bond of spiritual love be the hallmark of the 84th National FOCA Convention! May our Lord’s blessing be upon you all as brothers and sisters united in devotion to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in our love for the FOCA!” National President Polly Walker wrote: “As we look forward to our convention sessions we also look forward to the future and what it holds for our organization. Will we be forward thinking and try to keep up with the times . . . or will we try to hold on to what we have been for many years? Hopefully, we can find a balance between the two. That in itself will be essential to keeping the FOCA vibrant and contemporary yet still respecting our heritage and holy Orthodox Church.”

Pittsburgh District Governor Serge Daniels greeted conventioners with these words: “Eighty four years ago this Fellowship was founded on the North Side of Pittsburgh and since then has spread to several hundred parish chapters throughout the United States of America. During this time the FROC/FOCA has experience significant accomplishments and some struggles in carrying out the vision of the founders in 1927. This year the Fellowship is gathering here again in Pittsburgh to review and make plans for the future.” Dr. John Schultz, after thanking cochair Danielle Evansky (now Ilchuk) and their host committee, said: “I thank all of you for attending this 84th Convention in the city of our birth. As we celebrate the birth of our organization, we come with the intention of laying the foundation for our rebirth. Just as our founders, led by Mitred Archpriest Vladimir Prislopsky,

created an organization that embodied their dreams and ideas for the needs of the Church in 1927, we now gather to recreate an organization dedicated to the needs of the Church in 2010 and beyond. Let the inspiration of their wisdom and the fruits of their vision inspire us. Let us recognize that while we have had our struggles we have done and continue to do great things.”

Friday, September 3rd

After the “Family Reunion” welcoming event the night before (and some went to the Steelers’ preseason game), the traditional convention procession was formed consisting of Dr. Schultz with the American flag, Walter Alesevich with the All Saints of North America icon, your Editor with the St. Andrew icon, the board of trustees, past national presidents and Father Evansky escorting Metropolitan Jonah, Bishop Melchisedek and Bishop Michael into the sessions room. Metropolitan Jonah served the opening molieben with Lory Nescott, the convention choir director, leading the responses. Following the service, the national and FOCA anthems were sung and President Walker convened the convention proceedings. She appointed Marge Kovach as temporary secretary as National Secretary Becky Tesar’s grandmother passed away earlier in the week. After roll call, Dr. Schultz greeted everyone on behalf of



the Pittsburgh District.

The convention then heard for over an hour from Metropolitan Jonah, its spiritual leader, who also answered questions from the floor at the end of his message. “I am delighted to be with you and express my support and respect for the tremendous work of the FOCA over the years and hope for the future. FOCA cuts across parochial and diocesan lines and unites people together, which is a very important thing. The Church is not simply about the services – our entire life is lived in Christ in the Holy Spirit. Our very salvation is at stake. FOCA supports the life of the Church and community in so many ways – this is an incredibly valuable thing, just getting together. Your works are incredibly important, too.”

“I know the FOCA is going through a sort of crisis. But deep down, the most important thing is we need to focus on our personal, spiritual lives and the disciplines of alms-giving and praying when focused on our liturgical lives. We must do the will of God and in order to discern the will of God, we must be focused on the presence and awareness of God. As Christians, we are not subject to Old Testament laws. We are called to an intuitive awareness of what God wants us to do. You are committed Christians and the leaders of the Church in your parishes and dioceses. I call upon you to lead

continued page 14





the Church in a spiritual revival, a new outlook. We become instruments of God's will and must share in the Lord's ministry. We must constantly renew our commitment to Christ and His Church and 'actualize' the salvation that Jesus Christ has brought to us here and now. Let us abstain from our passions, let the love of God flow through us and embrace those around us."

"Repentance really means the transformation of our minds, to be renewed," His Beatitude continued.

"Our whole life is about repentance, to be opened to God. So my hope is that we begin a spiritual renewal in our Church, focused on the Gospel, the 'Good News.' What brings people to the Church and the FOCA? The focus on the spiritual life, the striving for holiness, the abundance of God's Grace. Our task, brother and sisters, is to share that Grace – His energy and life. How we reach out to the poor, the hungry and those in need is critical to our spiritual lives. When love overflows, great things can happen. Consider the wonderful project for married seminary housing at St. Tikhon's that you've endorsed. This is but one example. I absolutely affirm and support this project."

Metropolitan Jonah went on: "As I've said in the past, the parish that parties together stays together! Getting together socially is so important for a



parish – living together as a community. Sometimes a parish needs a catalyst and the FOCA chapter can be that catalyst – invite new people to dinner. I would be glad to lead some retreats for you, regionally or nationally, to help focus all of us, to help your renewal. I challenge you to move to a tithing system in your parishes – the dues system is a disaster in the OCA, it's crazy. We need proportionate giving as practiced in the Diocese of the South."

"How we support the Church is a major theme in the new strategic plan for the next All-American Council. Maybe the FOCA could organize the youth program at this council? It would be a nice concrete project. For keeping kids in the Church requires them to commit their lives to Jesus Christ, and the FOCA can help. You might also consider funding the OCA youth director."

"By having three bishops here at your convention, we care about you! Your future is critical to the Church. Discern the will of God. Pray about it."

In response to a question about the OCA's autocephaly, Metropolitan Jonah – who had just met with Metropolitan Hilarion, external affairs chair of the Russian Orthodox Church – emphatically stated that "the Russian Orthodox Church will not and cannot rescind the OCA's autocephaly – it is our biggest friend and supporter. The process of the episcopal assemblies has not changed this fact. As leaders of the Church, you here must be involved in the process of creating a united Orthodox Church in North America." The assembly responded with "Eis polla eti despota!"

President Walker turned the convention's attention to the reports of the members of the executive board and board of trustees in the printed report book. Several reports were highlighted. Treasurer Michael Bowan gave details of his updated financial reports. Immediate Past President Michael Steffaro updated the status of the Wilkes-Barre administrative headquar-



ters. Upper NY State District Gov. Faith Malinich rose to describe and show the bags made by the Endicott "R" Club to collect food for the needy – they were designed by her 15-year old granddaughter. They are distributed to members who collect food in them and return the food to church. (A great chapter idea!). The Cleveland "R" Club's Catrina Kovalak presented a separate report on the Junior national summer sports tournament held at the St. Vladimir Camp in Ohio (a detailed article appeared in the last *Journal*.) Forty-seven campers plus 15 staff participated and Father Barnabas Fravel served as chaplain. Allison Steffaro thanked Fr. Deacon Dan & Catrina for a great week and commented that her daughter came home saying that "Baba Livosky's food is better than ours!" Each camper received a DVD of photos.

National Sports Director Anthony Schultz undertook sports business. A motion was made to require that all participants in sporting events be FOCA members, generating a lively debate. Ken Baron expressed concern that we would lose some outside teams, such as the Greeks, if this passed. Michael Herzak urged that we continue to be inclusive – "it's our fault that a non-member player never heard from us again after participating in a tournament." But Marge Cimboric countered that if you can play without being a Junior, why become a Junior?

Phoebe Felk stated that we shouldn't force Juniors into membership but encourage players to become members – stay in touch with them using electronic technologies. The motion was defeated.

For the first time as hierarch, Bishop Michael (Dahulich) addressed the body: "It is a great experience for me to attend your conventions. The FOCA is *still* the right hand of the Church. My fondest memories as seminary dean were the wide-eyes of the children and mothers with tears because they had Christmas with St. Nicholas making his visit with the FOCA gifts. The Endicott chapter will experience the joy of feeding the hungry with their bags this year. Remember that the glass is half empty and half full. Thank God for what remains. As St. Gregory of Nyssa

taught, we 'go from glory to glory'. Keep doing your good works. Be careful as you consider the future that you don't give up the legacy of the past. Be positive. I pledge to support you as a new bishop. I will work with both districts in my diocese to keep the dream alive. You owe it to the people who've worked for the FOCA/FROC in the parishes over the years. God bless you and the FOCA!"

Following lunch, Father Alexander Atty, the new dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, spoke and introduced himself. He was rector of St. Michael's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Louisville, KY for some 30 years. Addressing the FOCA married seminary student housing project adopted in Nashville in 2007, he noted that the seminary had found a school administration building for sale just

over a mile from the seminary that would be suitable for conversion into housing. Father Alexander then displayed architect renditions of plans for 8 apartment units for married students including a common room. The building itself is in great shape and sits on 6 acres of land so there's room for expansion. The sale price is \$600,000 and it would take another \$400,000 to 500,000 to renovate it. He asked that we support this modified project.

After a surprisingly brief discussion, Past National President Alice Woog moved that we release \$75,000 of funds already remitted for the project as modified and proposed by Father Atty. The motion carried unanimously. Father Atty then thanked the assembly and pledged his support to the FOCA and to the housing project.

Next, Neena Konon and your Editor

gave the reorganization committee's report in the form of a striking Powerpoint presentation prepared by Neena entitled "revitalize - 2010":

We are the Fellowship and our mission is:

To witness our Faith by Charitable Works through Fellowship.

The simplicity of our mission statement reveals:

FAITH: We are Faith-focused people

CHARITY: On the national level, we are supporting married student housing at St. Tikhon's Seminary

FELLOWSHIP is experienced through our outreach, service to others & gatherings.

To move forward, the FOCA must improve communications, grow endowments & engage in stewardship. Flexibility is key: it's how we live our faith, our sense of belonging, networking through membership, stewardship through our charity, leadership in our parishes & fellowship activities that serve others.

But why revitalize?

- Perpetuate the mission of the FOCA
- Societal trends focus on connections
- Need for meaningful involvement
- Importance of family and faith based events
- Provides opportunities for personal connections

Doing nothing is not an option!

The FOCA has the knowledge, leadership, creativity, awareness of communications trends, established network of Orthodox people, become more focused & about \$500,000 in total assets.

Now it's time to develop an ACTION PLAN with:

- Governance model evolving our administrative structure
- By-law revisions to enable flexibility
- Membership changes, including national membership and automatic delegate status at national conventions
- Executive director position
- Technology & communication updates
- Finances, including streamlining fundraising & growing endowments

The FUTURE OUTLOOK is adaptable, streamlined, relevant, sustainable, responsive, tech savvy, and the structure is adjustable & innovative.

The Fellowship is in a position with Orthodox Church to be part of the solution of growing our Faith – respecting our past by refreshing our future!

A number of comments were received from the floor, including those from Father Alexander Garklavs, OCA Chancellor, who thanked the committee for its bold thinking and hard work. President Walker assured the convention that tomorrow's plenary session would be devoted to work-out discussions on the committee's presentation and then to an overall summary by the convention itself.

Adjourning after a long but productive day, many conventioners attended that evening's murder-mystery dinner theater at the Spaghetti Warehouse in the Strip District. The mystery murderer turned out to be "Natasha" who was correctly identified by another "Natasha" in the group! Afterwards, buses took a brief tour of Pittsburgh sites en route to the Fort Duquesne incline which featured extraordinary views of the city glistening at night.



Saturday, September 4th

The second day of sessions started with the annual memorial service for departed Fellowship members, especially those who have died since last year's convention, including Archbishop Job and George Lichvarik, and those who passed away this week, Helen Daniluck, wife of Serge, and Pauline Harley. Father Vladimir Prislowsky was commemorated on the 40th anniversary of his repose. Father Evansky celebrated the service with Ms. Nescott directing the responses. Bishop Michael stated: "The Church never forgets and always remembers. We the Fellowship remember those who have gone before us, from Father Vladimir to those who reposed just this past week. We don't forget them but sing Memory Eternal."

President Walker welcomed Father Garklavs, OCA chancellor, to the floor for some remarks. He noted that the FOCA has been primarily a part of OCA parishes. Since 1994 there has been an "official affiliation" between FOCA and OCA but there should be more conversation on this status by both the Fellowship and the Church. "Your support of the St. Tikhon's housing project is a testament to your love for the Church. You have shown this love in many other ways, past and present, and you deserve credit and thanks. You are all part of the Church and that is your primary task: to be followers of Jesus Christ. Your chapters are to facil-

itate the work of the Church. I encourage you to be honest, be friendly and continue to do good – it all comes down to the basics."

In response, Father Evansky said that the "official affiliation" has never quite come to fruition and that this should be discussed in the future. He noted that all the bishops and Father Garklavs are "exceedingly aware of our frustration at times" with this relationship. However, he suggested that "gracious assertiveness goes a long way to have Christ smiling at us."

Membership awards were made by President Walker to the Campbell Junior "O" Club, #27-J, with Melanie Clark accepting and to the Capital City "O" Club of Columbus, OH, #264, with Kyra Shaluha accepting. Congratulations! With Alice Woog serving as temporary chair, Leon Sheean, chair of the nominating committee, presented a preliminary slate of those running for officer positions. Donning another cap Dr. Woog, co-chair of the reorganization committee, summarized the key points made in the committee's presentation the day before: why a new governance model is needed, flexibility, no commingling of funds, remembrances/building upon our history, the use of new technologies, and cultivating our relationship with the OCA as mentioned by Father Garklavs.

Neena Konon then introduced the concept of the "World Café" for table discussions on the themes presented by the reorganization committee. Over the course of about 90 minutes, each person sat at three different tables with an open discussion centered around the common question of "How can the FOCA be more vital and valuable in and to the Orthodox community?" Hosts of these discussions, who took notes on large pieces of paper, included Mike Herzak II, Ted Gregory, Walter Alesevich, Kyra Shaluha, Jesse Kiefer, Melissa Tesar, Laura Johnson and David Homyak. Bishop Michael and Father Garklavs also participated. The discussions resulted in the follow-

ing ways the Fellowship could help the Church: social networking, skills in hosting/promoting events, crossing diocese/state/parish lines, an organization national in scope, an 83-year history of traditions, family-oriented, and less structure/less formality. Some suggested having future conventions near/at colleges/universities and inviting local OCFs.

After adjourning for the afternoon for free time, some went on a bus tour of significant Carpatho-Rusyn sites in Pittsburgh led by John Righetti, president/director of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. Vespers was celebrated in the chapel later that afternoon and many conventioners boarded buses for the Gateway Clipper dinner cruise on Pittsburgh's three rivers. Diners included Metropolitan Theodosius, Bishop Melchisedek, Bishop Michael, and Chancellor Garklavs. Though a little chilly, several ventured outside to take in the views of the city and surrounding area.

Sunday, September 5th

Concelebrating the Divine Liturgy were Bishop Melchisedek, Bishop Michael, Fathers Evansky, Garklavs, Daniel Ressetar, Theodore Boback, John Steffaro, Michael Senyo, Patrick Carpenter and Emil Hutnyan; Protodeacons John Oleynik and Michael Wusylko; and Deacons Joseph Mell and Matthew Stahoviak. Metropolitan Theodosius was present. Altar servers included: Peter Ilchuk, Benjamin Johnson, John Shaluha, Tim & Matthew Stahoviak, Gregory Oleynik, Gabriel Bilas and Nicholas York. Lory Nescott directed the choir.

Bishop Melchisedek preached the sermon: "What must we do to be saved? Intensely personal is Orthodox Christianity. It cannot be understood without a personal connection. It is not a matter of merely respecting other individuals. An individual is a replaceable adult. A person is one whose very being is relational to those around him and especially to God. We must grow from

being an individual to being a person. Today's Epistle and Gospel lessons give us a key to this growth. We hear a lot about faith on TV, the radio – the problem with such a faith is that it does not encompass what our Lord means."

"I can have perfect faith but it means nothing if I can't get along with the person God placed next door to me. Love is when we die to ourselves, St. Paul said. We die to our sins and passions so that we may love God with all our mind, heart and soul. This means to look for love's place in our lives as we meet those around us. The Desert Fathers say: 'If you want to see God, look at your neighbor. And your neighbor should see God.' So when we meet at a convention such as this – with the motto of Pray, Study, Toil, Be Temperate – we know that these are practical applications of our Christianity. It means we are to be loving even to our enemies let alone our neighbors. Amen."

The traditional grand banquet and ball was held later that evening in the hotel's ballroom. Serving as toastmaster was recently retired Father John Steffaro, past national spiritual advisor who, in a dramatic change of costume, revealed a Steelers jersey before going into an evangelistic form of "rap preaching!" President Polly Walker delivered her final address as national president (reprinted in this edition), Bishop Melchisedek again greeted everyone and stated he was inspired by his first convention, and Bishop Michael spoke movingly on the theme

of "tell your story" – the Fellowship can grow by telling our story to others. The Richard Miskiv scholarship fund awarded \$5,000 in national FOCA scholarships (the awardees are profiled inside). The Bud Hudinski Orchestra then entertained dancers with traditional folk, polka and other dance music supplemented by a disc jockey for the many younger kids.

September 6, Labor Day Monday: St. Maksym (Sandowicz) of Carpatho-Rus

The final session was called to order at 8:45 a.m. Father Evansky related that he had just said farewell to both hierarchs who expressed their gratitude for being with us this weekend. He also said that Nick & Mary Gotch, who are ailing, extend their greetings to all and miss everyone. Michael Bowan reported that over \$6,000 was raised on the convention floor toward the seminary housing project; he will contact those with outstanding pledges informing them about the revised project. On behalf of the reorganization committee, Alice Woog and Michael Herzak thanked all for their participation. The committee will start looking at the constitution and by-laws and will prepare a survey about a variety of topics – please cooperate and answer the surveys. Mary Anne Soltis announced the photo contest award winners (which appear in this issue).

The 86th national convention (2012) was awarded to the New Jersey District at Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC over the Labor Day weekend. CP&O Director Carol Deerson urged members to attend and support the national conventions. Our attendance was down again this year, probably because of the economy, but we depend on them for income as well as fellowship. Allison & Michael Steffaro, with a slide show "Treasure," promoted next year's gathering in Old Town Alexandria, VA followed by a raffle of Americana.

In sports, the 2013 bowling tourna-

ment was awarded to Cleveland #4/6. After some discussion, the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) was selected as next year's Gifts of Love recipient. John Shaluha spoke about his experience with the Ohio State OCF in Columbus and Tanya Zender of Ambridge, PA addressed her OCF experience while in college. Treasurer Bowan presented the 2010-2011 budget which was approved. Stock awards were announced by Mary Jane Lucak. Matushka Theodora Ressetar inquired about the \$5,000 Matushka Karnow bequest for choirs. Father Evansky responded that he's discussed sponsoring a conference or workshop with the OCA department of liturgical music, noting that the state of music in the Church is "appalling" and that we should support young choir members. Bill Kraftician recalled that the choir conferences once held were exciting and we need to have them again.

Leon Sheean and Alice Woog presented the nominations for officers: President – Dr. John Schultz; Vice President – Michael Steffaro; Secretary – Becky Tesar; and Treasurer – Michael Bowan. With no nominations from the floor, these candidates were unanimously elected. Polly Walker remains on the board as IPP and Father Evansky, in a change of mind, agreed to remain spiritual advisor. Congratulations! After Father Evansky led the installation ceremony, Allison Steffaro moved to adjourn, Walter Alesevich seconded, and the 84th convention was closed at 10:15 a.m. The past national presidents, in a show of brute force, "carried" IPP Michael Steffaro off the stage as is the custom when a fellow past president leaves the board. Dr. Schultz then led the circle of hands, the motto, the "squeeze" and the singing of "Faith of Our Fathers." After the farewell lunch, some attended the nearby Greek festival or the Pirates afternoon ballgame. And so yet another national convention passed into the history books in Pittsburgh, where it all began.



Holy Archangel St. Michael Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights/Cleveland

Honors Its Late Beloved Pastor

At its annual patronal feast this year, Sunday, November 7, 2010, Holy Archangel St. Michael Orthodox Church honored the late Right Reverend Vladimir Prislowsky, its pastor from 1933 until his death in 1970. “We commemorate the feast day of our parish as we celebrate all feasts – with prayer. Specifically, we celebrate our Eucharistic service known as the ‘Divine Liturgy,’ V. Rev. John Memorich, pastor of the Russian Orthodox Church, told Tara Quinn of Cleveland.com. “Within this service there are hymns to the Archangel Michael and the other bodiless Hosts of Heaven. In the church, all saints are ‘remembered’ not on their birthdays, but on the day of their repose, which in a sense is their ‘birthday’ into a new, heavenly life,” he added. “Father Vladimir’s 40th anniversary of repose was September 23 (1970). However, because we have our annual banquet on the Sunday closest to the feast day (Nov. 8), we decided to honor him by dedicating this banquet to his memory.” V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar, Father Vladimir’s son-in-law and choir-master in the 1950s, preached a sermon about his life and, most movingly, on his dying.

At the banquet held at the parish’s beautiful Woodside facility, Robert Kovalak, council president, offered welcoming remarks. Following the turkey-with-all-the-trimmings dinner, choreographed by Mary Jane Lucak, Father John introduced Father Vladimir’s family: Father Daniel & Matushka Theodora, his daughter; Mrs. Joanne Prislely, wife of his son, the late Dr. Alexander; his four grandchildren (and spouse) and two great-grandchildren, including Dimitri who read the Epistle. A comprehensive slide show of Father Vladimir’s life and St. Michael’s parish history was presented by Pauline Mehalik, Marge Hopkosky and Judi Wienclaw. Greg Ressetar offered his own video presentation. Co-chairs were Robin Lucak, Matushka Jani Memorich and Jean Mehalik. Associate pastor Father Joseph McCartney gave the benediction.

Attendees received a memorial booklet containing photos and a bio of Father Vladimir’s life. The parish this year started a memorial lecture and dinner held near his day of death, with Father Memorich speaking on the 23rd Psalm, “The Lord is my Shepherd” and the dinner served was shepherd’s pie. Marge Hopkosky, a parishioner since 1922, told Cleveland.com that Father Vladimir’s “leadership was so great that we built from nothing and had so much in the end. His life was the church first and his family second. He was lucky to have a family that was understanding. I was 13 when he came to the church. Everyone loved Father. He was like a real Father to all of us. He knew his people.”

The booklet reported some amazing statistics. During his tenure at St. Michael’s, Father Prislowsky performed 1,768 baptisms, 746 marriages and 853 funerals. He was the 1st national president of the FROC/FOCA and 1st editor of the *Journal*. Memory eternal to Father Vladimir & Matushka Anne and many thanks to Father John and his flock for remembering them!



Sasha Ressetar playing the balalaika.

Colonial District Commemorates 75 Years of Service to the Orthodox Church

With 40 members present, representing Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) Colonial District Chapters from Washington, DC, to New Jersey, the Colonial District Convention was held on Saturday, October 23, 2010, at Andrew Orthodox Church, Baltimore, MD.

Chapter members discussed the Reorganization "Revitalization" of the FOCA, under guidance of our Colonial District Spiritual Advisor and long-standing FOCA/FROC member, the Very Rev. Theodore Boback of St. Andrew's Church.

Members commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Colonial District by remembering past Governors, officers and members.

The FOCA Colonial District Officers elected for 2011-2012 are: Walter Alesevich, Esq., Governor; Larry Skvir, Lieutenant Governor; Treasurer, Barbara Freimann; Recording Secretary, Lisa Lelo; Corresponding Secretary, Diana Haverlack, and Nominating Committee members George Freimann and John Slanta.

In keeping with the FOCA mission as an official organization of the Orthodox Church in America, we wish to support those studying the tenets of our Orthodox faith and supporting and encouraging Orthodox Youth ministries, the Colonial District again voted to support a seminarian at one of our three Orthodox Seminaries by donating \$100 a month to the FOCA's "Adopt a Seminarian Project" to a seminarian family at St. Tikhon Orthodox Seminary. Nation's Capital R Club, Chapter 79, and the Colonial District organized the Colonial District retreat, "*The Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America and Church Unity: From Historical Vision to the Present*" on November 20, 2010, presented by Alexis Liberovsky, Archivist of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) in Washington, DC. Retreat participants learned about the OCA autocephaly in 1970, recognized by the Moscow Patriarchate, a historic event in the life of the OCA today.

Ms. Diana Haverlack, Colonial District Corresponding Secretary, sends a bi-monthly email newsletter as a reminder the various 'scheduled' District activities and meetings, to notify each other of various activities, within Chapters and/or local Churches. These emails are sent out 'around' the first of the month.

A Colonial District Program Book was produced as an additional fundraiser by St. Andrew's O Club, the sponsoring Chapter.

Members were fed a sumptuous banquet, an early Thanksgiving turkey feast, with all the trimmings, cooked by Ms. Leda Dwonczyk and members of St. Andrew's Chapter.

The 2011 Colonial District Convention will be held on October 8, 2011, in Philadelphia, PA, sponsored by St. Stephen's O Club.

Memory eternal to a long-standing member of the Nation's Capital R Club, Chapter 79, Helen Daniluck, wife of Serge, and sister-in law of the late FOCA Life Member, Danny Daniluck, who fell asleep August 28, 2010. Her funeral was attended by several Colonial District members, including many members from her own Chapter.

59th ANNUAL NEW JERSEY DISTRICT CONVENTION

by Ann Fajvan

The New Jersey District held its 59th Annual Convention on Saturday, November 6, 2010 in Glen Gardner, NJ. The affair was hosted by St. Gregory Palamas "O" Club, Chapter #248.

Usually a two-day event, this year the convention sessions and banquet took place on the same day. Following a light luncheon, Governor Ted Gregory opened the sessions with over 40 delegates, alternates, and guests in attendance. His Grace, Bishop Michael of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey was introduced, as was Fr. Stephen Kaznica, New Jersey District Spiritual Advisor; Fr. Thomas Edwards, St. Gregory Palamas, Glen Gardner; and Fr. John Kassatkin, Elevation of the Holy Cross, Hackettstown.

During sessions Bishop Michael spoke of his great admiration for and his support of the FOCA. On the issue of a declining membership, His Grace suggested that instead of attempting to enlist a number of new members, each chapter should concentrate on encouraging one new prospective member at a time. Other business discussed resulted in the planning of district events, including a lecture series and a Celebration of Orthodoxy festival.

After Vespers, over 80 guests attended a "western hoedown", complete with a delicious barbecue buffet, followed by entertainment provided by professional square dancers who also taught several guests how to square dance and country line dance. The remainder of the evening was enjoyed by all ages with an accommodating DJ who played both contemporary music and the Russian folk dances.



Max 21-J Club of St. Mary's Church Sponsors the 80th Annual Central PA District Convention

Max21-J Club of St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church, Coaldale, PA, sponsored this year's Central Pennsylvania District Convention, the 80th, on Sunday, October 24th. Divine Liturgy was concelebrated by His Grace, Bishop Tikhon and Fathers Daniel Mathewson, host pastor, and Daniel Ressetar, district spiritual advisor. A banquet luncheon in the parish hall featured a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Bishop Tikhon, both in church and at the banquet, spoke warmly of the FOCA's good works and strongly urged others to join the Fellowship. Several Juniors led by Nathan Mathewson presented a fascinating mime of Creation, Crucifixion and Resurrection wearing black clothes and masks. Gov. Gary Lelo chaired the sessions that afternoon followed by the installation of officers by Father Dan. Thanks to the Max21-J's for a fine day of fellowship!



FOCA Logo Design Contest *Guidelines and Selection Criteria*

The purpose of the contest is to design a logo for the National Fellowship of Orthodox Christians In America (FOCA) Junior theme for 2011, Who is God? The logo will be used online and in print and must appropriately represent an Orthodox Christian Youth organization. It must resize easily and transfer well in both black & white and color.

HOW TO ENTER

1. Entries must be submitted by email to mjkovach@aol.com or Marge Kovach at: 8 Ginesi Drive, Clark, NJ 07066.
2. You must include your name, age, address, phone number, email address and parish information.
3. The deadline for entries is December 31, 2010.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Must be able to scale to any size without losing quality
2. Must be original work of contestant
3. No part of the design may be protected by copywrite laws
4. Designs must not be larger than 8.5" x 11"
5. Only youth (under 18 years of age) who are communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America are eligible to participate.

THE WINNING LOGO WILL:

1. Accurately convey the theme in a clear and concise manner
2. Be attractive, unique, and easily recognized
3. Appropriately represent the image and values of the FOCA
4. Have the potential to motivate action

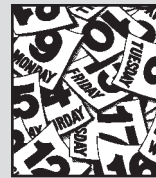


Transitions: *Fall 2010*

MARRIAGE: Danielle Evansky, the daughter of FOCA National Spiritual Advisor Very Rev. and Mrs. William Evansky, and Peter Ilchuk, the son of Mrs. Patricia Dungan and Mr. Paul Ilchuk, were united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony at Holy Ghost Orthodox Church in Ambridge, PA on Sunday, October 10, 2010. Congratulations and many blessed years!



FOCA CALENDAR 2011



- Jan. 16:** Novogodny Ball, St. Stephen's OCF, Trevose, PA
- Jan 23-24:** March for Life, St. Nicholas Cathedral & National Mall, Washington, DC
- Feb. 24-26:** "Spring" Board of Trustees meeting, Alexandria, VA
- Mar. 7:** Great Lent begins
- April 24:** HOLY PASCHA
- April 29-** National FOCA Basketball Tournament, Cleveland, OH,
May 1: sponsored by the Cleveland "R" Club
- May 20-22:** 80th National FOCA Bowling Tournament, Harrisburg, PA, sponsored by the Central PA District
- July 22-23:** National Summer Sports Tournament, Hermitage, PA, sponsored by the Garden State "R" Club

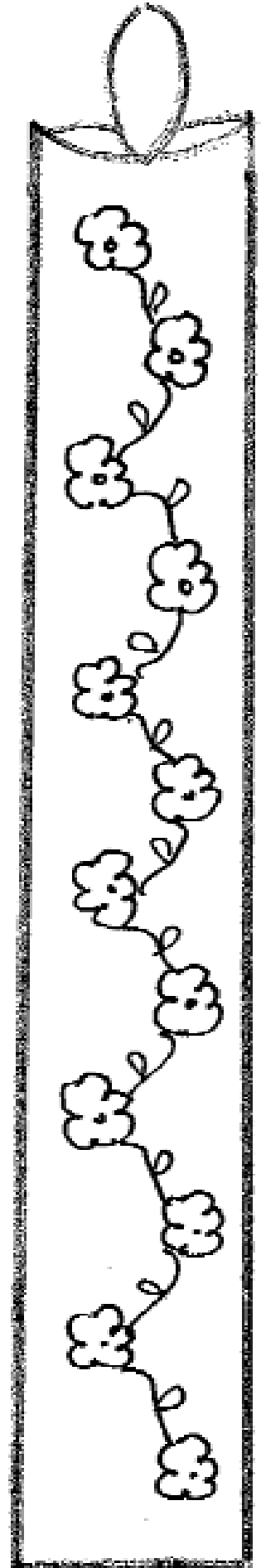
**For updates
and detailed info, visit
www.orthodoxfellowship.org**

CHRISTMAS PATRONS CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

- | | |
|--|--|
| St. Mary's "O" Club, #94 | Diana Haverlack, #229 |
| St. John's Sr. "O" Club, #212 | Elizabeth Dutko, #50 |
| Colonial District | Steve & Marge Cimboric, #97 |
| Central PA District | Walter C. Alesevich, #79 |
| Canonsburg "O" Club, #109 | VP Michael, Allison, Alexis, Andrew & Adrianna Steffaro |
| Warren "O" Club, #17 | Apollo J. & Elizabeth Manchuk, #79 |
| Passaic "O" Club, #66 | Mary Anne Soltis, #244 |
| Endicott "R" Club, #43 | Helene Emerick, #109 |
| Joe & Alice Woog, #94 | Neena Konon & Michael Bowan |
| Ninotchka Hair Design (Neena Malinich, #43) | Nicholas D. Ressetar, #199 |
| Becky Tesar, National Recording Secy. | Walter and Carol Deerson, #167 |
| Faith Malinich, #43 | Bill Soltis, #180 |
| Bruno, Lara, Demetra & Dante Mangiarelli, #43 | Bridgeport St John's, #180 |
| Bob & Mary Jane Lucak, #4/6 | |
| Gary & Pat Lelo, #212 | |

Feast of the Presentation or Meeting of Jesus Christ: February 2nd

On February 2nd, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Holy Day of the Presentation or Meeting of Christ in the Temple at Jerusalem, one of the 12 great feasts. Mary and Joseph took Jesus, a young child, to the temple where he was met by the Righteous Elder Simeon and the Prophetess Anna. It has been a custom on this day to bless candles which signify the light which Jesus Christ brought to the world. To help you and your family celebrate this day, perhaps you could buy a candle in church and take it home. Decorate the candle with flower designs using markers. Take it back to church for the blessing of candles by your priest. Then, at home, use the blessed candle to celebrate birthdays, name's days or other festive days.





RECYCLE!

**Use This Issue To
Encourage New
Membership**

POSTMASTER - If Undeliverable

Please Send Form 3579 To: *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL* • c/o 892 Scott Street • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705



St Stephen's OCF, Chapter 82 – Philadelphia, PA
of the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA)
cordially invites you to attend their gala
74th ANNUAL NOVOGODNY BALL
Sunday, January 16, 2011
Radisson Hotel Philadelphia NE
Doors Open 7:00 p.m. Dinner Option 5:00 p.m.

For 74 years, the Novogodny Ball has been a favorite FOCA annual event. Members and friends have a wonderful evening of fellowship while holding an event for the benefit of deserving Orthodox charities.

For those wanting a winter getaway or who are off from school or work on Monday in honor of Martin Luther King, we hope you will consider making an overnight reservation at the Radisson Hotel by calling (215) 638-8300 before January 6, 2011. Please be certain to specify the Novogodny Ball as your group so you will receive the special rate of \$87.00 per room. This rate will be honored for Friday and Saturday nights! The hotel is located at 2400 Old Lincoln Hwy. Treose, PA just south of Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 351.

If you are interested in spending the weekend and attending Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Cathedral is just six miles from the hotel.

The Kauriga Orchestra will provide a variety of folk, polka, pop, rock and ballroom music. Snacks, dessert, and coffee are served and prizes awarded.

The Dinner Option – an outstanding value – will take place at 5:00 p.m. We are pleased to announce we now have special menu choices for the youth with the dinner option.

No tickets are sold at the event. Reservations must be postmarked by Saturday, January 8, 2011.

Please call Lisa Lelo at (215) 248-0158 or Paul Fedoronko at (610) 328-6911 for further information. You may also send an e-mail to novogodnyball@verizon.net

If you are unable to attend the 74th Annual Novogodny Ball, please mark your calendar for our Diamond Anniversary on January 15, 2012!