



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 69 NO. 6

JUNE 2023

Memory Eternal! Emil Skocypec

It is with great sadness that we learned that long-time member of the UOL, Emil Skocypec, fell asleep in the Lord. Emil was a mentor for Ukrainian Orthodox Christians and UOL members throughout the United States.

He served on the National Executive Board of the UOL in multiple offices including serving as the National UOL President twice. He is the only person who served as President of the National UOL twice.

He lived the motto *Dedicated to our Church - Devoted to its Youth*. On behalf of the UOL we extend condolences and deepest sympathies to his wife Shirley, his children and grandchildren. May his Memory be eternal! *Vichnaya Pamyat!*



UOL Retreat 2023 Jenkintown, PA Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

On April 1, 2023, fifty two faithful gathered in Jenkintown, Pa for the UOL Retreat. This was the twentieth retreat that has been sponsored for east coast UOL members. While twenty years ago our retreat was only for UOL members, we are thrilled that now our UOL retreat is truly pan-Orthodox. For the



last six years we have been working closely with the Carpatho-Russian Church.

(Continued on page 5)

UOL Retreat 2023 Submitted by Marianne Carmack

Saturday, March 18, 2023, dawned with beautiful sunshine and the whispers of Spring welcoming an amazing group of people eager to meet with one another and learn about what the church has to say about "Discernment" and "Judgment." Vital principles to help make the Psalmists prayer and now ours, *"Create in me a Clean Heart, O God and renew a Right Spirit Within me . . ."*, a reality in our life as we continue our SEARCH FOR GOD.

We were blessed with those present from the Arnold, Lyndora, Sharon, Carnegie, Youngstown, Pittsburgh, and McKees Rocks areas. It was an eclectic and diverse group of all ages—their purpose rooted in faith, fellowship and living the Vision of Christ and His Word. The combination of prayer and worship, excellent speakers, reflection, and enthusiastic participation generated an atmosphere of joy, inspiration and "AGAPE LOVE" (i.e., the Love of God).

The Retreat began with registration, breakfast, and a chance to talk to and catch up with each other. Host pastor, Fr. Mykola Zomchak (Sts. Peter and Paul Youngstown, Ohio), National Senior UOL Spiritual Advisor welcomed speakers, clergy, guests, and attendees. After conducting Morning Prayers, he continued with The Trisagion (Panakhyda) for Fr. William and Pani-Matka Sonia Diakiw, Fr. Gregory Becker, Fr. John Harvey, Steve Sivulich, Dinah Fedyna, Joe Ewanish, and Michael Woloschak—all were vital and active participants in the work of the UOL and their legacy will be felt for many years to come. After Marianne Carmack reviewed the program for the day and other information about the venue, she discussed the day's expectations and outcomes and introduced the speakers.

Fr. John Charest (Sts. Peter & Paul, Carnegie) discussed why this topic is so important to our Lenten Journey and hence the subject of this retreat. And, further how an understanding of the principles or theology of "Discernment vs. Judgment," in action, play a critical role in "creating a clean heart and a right spirit" as we seek repentance and as we forgive and are forgiven—striving to perfect our relationship with God. Thus, creating a viable framework for the rest of our discussions.



(Continued on page 3)



76th Annual UOL Convention

"With God all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26

July 27 -30, 2023
**St. Michael UOC,
Scranton, PA**

Holiday Inn Wilkes-Barre/East Mountain www.uolofusa.org

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UOL Bulletin - Published six times annually - September, October, December/January, March, April /May and June.

The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 1st of the prior month. Photos will not be returned.

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 11 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT



Matushka Laryssa Charest

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We are getting closer to our Annual Convention in Scranton. I hope you are looking forward to it. This convention will follow the shorter format but we will be discussing pertinent topics having to do with the future of the League. Please prayerfully consider coming and taking part in these discussions. I believe we are at a crucial point in the life of the League. We have lost many chapters. Many of our parishes have the same people doing the same things. The thought of disbanding our chapters has crossed many minds. Many of you may have asked yourselves is it worth it to keep a chapter? My answer is an unequivocal, yes. Now, I know what you are thinking. I have to say that because I am the President. Truthfully speaking, I do not. Every organization has faced the possibility of disbanding. At some point the UOL might be in that same position. Thankfully, I do not think we are in that place. Though I do think we have forgotten our purpose and our identity.

The UOL has us praying together and not just within the confines of our churches. The UOL supports our seminarians with scholarships. The men who have answered a call, left their homes in Ukraine (and here in the US too) to come serve the Lord. Together we have given thousands of dollars to support soup kitchens in Ukraine. Together we have financially supported the youth of the church through scholarships. The UOL provides an opportunity for learning about the faith through the essay contest. We have donated heavily to St. Sophia's Seminary. We were the impetus behind our church's Youth Ministry and the purchase of All Saints Camp. We donate yearly to our UOC Encampments at All Saints Camp. And how about that Convention? The UOL also gives us one time a year to get together to reinvigorate our faith and to reconnect with friends from afar all while making a difference in the life of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Coming to Convention allows you to see the people that are working towards the same goals as you are. Individuals that see the value of the UOL and know it is vital to keep it going.

It is easy to leave the Convention and go back to our routines and forget that we are part of a bigger picture; an organization that breathes life into many of our parishes. Come to Convention and be reminded of the good the League has accomplished and bring ideas for the next 10 or 20 years. As I have said before, we are better together. Think of All Saints Camp, Youth Ministry, St. Sophia's Seminary, Seminarian scholarships, youth scholarships, St. Thomas Chapel, and our encampments. Now for a minute really reflect on whether these initiatives would have started without the UOL. Individuals that came together accomplished all the above. It would not have happened if we all worked alone as individuals.

So, come to Scranton, PA. Let us gather and come up with the next great idea that our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church needs. I am more than willing to help you make your arrangements or walk you through any steps. I would love to see you there.

I remain, Yours in Christ,

Matushka Laryssa

UOL Convention Basket

Get your creative juices flowing!

We invite all chapters, Junior and Senior, or UOL members at large to join the UOL Basket Raffle Competition!



Create a basket of goodies (value of \$50 or more) to be raffled at the Convention.

Contact Martha Misko (martha.misko@rcn.com) no later than July 4th to let her know you'll participate (and we encourage each chapter to do so). Or, send a \$50 donation and we'll create a basket! (Reach out to

Martha for the details of this option.)

We sincerely appreciate your generous support!

Help us make our 76th Annual UOL Convention a financial success!

76th Annual UOL Convention
 With God all things are possible
 July 27 - 30, 2023
 St. Michael UOL, Scranton, PA

76TH ANNUAL UOL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Your Host
UOL National Executive Board & UOL Friends

Chairman: Karen Ferraro	Raffle Baskets: Northampton Chapter (Martha Misko)
Host Parish: St. Michael's Scranton, Fr. Philip & Pani Beth Harendza	Pre Juniors: Rachel Harendza, Brittany Brettell
Registration: Linda Winters & Fredrica Sedlock	Thursday Night: Karen Ferraro
Treasurer: Stephen Nemeth	Friday Night: Philadelphia Chapter (Natalie Bilynsky)
Saturday Banquet & Ball: Pani Beth Harendza & Pani Linda Oryhon	Sunday Liturgy: St. Michael UOC in Scranton, Fr. Philip Harendza
Yearbook: Teresa Linck	Sunday Brunch: St. Michael UOC Scranton Parish
Public Relations: Chris Mills	
Chapel Lead: Fr. Philip Harendza	

www.uolofusa.org

Mary's Tears Prayer Bracelets

The bracelet is beautifully packaged in an organza purse with a brief description of this story and how to use a prayer bracelet. All bracelets are made for adults (approximately 8 inches – with a slight variation based on the size of the seeds). Please specify if you request a larger or a smaller bracelet.



To order send your name, address, and phone/email. Bracelets are \$10. Please add \$2.00 for shipping. Please make check payable to "St. Vladimir's Senior UOL." Send order and payment to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063 Questions? nsufler@aol.com

What Shall I Bring to the 76th UOL Convention? By 76th UOL Convention Chair, Karen Ferraro

Have you received your registration form for our 76th UOL Convention, July 27-30 in the Scranton/Wilkes Barre PA area? If not, please see the UOL website for forms and other information (uolofusa.org). Here's a list of items to remember to pack in your bags for convention:

A casual outfit for our Thursday evening Hospitality Night after we kick off our convention. This will be an outdoor event, weather permitting, with some "finger foods" and a cash bar.

Your Ukrainian shirt or blouse (vyshyvanka). Our Friday night social event is a "Ukie Bowl" – food and fun for both bowlers and non-bowlers. Will you be the best-dressed Ukrainian? Please be advised that there is no bus to this event. If you don't have a car, please car-pool with a UOL friend. The event venue (Chacko's Family Bowling Center) is about a 10-minute drive from the hotel (4.2 miles).

Comfortable clothing and shoes, if you want to explore the beautiful Pocono Mountain region on Saturday afternoon. Or, bring your swimsuit if you'd like to take a dip in the indoor pool at the hotel.

A nice suit or dress for our Saturday evening "Banquet and Ball." Get ready to enjoy some American and Ukrainian music played by our DJ. Please note, there is a cash bar at this event.

Your Sunday church clothes, as we will be at St. Michael's in Scranton for Sunday liturgy and a beautiful Farewell Brunch as we say goodbye to both our old and new UOL friends. Remember to allow at least 30 minutes to get from the hotel to church. It's about a 17 mile drive.

Some cash to buy chances on the beautiful gifts that are part of our Basket Raffle! We also encourage donations of baskets, of course. Details are on uolofusa.org.

IDEAS!!! We can't wait to hear your ideas for the future of the UOL!

Our UOL Convention is SO many things! It's a place where we can grow in our faith. Listen to enlightening words from our Hierarchs and our keynote speaker Fr. Mark Leasure, of St. George's in Taylor, PA, who will be bringing the Kardiotissa (Myrrh-streaming icon), and pray together as one family in Christ at prayer services and liturgies. The UOL Convention is a place for our children and young adults to make life-long friendships with others sharing their Faith. It's a place for all UOL members to renew friendships and make new friends. The UOL Convention provides us the opportunity to be together in one room to discuss how we can grow and help our youth and our Church as the lay arm of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Won't you join us?

Register today using our paper or online form and make your hotel reservations by calling the Holiday Inn East Mountain – Wilkes-Barre, PA at 570-822-1011 and mention booking code "UOL" to get the \$129 per night room rate (plus tax). The LAST DAY to receive this rate is June 27 – no exceptions.

(UOL Retreat - Continued from page 1)

Our next speaker, Fr. Yuri Bobko (Sts. Peter & Paul Lyndora, PA) continued

to build our conceptual understanding of this theology by definitively explaining what a "clean heart" and "right spirit" really means and its manifestation in our daily lives. Illuminating key learning points with relevant scripture, stories, and everyday examples of challenges and experiences vividly demonstrated why this theme is the essence of our Lenten journey. Our third speaker, Fr. Tom Constantine from the Greek Orthodox Church in Youngstown, Ohio deftly explained the "nuts and bolts" or fundamentals of Discernment and Judgment.

He explained that the gift of discernment is critical in determining that which is genuine from that which is not—to discern "the voice of the Spirit, from our own wishful thinking or pre-conceived thoughts," how it informs the choices or mitigates the destructive judgments we make that bring us closer to or separate us from God. In short, how we spiritually heal ourselves and each other. It is in this way we can share the love of Christ and witness to a wounded world. Fr. John Haluszczak graciously accepted our invitation to facilitate and manage the group discussion report outs. An activity designed to reinforce key concepts and applications and review what participants learned. We concluded the day with A Call to Alms—a brief discussion (time was running out) about meeting the needs of Ukraine: What's been done; and what we must continue to do.

(Continued on page 7)



MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Natalie Swan



Christ is Risen! Христос Воскрес!

On behalf of the Jr. National Executive Board of the UOL, I would like to greet everyone during the joyous Great Pascha season! As we experience holy week and Christ's ultimate sacrifice, we find a deeper meaning in death, and the eternal life that is waiting for us.

Through Jesus Christ's passion, death and resurrection, we come to understand death and new life. We learn from Jesus that tough times don't last, and there is always light in darkness. It is my hope that this Pascha season brings new light into your life, and new beginnings.

This year, the UOL held several Lenten Retreats at different locations that were widely attended by the faithful of the Church. I personally attended the retreat held in Jenkintown, PA. The topic of this retreat was mindfulness and how to take a step back from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to reconnect with God. Spending the day taking in new ways to recenter my connection with God truly opened my eyes to the eternal love God has for us, even when we stray away from prayer. If you attended any of this year's Lenten retreats, I thank you and hope that you found it spiritually uplifting.

Although Great Lent has passed, the Junior UOL is still accepting donations to this year's Great Lent Giveaway (GLG) charity, Special Youth Services for Refugees From the War in Ukraine, a cause I am sure is very close to everyone's hearts. This project is being coordinated by the Vice President, Mia Zetick (miazetick@gmail.com) along with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (uocyouth.org). Please reach out to either myself or Mia with any questions you may have.

In just a few months the 76th Annual UOL Convention will be held in Scranton PA, and I highly encourage you to attend! The Scranton area is home to several activities for people of all ages, and the convention committee has been working hard to plan exciting events and workshops. I hope to see many familiar faces (and hopefully some new ones too!) this summer from July 27-30.

As always for guidance or support please reach out to me at @nds122304@gmail.com, or via cell 610-772-5355.

In Christ,
Natalie Swan

76th Annual UOL Convention
"With God all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26
July 27 - 30, 2023
St. Michael UOC,
Scranton, PA

Holiday Inn Wilkes Barre - East Mountain
600 Wildflower Dr. Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
Hotel: 570.882.1011
ONLY \$129 A NIGHT!
Booking Code for phone reservations: UOL
Online: <https://tinyurl.com/UkrainianOrthodoxLeague>

www.uolofusa.org

UOL Collects Donations for Aid to Ukraine at the Metropolia Center

Submitted by Karen Ferraro

On Saturday, April 22nd and Sunday, April 23rd, with a chill in the air, members of the UOL handled parking duties at the Metropolia Center during the annual St. Thomas Weekend Pilgrimage. Volunteers included Jack Roditski, Lynne and Dan Gulak, Constantine Shevchuk, and Oksana Shevchuk from Maplewood, Karen and Alan Ferraro, Edward Zetick, Stephen Hawras, Jurij Trypupenko, and Rebecca Druash-McNulty, from Philadelphia, and Subdeacons Nicholas Worobey, Yurii Izhyk, Mykola Stefanyk, and Andrii Akulenko from our St. Sophia Seminary Chapter, along with Daniel Kolos from St. Luke parish, Warners, NY.

Traditionally, UOL members collected a \$5 parking fee that went to the Church, plus a \$1 fee for a ribbon. Ribbon proceeds benefitted the UOL. In 2022 and again in 2023, the decision of our Hierarchs was to collect donations for Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine in lieu of a parking fee, and the UOL chose not to sell ribbons so all funds raised would go to aid Ukraine.



This year, we collected over \$5,500 on Saturday, and over \$6,000 on Sunday! These donations will be added to the UOC of USA's fund that has been purchasing ambulances and other humanitarian aid for Ukraine over the past two years.



Thank you to our UOL volunteers and the generous donors for supporting our Church's mission to help our brothers and sisters in Ukraine!

Слава Україні! Героям слава!

All SaiAll Saints Camp Submitted by Joshua Oryhon

June 2023 UOL Bulletin

On behalf of the Executive Committee, staff, volunteers, alumni and campers of All Saints Camp, we offer belated Paschal greetings: CHRIST IS RISEN! By the time you read this, our summer programs and the fun will have begun.

In the event you haven't registered your camper (or yourself), please read on...

REGISTER YOUR CAMPER FOR #ASC2023

Registration for the UOCCP's summer offerings is now open! Find out more about the programs and register online here: <https://www.uoc youth.org/campingministry>

We offer programs for all ages from the youngest camper to the most grizzled veteran:

St. Nicholas Special Needs Program (all ages)

Diocesan Church School Camp (ages 9-13)

Teenage Conference (ages 13-18, including recent high school graduates)

Mommy+Me/Daddy+Me (ages 4-8 + parent[s])

Clergy Family Retreat (Orthodox clergy + families)

ASC for Adults (ages 21+)

Family Fest (all ages)

See bottom for the #ASC2023 summer schedule...

LOVING WATER APPEAL

After the unexpected failure of the existing water system on campus, a new state-of-the-art water treatment plant was constructed during spring 2022. The All Saints Camp leadership then launched the Loving Water Appeal to off-set the associated costs of this momentous project. Since the launch, we have almost reached 30% of the \$300,000 goal! The response from the Diocese and her affiliated groups has been incredible and we are truly grateful.

Simply visit allsaintscamp.org and click **DONATE** to make your contribution. [Click here](#) to watch a video tour of the new water treatment plant (filmed for last summer's UOL Convention).

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The All Saints Camp Executive Committee has created a Capital Improvement committee to identify the next large-scale projects to grow and further enhance the ministry of ASC. The committee consists of board members, site staff, program directors, former campers and volunteers. The top 3 projects will be announced in the spring.

RENT ALL SAINTS CAMP

ASC is available to host special events in addition to summer camp programs. Rent all or a portion of the campus for weddings, reunions, retreats, conferences, etc.

Photos from the first wedding reception on campus in June 2022 are available at allsaintscamp.org.

2023 ASC CALENDAR

June 9-11: Pleasant Hills Presbyterian Church (new program) + Work Weekend
 June 14-18: Northwest Pennsylvania 4-H
 June 21-24: St. Nicholas Special Needs Program
 June 25 - July 1: Diocesan Church School Camp
 July 2-8: Teenage Conference I
 July 9-15: Teenage Conference II
 July 16-22: People of God
 July 23-27: Mommy+Me/Daddy+Me
 July 30 - August 5: Kobzars'ka Sich Bandura + Vocal Programs I
 August 6-13: Kobzars'ka Sich Bandura + Vocal Programs II
 August 14-19: OPEN
 August 20-26: Clergy Family Retreat
 August 26-31: ASC for Adults
 September 1-4: Family Fest

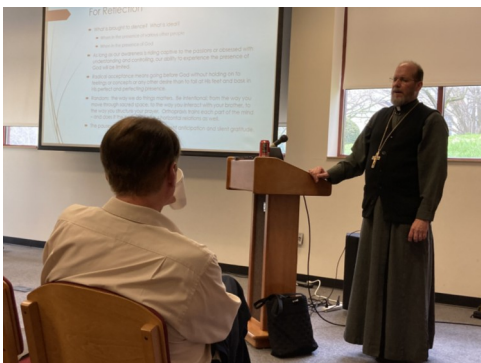
(Continued from page 1 - UOL Retreat 2023)



For the first time our Retreat was held at the Basilian Spiritual Center located outside of Philadelphia. It is an absolutely beautiful location throughout the center. The sisters at the center were incredibly inviting and we were so blessed to be able to have the retreat there.

This year the retreat focused on Mindfulness from an Orthodox perspective and we were blessed that Fr. Anthony agreed to be our primary speaker.

We were so excited to have the UOL Retreat in person and are so grateful to Fr. Anthony Perkins.



We are so thankful for all of his support with the Retreat. He is truly a blessing! May he be blessed for many years!



PASSPORT THROUGH UKRAINE SUMMER CAMP 2023
 Brought to you by Crafts for Kids @ UHEC

AUGUST 7 – AUGUST 11

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM EST (IN-PERSON)
135 DAVIDSON AVE. SOMERSET, NJ 08873

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM EST (VIRTUAL OR ON DEMAND)

AGES 5-10
COST: \$150 PER CHILD

Register Online
<http://www.ukrhec.org/events>
 More information: education@ukrhec.org or 732-356-0132

Registration Required
 Closes Friday, July 21

SS. Peter & Paul Carnegie, PA

Submitted by Sue Leis

Once again we are winding down another whirlwind year in Carnegie! Immediately after hosting the 75th Annual UOL Convention last July, chapter members worked together to prepare for both the Fall Festival in Carnegie and the Ukie Food Fest. People from the ‘Burgh can’t seem to get enough of our traditional Ukie food, resulting in both events being completely sold out.

Our chapter was happy to host the NEB meeting in September. It was nice to see everyone soon after the Convention.

Once we got through the Fall it was time to delve into our Winter projects. Several years ago, our chapter took on the responsibility of maintaining the parish office. This year, we were able to negotiate with one of the many copier companies to get a copier that could keep up with our parish needs.

Two of our popular projects continue to be the Advent and Lenten Pray Pals. During Advent and Great Lent, we draw names to have a secret prayer pal who we pray for throughout the lenten season. On Christmas and on Pascha, we greet our prayer pal with a small token (ornament, pysanka, etc), the appropriate greeting, and let them know that we prayed for them during Advent or Lent. During those times, several of our members participated in the Praying Our Way Together for Advent and for Great Lent.

After celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord, the chapter got busy with pysanky making and preparing for our 55th Annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale. As was the case last year, we sold out of the pysanky in record time! People come from all over the greater Pittsburgh area to buy pysanky, eat yummy Ukrainian food and pastries, and take a chance at the Church School’s basket raffle. The wonderful thing about the Pysanky Sale is that the entire church participates!



From the youngest to the oldest, everyone chips in and helps out. It is an exhausting day, but a good kind of exhaustion. We get to raise funds to keep our church and chapter going, share our heritage with the whole Pittsburgh community, and grow closer as a parish family. Due to the overwhelming crowds of the past two years, we are extending our pysanky making sessions

throughout the year! We had our first post-sale session on April 30th after Sunday Coffee Hour.

So not only do we end up with more pysanky, we get to have more time for fellowship and fun! If you are in the Pittsburgh area, feel free to join us and share your talents with us!

There are a couple more projects coming up. Our chapter has taken on hosting both Mother’s Day and Father’s Day luncheons. The guys in our chapter make a yummy meal for Mother’s Day and our gals put together a manly meal for the Dads in our church. Everyone in the parish gets to enjoy Mom and Dad’s special day.

Before we know it, we will be traveling across the state for the 76th Annual UOL Convention in Scranton. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



If you did not receive a mailing

- Items can be downloaded from the 76th UOL Convention Webpage: www.uolofusa.org/76thuolconvention
- Email uolofusa@gmail.com and let us know to check on your information.

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE (UOL)
uolofusa@gmail.com
uolofusa.org

f i y



Reflections on Twenty Years of Planning Retreats

Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

It is hard to believe that Oleh and I have been chairpeople for the UOL Retreat for twenty years. It seemed appropriate to reflect on the lessons learned and the blessings that we have received while planning the retreats.

The first and most obvious is that we have learned so much about our faith. Over the twenty years I have learned so much from our wonderful speakers. There are specific examples that I recall from our speakers. There are many times that I think about an example that Fr. Bazyl of Blessed Memory, or Fr. Frank of Blessed Memory shared with us at the retreat. In addition, to all of the items learned from our speakers (Fr. Anthony, Fr. Bazyl, Fr. Frank, Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Constantine of Blessed Memory and so many more), in preparation for the topics I compiled handouts and developed the topics. This journey has been an absolute blessing. In the last two decades we have focused on so many topics, including the Divine Liturgy, an overview of feast days, the Ladder of Divine Ascent, prayer, using your talents, saints. At the retreats we were blessed to have two different weeping icons. At one retreat clergy shared with us the story of how they were called to the priesthood. At every retreat I was inspired and learned so much.



Another blessing that we have gained as part of the retreats is the relationships we developed. In the last 20 years we have developed friendships with many people who have attended the retreats every year. In fact when the registrations are coming in, we are excited to see who will be joining us for the retreat. Often if someone misses a retreat I will reach out to them. There are many participants of the retreat who warm my heart when I think of them.

Relationships with clergy who have been instrumental in planning the retreats have been a blessing. For years Oleh and I worked with Fr. Frank, Fr. Bazyl and Fr. Myron. More recently we have worked closely with Fr. Anthony. These wonderful relationships with clergy have been a blessing and I can not thank the UOL enough for this blessing.

The next blessing has been the understanding that God provides. Over our twenty years, we have had lots of challenges. The first big challenge has been finding a location. We started our retreats at a center in the Lehigh Valley. After about ten years of retreats we were informed that they could no longer accommodate us. Despite this challenge, God provided, we were able to find a beautiful new retreat center just miles away from the last. Again, this year, we learned that the retreat center could not host our group, so we had to find a new location. We were blessed with a beautiful location in Jenkintown.

In addition to locations we have also had last minute situations where our speaker was not able to attend. We were incredibly blessed with speakers who were so skilled that they were able to substitute with very short notice. We are forever grateful to Fr. Frank, Fr. Bazyl and Fr. Anthony for their ability and skill.

As we have continued to plan the retreat over the last two decades our blessings have increased. For the last six years faithful from the Carpatho-Russian church have joined our retreat. This union allowed us to extend our retreat and be able to develop a program for children and youth. We have been blessed with a true Pan Orthodox retreat.

Reflecting on the past twenty years of planning retreats, I would like to encourage anyone who would like to plan a retreat or would like to help with a current retreat. You will be blessed.



UOL Bulletin Pictures



Karen Ferraro and our seminarians enjoy the UOL Bulletin while completing parking duty during St. Thomas Pilgrimage.

*Join in the fun!
Take a picture reading your UOL Bulletin!
Submit pictures by sending to
nsufler@aol.com*

(UOL Retreat - Continued from page 3)



Our 2023 retreat concluded with Confessions and the Service of Great Vespers. To emphasize the importance of giving alms, we collected money and art supplies for children in Ukraine. The response was very generous. Diane Senedak, who in the past has chaired the retreat, made beautiful palm crosses that were given to each participant—a very special gesture and much appreciated.

Glory to God for our clergy and volunteers for a truly inspirational retreat. We would like to acknowledge Joe and Zenoviya Goodge for providing the venue for the retreat. The River Valley Community Resource Center is a beautiful space. Zenia was an amazing partner who worked with us side-to-side to ensure everything was just right and we had everything we needed—a joy for sure. Sue Payton, our caterer once again served a delicious lunch.

We are so grateful to Father John Haluszczak, Fr. Tom Constantine, Father John Charest, Farther Yurii Bobko, and our spiritual advisor and Host Pastor, Father Mykola Zomchak for an exceptional day. We were so happy to welcome our National President, Matushka Laryssa Charest—a blessing. And, our retreat team Fr. Mykola and Fr. Charest, Susan Perankovich, Zenia Goodge, Annie and Chuck Woloschak, Shirley Duffy, Anna Anderson, and Pauline Witkowsky. Most especially, we cherish each person who journeyed with us—it was truly a very special group.

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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.

UOL Bulletin
c/o Natalie Bilynsky
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063

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Donor	In Honor of
Danyo Family	In memory of Anatolij Sufler. Memory Eternal!
Karen and Alan Ferraro	In loving memory of long-time member and fixture at our UOL Conventions, Anatolij Sufler of Philadelphia. Forever in our hearts.

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

Send your tribute today!

76th Annual UOL CONVENTION CHECKLIST

- Reserve Hotel Room
- Submit EARLY Registration
- Turn in a Yearbook Ad
- Sponsor toward an event
- Plan a basket for the raffle.
- Plan a 2nd basket for the raffle.
- Look at "fun" things to do!
- Plan your transportation!
- PACK! and PACK some more!

www.uolofusa.org/76thuolconvention

76th Annual UOL Convention
With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26
July 27 - 30, 2023
St. Michael UOC, Scranton, PA

TAKE NOTE! MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Thursday, July 27, 2023**
UOL Hospitality Night!
Fun! Food! Friends!
Enjoy a relaxing evening at our hotel!
- Friday, July 28, 2023**
"Ukie Bowl"
Games & Fun for all ages at an offsite venue!
- Saturday, July 29, 2023**
76th UOL Grand Banquet & Ball
Enjoy an elegant evening at our hotel location!
- Sunday, July 30, 2023**
Divine Liturgy & Farwell Brunch
St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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