
On Saturday, March 28, 2015, the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA welcomed clergy and faithful for a day of spiritual renewal, fellowship and prayer at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, Pennsylvania. An early morning light snow and lingering unseasonable cold weather didn’t deter those who look forward each year to attending one of the UOL’s most popular activities.

The day began with morning prayers, registration, a Continental Breakfast, and warm greetings from Stephanie Rimedio, retreat Co-chair and Michael Komichak, UOL National President. Morning and afternoon lecture and discussion sessions were led by The V. Rev. John Harvey, Dean of the Penn-Ohio Deanery and pastor of SS. Peter & Paul, Youngstown, Ohio and The Rev. John Schmidt, pastor of St. Elias Orthodox Church, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. Their talks explored the meaning of each of the solemn days of Great Week, reflecting on the retreat’s theme, “Behold the Bridegroom Cometh.”

At noon, everyone enjoyed lunch served in the center’s dining room, the gift shop, walks around the grounds, and most especially, fellowship and lively discussion. The day concluded with informal conversation with speakers and clergy, confessions, Vespers and Pizza. During the afternoon break a screening of the UOL video was enthusiastically received along with a promotional handout emphasizing the UOL’s role as stewards of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, both at home and abroad—a wonderful story of faith and commitment.

Each participant received a folder of materials, including a “Twelve Passion Gospels” booklet, “Faith & Life Orthodox Christianity Holy Week” pamphlet, and guidelines for parents on how to help their children experience Holy Week quizzes and activity sheets and information about UOL stewardship.

Father John Harvey began the first session with a discussion of the Bridegroom Services of Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Here, we behold Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church, bearing the marks of His suffering, yet preparing a marriage Feast for us in God’s Kingdom. Then, Fr. John reflected on the Vesperal Liturgy served on Thursday morning commemorating the mystical supper and the service on Thursday evening of the Twelve Passion Gospels witnessing the solemn time of our Lord’s Crucifixion. And, finally, he spoke about Holy Friday—the Royal Hours where various accounts and hymns concerning the crucifixion are read, the Vesper service during which Christ’s body is taken down from the cross, and the Lamentations service that begins in a solemn manner, but ends with the anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord.

Fr. Schmidt focused on Great and Holy Saturday—a day of hope and waiting. He spoke about the Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, celebrating Christ’s victory over death. During the service the priest changes into bright vestments in anticipation of Christ’s Resurrection as the choir chants “Arise O God and Judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations.” The Old Testament story of Jonah in the belly of the whale is read at this service because (continued on page 3)
I hear that there are restrictions on the days you are permitted to have a wedding in church. Why? That would be to as, to my knowledge, you can have a baptism, or confession, or Holy Unction just about at any time?

Wedding coronations are such joyous occasions that fasting seasons and weekly days of abstinence are really improper as a backdrop for such rites. The solemnity of Great Lent and the pre-Christmas fast period are automatically out as wedding dates. The lessor Lenten periods in the summer can be utilized only with the express permission of your local hierarch. Again, before you hire that hall for your reception, be sure that the dates are acceptable and compatible with church practice! Bishops do take into consideration the circumstances you present, but even if permission is given, they may stipulate that the reception be of a more muted character (the church, as a whole, is engaged in a solemn preparation for a feast by prayer and fasting), it is not in character that your wedding should be the wild, blowout celebration of the century.

Wednesdays and Fridays have been days on which the cross and crucifixion have been commemorated down through Christian history. As we abstain from meat products, in remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus for all of us, weddings are also proscribed. Remember we follow the day as did the Jews of old and so a day is considered from one sunset (time of vespers) to the next sunset. Friday would extend from say 5:00 PM on Thursday night to the same time Friday night and this whole time period would be closed to marriages. Friday evening would be a possibility, unless you consider the following.

Another closed day is Saturday afternoon and evening, because it is the liturgical preparation for Communion the next day and a time when marital relations should be withheld. You may say, but aren’t most weddings in our churches contracted on Saturday afternoons? True, but we have bent to the cultural norm of the American scene, which sees Saturday night as a party time. Let us look at this logically. If there is a wedding and rip-roaring reception and dance, chances are that after the wedding night, the bridal couple and many others will sleep in and omit liturgical prayer. Doesn’t this contradict what we have done in the wedding? Hands tied, the couple follows the cross in procession, both kissed in matrimony and leading one another to the heavenly kingdom. On the very first day of their marriage journey to shun the Liturgy and Communion is contrary to their actions of a day before. Many others will sleep in and omit liturgical prayer. Doesn’t this contradict? Some of the decline within any particular Junior chapter might be attributed to these circumstances. You hire that hall for your reception, be sure of it, too burdensome administratively, too fragile, too one-size-fits-all? Is there a way to grow the UOL outside of the church structure?

The current Member-at-Large (MAL) membership category allows for participation outside of chapter membership, but it does not adequately meet our challenges. Can an enhanced MAL program address some of our structural and systemic problems by strengthening connections and increasing volunteer involvement outside of the current structure? Would such an enhanced “super” MAL program look like? How could it be organized? Should all Members-at-Large be gathered into a single group led by an NEB officer or appointed? One night, instead, imagine forming an MAL “group” in each Deanery, taking advantage of the relative geographic proximity of group members. Other organizing principles ready come to mind that are not based on geographic distance. Should we establish MAL groups based on interest, comprised of people sharing a common interest in community service, or college and young adult ministry, or education, or vocations? Should we, in certain cases, take into consideration members’ gender or primary language? One could envision an MAL “women’s group,” for example. How about an MAL group of people who share a common skillset, such as teaching or charitable fund raising? Of course, regardless of organization, every group would have the primary purpose of supporting the Church and training and nurturing the youth of our Church.

The Junior UOL has recently experienced a sharp decline in membership. One practical consequence is the realization that—based on current circumstances—the Junior UOL will not be able to provide adequate resources. Of course, there are examples of healthy, successful, growing chapters as well. It is, worth asking the question: Is the UOL’s primary and largely exclusive division into chapters too restrictive, too locally focused, too burdensome administratively, too fragile, too one-size-fits-all? Is there a way to grow the UOL outside of the church structure?
Lehigh Valley Hotel

Come join us in Northampton, PA for rewarding and fun-filled days during July 23-26, 2015! The Convention Committee of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary UOL Chapter has been planning a great variety of spiritual and social events. Lodging accommodations will be at the Best Western Plus, Lehigh Valley Hotel at a very reasonable rate of $89.00 per night. Remarkably, the rate is less than the $99 per night rate at the same hotel during the 2005 UOL Convention! Business sessions and evening activities will also be held at the Best Western.

The early registration discounted rate of $195 for Seniors and $185 for Juniors includes –
- Thursday – Educational workshop; Hospitality Night hosted by the Assumption of the Virgin Mary UOL
- Friday – Welcome Brunch; Dine and Dance at the BW evening event
- Saturday – Breakfast; Lunch; UOL Grand Banquet and Ball
- Sunday – Farewell Brunch

The 2015 modified format will begin Thursday evening with opening business sessions and the ever-popular Hospitality Evening. On Thursday afternoon, there will be an educational workshop on iconography, The Kingdom of Heaven is Here!, presented by Very Rev. Basyl Zawierucha and Michael Kapeluck.

Our Friday evening event Dine and Dance at the BW will feature a fabulous buffet dinner as well as dinner and dance music provided by DJ Scott Bateman. And rumor has it that there will be a few special guests who are likely to ask our UOLers to become part of their show!

And, of course, the UOL Grand Banquet and Ball will be held on Saturday, July 25. Following a sumptuous dinner and the UOL Annual Awards and special recognitions, the UOL Ball will take place featuring dance music provided by the Josef Kroboth Band! The evening is sure to be a memorable celebration of our Convention days!

We will conclude our 68th Convention with Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church, Northampton, PA to be followed by the Farewell Brunch in the church hall.

There’s still time to enter the UOL Basket Raffle Competition! Get your creative juices flowing! We invite all chapters, Junior and Senior, to join the competition! Have your Chapter create a basket of goodies (value of $50.00 or more) to be raffled at the Convention. Special recognition and prize will be awarded to the Chapter whose basket collects the most entries!

Make your plans now! Come to Northampton in July!

Convention Registration and Individual Event Tickets:
Register by June 16, 2015 for Discounted Rate
Registration materials can be found at http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com
Contact Helen Crayosky
610-262-4575
iluvhearts@rcn.com

Hotel Reservations
Best Western Plus, Lehigh Valley Hotel
300 Gateway Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Call 1-610-866-5800 to reserve your room by June 30, 2015 for the UOL Convention rate of $89/room/night + tax.

Yearbook Advertising
Submit ads and greetings by June 10, 2015
Yearbook ad contract materials can be found at http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com/

Questions?
Contact Martha Misko or Linda Winters
Martha.misko@rcn.com or 610-262-5292
Linda.m.winters@verizon.net or 610-837-3076

Make your plans now! Come to Northampton in July!

NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL
PRESIDENT
Kateryna Kocelko

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Summer is already here, and I can’t believe how fast this year has gone. It feels like we just were together in South Bound Brook for the annual Convention last year, and it’s already time for the 68th Annual UOL Convention in Northampton, PA. Be sure to contact me at kdkecutie25@yahoo.com, if you are interested in receiving the Pysh Travel Grant to help pay for your travel expenses to Convention. Our spring national executive board meeting was held in Northampton, PA. I would like to thank the entire parish for being wonderful hosts. The entire board had a great time.

With Convention around the corner, I would like to remind everyone to turn in their completed progress reports. Please try to get those turned in as soon as possible. If you have lost your forms or need another, feel free to go on the UOL website and print another or contact one of the board members for another copy.

All chapters should have received their raffle tickets, and I hope everyone is selling them all! This is the Junior UOL’s largest fundraiser, so make sure your parish is a part of it by selling your tickets. Maybe one of the tickets you sold will be a winner. The winner is picked Saturday night at Convention. Please return your ticket stubs and a check for the tickets your chapter sold to the fundraising chairperson Christopher Holowko before Convention. Please contact Christopher if you have sold all of your tickets, and he will make sure you get more to sell.

In the off chance you don’t sell all your tickets, please return the unsold tickets to Christopher as well.

Also at Convention we have our annual Cultural Contest. Everyone, both Junior and Senior members, is invited to participate. This contest provides a great way to showcase your talents while representing our Ukrainian heritage. If you have any questions or need more information email Sarah Hershey at shershey19@gmail.com.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone about the 2015 Great Lent Giveaway. This year it benefits The Ukrainian Refugee Fund. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry partners with the Junior UOL for this project. Even though Lent may be over you still have time to collect monetary funds. Each week during Lent a lesson was released and I hope everyone was able to use them, if not you still have time to go and read them. The deadline for the funds is at Convention, so you still have time. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at kdkecutie25@yahoo.com.

I would like to take this time to thank all of my board members, Christopher, Katherine, Juliana, Sarah and Andrea. Without the help of my board members, the Junior UOL would not have been able to accomplish the things we did this year. I am very blessed to have them, as well as our Spiritual Advisor, Father Vasyl Sendeha and our Senior Advisor, Tabitha Bentley.

I pray that everyone has a safe summer, and I hope to see everyone in July in Northampton!

In Christ’s Love,
Kateryna Kocelko

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Kateryna Kocelko

(Retreat-Continued from page 1)

Jonah is seen in the Church as a Type of Christ. As Jonah was three days in the belly of the great fish, and was then safely deposited back onto land, so our Lord was three days in the tomb before His glorious Resurrection. The Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday concludes the services of Holy Week, and brings the church to the eve of Great and Holy Pascha.

Many thanks to speakers Fr. John Harvey and Fr. John Schmidt, for the continued support of Fr. John Nakonachny and Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, who have championed the retreat since its inception, and Fr. Daniel Rohan, Fr. Andrew Gall, and Fr. John Haluszcak for their support.

This year’s committee included: Fr. John Harvey, co-chairs Stephanie Riedmedo and Pauline Witowsky, and Marianne S. Carmack. Finally, thanks to Christine Mills for her help during planning the retreat (it was invaluable) and Mickey Komichak for his support and help prior to the retreat and demonstrating the importance of this ministry by participating in the retreat itself, “walking the talk” speaks volumes. Exciting plans are already being made for UOL Lenten Retreat 2016 at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center on March 19, 2016. We hope to see you there! It’s something you’re not going to want to miss.
The past year has been a year of rejuvenation for our Jr. UOL chapter. We welcomed many new members and had an amazing year of activities. How did we do it? Persistence, continuously having activities for youth, positive attitude and the big one – HOPE and never give up. Today, I am going to share with you about some of our chapter’s activities, but most especially, our very first, and definitely not last, all-night Jr. UOL lock-in. I am very happy to say that, in the past year our chapter has accomplished a lot! We grew twice in size, held multiple charitable drives, such as: Thanksgiving Food Drive, where we were able to collect over 700 lbs. of food that was donated to Philabundance (the largest food bank in Philadelphia); OCMC coin collection; Souper Bowl collection to benefit St. Andrew’s Society; and craft kits for foster kids of Philadelphia. We held several fundraisers: Christmas Cookie Walk; weekly coffee hours; Palm Sunday salad fest and palm cross project. We also sponsored many parish activities: children’s fall fest; paska baskets for our shut-ins; annual egg hunt; care packages to college students; various youth trips and much, much more. All in all it was an awesome event! A BIG thank you goes out to our advisors, Ms. Dori Nemeth and Dr. Rebecca Druash-McNulty, for their support in all that we do and to our spiritual advisor, my very own tato, Fr. Taras.

But the highlight of the year – was the lock-in. Everyone loved having the lock-in because it was a chance to not only stay up all night, but there were games, pizza and a chance to hang out with a lot of friends.

On Lazarus Saturday, to make sure everyone was awake in time for the Liturgy, we held a mini marathon on a beautiful but a very brisk morning. Besides reading the Psalter, each participant was given a Prayer Partner to pray for, in addition to praying for their entire group. A few special needs were also prayed for along the way. Prayers for partners were continued to at least Pascha. Any questions that surfaced during the readings were addressed to Fr. John Halusczak, Spiritual Advisor to the Senior National Executive Board.

Our day and a half was packed with activities. We started off by baking prosfora and creating commemorative lists of our family members that were then commemorated during proskomidia at the Lazarus Saturday Liturgy. We continued with preparing baked paskas for our annual paska sale, by decorating them with blue and yellow ribbons in support of Ukraine. They looked great! While the girls worked on paskas the boys put their efforts into compiling 65 art kits for the foster children of Philadelphia. The kits were donated to Northern Children’s Services of Philadelphia, a local organization that supports the healthy development of children, while stabilizing their families to build stronger communities.

We played many games, but the best one was human foos ball, an All-Saints camp favorite! Our day ended with evening prayers, a movie and a good nights sleep. Well – when you are having friends for a sleeper – you are definitely not going to sleep, let’s just say we stayed up pretty late.

On Lazarus Saturday, to make sure everyone was awake in time for the Liturgy, we held a mini marathon on a beautiful but a very brisk morning. Everyone participated in the Divine Liturgy, whether by serving, singing or reading.

Our Saturday afternoon ended with making over 300 crosses which were all distributed on Palm Sunday and helping at the annual spring clean-up. The boys did the yard work – the girls took care of the temple.

All in all it was an awesome event! A BIG thank you goes out to our advisors, Ms. Dori Nemeth and Dr. Rebecca Druash-McNulty, for their support in all that we do and to our spiritual advisor, my very own tato, Fr. Taras.

Thank you to all parishioners who donated mattresses and supplies for the lock-in. You are a great support! Kudos to all of my church friends, members of the St. Vladimir Jr. UOL chapter, for your commitment, help and support throughout the year.

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Great Lent 2015 was a little more meaningful this year for 52 people throughout the diocese who participated in a Psalter Reading Project. This project, sponsored by the UOL, “It Takes a Deanery Committee,” was represented by 15 parishes, and 9 deaneries. It was both an intra-deanery and an inter-deanery event in which no one had to leave the comfort of his own home. Reading times were at the convenience of participants.

What better way to connect people and deaneries than through prayer? The Psalter is a very important prayer book of our Orthodox Church. Psalms form the framework for all our services: the Hours, Vespers, Compline, and Matins. Even the Divine Liturgy is rich in psalms.

The Psalter is divided into 20 sections, called Kathismata. In the beginning participants were assigned a group number correlating to a particular Kathisma. Readings were done for 20 days, Monday - Friday. Every day each participant would read one Kathisma, along with before and after prayers. Each succeeding day readers would move on to the next Kathisma, so that over the course of 20 days they had read the entire Psalter, individually. With all groups combined, the entire Psalter was being read two and a half times a day! Glory to God!

Besides reading the Psalter, each participant was given a Prayer Partner to pray for, in addition to praying for their entire group. A few special needs were also prayed for along the way. Prayers for partners were continued to at least Pascha. Any questions that surfaced during the readings were addressed to Fr. John Halusczak, Spiritual Advisor to the Senior National Executive Board.

For their perseverance and dedication to the project, a name drawing was held at the UOL Retreat in Bethlehem, PA on March 28, 2015. The names of all participants were included. Winners were: Jane Yavarow, Boston, MA; Lisa Ryan, Carnegie, PA; Toni Marie Klavin, Palos Park, IL; Connie Markiw, Carnegie, PA; Mauri Drush-Gladys, Pittsburgh, PA; Chuck Woloschak, Youngstown, OH; Sonia Szewczuk, Philadelphia, PA; and Helen Baverov, Trenton, NJ.

In responding to a survey at the completion of the Psalter project, participants indicated that it was a beneficial Lenten experience. Some remarks made were: “It made Lent more relevant to me.”; “It was a wonderful connection to be able to pray for people I knew and for others I did not know.”; “It made me want to try harder to understand the Psalms to be closer to God.”; “It guided me to what readings to read everyday and I knew others were reading also and praying with me.”; “Praying the Psalms at this time also made the verses pertaining to Holy Week and Pascha more relevant and meaningful.”

The overwhelming, positive reaction from participants indicates that this project should be repeated. God willing, it will, along with, perhaps, other, similar, Lenten projects. So stay tuned to all your parish and UOL communications!

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Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Annual Fund Drive which includes UOL Projects, the Lynn Sawchuk - Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship Fund and the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund!

The following is a list of contributions made to our Fund Drive. Thank you for your support!

Total contributions were: $5,876

UOL Projects: $750
Assumption of the Virgin Mary Senior UOL, Northampton, PA
Bettyann and Janet Woyewoda
Catherine Shaffer
John Roditski
Lewis Branson
Michael and Martha Misko
Peter & Karen Konchak
Rev. John and Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny
St. Demetrius Senior UOL, Carteret, NJ
St. John Senior UOL Sharon, PA
St. Vladimir’s Senior UOL, Philadelphia, PA
Teresa Linck in Honor of Andrea Linck
Walter Stepowyj

LSSK: $2,625
Anonymous in Memory of Wasyl Pysh
Assumption of the Virgin Mary Senior UOL, Northampton, PA
Bettyann and Janet Woyewoda
Catherine Shaffer
Daria Pishko-Komichak and Michael Komichak
Eugenia Arson
John Roditski
Irene Pashesnik
Kuzbyt Family
Michael and Martha Misko
Olga Sawchuk
Peter and Karen Konchak in Memory of Lynn Sawchuk
Robert Hedesh
Rose Boykas
St. Demetrius Senior UOL, Carteret, NJ
St. John the Baptist Senior UOL, Johnson City, NY
St. John’s Jr UOL, Johnson City, NY
St. Vladimir’s Senior UOL, Philadelphia, PA
Steve and Alice Sivulich
Tamara Chebiniak
Teresa Linck in Memory of George & Anna Tizio
Walter Stepowyj
Sawchuk Family

MJSF: $2,501
Anonymous in Memory of Metropolitan John
Assumption of the Virgin Mary Senior UOL, Northampton, PA
Bettyann and Janet Woyewoda
Bishop Daniel
Daria Pishko-Komichak and Michael Komichak
Irene Pashesnik
John Roditski
Lewis Branson in Honor of Joseph Crescenz
Michael and Martha Misko
Peter and Karen Konchak in Memory of Father Frank Estocin
Rev. George Hnatko
St. Demetrius Senior UOL, Carteret, NJ
St. John the Baptist Senior UOL, Sharon, PA
St. Vladimir’s Senior UOL, Philadelphia, PA

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

How blessing styles developed in the Western and the Eastern churches is not that important. The sign of the cross is the sign of victory and at it even the demons must tremble, so the manner in which it is done is basically just a variation on a theme. What is so neat about the Orthodox form of blessing is that it adds yet another potent element. You mentioned fingers being crinkled up and that is one way of describing it, but what is so interesting is that visually the fingers form a monogram. The monogram is IC XC, which is the Greek alphabet letter combination signifying Jesus Christ. So in the action of blessing, the cross being made is fortified visually with the Name of Jesus Christ, the Name of power by which all in heaven, earth and below the earth must bow the knee. Looking at the hand, the second finger extended forms the I, with the third finger crooked forms the C. The X is made up of the thumb and the fourth finger crossing one another, while the fifth finger crooked forms the final C. In the icon, Jesus blesses with His own Name. He Himself is the victorious One, Who by His glorious Resurrection destroyed the power of Death and will in the end be revealed as the ultimate victor over all evil and the evil one and his minions in particular. A simple hand blessing not only conveys the blessing given, but then also expresses God’s supremacy in this world and the power He has given to His ministers over the actions of Satan.
As long as I can remember, St. Andrews Church in South Bound Brook, New Jersey, has been the focal point for a pilgrimage by the faithful, during St. Thomas Sunday. This first Sunday following Resurrection Sunday (called Khomyna [Thomas’s] or Providna [Seeing-off]) is a commemoration of the dead (provody) where the faithful gather in the cemetery by the church, bringing with them a dish containing some Pascha foods. Some of the faithful leave a “paska” and/or colorful Pascha eggs on their loved ones’ graves. This event brings Ukrainians from all parts of America together once a year, to South Bound Brook, New Jersey. It is a tradition that has followed the wave of Ukrainian Orthodox immigrants after World War II to America. It was a place where people of the same background met to rekindle old friendships and sometimes make new ones. St. Andrews is a place where the old world meets with the new. Though time changes people in many ways, good and bad, the traditions held by those who came before us are able to be observed and passed on from one generation to another.

Due to the expansion of the cemetery, the pilgrimage has grown from a one day to a two day affair. From families and friends gathering together to enjoy Pascha foods at the grave sites, the event also has vendors selling foods and Ukrainian memorabilia in a hall that was not there when the first pilgrimages were held. The large modern hall resembles growth and foresight by those who spearheaded that and shows that progress is definitely evident at St. Andrews.

Events such as a barbeque at the seminary on Saturday and an ice cream social on Sunday have become featured activities for the younger folk accompanying their parents to St. Andrews Cemetery. Mingling with the seminarians and enjoying one another’s company makes for a relaxing atmosphere and something to look forward to next year.

The UOL plays a vital role during this special weekend by first and foremost taking on the duty of collecting the parking funds and selling the commemorative ribbons that we wear while enjoying the weekend pilgrimage. While it can be a difficult job, volunteering for parking duty can also be quite memorable. What makes the volunteering for parking duty successful is that the local UOL chapters of Coatesville, Carteret and Maplewood return year after year to help make the monies collected for the seminary pledge. If you were unable to volunteer this year, we hope to see you next year. We can always use more volunteers!
Serving Christ in Rhode Island - 2015 High School Mission Trip!

Are you looking for adventure? Searching for a way to deepen your faith by serving others? Looking for new Orthodox friends? Want to explore the great New England States? Then this trip may be for you!

August 1 - 8, 2015 the High School Mission Trip will take place in Woonsocket, RI. The team will serve in many different capacities. As you may have heard, one of the UOL parishes, St. Michael’s in Woonsocket, was severely damaged by fire in early 2014. They just recently returned to the church building. The team will aid St. Michael’s as they continue to recover from the fire. The team will also help with the community Heritage Days program and additional local outreach. They will also have the opportunity to experience the historical areas of Boston and Rhode Island.

Past team member Danielle Walewski of Carnegie, PA says of her experience, “I had the amazing opportunity to be a part of the High School Mission Team to South Bound Brook, NJ, the home of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. None of us wanted to say goodbye, but we left knowing that in just eight short days we had accomplished many projects and had made great friends in the process.”

Multiple year participant and National Jr UOL Board Member, Andrea Linck, has this to say about her time on the team, “Going on the UOL High School Mission Trip for the second time was a very moving experience for me. I am so very thankful for the opportunity to do what I feel and view as God’s work. After seeing all the homeless at the Emmaus House in New York, I realized how fortunate I am and I am truly grateful to my parents, my family and my church family.”

Applications are available at the Office of Youth Ministry website at www.uocyouth.org. Applications will be accepted until June 1st. For additional information or questions contact the OYM Office at 412-977-2010 or uocyouth@aol.com.
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: Rose Boykas
Tribute: In Blessed Memory of my dear friend Eugene Leshchyshyn of the Holy Ascension Parish, Clifton, New Jersey. Memory Eternal!

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.

UOL Convention Registration Form

Name: __________________________  e-mail: ____________________
Address: ___________________________________________________
Phone: Day (     ) ___________      Evening (     ) ___________________
Representing: ____________________________________________
    (Chapter/Parish)

Packet Prices:
Early Registration Discount (Postmarked before June 16, 2015)

- Clergy $195
- Senior Delegate/Guest $195
- Junior Delegate/Guest $185
- Pre-Junior $100
- Family Registration* $750

Registration Prices (received after June 16, 2015)

- Clergy $220
- Senior Delegate/Guest $220
- Junior Delegate/Guest $195
- Pre-Junior $120

*The Family Early Registration packet price is for 2 adults and 2 juniors. Additional Junior family members beyond the two included in the Family Packet are only $175 each.

Great Lent Giveaway

The 2015 Great Lent Giveaway – “Blessed are the Peacemakers!” benefits refugees of the Ukraine conflict. The Great Lent Giveaway is a combined project of the Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. This year the youth of the church are called to raise awareness concerning the refugees and wounded soldiers from the Ukraine conflict. Each Jr. UOL Chapter and parish youth group is asked to raise funds to aid these individuals and also to teach about their plight.

Donations can be sent to the Junior UOL Financial Secretary.

Hotel Reservations
Best Western Plus, Lehigh Valley Hotel
300 Gateway Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Call 1-610-866-5800 reserve your room by June 16, 2015 at the UOL Convention rate of $89/room/night + tax. A limited number of rooms are available.
Reserve your room early!