

# OCCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

FALL 2003 volume 76 number 3

*The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America*



The Feast of  
**ARCHANGEL MICHAEL**  
and the  
**HEAVENLY HOSTS**

Enjoy the interaction of family within "Kidz Corner"  
found on page 21!

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**The mission of the**

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

# PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

**John Kruchok**  
**37<sup>th</sup> National FOCA President**

## Mission Statement of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America is a national organization of Orthodox Christians. ***Our mission is to proclaim, share and reveal our Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship and example.*** We accomplish this by:

- studying the tenets of our Faith
- supporting, encouraging and promoting Orthodox Youth ministries
- supporting, encouraging and promoting the missionary growth of our church
- encouraging and promoting unity among all Orthodox jurisdictions
- establishing practical means for Orthodox Christians to form enduring friendships on local and national levels through networking
- providing educational, cultural, social and athletic activities for the people of our Orthodox Faith.

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The 77<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, held in Colonial Williamsburg over Labor Day weekend is now history, but the memories and accomplishments will carry forth for many years to come. Our thanks to our most hospitable hosts, the South River "R" Club and members of Sts. Peter & Paul parish in South River, New Jersey for a job well done.

While a complete recap of the convention will appear in the next issue of the OCJ, I wanted to highlight some of the accomplishments during this important event. Business sessions were scaled back dramatically to allow attendees more free time for fellowship and sight-seeing. On Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, the themed session "S.O.S. – Serving Our Seminaries" included representatives from St. Tikhon, St. Vladimir and St. Herman Seminaries. Thanks to Professor John Erickson, Fr. Michael Dahulich and Mrs. Betty Slanta for taking the time to join us in this important FOCA service project. Other milestones during plenary business included by-law changes giving Spiritual Advisors the right to vote and removing the word "club" and inserting "chapter" to text. Future conventions were awarded to the Colonial District for Alexandria, Virginia in 2005 and to the New Jersey District, at a site to be determined for 2006.

A very successful young adult schedule of activities and targeted discussion was executed by the sponsoring committee, National Executive Board and the Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries Department of the Orthodox Church in America. Thanks to Allison and Michael Steffaro, Lara Herzak, Fr. Michael Anderson and Fr. Robert Kondratich for making this happen! We learned from the very start of the convention that we have a truly wonderful group of young adults who appreciate what the FOCA can offer and we have every reason to be optimistic that we can build an even greater organization for the future. Within this issue, you will see the accomplishments of our 13 national scholarship winners which is a great testament to our strength in young adults.

As we move forward into our fall district conventions and service projects, remember to support the O.C.A. "Christmas Stocking Project" and the FOCA's seminarian's children Christmas gift program. While we continue to challenge the resources and generosity of the FOCA chapters and membership, we feel blessed that our seminaries continue to grow in numbers each year.

Finally, on behalf of the re-elected, returning National Executive Board, thanks for your support in 2003. We hope you plan now to attend the 2004 National Convention at Grand Island, New York (Buffalo-Niagra Falls) July 15-19<sup>th</sup>. ♦

### 2003 Deadlines for the OCJ:

Winter - Oct. 25th

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas Ressetar  
Editor *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

Welcome to the Fall issue of our Fellowship's *Journal*! A journal, by definition, is a periodical dealing especially with matters of current interest and so, in that spirit, we bring you up-to-date on the many happenings within the F.O.C.A. As President Kruchok notes, Fellowship members are still experiencing the many good feelings and positive works generated by the recent 77<sup>th</sup> National Convention at historic Colonial Williamsburg sponsored so ably by the South River "R" Club. While full *Journal* coverage will appear in the next issue, we've "stopped the presses" to bring you advance copy of perhaps the convention's two major highlights. First, Associate Editor Betty Slanta reviews the "Saving our Seminaries" open forum by St. Tikhon's Seminary Dean Fr. Michael Dahulich, St. Vladimir's Seminary Dean Prof. John Erickson and Betty herself, a board member of St. Herman's Seminary and director of its society, Ilaasi. Second, Lara Herzak, member of the FOCA and the OCA's youth/young adults department, reports on the Young Adults session and overall participation at the convention. And we proudly introduce this year's scholarship winners, all young adults of considerable accomplishment.

The *Journal* also catches up on two major athletic events, with plenty of photos and the many winners: the 64<sup>th</sup> National Bowling Tournament hosted by the New Jersey District and the Summer Sports Tourney sponsored by the Weirton, WV Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Remember, there are no losers at FOCA sports! Your editor contributes his interesting find on Ebay in a piece "What's Your FROC Memorabilia Worth?" Our cover features an icon of Archangel Michael and the Heavenly Hosts with an accompanying activity for our Kidz. For the juniors/youth we have this year's "Celebration of Faith" entry form and rules. Regular columnist Matt Vansuch thought-provokingly asks "Why ask Why?" Check out the OCA Xmas stocking project promo on the back cover — the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And news about members and chapters around the Fellowship is included, too. Best wishes for fruitful district conventions; deadline for the next issue is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Until next time, enjoy the Fellowship you find in these pages! ♦

### FOCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS: FALL 2003

- **Sat. October 4** - Ohio District Convention, St. Andrew's "R" Club, #220, Maple Heights, OH; Upper New York State District Convention, Endicott "R" Club, #43, Endicott, NY
- Orthodox Education Day, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY
- **Fri.-Sun., October 10-12** - Midwest District Convention, SS. Peter & Paul "O" Club, #96, Lake Geneva, WI
- **Sat. October 11**- Colonial District Convention, Vladicon "O" Club, #131, Baltimore, MD
- **Sat. October 18** - Anthracite District Convention, St. Tikhon's Seminary "R" Club, #121, South Canaan, PA
- **Sun. October 19** - Michigan District Convention, Detroit "R" Club, #2/9, Detroit, MI; Pittsburgh District Convention, Canonsburg "O" Club, #109, Canonsburg, PA
- **Sun. October 26** - Central PA District Convention, St. Nicholas "O" Club, #166, Bethlehem, PA
- **Sat. & Sun. November 8-9** - New Jersey District Convention, SS. Peter & Paul "R" Club, #30, Passaic, NJ
- **Sun. November 9** - Pacific Southwest District Convention, Phoenician "R" Club, #219, Phoenix, AZ
- **Sun. November 16** - Atlantic District Conference, New Haven "R" Club, #92, New Haven, CT

## F.O.C.A. Highlights and News In-Brief

### New Jersey High School Graduates Moving Onto Higher Education this Fall

The Fellowship's Junior Chapter No. 222-J at Holy Trinity Church in Ironia, NJ and their spiritual advisor and pastor, Fr. George Hasenecz, are proud to announce the high school graduations of four members, all of whom have been Junior members for eight years.

Steven Babich, an altar server, who will attend the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY majoring in baking and pastry arts.

Ryan Weger, an altar server, who will attend Susquehanna University in PA majoring in biology.

Erica Dardaganis, who was chapter treasurer for five years, will attend the College of New Jersey and pursue a master's in law/criminal justice.

Andy Nosal, an altar server and substitute church school teacher, will attend the University of Virginia and major in biology.

We at Holy Trinity are very proud of these committed and dedicated members. We wish them luck and happiness in all future endeavors!

- Carol Kasperowitz,  
Junior Advisor

### Orthodox Singles Fellowship: Baltimore/DC

On outward appearances, June 7, 2003 began as a day to which many of us in the Washington, DC metropolitan area had grown accustomed . . . torrential downpours, cloudy skies and chilly temperatures. The gloomy weather, however, did not dampen the festive mood or keep the crowds away from the first Singles Gathering of Orthodox

Fellowship in the Baltimore/DC area. Over 150 people from 23 churches gathered at the home of Diana Haverlack, member of St. Mark F.O.C.A. in Great Falls, Virginia, to meet, greet and eat with fellow Orthodox singles. People gathered around tables of food, new friends enjoyed games of pool, and strangers learned that a game of air hockey can transform the shyest of individuals into spirited competitors.

First mention of hosting an event that would address the special needs of singles within the Orthodox Church began at the January meeting of the St. Mark, Bethesda, Maryland chapter of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America. Father Gregory Safchuk, the spiritual advisor and pastor of St. Mark Church, suggested that a group meet specifically for this purpose. Diana Haverlack then suggested that other parishes be included and from there — with much work and tremendous public relations — a sizeable gathering developed that undoubtedly surprised all present.

As should be the case with any successful party, people did not stay closely attached with members of their own church communities but rather mingled and exchanged business cards and email addresses. “What church do you go to?” was the stepping-stone to various conversations and not a distinguishing factor used to differentiate between groups of party goers. Wonderfully it was an event that met and exceeded all expectations in bringing together Orthodox singles in the metropolitan area so that they could feel attached to a body of people that share common interests and needs within the larger community of God’s church.

As Father Gregory began his talk to the large crowd of varying ages — anywhere from early twenties to late fifties — it became clear just how vivacious and eager the singles subset of the church community is and it would have been difficult for anyone in attendance to not feel uplifted and excited as they looked out on the sea of faces. Though the crowd may have been diverse in nationality and background,

one commonality rang true: we were all part of the same community, sharing a common faith of Orthodox Christianity.

While much planning went into this event (and many thanks are certainly due to those that made this event possible), the only obligation to those in attendance was to RSVP with a resounding yes. And from that one yes, guests were treated to great food, a lot of fun, and a night of good times that extended until long after many of our usual bedtimes.

And if nothing else was discovered, it was clear that we live in a very small world notwithstanding the millions who live in the DC capital area. As one new found acquaintance from SS. Peter and Paul Church revealed to me that he lived next door to my cousin in college, and thought he was an excellent football player, I realized . . . you really do know a little bit about everyone if only you take the time to talk to them and see your similarities and discover your common ground.

The next Orthodox Fellowship singles party will be held on September 21, 2003 again at Diana Haverlack’s home. All single Orthodox Christians are warmly invited. Contact Diana at 703.759.1551 or dianahav@earthlink.net for directions and more information.

- by Christina Kuchta, *from “St. Mark Evangelizer,” the newsletter of St. Mark Orthodox Church, Bethesda, MD*

## New Chapter in Syracuse, NY Makes Rapid Change

Since our formation as a new club in October 2002, the pace of change at our church has been rapid. During the winter season, we concentrated on

- 1) enrolling 28 adult members & 1 college student,
- 2) brainstorming to define the Club’s mission statement — *Via Fellowship*

*Support the Church by Engaging Our Youth for Christ and by Promoting Church Growth,*

- 3) selling Christmas tree ornaments and cards in support of the Junior “O” Club,
- 4) setting up an Internet website,
- 5) conducting a bake sale in December to raise chapter funds, and
- 6) planning ahead for a spring garage sale.



**Syracuse Officers:** Top (L-R) Jay Holman-Dist. Rep., Bob Roebuck-Treas., Matt Chupeck-Youth Coord.; Front (L-R) Anna Conroy-Sec., Mary Ann Soltis-UNYS Dist. Sec., Brenda Geloff McGuiness-Pres., John Bodnar-VP

In January we had scheduled our first Fellowship event of the new year, a board game (Scrabble, chess, checkers, cards, etc.) night but had to cancel it because of a snowstorm. Syracuse won the statewide Golden Snowball Trophy again this year for being the city with the most snow (about 153 inches). Between Christmas and Pascha we photographed our church interior for the website. Jay Holman is doing our website work and the project is ongoing with the taking of more parish photos. We also have other photography endeavors underway in keeping with our mission statement.

Our members are busy with all facets of chapter and parish life. Paula Daniel is working on getting Russian ethnic items for sale at our parish events. She and her husband John are leading our club membership committee. Our resident artist, Benita Geloff, paints (watercolor) seasonal greeting cards and sells them to benefit our youth

scholarship fund. Likewise our resident crafts person, Nena Kinsley, forever makes and sells crafts for the same fund. Club President Brenda Geloff and Club Secretary Anna Conroy run the FOCA Sunday coffee hour to raise funds for our chapter and the Sunshine Club, which Nena Kinsley heads.

We also have spent our time on formative activities at the local and district levels. We have computerized our club finances, correspondence and membership information. Brenda Geloff leads our monthly meetings and Vice President John Bodnar seamlessly takes over when Brenda is not available. All our open forum meetings are lively with no shortage of dialogue and ideas, and our last spring meeting in May was no exception. At the May meeting Denise Daniel, our representative, reported on the Upper New York State District conference which she attended in Binghamton, NY. The impression the conference made on her was quite evident as she gave her informative meeting report.

We have volunteered to operate the food court at our annual SS. Peter and Paul Day Festival under the leadership of Jay Holman. Nena Kinsley's project is to sell booklets of tickets which can be applied to one or a number of theme (e.g., wine, food, gift certificates, etc.) basket raffles. In August the chapter is holding our annual FOCA Summer Picnic. The spring garage sale has been moved to the fall so it won't compete with our festival for church resources.

— Robert G. Roebuck

## Celebrating 50 Years of Choir Directing

by JoAnn Frigerio, Choir Secretary

Fellowship member John Sutko, St. Peter and St. Paul, Burr Ridge, IL, is celebrating 50 years of choir directing in the Orthodox Church. Starting by



directing the Liturgy in Church Slavonic at the age of 18, Mr. Sutko has been at St. Peter and St. Paul Church for all of these 50 years. The church, formerly located in Chicago, has just marked its 5<sup>th</sup> year in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

When asked about some of his most memorable experiences during a half-century of service to the church, Mr. Sutko replied: "There are too many wonderful things that I can recall with directing the choir and the services at St. Peter and St. Paul and also in other Orthodox churches in the Chicago area. The most memorable, however, would be directing the services during the visits of Patriarch Aleksy II of Russia and Patriarch Pavle of the Serbian Orthodox Church here in Chicago. I feel that I have been extremely fortunate to have had the privilege of teaching and directing the beautiful liturgical music of the Orthodox Church."

Mr. Sutko has been a member of the parish's "O" Club for many years, starting with his membership in the Junior "R" Club at St. Peter and St. Paul. He has served as music director of three National FOCA Conventions and as music director of the FOCA's Midwest District conventions and bowling tournaments for 23 years. Congratulations and many years, John!

## Oldest Graduate of the University of Delaware Attains Lifelong Goal

"It's been a long journey with many changes and moves in between, but I am finally achieving what has been my personal goal for more than 50 years - getting my bachelor of science degree in nursing," said Mrs. Elizabeth Kuchta Melnik, who just turned 72 and is the oldest member of the University of Delaware's Class of 2003.



Mrs. Melnik received her RN from a hospital in McKeesport, PA in 1951. She and her husband, Peter, then moved to the Bronx, NY, where she worked as a visiting nurse and took courses at Hunter College in NYC. When her husband, a chemical engineer by profession, attended Harvard Divinity School, the couple moved to Boston. There she continued working after the first of their three children was born. Then Elizabeth became a full-time mom for 20 years, doing all those "mom" things." Subsequent moves took the family from Canada to Louisiana before coming to Delaware.

When her children were in high school, Elizabeth decided to go back to work. She took a nursing refresher course, received her Delaware nursing license and began working in gerontology for the state at Emily Bissel Hospital in 1980. She worked as a nurse for 15 years before retiring.

Elizabeth was determined to pursue her dream of obtaining her bachelor's degree in nursing, gathered all her credits together and attended Delaware Tech before matriculating in UD's distance learning program. With her family looking on, she achieved her lifelong goal by receiving her degree at UD's 154<sup>th</sup> commencement on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations!

— adapted from an article by Sue Moncure, University of Delaware; photo by Duane Perry, UD

**Editor's Note:** Mrs. Melnik is a longtime Fellowship member and her husband, Peter, is a Past National FROC President, Journal Editor and frequent national convention parliamentarian. ♦

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# TRANSITIONS

**BIRTH:** Isabelle Sophie Willison, May 4, 2003, to **Robert and Beth Willison**, members of the Campbell "O" Club, # 27. She is also the granddaughter of Past National Spiritual Advisor & FOCA Web Director **Fr. John** and **Matushka Carol Steffaro** and great-granddaughter of **Ann Steffaro** of Campbell. Her proud godparents are National Sports Director **Bob** and **Karen Steffaro**. *Congratulations and many years!*

**BIRTHDAY:** **George G. Lichvarik** turned a youthful 90 years of age in August 2003. One of the oldest continuous members of the Fellowship, he is a member of the Ohio District Chapter-at-Large and president of the Orthodox Society of America (OSA). *Congratulations and many years!*

**WEDDING:** **Basil** and **Sonia Kraftician**, members of the Holy Trinity "O" Club, #222, Randolph, NJ, were united in the sacrament of holy matrimony at St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, PA on July 13, 2003. Concelebrating were Fathers Daniel Geeza and George Hasenecz. *Congratulations and many years!*

**WEDDING:** **Nik Zedlovich, Jr.**, Past Metropolitan District Governor and member of the New Jersey District chapter-at-large, and Tatyana Milichnikova of Tula, Russia, were married at St. Nicholas Church in Whitestone, NY in June 2003. *Congratulations and many years!*

**ANNIVERSARY:** **V. Rev. Dr. Michael and Matushka Olga (Hubiak) Kovach** of Millersville, PA celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 5, 2003. Members of the Harrisburg "O" Club, #199, Father Michael is the last surviving member of the first graduating class of St. Vladimir's Seminary. *Congratulations and many years!*

**ANNIVERSARY:** **Walter** and **Olga Romanofsky** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 19, 2003. Members of the New Jersey District Chapter-at-Large, #240, they are the parents of Immediate Past N.J. District Governor Anna Romanofsky. *Congratulations and many years!*

**AWARDED:** To **Greg** (14) and **Kyra** (11) **Wilson**, 1st degree black belt from the National Karate School of Chicago, June 14, 2003. They are the children of OCJ Layout Editor **Eugenia** and **Jerry Wilson**, Grandchildren of **Marie Konon**, of #146



**Marie Konon with Kyra and Greg.**

Chicago, and the nephew and niece of National Treasurer **Mickey Bowan** and **Neena Konon**, also of #146. They have begun pursuing their 2nd degree level and are assistant teaching in the sport of Karate. *Congratulations!*

**DEATH:** **Elizabeth Semanco**, 89, St. Clair, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on June 9, 2003. She was the mother of Past Central PA Governor and American "O" Club, #38, President **Paul**

**Semanco** of St. Clair, and sister of **Helen Yannone**, Harrisburg "O" Club, #199. Funeral services were held at St. Michael's Church. Our condolences to Paul and family. *Memory eternal.*

**DEATH:** **Martha Malinchok**, 71, Frackville, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on July 8, 2003. A longtime member of the Frackville "R" Club, #150, her survivors include husband, **Paul**, and son, **John**, both members of Chapter #150, and nephews **Fr. John** and **Bob Steffaro**. Martha was a very active member of last year's 76<sup>th</sup> National FOCA Convention committee. Officiating at her funeral at Holy Ascension Church were three National Spiritual Advisors: Frs. Eugene Vansuch, John Steffaro and Daniel Ressetar in addition to Fr. Barnabas Fravel, her pastor. Our condolences to Paul, John and family. *Memory eternal.*

**DEATH:** **Rose G. (Grudinoff) Brelinsky**, 77, a lifelong resident of Bayonne, NJ, fell asleep in the Lord on July 28, 2003. She was a past president and secretary of the Bayonne "R" Club, #97, and a member of SS. Peter and Paul Church and the RBO. Surviving are daughters Melanie and Daria, granddaughter Nellie Rose, sister Helen Wanko and brother Gregory Grudinoff. Our condolences to Rose's family. *Memory eternal.*

**DEATH:** **Helen Silk** of California fell asleep in the Lord on June 14, 2003. She was the mother of Eleana Silk, librarian of St. Vladimir's Seminary and a former member of the Nation's Capital "R" Club. Our condolences to Eleana and family. *Memory eternal.*

**DEATH:** **Paul J. Stenko** fell asleep in the Lord on August 2, 2003 in Berwick, PA. He played professional football for 7 seasons in the NFL and was a high school teacher and coach for nearly 30 years. He was a former president and longtime council member of Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Berwick. He joined the Berwick "R" Club, #64, in 1936 when he was a member of the winning team at that year's national basketball tournament. Paul attended many "R" Club sporting events and represented his chapter at numerous district and national conventions. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Marion** (nee Selepak), a member of the former Scranton "R" Club, son and daughter-in-law **Michael** and **Mary Beth Stenko** of Bloomfield, CT, members of the Hartford "R" Club, #80, and grandson Paul, and son Paul. Other survivors are sisters **Anna Stenko**, member of Chapter #64, and **Mary Stenko**, and brother **Frank Stenko**, all of Berwick. Our condolences to Marion and family. *Memory eternal.*

**TRANSITIONS is for current FOCA members only.**

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# Presenting the 2003 FOCA National Scholarship Winners!

The National Executive Board of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America awarded thirteen \$1,000 scholarship awards to FOCA members at its annual convention banquet, Sunday, August 31, 2003 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Awards were announced formally by National President John Kruchok on behalf of the scholarship board of judges. Thanks to this year's national scholarship administrator, Mrs. Sandy Kapelan and to the board of judges from the Anthracite District which consisted of Elizabeth Dutko, Fr. Nicholas Wuslutsky and Kenneth Stafursky.

The Fred Lewis Award, given to the applicant deemed most outstanding by the judges will be shared by three winners, all receiving the top score possible. The Mischa Michaelson Award is given to the highest ranking seminarian applicant. Additional scholarships include the William Fekula awards and the John Klimkosky scholarships. Each award given is in the amount of \$1,000.

## FRED LEWIS AWARD

### ANDREW J. BACSIK



Andrew is a member of the Signac Jr. "R" Club, chapter 44J, New Jersey District. He is presently attending Fairfield University in Connecticut as a freshman. As a junior, he

has held the offices of chapter president, vice-president, treasurer and trustee and was the Secretary of the New Jersey Junior District. He has participated in all national FOCA events including the convention, sports tournaments and Junior Olympics. Andrew is an altar server and was one of two representatives of Orthodox youth in the U.S. appointed to participate in the

Moscow Forum on Worldwide Orthodox Youth, sponsored by Patriarch Alexei in April of 2001 in Moscow. A member of the National Honor Society and active in various Clubs and organizations in High School, Andrew was also a New Jersey Boys State participant.

### STEFAN T. MELNICK



Stefan is a member of the Cohoes Jr. "R" Club, chapter 57J, Upper New York State District and plans to be an engineering major this fall. Active in his parish, Stefan is

an altar server, Epistle and Hours reader. As a junior, he served as Lt. Governor of the UNYS Junior District and as treasurer and secretary of his junior chapter. In addition to being a member of the National Honors Society, Stefan is active in marching band and symphonic orchestra. He is an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America and has held many leadership positions.

### SARAH M. VANSUCH



Sarah is a member of the Campbell Jr. "O" Club, chapter #27J, Ohio District and is presently attending Youngstown State University as a freshman. Very active within her parish as a

reader, choir member and Sunday School assistant, Sarah has received the St. Peter the Aleut service award, was an All-American Council youth participant and received the Orthodox Society of America Outstanding Young Citizen Award twice. She has served as junior president and secretary and has participated in virtually all national

FOCA events including the convention, sports tournaments and Junior Olympics. Sarah is the president of the National Honor Society and is also actively involved in band where she also serves as president.

## MISCHA MICHAELSON SEMINARY AWARD

### SEM. KURT (JOHN) T. BAKER



Seminarian Kurt is presently attending St. Tikhon Seminary from Michigan. He is a member of St. Tikhon's chapter, Anthracite District. He was active in his

home parish as an altar server and is a choir member at St. Tikhon's. He serves as student representative on the Academic Affairs Committee and the steering committee for accreditation. He attended Flint High School while living in Michigan.

## WILLIAM FEKULA AWARD

### BRANDON J. BARNES



Brandon is a member of the St. Mary's "O" Club, Minneapolis, Midwest District and is a sophomore at the University of North Dakota, majoring in Electrical Engineering. Active in his parish,

Brandon has taught Sunday School and has been involved in various service projects. He has been a recipient of the St. Peter the Aleut Award, participated on a work team with Project Mexico and has volunteered on a medical team in Honduras through I.H.S. As a junior, he has attended several national conventions and has participated in national basketball and bowling tournaments. He was a member of the Varsity Soccer team in high school.

### **KELLY M. BARON**



Kelly is a member of the Garden State "R" Club #209, New Jersey District and attends Sts. Peter & Paul parish in Passaic. As a junior she served as vice-president, treasurer, and secretary of chapter #30-J and is a past Secretary of the New Jersey Junior District. She has attended many national conventions and participated in the national basketball and bowling tournaments. She was a member of the National Honor Society and is presently a sophomore at Rutgers University and plans to major in Physics.

### **NICOLE A. DZIAMBA**



Nicole is a member of the Holy Cross Jr. "O" Club #223J, Hackettstown, New Jersey. In her parish she is a choir member and Sunday School teacher. She is junior chapter president. A member of the National Honor Society, she is class Vice-President and has received many academic excellence awards. She is active in field hockey, softball and swimming. She plans to major in biology.

### **ELIZABETH W. FIKTUS**



Elizabeth is a member of the Cleveland "R" Club, #4/6, Ohio District. She is presently a sophomore at Emory University. She was Secretary of the Ohio Junior District and her chapter vice-president and treasurer and has attended national and district events. Active in her parish, she has been a choir member. She was a member of the National Honor Society, participated in volleyball, softball and basketball in high school and is a member of the Emory University

Chorus. Elizabeth is a Business/Pre-Law major.

### **NATASHA J. REZANKA**



Natasha is a member of the All Saints "O" Club, #105, Anthracite District. She is a choir member and reader in her parish and also assists with the Sunday School. As a junior, she served as chapter president, vice-president and secretary. Natasha was a member of the National Honor Society and National Art Society while in High School. She attends Delaware Valley College as a sophomore and is a member of the vaulting team, drill team and the Intercollegiate Horse Show team. She volunteers her time with animal shelters, stables and the Sterling Civic Association.

### **KEVIN A. DAVIS**



Kevin is a member of the North Suburban Junior "O" Club, #1J, Allison Park, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh District. He is planning to be a biomedical engineering major when he attends college this fall as a freshman. In his parish, he is an altar server and Epistle reader. A member of the National Honor Society, he has received many academic awards for excellence and his interest in music includes playing the oboe in the Philharmonic Adult Orchestra.

### **JOHN KLIMKOSKY SCHOLARSHIP**

### **STEPHANIE M. DAVIS**



Stephanie is a member of the North Suburban Junior "O" Club, #1J, Allison Park, PA. She plans to major in Biology as a freshman this fall. A member of the

National Honor Society, she has received many academic excellence awards and is also actively involved in band and orchestra. She has participated in the Pennsylvania All-State Band, is a member of the City Music Center Chamber Orchestra and Youngstown State Youth Orchestra.

### **SHEENA M. HISIRO**



Sheena is a member of the Harrisburg Jr. "O" Club #199J, Central Pennsylvania District. She sings in the youth choir and has been junior chapter president. A member of the National Honor Society, she also participates in soccer and field hockey. Sheena has been active in Girl Scouts and was 4-H vice-president. She plans to major in Illustration.

### **JENNIFER A. LAZOR**



Jennifer is a member of the Campbell Jr. "O" Club #27J, Ohio District. She has served as a camp counselor at the Ohio District camp, served recently as Ohio Junior District Governor and junior chapter treasurer. She has participated in national and district conventions, sports tournaments and Junior Olympics. She is a member of the choir in her parish. A member of the National Honor Society, Jen has also participated highly on high school sports teams including Varsity Basketball, Track and Golf. A member of the Student Council, she was also yearbook and newspaper editor. She volunteers her time as president of the Warren Juniette Volunteer League and as a hospital candystriper. She is a freshman at Marquette University and plans to major in Biomedical Sciences. ♦

# Service Projects the Overriding Theme

## Young Adult Session at FOCA Convention in Colonial Williamsburg

by Lara Herzak

The first ever Young Adult Session was held at this year's Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America's (FOCA) convention in Williamsburg, VA. The session was a success on all levels with over 30 young adults participating. Father Robert Kondratik, Chancellor of the OCA, Father Michael Anderson, Director of the OCA's Department of Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministries, and FOCA President John Kruchok participated in the session.

### What is on the minds of the Church's young adults?

The discussion focused on what is on the minds of the Church's young adults and what do they want to see more of. The group showed an overwhelming interest in service opportunities and it was decided that the young adults would

immediately take on two projects. The first project is to work on collecting school supplies for many of the Orthodox Church's orphanages overseas. The second is to raise money for a much needed van for St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska. (If you would like to make a contribution or if your parish is interested in participating, please contact Lara Herzak at [lherzak@yahoo.com](mailto:lherzak@yahoo.com)). It was also determined that the FOCA young adults will sponsor a service project followed by a social and dance at the 2005 All-American Council in Toronto to which all young adults will be invited to participate.

### Leadership Training

Another area of interest to many of the young adults in attendance was leadership training. The group really wants to get involved in the workings of the FOCA but felt they could use support in getting started. In response the FOCA has decided to conduct a training session, to be lead by FOCA Past-President Michael Herzak, during next year's convention in Grand Island, NY. This session will include Robert's Rules of Orders, meeting planning, public speaking and creating change.

### Calendar of Events

The session also revealed that young adults would like to know more about other OCA and FOCA events they could attend. So it was decided that a calendar of OCA and FOCA events, with a brief description of each, would be posted on the OCA young adult and FOCA websites. The web will also be used to

enable the young adults to keep in touch. A special time has been set-aside on the OCA Chat Rooms. Going forward, the second Sunday, beginning September 14, 2003, of each month from 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM EST will be their opportunity to catch-up with their FOCA friends.

### Increase Attendance At National Conventions

Lastly, it is the goal of the young adults to increase attendance at FOCA National Conventions. It is the responsibility of every young adult in attendance to recruit their friends to next year's convention and to promote the FOCA. The young adult session was such a success and so well received, that it was agreed to reconvene at next year's convention.

### Mark Your Calendar Now!

Next year's FOCA Convention will take place July 15-19, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Grand Island Resort in Grand Island, NY – 15 minutes from Niagara Falls.

To be added to the FOCA young adult email distribution list, please email the addresses to [lherzak@yahoo.com](mailto:lherzak@yahoo.com).

To see pictures from the first young adult session at the 2003 FOCA convention, visit:

<http://www.oca.org/pages/events/2003/08.August/082903WilliamsburgVA-FOCA/index6.html>

For more information on young adult opportunities, visit [www.yya.oca.org](http://www.yya.oca.org). For more information on the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA), visit:

[www.orthodoxfellowship.org](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org) ♦



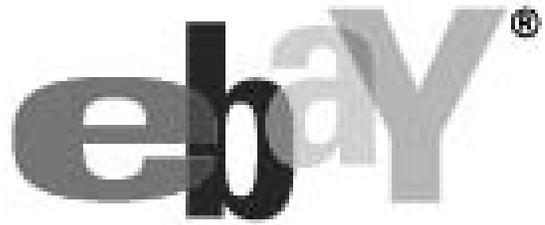
Months ago, your editor decided to search Ebay – billed as the world’s largest Internet auction site – in an effort to acquire a few inexpensive gifts. I typed in “Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs” in the search box and, lo and behold, four separate items appeared. Each was a national convention delegate badge from the late 1920s to mid 1930s. A detailed description and photo accompanied each of the badges, with the seller remarking on their uniqueness and adding that he had no idea what this organization was about. The seller was from Indianapolis.

A bid of \$5 was entered on the first badge but someone had already outbid me! Now, who else would be that interested in old FROC stuff? That person’s bid was \$8 so I entered \$12 and went on to the next badge. Same story. After placing \$12 bids on all 4 badges, I signed off. The next day I checked my email and got word that I had been outbid. I ended up placing \$22 bids on each (the way it works, your high bid is hidden from the other bidders) and again signed off. Later that weekend, Ebay informed me that I had won 2 of the badges.

The first was from the 3<sup>rd</sup> National FROC Convention in Garfield, NJ (Aug. 31- Sept. 2, 1929). It was a dark purple ribbon with a metallic delegate name plate with “Mr. J. Perhach, Binghamton, NY.” The other was from the 5<sup>th</sup> convention held in Pittsburgh in Sept. 1931, a red-and-white ribbon with a metallic name plate (empty) and a metal star with the FROC logo. Who were the other bidders? Because a bidder is identified only by his email name, there’s no way of knowing – unless they decide to let us know!

But that’s not the end of the story. A few days later I received an email note from the seller telling me that he had a whole shoe box filled with badges! It turns out he bought them at a house sale. We negotiated back and forth for a while and agreed on a price (I’m not telling). The next week an old, lady’s shoe box arrived in the mail and I was like a little kid on Christmas. It contained a treasure of about 75 FROC badges, most from national conventions but some from district conventions and duckpin/bowling tournaments, too.

Red, white and blue was easily the most popular color scheme for the ribbons, and many had metallic name plates and FROC logos affixed. Among the more interesting was a badge from the 12<sup>th</sup> national convention held in Scranton in 1938. What was hanging from it? A block of anthracite coal, appropriately enough, with the FROC logo embossed on it. (I guess that’s how the Anthracite District got its name!). Another favorite is the 6<sup>th</sup> national convention badge (New York City in 1932) – a red, white & blue ribbon with a triangular silver medal of St. George the Dragon Slayer. How about Fr. Vladimir Prislowsky’s badge from the 11<sup>th</sup> in Boston (Sept. 1937) or his to the 13<sup>th</sup> in Detroit (1939)? Or Mrs. Julia Felk’s in Minneapolis for the 21<sup>st</sup> in 1948? Then there’s Nick Coba’s red, white & blue ribbon from the 10<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia (1936), replete with a metal rendition of Independence Hall dangling from it.



The World's Online Marketplace™

## What’s Your FROC Memorabilia Worth?

by Nicholas Ressetar, OCJ Editor



Did you know that the Upper New York State District’s silver anniversary convention was held at the Mont Royal Hotel in Montreal in October 1957? The badge proves it. Its 4<sup>th</sup> convention was held in Buffalo in 1932 (blue and white ribbon). We have Mary White’s badge to the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio district convention in Youngstown, sponsored by the Campbell “R” Club. The Trinity “R” Club sponsored the 24<sup>th</sup> national in Chicago in 1950, handing out large white & gold ribbons. The 7<sup>th</sup> national summer sports tourney hosted by the Vladicon “R” Club (May 1946) in Baltimore featured blue ribbons. And Mary Sudik of Ambridge wore a distinctive gold square medal with the FROC logo in red to the 14<sup>th</sup> national convention in Bridgeport, CT (1940).

Badges in later years, however, became much more plain: the 40<sup>th</sup> national in Pasadena, CA (1960) – just a pink ribbon; the 36<sup>th</sup> in Chicago (1962) – gold & white; the 39<sup>th</sup> in Boston (1965) – yellow with black letters; the 41<sup>st</sup> at the Waldorf in New York (1967) – purple; and the 44<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh (1970) (white with red lettering). And who could forget David Keysock’s (Frackville “R” Club) famous patriotic badges from last year’s 76<sup>th</sup> national convention in Harrisburg/Camp Hill?! What did the South River “R” Club come up with at this year’s in Colonial Williamsburg? Details in the next issue of the *Journal*.

Continued pg. 20 / E Bay

# Serving Our Seminaries

## FOCA hears an S.O.S. from Seminary Academia

by Betty Slanta

The FOCA convention body heard Fr. Eugene Vansuch, moderator for "Serving Our Seminaries or S.O.S.", describe our seminarians as future church leaders who share in the growth of their ministry in diverse regions of the country, and on the unique needs of the Orthodox in Alaska, who train clergy to nurture Alaskan villagers. (Fr. Vansuch is himself a board member of St. Herman's Seminary, graduate of St. Vladimir's Seminary, and a professor at St. Tikhon's Seminary.) The F.O.C.A. United Fund Drive also allows FOCA donors to earmark a contribution to each seminary.

The S.O.S. theme centered on things the F.O.C.A. could do for the three OCA-affiliated theological seminaries: St. Herman Seminary, St. Tikhon Seminary and St. Vladimir Seminary. Presentations included remarks from two seminary deans, Dean John Erickson of St. Vladimir's; the Dean of St. Tikhon's, Fr. Michael Dahulich, and Mrs. Betty Slanta, member of the Board of Trustees of St. Herman's and Executive Director *Ilaasi, Friends of St. Herman's*. Mrs. Allison D. Steffaro then reviewed the "Adopt-A-Seminarian" program and provided examples of seminarian support.

St. Vladimir's Dean Erickson applauded recent F.O.C.A. efforts providing seminarians with Thanksgiving turkeys, with relief efforts for individual students and for the seminarian "Christmas Stocking Project," providing funds to seminary children at Christmas, and appreciates the continued seminarian assistance to theological educational support to make Orthodoxy grow. Recounting F.O.C.A.'s efforts, the FOCA was the first to start the church schools and church school materials to assist in an Orthodox witness in America; this logical progression now supports theological

education-F.O.C.A.'s involvement in the whole educational process. "We need not only clergy, but also church workers," he told the gathering, "This is important work the FOCA can participate in."

The 2003-2004 academic year sees 87 seminarians at St. Vladimir's: 16 married students are on campus and 10 live off campus. By December of this year, there will be 24 children among them. The seminary is leasing 10 apartments for the married students. He suggested the F.O.C.A. could sponsor a room in the new housing building.

Health insurance is needed for the seminarians to avoid major disaster; the F.O.C.A.'s "Adopt-A-Seminarian" program can help subsidize students; many enter with tremendous student loans; we must develop a way for the students to have debt-relief when they enter a parish. Financial planning and debt counseling are training provided under the Pastoral Counseling course work.

Specific ways the FOCA can assist St. Vladimir's include encouraging young people to participate in church service/work, adopt-a-seminarian programs and to increase the presence of the F.O.C.A. at seminary by sponsoring a family.

The dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, V. Rev. Dahulich, reported an all-time registration record of 70 seminarians at St. Tikhon's! Most come with financial needs; with no on-campus married student housing, the married students are forced to find suitable housing in the community and live on the economy. "Money given to a seminarian will not draw interest, but will serve as an investment in the future of the church", he explained, "It will grow someone who is responsible to Christ who will lead the church."

"The F.O.C.A.'s Adopt-A-Seminarian and Christmas Stocking Projects bring smiles at Christmas; the seminarians will always remember what

the FOCA has done," he concluded.

Mrs. Slanta, representing Bishop NIKOLAI, Rector of St. Herman's Seminary, Administrative Dean Archimandrite Benjamin (Peterson) and Academic Dean Fr. Dr. Chad Hatfield, presented the view from St. Herman's.

During the 2003-2004 academic year, 16 students will be educated at St. Herman's; four students in their senior year will reside at the Anchorage Campus near St. Innocent Cathedral, and 12 on the Kodiak, AK, campus. The majority of the seminarians are married, and most seminarians left jobs and villages to come to seminary for four years-they made a strong commitment for Orthodoxy.

St. Herman's appreciates the FOCA-funding of a new vehicle through the "Gifts of Love" Appeal. The old van, donated by the then-FROC, died last year; the vehicle served the seminary very well, but a new vehicle is needed. This past summer, the OCMC mission teams renovated the outside and inside of the seminary, siding the outside of the dorm and classroom buildings, renovating, cleaning, painting and rebuilding.

The FOCA can support St. Herman Seminary as an individual, FOCA Chapter or District by supporting a seminarian; Complete the contributions towards the "Gifts of Love" Campaign on-going for 2004: for a new van. Bishop NIKOLAI's goal is for all seminarians to graduate seminary without a student loan; the seminarians attend St. Herman's tuition-free, but donor funds are needed to support seminarians for all four years. (The annual seminary tuition and board is \$6,100.) Become an Agape Canister Partner through the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's (OCMC) Agape Canister Program, which donates \$5,000 annually to the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program at St. Herman's.

Become a member of *Ilaasi, Friends of St. Herman's*, both as an individual and as a Chapter or District. *Ilaasi*, which has been going strong since St. Herman's Seminary began, is the fund-raising arm of St. Herman's Seminary and provides

*Continued pg. 20 / S.O.S.*

# STRIKES, SPARES AND STABLES

The 64th annual National Bowling Tournament  
sponsored by the New Jersey District

May 30-June 1, 2003



With the overriding theme "Strikes, Spares and Stables", the New Jersey District sponsored the 64th annual National Bowling Tournament over the weekend of May 30-June 1. Activity was concentrated in the central part of the Garden State with SS Peter-Paul's in South

River being the host parish. Bowling was held near-by in Mid State Lanes while housing, the Friday night reception, as well as the conducting of vespers, was conveniently located at the Brunswick Hilton, just off the NJ Turnpike.

Bowlers attended from the New Jersey, Central PA, Atlantic, Colonial, Pittsburgh and Ohio Districts as singles and doubles were staged on Friday afternoon and evening. All teams were able to bowl at 10 AM on Saturday, along with about 20 juniors.

Co-chairmen for the event were Michael Steffaro, NJ District Governor, and Greg Cimboric, member of the FOCA National Sports Committee. Registration at the alleys was chaired by Irina Gozick and assisted by Nancy Filak, Kelly Baron, Michael Kupec and Laura Johnson. The ad book was handled by Ken Baron while Elena Marton was responsible for graphics and design. The book was dedicated to Richard J. Miskiv, long time member of the organization and the Garden State R Club, who passed away in July of last year.

After the bowling was completed on Friday evening, the attendees were welcomed at the Sports Edition Lounge at the Hilton Hotel for an evening of socializing and comparing bowling scores of the day. The atmosphere proved to be a very lively one which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

For Saturday evening, the sponsors came up with a different plan and ventured up the NJ Turnpike to the Meadowlands Race Track for an evening of horse racing at trackside. Despite some heavy rains for most of the evening, the group had a great time under a tent at the head of the straightaway.

Sunday Liturgy was officiated by Father David Garrettson, pastor of SS Peter and Paul's and current NJ District Spiritual Advisor. Father David was assisted by Fr. Serge Kuharsky, retired, former pastor in South River and former NJ District Spiritual Advisor. A brunch at the Church hall, chaired by Allison Steffaro, followed Divine Liturgy. National Sports Director Bob Steffaro and his committee then announced the winning awards for the various men's and women's categories.



The Junior League Bowlers in Attendance



Sports Dir. Bob Steffaro

Registration Chairs:  
Irene Gozick & Nancy Filak



The Banquet Crowd



### WOMEN SINGLES WINNERS

#### Scratch

1. Margaret Drenchko	Alpha NJ	563
2. Nadine Galasso	South River NJ	494
3. Sandra MacCaulay	Alpha NJ	483
4. Daria Miskiv	Garden St NJ	483
5. Elena Marton	Garden St. NJ	477
6. Helene Tisch	South River NJ	464
7. Elaine Kosh	Bridgeport CT	438
8. Natalie Pronechen	Bridgeport CT	438

#### Hdcp.

1. Darlene Kesnick	Bridgeport CT	627
2. Pat Lelo	Alpha NJ	618
3. Lisa Lelo	Wash DC	608
4. Julie Daniels	Hackettstown NJ	589
5. Anne McHugh	Elizabeth NJ	571
6. Melissa Tesar	Cleveland OH	570
7. Teresa Wisniewski	Jersey City NJ	546

### WOMEN DOUBLES WINNERS

#### Scratch

1. Michelle Weider/Margaret Drenchko	1036
2. Daria Miskiv/Elena Marton	959
3. Natalie Pronechen/Elaine Kosh	926
4. Barbara Kaminsky/Helene Tisch	824
5. Joan Kost/Ellen Scrip	819
6. Sandra Uhrina/Anne Cverko	814

#### Hdcp.

1. Anne Lelo/Lisa Lelo	1138
2. Pat Lelo/Sandra MacCaulay	1125
3. Melissa Tesar/Becky Tesar	1113
4. Karen Steffaro/Anne McHugh	1094

5. Maxine Kassatkin/Julie Daniels	1089
6. Marion Gulash/Helen Galayda	1077

### WOMEN TEAM EVENTS

#### Scratch

1. St. John's	Alpha NJ	1829
2. Garden St.	Garden St. NJ	1700
3. St. Andrews	Maple Hts OH	1580

#### Hdcp.

1. Holy Ghost	Bridgeport CT	2200
2. St. Stephens	Phila, PA	2072
3. Elizabeth	Elizabeth NJ	2048

### WOMEN ALL EVENTS

#### Scratch

1. Darlene Kesnick	Bridgeport CT	1551
2. Margaret Drenchko	Alpha NJ	1535
3. Michelle Weider	Alpha NJ	1479

#### Hdcp.

1. Pat Lelo	Alpha NJ	1765
2 Julie Daniels	Hackettstown NJ	1720
3. Daria Miskiv	Garden St. NJ	1716

### United Fund

Scratch - Darlene Kesnick	Bridgeport CT	545
Hdcp Tied - Lisa Molchan	Maple Hts OH	600
Julie Daniels	Hackettstown NJ	600

### High Game for Weekend

Elena Marton	Garden St. NJ	230
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## MEN WINNERS SINGLES

### Scratch

1. Steve Pronechen Jr.	Bridgeport CT	670
2. Steve Pronechen Sr.	Bridgeport CT	647
3. Tom Hughes	Garden St NJ	607
4. Mike Pronechen	Bridgeport CT	597
5. Mike Gozick	Singac NJ	582
6. Mark Marton	Garden St NJ	565
7. John Lord	Garden St. NJ	553

### Hdcp.

1. Gene Daniels	Hackettstown NJ	648
2. Joe Curran	Bridgeport CT	626
3. A.J. Sivess	South River NJ	622
4. Bob Sleffaro	Elizabeth NJ	588
5. Mike Steffaro	Elizabeth NJ	581
6. Walter Alesevich	Wash DC	566
7. Al Kaimer	Bridgeport CT	564

## MEN WINNERS DOUBLES

### Scratch

1. John Lord/Mark Marton	1156
2. Mike Gozick/Ken Baron	1132
3. John Kostecka/Tom Hughes	1103
4. Steve Pronechen Jr./Steve Pronechen Sr.	1098
5. Peter Hristov/Michael Pronechen	1002

### Hdcp.

1. Bob Steffaro/Dan McHugh	1191
2. AJ Sivess/Dave Kaminsky	1142
2. Al Kaimer/Joe Kaimer	1142
4. Steve Wasiliewski/Ted Mulally	1140
5. Larry Kosh/Joe Curran	1136

## MENS WINNERS TEAM

### Scratch

1. Bridgeport #1	2372
2. Garden St. #2	1990
3. Garden St #1	1931

### Hdcp.

1. New Jersey M/U	2224
2. Bridgeport #2	2206
3. South River	2184

## MENS ALL EVENTS

### Scratch

1. Steve Pronechen Jr.	Bridgeport CT	1861
2. Mike Gozick	Singac NJ	1783
3. Michael Pronechen	Bridgeport CT	1773

### Hdcp.

1. A.J. Sivess	South River NJ	1886
2. Gene Daniels	Hackettstown NJ	1846
3. Joe Cunan	Bridgeport CT	1783

## United Fund

Scratch - Michael Pronechen	Bridgeport CT	656
Hdcp. - Peter Hristov	Bridgeport CT	651

## High Game for Weekend

Mike Gozick	Singac NJ	279
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## Notes and Quotes:

National Executive Board met on Saturday at the Hotel...Are the Jersey City girls still bowling singles and doubles from the 3:30 shift on Friday?... Thanks to Leon Sheean for again taking the photos all weekend... St. Andrew's Chapter from Maple Heights, Ohio, were very active throughout the weekend promoting their tournament sponsorship for next year... Jessica Lazor – the FOCA answer to Annika Sorenstam.. Good to see the Tesar's from Cleveland – Phil, what was that trifecta combo – 6-1-2?... Missing in action — Agent Kowalchik, Allie and Chris Ratushnuk, Henry Pishko, the Stufarski boys, Bill Soltis... Mike Gozick has all-events actual title elude him once more.. Mike did have 10 consecutive strikes in bowling 279 high game of the weekend...Anyone spot NJ Governor Michael Steffaro nearly prone on the alleys Friday night after one of his powerful releases... No ceremonial "First Ball" this year????... Allison and Michael Steffaro did a nice job of promoting upcoming National Convention in Williamsburg this year... ♦



**Taking a Break at the 19th Hole!**



**Score Keepers in Huddle!**

**Coming in the Next Issue of the OCJ!**  
**Complete Coverage of the**  
**77th National Convention**  
**in Colonial Williamsburg**



**And The Winners Are....**

**Closest to the Pin 7/25**

Bill Pysh, John Nelko  
Fr. John Steffaro, John Ilnat

**One Day Gross**

George Gresko 84

**1st Place Scramble**

Bill Soltis, Henry Pishko  
Mike Dorosh, Nick Ressetar

**"A" Flight - Gross**

- 1) Bob Stotler 153
- 2) Fr. John Steffaro 160
- 3) Willard Flowers 161
- 4) Bob Markvan 162

**"B" Flight - Gross**

- 1) Bill Pysh 173
- 2) Bob Lucak 177
- 3) Gale Pishko 184
- 4) Michael Schultz 196

**Closest to the Pin 7/26**

Mike Steffaro, Mike Wusylko  
Anthony Schultz

**One Day Net**

Mary Wusylko 72

**2nd Place Scramble**

Tamara Petronka, Sonia Blaha  
Debbie Priatko, Greg Cimboric

**"A" Flight - Net**

- 1) John Nelko 145
- 2) Mike Steffaro - TIE 147
- 2) Theresa Stotler - TIE 147
- 4) John Ilnat 148

**"B" Flight - Net**

- 1) Leon Sheean 146
- 2) John Malinchok - TIE 153
- 2) John Shultz - TIE 153
- 4) John Lord 154

# 2003 National Summer Sports Tournament

Sponsored by the Weirton Orthodox Christian Fellowship, #58, July 25 & 26, 2003

Mountaineer's Woodview Golf Course in Weirton, West Virginia, owned and operated by the Mountaineer Race Track and Gaming Resort, was the site of this year's Fellowship National Summer Sports Tournament on July 25 and 26, 2003. Sponsored by the newly-renamed Weirton Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Chapter #58, some 35 golfers enjoyed two days of competition, golf, fun and prayer. Chairing the event were National VP Dr. John Schultz, Sonia Schultz and Michael Schultz; many chapters members assisted. Anthony Schultz printed the color program listing the hole and other sponsors.

Golf started on a warm, sunny Friday afternoon on a course that truly lived up to its name with many steep hills, banks and sideways lies. Assistant Sports Director Greg Cimboric, the able protégé of National Sports Director Bob Steffaro (absent for a family wedding), took over the duties of pairing the golfers in foursomes and keeping matters coordinated. Players golfed individually or in a scramble format. Among the FOCA notables golfing were Fr. John Steffaro, Fellowship website director and past national spiritual advisor, and son Michael, New Jersey district governor, who were at a decided advantage by returning to one of their "home" courses (!); Fr. John was parish priest at St. Nicholas Church in Weirton for many years; Past National Presidents Mike Dorosh and Fr. Deacon Michael Wusylko and Matushka Mary; Past National VP & Past Michigan District Gov. Henry

Pishko; Ohio District Guv and *Journal* photog Leon Sheean; and your *Journal* editor.

After a full day of golf, participants retired to the nearby Holiday Inn for a shower and change of clothes. For many it was on to the Serbian-American Cultural Center for their weekly fish dinner. An enormous \$2.5 million dollar edifice, the center hosted an engagement dinner for 400, a rehearsal dinner as well as the fish dinner. Highly recommended is the fish & cole slaw "Serbian" style. That evening the sponsoring chapter hosted a reception in the hotel lounge where players had the chance to socialize, discuss their games and plan for the next day of golf.

Golf got off to an early and foggy start at 8 a.m. Saturday morning as the first group teed off. In what may have been a Fellowship first, players had the chance to shoot for prizes on certain holes, including a car for a hole-in-one on a designated hole, sponsored by a local auto dealership with ties to the chapter. The closest to winning the car? Michael Steffaro, who was a mere 2 feet, 3 inches away from the cup. Weirton chapter members, including Pat Schultz, carefully monitored the shots on this hole just in case. Sunshine eventually

broke through and warmed up the course as some scores also warmed up. As play came to an end by around 2 p.m., player retired to the course pavilion for a steak dinner catered by the resort (with real table cloths even!). Greg Cimboric tabulated the scores on a laptop computer with the assistance of Anthony Schultz, who wrote a special program for the tournament. "Our Father" was sung, led by LPGA-candidate Tamara Petronka (Rimsky-Korsakov version), Father John blessed the food and the hungry golfers indulged. Greg Cimboric then awarded the many prizes to the winners who appear to your left. Many continued to socialize and a few decided to play a few more holes.

Those golfers who stayed over another night attended Vespers and Divine Liturgy the next morning at St. Nicholas Church in Weirton where they were warmly welcomed by Fr. Theodore Shomsky, host pastor, and his parishioners. Many thanks to the Weirton OCF for their hospitality in sponsoring this year's golf tournament. Next year golfers will play in Frackville, PA on July 30 and 31, 2004, where the Frackville "R" Club will be the host; contact John Malinchok for details at 800-811-4556 or malincj@ nationwide.com. ♦

2003 Summer Sports Tournament Participants



# 2003/04 National Fellowship *CELEBRATIONS of FAITH* *“Let Your Light So Shine!”*

 CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

## *Celebrations of Faith*

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

### Official Entry Form

This form must be filled out in its entirety for all entrants and entries, and mail with submission to:

**FOCA Junior Dept - Celebrations of Faith**  
**Cheryl Morse • 4746 137<sup>th</sup> St. W. • Apple Valley, MN. 55124**

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ *Please check one below:*  
 Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Under 10 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and under) \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_ 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Arts Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Literature \_\_\_\_\_ Photography  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Musical Composition \_\_\_\_\_ Visual Arts

Title of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Media: (example – crayons, oil, 35mm film) \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Artist Statement \_\_\_\_\_

What inspired you to do this work and how was it done? \_\_\_\_\_

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I grant the FOCA permission to use my works for display, publications and on-line. The FOCA is not responsible for lost or damaged works. Entries may not be returned. I understand that I must be a communicant in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America. I affirm that this is my own original work. **I understand that the submission of my entry into the Celebrations of Faith Creative Arts contest constitutes the above conditions.**

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

*(necessary if child is under 18 years of age)*

PLACE THIS FORM ON THE BACK SIDE OF ARTWORK, IN THE UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER. **Include a postage paid/self addressed envelope if you would like your entry returned to you.**

### GENERAL PARTICIPATION RULES

**Theme:** The theme for the church year 2003/04 will be “Let Your Light So Shine!” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme are acceptable.

**Eligibility:** All entrants in Celebrations of Faith must be communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America. It is the responsibility of the local priest, Sunday school teacher or Youth worker to determine each student’s eligibility in this Celebration.

**Grade Divisions:** Under age 10 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grd., 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grd., 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grd.

**Arts Areas:** Students may submit works in any of the four arts areas:

- Literature
- Musical Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

**Number of Entries Submitted:** There is no limit to the number of entries a student may submit.

**Where Students May Create the Works:** A student may develop an entry in or outside the Sunday School Class at the discretion of the parish priest and church school teacher.

**Originality:** *Each entry must be the original work of one student only.* An adult may not alter, change, or enhance the creative integrity of a student’s work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed.

**Entry Form:** All participants are required to fill out and sign the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM in its entirety.

**Deadlines:** Each student must submit his/her work to the National Celebrations coordinator by March 28th. If a parish or region/deanery/district/diocese would like to organize a regional Celebration in coordination with the National program the regional coordinator would determine any deadline. These entries will be judged and displayed at district/diocese/national events including the National FOCA Convention.

**Judging Criteria:** All entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

**Return of Artwork:** Following the district/diocese event the artwork may be displayed at a National Event such as the National Basketball Tournament or an All American Council. If your artwork is displayed as part of a National event the Youth Department will return photography and visual arts entries to the student if a self addressed/stamped envelope is included. Music and literature entries will not be returned.

*Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you wish your entry returned to you.*

**Awards:** All youth who submit an entry to the celebrations will receive small recognition gifts much like the participants in the essay contests.

The winning entries in each category will receive a savings bond.

## LITERATURE RULES

**Description:** Literature entries may be works of fiction or non-fiction in prose, poetry, drama, song lyrics, and short stories.

**Presentation:** Copies of the student's original work are fully acceptable. Copies will receive the same consideration as originals.

- Entries may be handwritten or typed on a computer by the student. All pages must be numbered.
- Entries may be illustrated with pictures drawn by the student; however, the entries will be judged only on literary content.
- Grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Entries are expected to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

**Length:** Minimum length is 50 words for Grade 3- Young Adult. The maximum length for any entry is 3 double-spaced, typewritten pages.

**Size:** Literature entries may be submitted on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8 ½" by 11".

**Format:** Literature entries must be submitted in a manila file folder, with the

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM stapled to the back of the folder. Entries must not be mounted. The student's name must be written on the back of each page, in case pages are separated.

**Collections of Works:** Collections of poems or short stories are not accepted. Entries must be submitted separately.

**Assistance in Writing:** Physically challenged students or students in kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grades may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work. Older students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached. The transcribers are not to alter the grammar or form of speech used by the student.

All entrants in the Celebrations of Faith must be communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America.

## PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

All entrants in the Celebrations of Faith must be communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America.

Each entrant must be an amateur photographer.

**Description:** All photographs must be developed through standard photo processing. No custom developing will be allowed.

- All entrants must be coordinated with the theme of the Celebration. Photos must have been taken during this Celebration year.
- Photographs can be shot in either black and white or color.

**Presentation:** All prints must be mounted on a cardboard mat, poster board or some other sturdy material. Frames of any type are unacceptable.

A single print or collage may not exceed 11" by 14" including a mat.

## MUSICAL COMPOSITION RULES

**Description:** Students may submit original musical compositions with or without lyrics, which must be the work of one student and may not exceed five minutes. Acappella (voice with no instruments) or instrumental compositions are acceptable.

**Length:** May not exceed five minutes.

**Performance:** Students are not required to perform their compositions.

**Presentation:** All age divisions must submit an audiocassette or CD recording of the composition.

**Recordings:** Record only on new cassettes of C-60 length or less.

1. Do not record at too loud a level (in the "red" on the meter)
2. Before recording, make the room you record in as quiet as possible. Close the windows and turn off all noise making devices in the room, such as air conditioners, fans, telephones, etc.
3. Make a short test and listen to it. Then rewind and start over. Let the tape run 30 seconds, then state your name and the title of the piece. Wait about 10 or 15 seconds then start the music. Do not start right away while the tape is on the head leader!
4. Let at least 30 seconds of silence go by after the piece ends before stopping the machine to avoid the end being ruined with machine pops, clicks or other noises.

5. Remove safety tabs from cassette.

Audiocassettes or CDs must be submitted in a plastic or cardboard container, and both the cassette or CD and the container should be identified with the entrants name, age/grade, address, parish, entry's title and playing time.

All entrants in the Celebrations of Faith must be communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America.

## VISUAL ARTS RULES

All entrants in the Celebrations of Faith must be communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America.

Any of the following processes are acceptable for creating visual works of art. Works of art must be flat and may not exceed more than a 3/8" thickness. Artwork may not exceed 24" by 30" including a mat.

### *Description*

**Prints:** All graphics processes such as linoleum cuts, serigraphs, wood cuts,

computer generated art, or vegetable prints.

**Drawings:** All types of drawings are acceptable including pencil, charcoal, chalk, ink, crayon, colored pencil, pastels, and any other medium used for drawing and sketching.

**Painting:** All kinds including tempera, oil, acrylic, and watercolor. Paintings on canvas must be unstretched when submitted. (Paintings cannot be submitted on any kind of stretcher or stretcher strips.) Paintings on canvas may be submitted on foam board or cardboard. T-shirt paintings will be accepted, but they must be mounted.

**Collage:** A single artwork employing two or more techniques. Nothing three-dimensional may extend off the surface of a work. Noodles, beans, beads, and boxes are not accepted materials. Small flat items, such as string, fabric, and screening that have maximum surface contact with the face of the image are acceptable.

**Photographic Collage:** A collage constructed of photographic images not taken by the student should be submitted under the Visual Art area. A collage of photographs taken by the student should be submitted under the Photography area.

**Metal Etching or Punchwork:** Metal etching or punchwork is acceptable. Take proper precautions to cover corners of metal.

**Fiber Work:** Any original fiber work, needle work, or sewn design in acceptable as long as it is securely mounted. No kits are allowed, only original designs. No houses or three dimensional needlework pieces. Leather tooling is also acceptable.

**Computer Generated Art:** If a student takes a photo, scans it, adds clip art or another graphic that is not the student's photograph, and prints on regular paper, it is a visual arts piece. If a student takes a photo, scans it, adds another of his/her own photos, and prints it on special photography paper, then it is a photography entry.

**Presentation:** Entries may be submitted on paper, canvas board, cardboard, hot or cold press board, or canvas (not

to exceed 3/8" thickness. Entries on paper or canvas must be mounted on sturdy cardboard mats, but not in wooden frames, metal, plastic or glass.

**Works not Accepted for Visual Arts Area:** Copying, tracing, pattern marking or dittos are not acceptable. Anything that is not an original work of art by the entrant. No signature or initials may appear on the surface of the artwork. ♦ ♦

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**E Bay / from pg. 11**

The history of our Fellowship can be learned from something as seemingly simple as the badges the members sported to conventions and tournaments. Gregory Nescott had a fascinating display of his badges at the 75<sup>th</sup> national convention in Pittsburgh. I have most of mine (the first from 1970) and know that others do, too. Maybe our webmaster, Fr. John Steffaro, will consider adding an auction feature for people to sell off their old FROC items or perhaps we'll see a flood of sellers and buyers on Ebay, enough that a separate category will have to be created. What's your FROC memorabilia worth?

By the way, what prominent FROC/FOCA member recently sold his house on Priscilla in Indianapolis and moved into a retirement home? Answer in the next issue. ♦

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**S.O.S. / from pg. 12**

much-needed support for seminary projects. An annual donation of \$100 is requested for Ilaasi support. This year, your support through Ilaasi is going to renovate the seminary kitchen, including the purchase of new kitchen appliances and necessary upgrades to meet health department requirements. Join the Distinguished Diocesan Donor Program (3-D). The "3-D" program, initiated by Bishop Nikolai in 2002, supports the work of the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska; the funds also support St. Herman's.

Become an Associate Seminary Alumnae; if you are a Seminary graduate

or clergy, make an annual \$25 contribution or life-time \$500 contribution; all money goes towards funding programs at the Seminary. Go on an OCMC Mission Team: OCMC mission teams this summer repaired and renovated the seminary buildings and residences with the help of seminarians. Fund the library and computer lab: St. Herman's needs library support; we need gifts of subscriptions and funds for the purchase of new books and to renovate a library room for a student computer lab.

The seminarians appreciate the F.O.C.A.'s continued support of the "Christmas Stocking Project" for their families. Pray for the seminarians and their families at St. Herman Seminary, and for the Orthodox people of Alaska.

Mrs. Allison Steffaro, enthusiastically discussed the "Christmas Stocking Project" and provided examples of recent FOCA support. Support at St. Vladimir's and St. Tikhon's helped 23 families with 50 children. She recounted the support, as families needs not toys for their children, but the necessities of life, pots and pans, towels, and children's underwear and socks. The adopted seminarian families receive letters and are offered funds, based on need.

A well-baby clinic and providing children's immunizations are some of the concrete ways the FOCA medical professional could assist seminarian children.

Ms. Eleana Silk, Librarian at St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary, provided the cooperative plan for a library exchange between the three seminaries; a recent example of this cooperative program is the donation of four cartons of books from the library of the late Dr. John Boujamra, from St. Vladimir's to St. Herman's Seminary.

FOCA President John Kruchok presented the deans of St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries with FOCA United Fund checks; the FOCA United Fund check for St. Herman's Seminary will be presented directly to Bishop NIKOLAI at a later date. ♦

# The Feast of **ARCHANGEL MICHAEL** and the **HEAVENLY HOSTS**

On November 8/21 the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of St. Michael and all the Angels. Holy Scripture tells us that in Heaven, God is surrounded by a host of angels. God often sends His angels to earth to teach men His commandments and to tell them of marvelous things. One of the angels God sends most often to help people is St. Michael. He is the guardian of people's lives on earth; he helps them. In the Old Testament he appeared to men to give help, but in the New Testament he comes invisibly to help when we call him in faith. "Michael" comes from Hebrew word "MISHAEL" meaning 'Who is like God.'



After each letter below spelling St. Michael write a word that describes him!

**S** \_\_\_\_\_

**T.** \_\_\_\_\_

**M** \_\_\_\_\_

**I** \_\_\_\_\_

**C** \_\_\_\_\_

**H** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**L** \_\_\_\_\_

When we celebrate a Feast Day, we always try to do something to commemorate the Feast. Perhaps this year you could make angel cookies to celebrate St. Michael's Day. Start with refrigerated sugar cookie dough or make your own. Cut out angel forms with an angel cookie cutter and decorate with colored icing. Celebrate and enjoy!

# Why Ask Why?

by Matthew Vansuch

For the Fellowship, the answer is simple: survival. We must dedicate our resources to those activities and programs that push us towards a brighter path.

And there are bright spots. Coverage of the basketball tournament reached the OCA website. 2001-02 fiscal year was the first time in many years that membership did not decline. The seminarian fund reached a large, thankful group of our Church's upcoming leaders. The Orthodox fine arts competition [can't think of the name] got off its feet.

Clearly, we're doing good things. And we need to make them better every time. But there's so much more that we can do. The most efficient way is getting everyone's motivations on the same page.

## Why do we have a national convention?

Business needs to be addressed, but we have a Board of Trustees that also meets twice a year. And the Executive Board meets four times a year. But this factor has taken a back seat in recent years as we have tried to provide activities that will draw more people to conventions for reasons other than following parliamentary procedure. My best answer is that we go for the fellowship with other Orthodox.

## Why can't we make up our mind over when to hold the convention?

For years, you could bank on Labor Day being a trip to wherever the convention was being held. Now, we've tried to entice younger families and busier people by trying the month of July. But then we go back and forth. No continuity on which people can plan.

Why do the social and fellowship activities play second fiddle to the plenary sessions?

Clearly, there aren't people banging down the Fellowship door to attend plenary sessions. While important, we must focus our development and promotion of events on the fellowship. Instead of having activities during as "options" for non-delegates and one activity a night (variety on Thursday, dance on Friday, and banquet/dance on Sunday...see how predictable?), why not have a full day of only organized activities so that everyone can participate together in the fellowship.

### We need development and promotion!

Development—activities need to attract people who don't regularly attend conventions.

Promotion—we have to aggressively pitch our activities to these people in a way that will make them want to attend.

For example, if a dinner boat cruise along Lake (or River) X is the highlight of the convention activities, no matter how wonderful and fun it may be, it won't make me want to travel hundreds of miles and pay hundreds of dollars to come to the convention. But if the boat cruise capped a day of organized activities, then I might consider it for a vacation.

We must direct more attention and energy to advertising and actively promoting our activities to the Orthodox community-at-large. We need to tell them why they would want to attend.

### Why do we have an annual convention?

People are busier today than they were fifty years ago. Society is more heterogeneous, and people have different

backgrounds. There are more things to do and places to see, but less time in which to do and see.

Unless we get the Fellowship high on people's priority lists, we'll always lose out to something else. To do this, we need to be appealing. As I've mentioned before, Orthodoxy is a growing body and there are more people seeking to immerse themselves in it. What better way than to promote vacations, trips, or activities designed specifically for the Orthodox family? Think of the enticing possibilities...

If we have a biannual conventions where business and fellowship share time equally, then in the off-years, we can plan loosely planned vacations where Orthodox would gather for fun and fellowship with group activities interspersed throughout the trip. Short talks or symposiums could be held on various subjects in the morning or lunch, and then people would have the remaining time to themselves until, perhaps, the evening dinner activity.

Once again, I believe that a FOCA-sponsored cruise or trip to Alaska would serve this organization well. Just imagine visiting Kodiak or Spruce Island with a knowledgeable Orthodox tour guide to fill in all the details. You can't get that from the Carnival or Princess cruise lines!

Let's start thinking further outside the box now before the final nail gets hammered in. ♦

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## St. Herman's / from pg. 23

Kwethluk, AK, will be added to the Seminary staff to teach liturgical music. Matushka Thekla Hatfield will teach iconography.

Five OCMC Mission Teams will come to Alaska to work on the Seminary infrastructure repairs during the summer of 2003; St. Herman's Seminary Board of Trustees members and other volunteers will work on the Library and Seminary Office reorganization. ♦

## Portland, OR, Site of Orthodox Christian Mission Center Deliberations

The board of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) met from 12-14 May 2003, at the St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Portland, OR. A Mission banquet was held on May 13th, with half of all donations collected at the banquet going towards an OCMC-sponsored church building overseas.

The OCMC is opening the public phase of their \$6 million Capital Campaign to both endow scholarships and build a Mission Center in St. Augustine, FL (where returning missionaries can go after their mission is complete and where mission and evangelism training can be held). During the upcoming Fall 2003 OCMC Mission Board meeting, a ground blessing and outdoor liturgy is planned on the future site of the Mission Center building in St. Augustine. The OCMC Capital Campaign received a \$250,000 grant from the Farah Foundation for naming of the Mission Center Library and Interactive Learning Center.

The OCMC, along with the IOCC, was recently awarded the Athanogoros Humanitarian Award for "mission work around the world" and \$5,000 from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese' "Order of St. Andrew", who sponsored the award.

An OCMC "Health Care Outreach" newsletter was recently published. The OCMC Health Care Committee is seeking health care professionals for mission teams; of note was a motion to make health insurance mandatory for long-term missionaries. There are currently 17 OCMC missionaries in the field; one missionary will make a two-month exploratory visit to Uganda.

The next meeting of the OCMC Mission Board will be held November 11-13, 2003, at the Marywood Retreat Center near Jacksonville, FL.

The OCMC proclaims and practices the evangelical imperative of the

Orthodox faith based on the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who commissioned us to go "and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). OCMC recruits, trains and sends missionaries to preach, teach, baptize and to minister to the poor, hungry, sick, suffering and orphaned. We, therefore, support the development of indigenous leaders and strengthen the infrastructures of churches, especially in, though not limited to, countries where Christianity is a minority, thus creating vibrant, eucharistic Orthodox Christian communities throughout the world.

## St. Herman's Seminary Board Meets During Graduation Weekend



**St. Herman Seminary Board of Trustees stand before the Chapel of the Alaskan Saints. (L-R) Mrs. Slanta, Ms. Barinoff, Archimandrite Benjamin (Peterson), Bishop NIKOLAI, Mr. Cliff Argue, Fr. Eugene Vansuch, Mr. Ben Ardinger and Fr. Dr. Chad Hatfield.**

Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), the Mission and Evangelization organization of SCOPA, was the St. Herman's Seminary graduation speaker. He spent several years with his family as a missionary in both Africa and Albania prior to assuming the position of OCMC Executive Director.

Reader Certificates were awarded to Reader David Ogan of Kodiak, Reader

Andrew Kashevarof from St. Paul Island, Reader Alexie Knagin of Port Lions, Reader Michael Fredricks of Chuathbaluk and Reader Leonty Johnston of Kasigluk, Alaska.

Graduation exercises were held for three St. Herman Seminary graduates on Tuesday, May 20th, 2003, in Kodiak, AK. Seminary diplomas were conferred on Fr. Thomas Andrew from Marshall, AK, Fr. Nicolai Isaac (cum laude) also of Marshall, AK, and Fr. Dn. Daniel Charles of Kasigluk, Alaska.

The Board of Trustees of St. Herman Seminary met on Saturday, May 17, 2003, at the Seminary in Kodiak to elect new board members, review the Seminary budget and provide input to Seminary staff. The Seminary student body is growing so rapidly that it may soon be necessary to move the third year students to the Anchorage (AK) Campus as dormitory space at the Kodiak campus is at capacity. Currently, the fourth year students are housed and taught on the Anchorage Campus.

An "Associate Alumnus" program was established at St. Herman's, which offers all Theological Seminary graduates the opportunity to support St. Herman Seminary through an "Associate Alumni"

membership donation of \$25 per year or \$500 for lifetime membership. If you are a Seminary graduate and would like to support St. Herman's Seminary, please contact Fr. Chad Hatfield, Academic Dean, at frchad@hatfield.net or 1-907-486-3524. Twenty-five "Associate Alumni", representing 11 states, were conferred during graduation exercises.

The Seminary will add enrichment curriculum to the program; Alutiq, Yup'ik, Greek, Mission and Evangelization, and Iconography are some of the new courses which will be taught during the 2003-2004 academic year. Additionally, Fr. Martin Nikolai, a St. Herman's Seminary graduate of

*Continued pg 22 / St. Herman's*



## RECYCLE!

Use This Issue To  
Encourage New  
Membership

POSTMASTER - If Undeliverable

Please Send Form 3579 To: *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*, 10 Downs Drive, Plains Twsp., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3899

## 10th Annual Christmas Stocking Project

Help raise funds for Christmas stockings of equivalent gifts for needy children around the world: Albania, Belarus, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and Alaska.

### Stockings filled with:

toys  
candy  
a toothbrush  
and an icon



\$4.50 per stocking,  
helps us reach a goal of  
15,000 gifts



Assembled by youth  
with Cerebral Palsy  
in Roosevelt, NY

1. **Organize An Event** - Spaghetti/Pizza dinner, Fill the sock project, Brunch/Lunch, Ice Cream "Sundae" social, Bike-a, Bowl-a, Sing-a-thons, Kid-for-hire, Poinsettia sale

### 2. Mail Your Support To:

Christmas Stocking Project  
c/o Arlene Kallaur  
P.O. Box 675  
Syosset, NY 11791-0675

### Make checks payable to:

The Orthodox Church in America

Please send donations as close as possible to  
October 31, 2003

3. **Send Photos of the Events:** Photos should be sent via e-mail to: [info@oca.org](mailto:info@oca.org) for posting to the OCA's website. Log onto the OCA website to see photos from the 2001 and 2002 Stocking Projects: <http://www.oca.org/pages/events/2002/stockings2001/index.html> or <http://www.oca.org/pages/events/2003/stockings2002/index.html>

## Celebrations of Faith

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

## "Let Your Light So Shine!"

Calling all youth to celebrate their faith!  
Create and submit art projects in four areas:

- Literature
- Musical Compositions
- Photography
- Visual Arts

*Celebrations of Faith* is part of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America's participation and support of the Holy Synod of Bishops' Orthodox Church in America Youth movement (<http://yya.oca.org/ocay>).

A detailed list of rules for each category and entry forms may be found on page 18 of this OCJ issue, the FOCA website or through your Jr. Advisor or your Youth Coordinator.

### Dates to Remember

Deadline for all entries:

**April 2, 2004**

Mail to:

**FOCA Celebration of Faith  
C/O Cheryl Morse  
4746 137<sup>th</sup> St. W., Apple Valley, MN. 55124**

**May 14, 2004**

Entries will be displayed  
and awards announced at the  
**National FOCA Basketball Tournament  
in Pittsburgh, PA**

The *Celebrations of Faith* program is sponsored by:  
**Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America**

<http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org>

**A detailed list of rules for each category and entry forms may be found on page 18 of this OCJ issue!**