



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth*

VOL. 63 NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2016



## UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE USA 69<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

*"Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger..."*

The Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA – both Junior and Senior Divisions – conducted its annual convention (69<sup>th</sup> for the Seniors and 55<sup>th</sup> for the Juniors) under the theme shown above, quoting the Epistle of James 1:19. The next verse of the Epistle explains why we need to “be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger...” – “...for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” (1:20) We all too often listen, but do not hear, and therefore, respond too quickly to what a brother or sister is saying to us, too frequently in anger seeking our own selfish righteousness. The wrath (anger) of man is unjust, ungracious and severe. It proceeds from uncontrolled anger, not from God’s judgment. For us to discern the righteousness of God requires patience, graciousness and controlled passion.

The hosts for the convention, which took place on 27-31 July in Lancaster, PA, were the Junior and Senior UOL Chapters of Holy Ghost Parish, Coatesville, PA, along with their pastor, V. Rev. Anthony Ugolnik and the parish membership. UOL members from chapters all over the USA participated in the convention, which followed a new format with featured presentations and discussions as part of the daily plenary sessions.

The convention opened with traditional ceremonies on Wednesday evening, 27 July with the Junior and Senior Leagues gathered together. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony offered the prayer of Invocation seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit upon all the convention proceedings. Welcoming remarks were offered by Sr. President Michael Komichak and Jr. President Kateryna Kocelko. Also extending a warm welcome was the Convention Co-Chairwoman Carol Bentley, who stated that the whole parish has been looking forward to the convention and the opportunity to renew friendships made at the previous convention, hosted in the parish a decade earlier. The other Co-Chairwoman of the convention was Lauren Bentley, who was busy performing official duties of welcoming and registering additional arriving UOL members. Following the welcoming remarks, the Jr. UOL members moved over to their own meeting room and began their 55<sup>th</sup> annual convention program.

The Senior meeting continued with the formal business matters, including the appointment of individual committees and the approval of the lengthy agenda.

The Junior meeting also completed formal business matters, including their previous convention minutes, and then conducted an “ice breaker” session during which the delegates introduced themselves to each other, learning about personal interests and future plans. After the conclusion of the sessions, the delegates and guests joined together for evening prayers in the convention chapel. The evening concluded with a “Hospitality Night” sponsored by the hosting chapters.

Divine Liturgy was celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony in the chapel on Thursday morning – 28 July – the Feast of the Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles, St. Volodymyr, Baptizer of the Ukrainian nation. The Metropolitan was assisted by V. Rev. John Haluszczak, Spiritual Advisor of the Sr. UOL. The entire convention body beautifully sang the responses during the Liturgy and participated in the Holy Eucharist. The Metropolitan spoke of the conversion of St. Ol’ha, grandmother of St. Volodymyr, also known as Equal-to-the-Apostles and Baptizer of Ukraine. He related the history of her conversion in Constantinople and baptism, by the Patriarch of Constantinople himself in 945 or 957 (history is not certain) – decades prior to the official Baptism of Ukraine in 988 – and her efforts to convert the Ukrainian nation over the remaining 14 years of her life. Following the repose of her husband Prince Ihor in 945 she ruled Ukraine as Regent for her three year old son until he came of age. She was unable to convert her son Sviatoslav, but St. Volodymyr, her grandson and student, recognized the importance of the Faith to his nation. His decision to Baptize Ukraine finally came 19 years after her repose in 969. Volodymyr had regained control over Kyivan-Rus lands and saw how the Church could serve as a unifying force for the nation.

During the convention session following lunch this day, Metropolitan Antony addressed the body speaking about the convention theme, concentrating on the righteousness of God and the fact that human “righteousness” can in no possible way begin to reflect the true righteousness of God. He urged the delegates to turn away from the gadgets that seem to be controlling their lives and give up being an “angry bird” type of society seeking to kill off the pigs we don’t like in the world and to instead, truly take the time to know

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**Rhode Island.....the biggest little state in the Union  
Cordially invites you to:  
The 70th Annual U.O.L. Convention  
July 26-30, 2017  
Hosted by St. Michael the Archangel UOC  
Woonsocket, RI  
Declare Among the Nations, His Works! (Psalm 104:1)  
Find us on Facebook "2017 UOL Convention"**



**UOL BULLETIN** - The official publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States of America. Circulated to all UOL Members. Non-members subscription rate \$30.00  
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**Note to Contributors:** All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 12 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. (Submit to: nsufler@aol.com). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consents for photos to be included in the UOL Bulletin.

The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

### Reflections on the 69th UOL Convention Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

The 69th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention was truly a celebration of the UOL family. On Sunday of the Convention, the Epistle reading included one of my favorite passages from Romans 12:6, "Having gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them." When I think about the UOL and specifically this year's Convention it makes me think about the many gifts our UOL family has been granted. Reflecting on the UOL Convention I would like to highlight a small sample of "gifts" the UOL has been given.

Our Convention hosts, the Coatesville parish and chapter have been gifted with the ability to care for others and to make everyone feel welcome. Carol and Lauren Bentley, the Convention Co-chairpeople, as well as Fr. Anthony and



Pani Elaine Ugolnik, along with all of their members, are incredibly caring. This warmth and caring of the Coatesville chapter was evident at the registration desk and at every event. This caring was also evident in their organization of the care projects and the response received.

As I think of the other "gifts" we have within our UOL, our hierarchs and clergy have been blessed with the gift of wisdom. This year at the Convention, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony spoke eloquently regarding the theme of the Convention. As I listened to his words, I wished that our country and certainly our politicians could hear his beautiful teachings. I also want to give Fr. Anthony the highest compliment, I heard his entire presentation before and it was just as exciting and inspiring as the first time. All of our clergy was inspirational at the Convention. One of the gifts of the UOL is that we get to form close bonds with our clergy. This is a gift that we should treasure.



It is always wonderful to see the Juniors. Their excitement and their enthusiasm is truly a gift. The junior convention body was small, but incredibly inclusive and cohesive this year. I enjoyed talking to the Juniors and getting excited about their projects. It is a gift when our activities are together and we celebrate as one family. Several years ago at a Convention, a hotel worker came up to me and asked about our organization. She had stated that there are organizations with youth that have activities and organizations with adults, but it was rare to see an organization with everyone together. That comment stuck with me and I agree that the one of the gifts of the UOL is that we are all together with babies, children, young adults, midlife adults and older adults. Having the opportunity to work together and to learn from each other is a gift we should cherish.

A gift that was certainly evident at the Convention was creativity, as was evident in our next Convention Chairperson Christine Charest and her committee. The Woonsocket chapter encouraged everyone to interact (everyone, juniors, seniors, pre-juniors) while playing a game. It was fun, and it got us to laugh and work as a team. Thank you for your creativity and it certainly started the conversation about how much fun it will be to go to Woonsocket.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

**John Holowko**



Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

It is with great humility that I greet you as the newly elected President of the Senior Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA. As I write this, only a few days have passed since our 69<sup>th</sup> Convention in Coatesville, PA. On behalf of the entire UOL, I sincerely thank the Holy Ghost Parish and the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Committee for their warmth and hard work and for setting in place what may be a new framework for future conventions. I truly believe, that those of us in attendance can all say we walked away having benefited from the retreat type structure and our speakers, while being with our extended UOL Family.

It was not our typical perfunctory convention. Each convention strives to set the stage to improve upon our accomplishments of the past, to focus on the future ministry of our League and to support our Church. It is typically done through the normal committee and business session process. This year, however, the process was different, although with the same goals in mind. As you will read in other articles within this Bulletin issue, I believe it was truly a fulfilling experience for all who attended.

As a League, among the things we are asked to do is to promote our Faith, to support our Church, and to develop our youth. I believe much of what we discussed and learned can help us do just that, however, only if we truly bring it home with us to our local parish family and community, where we can help each other face the challenges we all face day to day. As a friend once said, our Faith is the greatest gift we can provide our children. We cannot do that, unless we actually live our Faith. One simple way is just listening and caring about the answer when you ask someone, how are you?

One of the highlights of this Convention was the keynote address presented by Mr. Bill Marianes, Esq., entitled "Living in HD-Being a Hero and Disciple." An abbreviated version of the power point presentation is available on stewardshipcalling.com and we aim to stream the related video with a link on the UOL Site. I encourage you to take a few moments and view them, please invest the time. You may not look at a traffic light in the same way again- please see the presentation.

With respect to the topic of listening, and as said by many at the Convention, this year's theme "Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger," quoting the Epistle of James 1:19, was especially appropriate at this time for a variety of reasons, some more obvious than others in recent times. When faced with challenges, it has been demonstrated many times over how difficult it is to actually do that, and that includes at our local parish meetings. It has been my experience that many times we do not act with kindness or demonstrate compassion, rather we talk over people. At times, indifference or disconnecting is a consequence. Given the challenges our local parishes and Church face, I believe those words are especially important today. On that point, our Church Sobor will take place October 19-23<sup>rd</sup>. As you are aware, a strategic plan for our Church is currently under development. If you are not attending as a delegate, I encourage you to come on Friday, as all are encouraged to attend, when the Plan and Vision are presented and discussed, keeping in mind the consequences of not listening and indifference. If you cannot attend, ask questions of your delegates. I hope this is all actively discussed at a local level in a constructive, compassionate and loving manner-again a reminder of this year's convention theme. We also cannot be insecure at any level to discuss the future openly and to listen to suggestions. We need to engage if we want to truly change things. Any plan not embraced at the local parish level will not succeed.

At this year's convention, we had a very large representation from our seminarians. This is after all of them spending a number of weeks at All Saints Camp assisting with our Camp Ministry and all of our campers. They have so much to offer; they continue to need our support and there are many ways to assist them. That being said, I believe the greatest way to help them is to engage, to change the tide, so there is a local parish for them to come to and serve when it is their time. At this time, I also humbly ask you to keep one of our former seminarians in your prayers, Fr. Vasyl Dovgan and his family of our St. Nicholas parish in Troy, New York.

With regard to All Saints Camp, from my personal perspective it is a jewel that has proven to be my family's microcosm for peace, away from day to day life. The camp needs your support in so many ways. I wish more families took advantage of it. I certainly recognize there are many alternatives for a family and their children during the summer- I get it, believe me, whether it be sports camps or cultural camps, or vacation plans. I wish you would truly learn about All Saints Camp and what it has to offer your children. I wish more parishes, along with parents, provided the opportunities and made the investment of sending their children. You can learn more about our Camp at the Sobor. Yes, it continues to need to improve its facilities, and everyone's

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### Woonsocket to Host 2017 Convention

Welcome to Rhode Island.....the biggest little state in the union!

St. Michael the Archangel UOL Chapter in Woonsocket, RI is excited to be hosting the 70th Annual UOL Convention! This will mark the very first time that RI has been host for this meeting and we are promising not to disappoint! The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI will be our home away from home. They are located just 3 miles from Greene Airport and offer convenient shuttle service.



In addition to our business sessions, we have plenty in store and promise you will want to stay longer or come back for more! From a traditional clambake at a beach venue, to visiting one of the historic Newport mansions for their servants (Downton Abbey) tour, our little state will help to make this convention unforgettable! And whether you choose to beach it for an afternoon or do some shopping in historic Newport, your choice will be the perfect one.

We hope you will take the time to join us, and to visit with us as we worship in our refurbished temple, which was destroyed by fire on the eve of St. Michael's Day in 2012. And while we struggled to return to our place of worship, we have much to be thankful for.

Our chapter has already been very busy planning and fund raising, and one of our most important endeavors is to sponsor our seminarians. So that they may understand what our UOL stands for, it is important that they take part in the convention. To help meet the financial needs of bringing them to RI, we are sponsoring an "Adopt-A-Seminarian" fund raiser. The sponsorships will cover the cost of rooms, meals and activities, and the attached levels of sponsorship are available for individuals or parishes to choose:

- Seashell Level      \$125      (or 5 payments of \$25/month)
- Sandcastle Level    \$250      (or 5 payments of \$50/month)
- Sailboat Level      \$375      (or 5 payments of \$75/month)
- Lighthouse Level   \$500      (or 5 payments of \$100/month)

Or: I cannot sponsor a full level as above, but would like to make a beach blanket donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help sponsor a seminarian. Payments can be sent to: St. Michael UOC UOL/ Cindy Adopt a Seminarian 74 Harris Avenue Woonsocket, RI 02895-1843 Watch for more information in upcoming issues!

### Thank you for Listening and Hearing! Submitted by Carol and Lauren Bentley

Holy Ghost UOC and its Senior UOL wish to thank everyone who attended the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual UOL Convention at the Host Resort in Lancaster, PA.



We wish to thank Mr. Bill Marianes for his inspirational keynote address; we wish to thank all members of our sister chapters who supported our three service projects. You *listened* and *heard* the request for cuddle blankets for our 120 Ukrainian orphans (we collected 184 blankets to be sent to Ukraine). You have contributed an abundance of personal grooming items for our women veterans in the Mary E. Walker House; and you have contributed 106 pounds of crayons for distribution to hospitalized children.

Speaking for all from Holy Ghost, I can say the camaraderie proved that we enjoy spending time with each other in the service of our organization and our Lord. Please know Coatesville welcomes any and all who are in the area. We wish for all health, wealth, and happiness for many, many years.

### NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

**Orest Mahlay**



Glory to Jesus Christ!  
Let me introduce myself as the newly elected President of the Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank Holy Ghost Parish in Coatesville, PA for the time and effort they put into the UOL Convention this year. I would also commend the Convention Co-Chairs, Carol Bentley and Lauren Bentley, and the pastor, Father Anthony Ugolnik, for welcoming all the guests into their parish so warmly.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all of the graduates of the Junior UOL. I invite all graduates to join us again next year at the Convention in Rhode Island as senior delegates. Gratitude is extended to our advisors, Taylor Gladys and Father Vasyl Sendeha, for all their efforts during the last year. I would also like to thank our outgoing board members, Kateryna Kocelko (President) and Kira Kuzmenchuk (Treasurer), for their service. The Junior UOL wishes all of them God's Blessings in their future endeavors.

The newly elected National Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League for the 2016-2017 year:

- President: Orest Mahlay – Parma, OH
- Vice President: Erica Holowko – Maplewood, NJ
- Secretary: Alexis Naumenko – Philadelphia, PA
- Financial Secretary: Sophia Dobronos – Parma, OH
- Treasurer: Cyril Sheptak – South Side, PA
- Advisor: Taylor Gladys – Member-at-Large
- Spiritual Advisor: Father John Haluszczak – South Side, PA

Our efforts will focus on communication and creativity as we work on different endeavors this year. The Ukrainian Orthodox League as a whole must transform itself into an organization that improves on past successes and creates an invigorating platform that is filled with service, fellowship, and prayer within the whole Ukrainian Orthodox Church. This process must include the dedicated membership as well as new members for healthy growth. I call upon all members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League and all the faithful of our Holy Church to become active in this process.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League in this coming year, please contact me at orest.mahlay@gmail.com or at my number (440) 829-5873. I pray that this year becomes fruitful for the Ukrainian Orthodox League as we pursue meaningful changes.

Yours in Christ,  
Orest Mahlay

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support to do so. However, it is one more way for our children and families to be connected from parish to parish and for you to provide a loving environment for your children to learn about our Faith.

The following appointments to Commissions and Committees have been approved in our first week, further committee and the liaison appointments will be posted to our Website. We have much to do, not just on a stand-alone committee or commission basis, but together, with the guidance of our new Senior Board's Spiritual Advisor, V. Rev. Taras Naumenko, I believe we have the goals of making our Church, League and UOL Family stronger and closer.

#### Commissions:

- Christian Caregiving & Missions
- Education
- Public Relations
- UOL Bulletin Editor
- Vocations & Clergy Support
- Youth
- Ways & Means

- PM Olena Sendeha
- Teresa Linck
- Ginny Ulbricht
- Natalie Bilynsky
- Mickey Komichak
- Monica O'Donnell
- Jack Roditski

#### Committees

- All Saints Committee Delegate
- Annual Fund Drive
- Constitution/Handbook
- Essay Contest
- The ABC's of my Church
- UOL Tribute Fund

- Melanie Nakonachny
- Jack Roditski
- Natalie Bilynsky
- Teresa Linck
- Teresa Linck
- Natalie Bilynsky

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those that served this past year. Thank you for your commitment and dedication, especially Mickey for his leadership over the last three years. Last but not least, sincere congratulations are extended to the 2016-2017 Junior UOL National Executive Board, guided by Orest Mahlay as President, Junior Advisor Taylor Gladys and Spiritual Advisor Very Rev. John Haluszczak.

Yours in Christ,  
John Holowko

(Convention - continued from page 1)

each person who touches their lives – to hear what they say, realizing that our first perception of someone else is very often a mistaken perception, which can lead us to a path of confrontation rather than to God’s righteousness.

The early afternoon sessions of the Senior convention saw a presentation – “Stages of Life” – by V. Rev. Father Anthony Perkins and Dr. Natalie Bilynsky, a Psychologist by profession. Natalia outlined the physical, emotional and mental stages of life development, from infancy through advanced age of human life. Following each stage, Fr. Anthony presented the spiritual and religious development associated with each of these stages of life. The delegates were profoundly attentive to this presentation – “hearing” each word spoken – resulting in a very lively question and answer session that followed the presentation.

Following this presentation, the convention body continued its normal conduct



of business, including the annual reports of the Executive Board, C o m m i t t e e / C o m m i s s i o n s , individual chapters, finances and budget. A special moment came when the funds collected – \$6,045 – during the Sr./Jr. UOL annual “Souper Bowl Sunday” program

were presented to Protodeacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay, President of the St. Andrew Society of our Church. Individuals and chapters contributed another \$704 to the program during the convention. These funds are utilized by the Society to feed and clothe the poor and elderly in Ukraine’s major cities.

The Jr. UOL sessions also continued, following brunch, with various convention committee meetings to lay out plans for the upcoming year. Metropolitan Antony also addressed the body on the theme of the convention and related how it seems to be so difficult for today’s teens to communicate directly with one another – eye to eye. It appears to be much easier to just “text” anything one has to say – not having the opportunity to “hear” the tone of the other person’s voice and thus, not really easily understanding one another. He urged the youth to put their mobile phones aside and get back to personal relationships as a means of coming together for church services and activities. His Eminence stated that he knows each of his listeners has much to offer and he wants the Holy Church to benefit from that.



The delegates were treated to a “Flavors of the World Buffet” and dancing during the evening’s social event. The second day of the convention concluded with Daily Complines prayers in the Chapel as the participants prepared spiritually for the next day’s events.



Following Moleben service in the chapel the next morning, served by V. Rev. Taras Naumenko, on Friday 29 July, the delegates



once again gathered into their respective meeting rooms. The Sr. Session began with a presentation by Dr. Michael Andrec, the Archivist of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Michael spoke about a very popular program established by the History and Education Center of the UOC of USA, located at our Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook – Somerset, NJ. It is called “Nashy Predky – Our Ancestors.” He described discovering significant numbers of documents in our archives that would be of great value to anyone doing genealogical research for their ancestors. Many of the documents are from our parish records of Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals, etc. and from personal archives donated by individuals to our central institution. Michael urged the UOL delegates to join in a “Church Records Project,” hoping that they would return to their parishes and encourage and assist the parish priest or officers to copy the metrical documents and forward them to the UOC Archives. He gave important information about how to prepare and copy the documents for future reference.

A second presentation – “Living in HD – Being a Hero and Disciple” – was next on the agenda and presented by Atty. Bill Marianes, a devoted Orthodox Christian who travels the length of our nation teaching parishes and dioceses the principles of stewardship, strategic planning and other aspects of devoted Orthodox Christian life. Bill has spent the past few years with our Metropolitan Council and special retreats gathering over 70 invited members of our Church to develop a Strategic Plan for the Archdiocese, which will be presented to the upcoming Regular Sobor of our Church on Friday, 21 October at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Somerset, NJ. The presentation for this UOL convention is described as follows: “What does it mean to be a hero and disciple and how can we live a more fulfilled and heroic life as disciples of Jesus Christ? ‘Living in H.D.’ explores heroism and discipleship from a Christian perspective based on Holy Scripture and Christ’s Teaching. It also presents a series of very practical techniques we can use in our daily lives to become more heroic and better disciples.” We could not have described it better here! This presentation struck a positive chord in the hearts and minds of the UOL delegates and a very detailed discussion followed. The full Power Point presentation, as well as the UOC Strategic Plan, can be studied on Bill’s website: [www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com), on the home page and under the resources tab.

The afternoon sessions for this Friday of the convention included breakout discussion groups led by Natalie Bilynsky and Fr. Anthony Perkins with many practical ideas shared between League members. Everyone had something to take home as a suggested effort for their own chapters. The session also considered the Jr. UOL convention committee reports, which always inspire the Sr. body with their enthusiasm and idealism. The session completed with the presentation of the 2017 convention host – the Sr. Chapter of St. Michael Parish, Woonsocket, RI. All the present convention delegates promised to be present! Metropolitan Antony next asked the convention body to rise so that we could remember His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine on this day, which would have been his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. May his memory be eternal in God’s Heavenly Kingdom. Vichnaya Yomu Pamyat’.

The Junior sessions considered their individual committee reports: Cultural, Fundraising, Jr. Membership/Chapter Development, Nominations and Technological Advancements. They also heard an address from His Grace Bishop Daniel about the importance of the Jr. UOL accomplishing good things in the life of the Church. He urged the members to fully commit to the League’s motto: “Dedicated to our Church – Devoted to its Youth,” to set goals for themselves that will benefit all the youth of the Church and to concentrate on



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(Convention - continued from page 4)

their spiritual lives, both at the convention and in their lives at home, their individual parishes and all other aspects of their life. The Junior delegates conducted the first rounds of their annual Biblical and Church History Trivia competition. Following this, they moved to the Sr. Session where they presented their committee reports for approval and held the final round of the Trivia competition.

After sessions the small Compline was served by Fr. Ugolnik in the chapel and the evening social event took place at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord – which was a real test for each and every delegate – a smorgasbord – on a Friday! No one complained, however, because there was such an abundance of other foods to eat and everyone was more than satisfied. Back



at the hotel this evening St. Michael UOL Chapter, Woonsocket, RI hosted a hospitality night.

Following morning prayers on the final day of sessions – Saturday, 30 July – all the final business of the convention was conducted, including discussion of future conventions. As already discussed above, the 2017 convention will be held in Woonsocket, RI and the 2018 convention will be held in conjunction with the GREAT CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF OUR HOLY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA at the Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ. It will be a two-day convention with a very busy agenda and highlighting the UOL's role in the life of the Church of 71 of the years of that Century. A special decision was made during this last Sr. Session in support of our St. Sophia Seminary. The body decided to pay for a new van for student transportation, which the Seminary board purchased this year. It is a relatively new bus type vehicle that will carry all ten of our resident students. The funds will be collected through the UOL Chapters over the next several months with a minimum goal of \$16,000.



His Grace Bishop Daniel addressed the convention on the theme of the day. He very movingly discussed how human beings seem to be separating themselves from each other with the utilization of their personal gadgets. It is extremely important that we begin today – all members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League – to end this trend. We need to see one another, to listen to and hear one another – to validate one another in order to actuate the two great commandments given by our Lord: (Matt. 22:36-40) “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’ His Grace shared the story of one of our youngest priests, recently diagnosed with a brain tumor, which required immediate surgery and how important it was for him to be present to this young man, his family and his parishioners. He reported that the surgery went well and Father's health is improving, but this is how we all must be present and hearing the concerns of one another, without judgment and without condemnation, but rather in compassion, patience and graciousness seeking the righteousness of God.

The final decision of the 2016 convention was the election of the new National Executive Board. Trusted with the organization's life for 2016-2017 were:  
 SPIRITUAL ADVISOR – Appointed by Metropolitan Antony – V. Rev. Taras Naumenko  
 PRESIDENT – John Holowko, Holy Ascension Chapter, Maplewood, NJ  
 FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT – Natalie Bilynsky, St. Vladimir Chapter, Philadelphia, PA  
 SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT – Daria Pishko, Holy Ascension Chapter, Maplewood, NJ  
 RECORDING SECRETARY – Panimatka Olena Sendeha, Sts. Peter and Paul Chapter, Palos Park, IL  
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Ginny Ulbricht, Sts. Peter and Paul Chapter, Youngstown, OH  
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY – Monica O'Donnell, St. John Chapter, Sharon, PA

TREASURER – Jack Roditski, Holy Ascension Chapter, Maplewood, NJ  
 AUDITOR – Teresa Linck, St. Vladimir Chapter, Philadelphia, PA  
 Michael Komichak will serve on the board as Immediate Past President.  
 Christine Charest will serve on the board as 2017 Convention Chairwoman.

Following the completion of their business, the Junior UOL convention body joined the Senior session and presented their newly elected National Executive Board:

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR – appointed by Metropolitan Antony, V. Rev. John Haluszczyk  
 JUNIOR ADVISOR – appointed by the Sr. Board, Taylor Gladys  
 PRESIDENT – Orest Mahlay, St. Vladimir Chapter, Parma, OH  
 VICE-PRESIDENT – Erica Holowko, Member-at-Large  
 SECRETARY – Alexis Naumenko, St. Vladimir Chapter, Philadelphia, PA  
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY – Sophia Dobronos, St. Vladimir Chapter, Parma, OH  
 TREASURER – Cyril Sheptak, St. Vladimir Chapter, Pittsburgh, PA  
 The Grand Banquet and Ball was the evening social event for the convention. Presentations and awards were made to various individuals and chapters. All the Seminarians of St. Sophia Seminary were awarded scholarships from the UOL's Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund. The Sr. UOL Chapter Achievement Award went to St. Vladimir Chapter, Philadelphia, PA. The V. Rev. Stephen Hallick-Holutiak Sr. Recognition Award went to Daniel Gulak, 35-year president of Holy Ascension Chapter, Maplewood, NJ. The



Junior UOL Chapter of the Year Award went to Sts. Peter and Paul Chapter, Youngstown, OH.

On Sunday – 31 July – Divine Liturgy was celebrated in Holy Ghost Church, Coatesville, PA. Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel



concelebrated with the priests – V. Rev. Anthony Ugolnik, Holy Ghost, Coatesville, PA, V. Rev. Jakiw Norton, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ, V. Rev. John Haluszczyk, Pittsburgh, PA, V. Rev. Oleh Hucul, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ, V. Rev. Vasyl Sendeha, Sts. Peter and Paul, Palos Park, IL, Protodeacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay, St. Vladimir, Parma, OH, Deacon Paul Cherkas, Woonsocket, RI, and Deacon Michael Abrahamson, Woonsocket, RI. Assisting were Subdeacons and seminarians of St. Sophia Seminary and altar servers from Holy Ghost Parish. During the Liturgy,



His Eminence Metropolitan Antony awarded a jeweled cross to Fr. Ugolnik as a gift from his parish family at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priestly ordination. Following Liturgy the newly elected Junior and Senior National Executive Boards were

inducted into office by His Grace Bishop Daniel and the Metropolitan.

A Farewell Brunch followed the Divine Liturgy – without any official program! – and everyone had the opportunity to discuss the good time they had during their visit to Coatesville and to express sincere gratitude to all the members of Holy Ghost Junior and Senior Chapter members, Fr. Anthony Ugolnik, Presbytera Elaine and all the membership of the parish. Their hospitality was unequalled! May they all be blessed and enjoy a time of relaxation after a job well done! God grant them many, many years!

## Thoughts on the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual UOL Convention Submitted by Alice Sivulich

Having reached a “mature” age, having attended at least forty seven UOL Conventions, and having held every office on the national executive board except auditor, I pretty much know exactly what the convention agenda will be each year. There are the necessary reviews of minutes, annual and financial reports, followed by breakout sessions to convention committees, usually eight to ten of them. These committees have seemed necessary since their reports guide the executive board in the coming year in the areas of youth programs, caregiving/missions, vocations, and education to



name a few. However, in recent years a n y o n e p e r u s i n g c o n v e n t i o n m i n u t e s f r o m y e a r t o y e a r w o u l d s e e t h a t t h e s e r e p o r t s a r e s o m e w h a t r e p e t i t i v e a n d b o r i n g. T h a t ' s n o o n e ' s f a u l t. T h e i s s u e s

facing us have persisted from year to year and so we have discussed them repeatedly without many new thoughts emerging.

What a great surprise to find that this convention would focus on three major presentations with discussion following each. Initially, I felt a bit of panic since being of the “mature” age I tend to have a resistance to change, thinking that the “way we’ve always done it” is the best. WOW!! I loved this convention!! It was interesting, it was thought provoking, it was inspiring!

The first major presentation, “Stages of Life,” was done by a professional psychologist leading us through the physical/psychological stages of our lives in conjunction with an experienced Orthodox priest presenting the corresponding spiritual and religious stages of life. Questions were encouraged making it a stimulating presentation with much audience participation.

The second major presentation, “Living in HD” (HD standing for heroes and disciples) was done by an accomplished speaker and Orthodox Christian layperson. It was dynamic, fast moving, and humorous. As I glanced around the meeting room, it was clear that all were enthralled with the speaker and the ideas presented. His repeated phrase of “I’m not selling, I’m just telling” hammered home the understanding that to be a hero in



today’s secular world, I don’t have to be an evangelist selling the gospel, I can just be an O r t h o d o x C h r i s t i a n demonstrating through my daily behavior of “c o u r a g e , c o m p a s s i o n , a n d l o v e” that I am a disciple of Christ.

The third presentation, “Our Ancestors,” by a professional archivist with the Ukrainian History Education Center (UkrHEC), revealed a simple way to preserve our Ukrainian American heritage by having each parish photograph and share with the UkrHEC their historical records, including births, marriages, and baptisms. This project will provide documentation of our grandparents’ migration from Ukraine and give parishes a digital record of their own historical data.

Somehow, without convention committees and with a completely revised agenda, this convention not only accomplished necessary business in half a day, but managed to inspire me and send me home with many new thoughts to share with my chapter and parish. I can only hope that next year’s convention sessions will continue in this format and be well publicized in advance since I will be encouraging many more people from my chapter and parish to plan ahead and make the 70<sup>th</sup> Convention in 2017 part of their future plans. To quote the theme of a convention presentation, “I’m not selling, I’m just telling,” and this convention was the BEST!!

(Convention Reflection - continued from page 2)

Our UOL has been given a rich history and many talents. In our discussion about documenting our history, it is important for us to be thankful for the gifts given. It is important as we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our UOC of USA that we take a moment to honor our past as we begin to plan for our future.

As Corinthians states the greatest of the gifts is “love.” To me, the greatest “gift” we have been granted is love between members. This “gift” of love that has been granted to us, was granted by the grace of God and can not be squandered. This love is evident in the conversations with fellow UOL members and learning how we are so similar and experience similar joys and challenges within our chapters.

The goal of the UOL, and the joy, is the love of our UOL family. As I reflect on the “gifts” we have been given according to grace, we need to take a moment to appreciate each other, beyond appreciation however we are called to use these



talents and not bury them. I believe we need to focus upon the beauty of the UOL and make a p e r s o n a l commitment to use our talents for the good of our chapters, our members, and our faithful.



The very beauty of the UOL is the community that is developed. While

not in any of the official statements, the UOL creates a family in Christ. One where individuals get to know each other, work together, care for each other, pray together and learn about our faith together. The UOL is a unique organization within the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA that creates bridges between parishes. Given the history of the UOL in building community, the UOL can be used to build networks, so that all parishioners can share best practices and lessons learned.

I am saddened when members drop out or chapters decide to dissolve. While my description of the UOL is one that could be described as looking through rose-colored glasses, I fully understand the frustration and hurt that can happen when you work with others. I wanted to share with you, as I did at the Convention, some of the words that are comforting to me when frustrated. When I have a rough time, these words from Mother Theresa help me to focus:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway. If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway. What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway. Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway. In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

When I am frustrated, or annoyed at a given moment, I think of this story that I read recently. There once was a monk who was easily angered, and he prayed. He prayed and asked God to help him with his anger. Immediately following his prayers, he was in the monastery and one of his fellow monks started giving him a hard time. He walked a few steps further and he was annoyed by another monk. Again and again that day he was annoyed by his brother monks. Later that evening, he turned to his spiritual father and complained, “I prayed to God to help me with my anger and today I was faced with multiple frustrating situations.” His spiritual father answered him, “How wonderful! How else will you learn how to manage you anger. Clearly, you needed practice. Thank the Lord, He has given you these experiences to practice.”

Similarly, when frustrated it is important for us to look inward and to see how the Lord is speaking to us. It is imperative that the struggles we faced do not turn us away from each other, from the UOL, from the Church and from Christ.

This is our time. We are called at this moment. “Having gifts differing according to grace that is given to us, let us use them.”

**UOL to Raise Funds for New Seminary Van  
Submitted by Michael J. Komichak**

Just before the opening session on Wednesday afternoon of the 69th Annual UOL Convention hosted by the Holy Ghost UOL Chapter in Coatesville, PA, Fr. Vasyi Pasakas arrived at the Lancaster Host Resort driving a large white van: a 2013 Ford Econoline E-350 Super Duty XLT 12-passenger van. Inside the van were seminarians from St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary coming to attend the UOL Convention. Because of generous donations large and small from individuals and chapters, all ten of our current full-time resident seminary students were able to attend this year's UOL Convention free of charge.

During one of our Convention sessions, Fr. Jakiw Norton spoke about the fond memories he had when he was a student traveling with his fellow seminarians in an old Volkswagen bus from parish to parish. Fr. Jakiw explained that visiting different parishes was an important part of their training, giving him and his classmates insights that can't be communicated through books in a classroom setting. This brought up the topic of our current seminarians and the van that brought them to Convention, and in which they had recently traveled to and from All Saints Camp. The van is an essential tool for getting this seminary class to all the events in which they can participate and serve the Church, and contributing to their overall development as well-rounded future members of our ordained clergy.



In the ensuing discussion we learned that this van was recently purchased by our Seminary with a \$16,000 auto loan. Upon learning this, the Convention delegates unanimously resolved to raise the money necessary as soon as possible to pay off this loan as part of the UOL's continuing and long-standing support of St. Sophia Seminary.

Can you, your chapter or your parish help? Please send your donation payable to the Ukrainian Orthodox League to Monica O'Donnell, UOL Financial Secretary, 720 Koonce Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148. You can also make your donation online via our UOL Paypal account at [uol.orthodoxws.com/donate.html](http://uol.orthodoxws.com/donate.html). Just be sure to click on "Project / In Memory of / To Honor" and specify that your donation is for the Van Fund Drive. If you see the van in your town or at your parish, why not post a picture of it online? We encourage you to spread the word about this worthy cause through social media using the hashtag #SSSVan.

Just as the UOL helps defray the academic expenses of our seminarians through your generous donations to the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund (MJSF), we know our UOL members and friends will heed the call for this new effort that allows our seminarians to get out of the classroom and into the "real" world. Thanks for your help!

**UOL Conventions: Who needs them? We do!  
Submitted by Walter Katolik, Philadelphia**

The recently completed 69th UOL Convention hosted by the UOL Chapter of the Holy Ghost parish of Coatesville, PA broke the mold of past conventions. This is the third consecutive convention that I have participated in since joining the Saint Vladimir's Cathedral Senior UOL chapter in 2013. The reason most people give for attending the UOL conventions is that it affords the opportunity to meet with fellow UOL members from chapters throughout the USA, albeit mostly those east of the Mississippi and primarily from Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. This year's convention, as those in the past two years, certainly achieved this goal with: two hospitality nights (Wednesday night hosted by Coatesville and Friday night hosted by the Saint Michael's UOL Chapter from Woonsocket, RI the hosts for the convention in 2017); a social night with a buffet, music, and dancing; a buffet of buffets at Shady Maple Smorgasbord in East Earl, PA; and capped with a Grand Banquet and Ball. Not to forget the concluding Farewell Luncheon at Wagontown Fire Hall following the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy and swearing in of newly elected officers at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Coatesville, PA.

As a retired High School teacher of Mathematics, I attended Math Conventions not so much for the social aspect as to participate in workshops where I could learn new things about the teaching of mathematics that I could bring back to my classroom for the benefit of my students. Well, the UOL convention did exactly that THIS year.

Instead of breaking out into Work Sessions to rehash what was done in each of the previous years this year there were two whole group workshops. The first was led by Dr. Natalie Bilynsky and V. Rev. Anthony Perkins. Natalie presented each of Erikson's Stages of Life while Fr. Anthony supplemented the theory with practical applications while living a Christian Orthodox life.

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**Very Reverend Protopresbyter Stephen Hallick-Holutiak  
Senior UOL Recognition Award -  
Daniel Gulak, Maplewood, NJ  
Submitted by Michael J. Komichak**

This year's Very Reverend Protopresbyter Stephen Hallick-Holutiak Senior UOL Recognition Award was presented at the 69th Annual UOL Convention Grand Banquet to Daniel Gulak of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Maplewood, NJ.



In 1957, the Orthodox of the Year Award Program was created by St. Vladimir's Senior Chapter of Cleveland to recognize a lay member of the League for their accomplishments in furthering the aims and goals of the League. In 1991, the name was changed to the Senior Recognition Award. In 1995, the award was given the name of Father Stephen Hallick-Holutiak to honor the lifelong role of Father Hallick-Holutiak in the life of the League.

By this award, Daniel Gulak is recognized for long-standing and tireless service to the UOL and to the Church. Dan has been a member of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church for over 40 years and has served as UOL Senior Chapter President for an amazing 35 years. While serving as Chapter President, Dan was the driving force behind Holy Ascension hosting the 2010 UOL Convention. He truly has furthered the aims and goals of the League through promoting his Orthodox Faith, supporting the Church, developing our youth and their active participation in the life of our Church and preserving our Ukrainian heritage and culture. As his pastor Very Reverend Oleh Hucul wrote in his recommendation: "From filling in for my altar server to being the 'go to' person for many issues concerning our parish property, he accomplishes all with a cheerful and good-natured smile. Undoubtedly because, first and foremost, he renders his labor for the glory of God, he receives the grace, the strength and the time to accomplish so much."

Dan frequently organizes social activities for all ages that help bind together all the parish members as one family. Even after open heart surgery, Dan continued to check on the status of church projects during his convalescence. Alexander Shevchuk, Holy Ascension UOL Senior Chapter President, noted that Dan has always paid special attention to the parish youth, recruiting, encouraging, and training young parishioners to take on greater responsibilities in the church. Some of our young adult parishioners still refer to him fondly as "Uncle Danny."

Congratulations Daniel Gulak!

**Senior UOL Chapter Achievement Award Presented to  
Philadelphia, PA  
Submitted by Michael J. Komichak**

The Senior UOL Chapter Achievement Award for 2016 was presented at the 69th Annual UOL Convention Grand Banquet to St. Vladimir Senior UOL Chapter in Philadelphia, PA. This award is presented to the Senior Chapter that has shown the greatest achievement in terms of accomplishing the aims and purposes of the UOL during a one-year period of time. The winner of this award is selected based upon the Annual Report submitted by each chapter by the established deadline.

St. Vladimir Senior UOL Chapter held numerous fundraising events, including a Nebesna Sotnya Memorial Luncheon that raised \$1200 to support needy families in Ukraine. They sponsored a Thanksgiving dinner and donated all funds raised, amounting to \$2000, to support the family of Fr. Anatoliy Dokhvat of blessed memory, who was pastor of Sts Peter and Paul



(Continued on page 8)

**UOL Accepts the Church Records Digitization Project Challenge Submitted by Daria Pishko Komichak**

Dr. Michael Andrec, Archivist of the UOC of USA and the Ukrainian Historical and Education Center of New Jersey ([UkrHEC.org](http://UkrHEC.org)) kicked off the Friday Sessions of the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual UOL Convention. Dr. Andrec started by giving a brief overview of the activities of the UkrHEC, which includes the museum and archives of many individuals and organizations that have been donated over the decades.

One of the most active areas of the UkrHEC is an organization that was formed in 2014 called "Nashi Predky—Our Ancestors" which is a group of family historians and Ukrainian genealogists that work together to increase each other's knowledge of family history and research methods.

Nashi Predky sponsors annual Spring Workshops and Fall Conferences which, to date, have been hosted at our Ukrainian Cultural Center in Somerset (South Bound Brook), New Jersey. The workshops and conferences have attracted family historians from diverse backgrounds—First-Wavers to Fourth-Wavers, Orthodox, Catholics, Protestants and Jews, beginners to experts—all interested in the presentations by cutting-edge speakers on techniques and the availability of records to research and find the origins of our ancestors. Recent workshops and conferences have attracted 60+ attendees. Attendees have come from as far as Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina and California. Anyone interested in learning more about this year's Conference, to be held November 5, 2016, can visit [NashiPredky.org/conference](http://NashiPredky.org/conference).

Dr. Andrec's main purpose was to introduce the UOL to the Church Records Digitization Project. What most people don't realize is that the US government did not begin to keep regular civil records of births, marriages and deaths until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a result, the birth, marriage and death records recorded by our parishes, many of which are in excess of 100 years old, may be the best source of history for our families, our Church and the Ukrainian American Community as a whole.

Why initiate the project now? As a result of the Internet, there is a growing community of people interested in preserving and promoting our Ukrainian heritage. Nashi Predky, as an organization, has over 1,400 interested members. Recent fires at St. Michael in Woonsocket, St. Mary's Protectress in Philadelphia and at the rectory in Carteret, New Jersey make us critically aware of how fragile our history and records can be.

What are the UOL Chapters asked to do? Be the prime movers in organizing the digital documentation of their parish records.

What would be required? Contact Nashi Predky at [genealogy@ukrhec.org](mailto:genealogy@ukrhec.org). They will work with you and your interested members to ensure success. What will your project entail? Taking a digital photo of each page of your church records with a digital camera and sending a disk of those photos to Nashi Predky for translation and storage. Details regarding the archiving, transcribing and confidentiality of the information can be found in a detailed article at [ukrhec.org/church-records-project](http://ukrhec.org/church-records-project).

At Saturday's Convention sessions, under New Business, a motion was made and unanimously approved to ask the UOL delegates to go back to their parishes and initiate such a project in order to encourage other parishes in the UOC of USA to do the same. The National Executive Board is looking forward to working with the Nashi Predky organization on this worthwhile project. For more info, Nashi Predky can be contacted at [genealogy@ukrhec.org](mailto:genealogy@ukrhec.org) or you may contact Dr. Andrec directly at [archives@ukrhec.org](mailto:archives@ukrhec.org) or (732) 356-0132.

(UOL Conventions - continued from page 7)

The second group workshop was listed as the Keynote Address: **Living in H.D. - Being a Hero and Disciple** -What does it mean to be a hero and disciple and how can we live a more fulfilled life as disciples of Jesus Christ? "Living in H.D." explores heroism and discipleship from a Christian perspective based on Holy Scripture and Christ's Teaching. It also presents a series of very practical techniques we can use in our daily lives to become more heroic and better disciples. The Keynote Address was presented by the dynamic speaker Bill Marianes. Bill presented the concept of two ESSENTIAL images: the Cross as our destination and the traffic light as our destination regulator. We are to use the traffic light - each time we come to one - as a reminder to start (GREEN), slow down (YELLOW), or stop (RED) something that we are doing. He summarized the concept as GO, SLOW, WHOA. Details of his presentation may be found at: <http://stewardshipcalling.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/FINAL-UOL-2016-Living-in-HD-Becoming-a-Better-Hero-and-Disciple-smaller-web-version.pdf>.

The commonality between the two workshops is that each provided PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS that each one of us, as practicing Orthodox Christians, can adopt and use in our daily lives.

**UOL Tribute**

*A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group. Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.*

Donor	Occasion/Tribute
Martha Dowling	Happy 8 <sup>th</sup> grade graduation to Stephanie Chubenko. Mnohaya Lita!
Pani Matka Sonia Diakiw and the entire family	In honor of Protopresbyter William Diakiw's celebrating 60 years priestly ministry in our Lord's vineyard! June 17, 2016. Mnohaya Lita! To our "Gigi" from his loving family.

*Have you been wanting to honor or thank someone special? The tribute fund is the ideal way to honor someone or commemorate a special event! It is very easy to submit a Tribute. Don't put it off -- send your tribute today!!*

**To submit your Tribute:**

Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), and the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent.

For a contribution of \$20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:

Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

(Philadelphia - Continued from page 7)

Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Millville, NJ. The Chapter raised \$2500 over the year from coffee hours alone.

Philadelphia has added ten new members to their chapter each year for the past two years. The Senior Chapter President Natalie Bilynsky noted that during a bowling outing, one mother told her that her young daughter had said how happy she was that she goes to a church where everyone is a friend. As their Spiritual Advisor Very Reverend Taras Naumenko wrote: "The parish's UOL chapters are the most active parish organizations. They bring our community closer to one another, in fellowship, prayer and support."

Congratulations to St. Vladimir Senior UOL Chapter in Philadelphia!

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