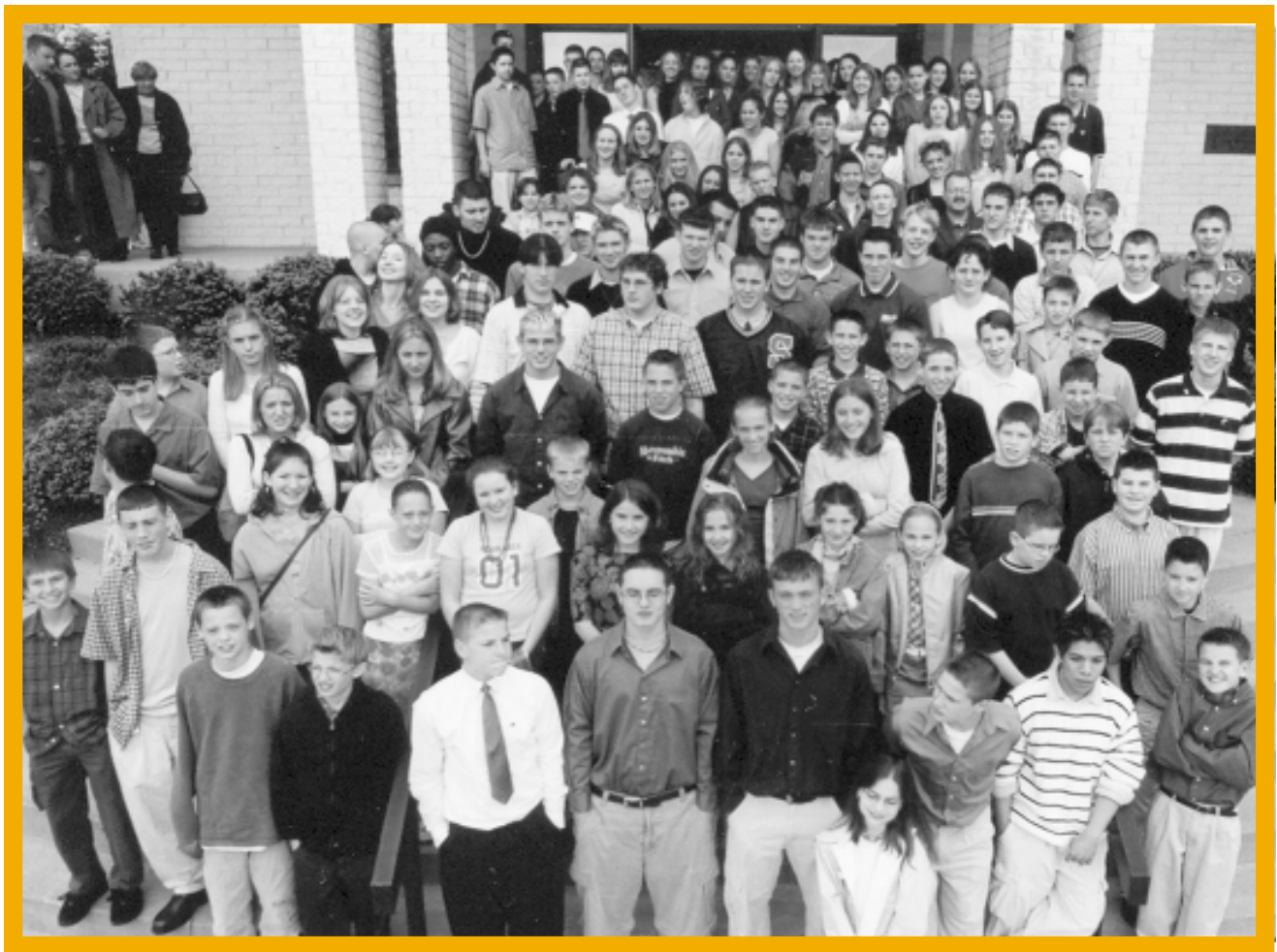


OCCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL.

FALL 2002 vol. 75 number 3

The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



2002 National F.O.C.A. Basketball Tournament

A Winning Weekend!

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

OCJ DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE

OCTOBER 1, 2002

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The preferable format for articles is E-MAIL:

JKOCJ@AOL.COM

MS Word, for photos is .JEPEG, .TIF or .PDF as an attachment!

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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FOCA EVENTS CALENDAR:

October 5, 2002 Upper New York State District Convention, Binghamton

October 12, 2002 Colonial District Convention, Trenton, New Jersey

October 11-13, 2002 McFellowship Weekend, Midwest District Convention, McDonalds World Headquarters/Hamburger University, Oak Brook, IL

October 12-13, 2002 75th Anniversary/Ohio District Convention, St. Michael's, Broadview Heights, Ohio

November 1-2, 2002 51st New Jersey District Convention, sponsored by Bayonne, NJ.

New Chapter In Mississippi Is Formed

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America welcomes its newest chapter, #247, at Holy Resurrection Church, Clinton, Mississippi, Diocese of the South, Orthodox Church in America. The Very Rev. Paul Yerger is Pastor and Spiritual Advisor. Dr. Frank Kulik, a member of the parish was a key member of the organization team. Frank and his wife Vicky have maintained their membership in the Nation's Capital "R" Club for more than thirty years. FOCA President Sandra Fedorko has visited the parish twice and will continue to do so in her travels been Texas and Virginia. Holy Resurrection is the only OCA parish in the state of Mississippi. You can visit the church on 501 West College Street or online at www.holyres.net Welcome Clinton, MS!

Attention Junior Chapters and Advisors

The next issue of the *Orthodox Christian Journal* will be our annual convention issue and also our Junior issue! We would like every junior chapter represented with an article about your chapter – what have you been doing the past year? It can be as long or short as you like and please, **SEND US A**

FOCA HIGHLIGHTS and NEWS IN-BRIEF

PICTURE! This can be a group shot or a photo of an event, outing or charitable service project. You can e-mail this to the OCJ at: jkocj@aol.com or send to: John Kruchok, 180 Watch Hill Road, Branford, CT. 06405. If you have any questions, call me at (203) 488-0269. The deadline is October 1, 2002.

News In-Brief

The National Executive Board of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America held its summer meeting at the Doubletree Hotel, Norwalk, Connecticut, site of the National Bowling Tournament, on Friday evening, May 31, 2002. Those present included all members of the Executive Board (except Secretary Jennifer Pishko, who could not attend due to cancellation of flight) and Convention Planning and Operating Director, Carol Deerson.

The Executive Board finalized plans and the agenda for the 2002 National Convention in Harrisburg. The board approved the suggestion of inviting Joshua Utomo, an Indonesian Orthodox and convert from Islam to serve as the convention speaker, subject to his availability. Fr. Eugene Vansuch, National Spiritual Advisor and a member of the host Central Pennsylvania District was approved as toastmaster. The program book will be dedicated to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, who is expected to attend as a guest of the organization.

The 2003 National Convention will be sponsored by the South River "R" Club (New Jersey) to be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The theme chose is "Williamsburg – the Place to Be in 2003." The 2004 National Convention will be sponsored by the Campbell "O" Club (Ohio) and will be held at the Holiday Inn Grand Island Hotel. Convention dates are

Continued

July 13-18 with the convention held Tuesday through Sunday, culminating with the Divine Liturgy. In fulfillment of a convention motion, CPO Director Carol Deerson presented the board with a proposed full and abbreviated agenda in the event of a joint All-American Council/FOCA National Convention site.

Plans for promotion and visibility at the All-American Council were discussed and including giving a token of appreciation to Spiritual Advisors in attendance, having a continuous video shown from our display booth and the possibility of a luncheon forum on the organization which was offered by the Orthodox Church in America. National President Sandra Fedorko was the organization's official representative.

By-law changes reflecting the organization's name change from FROC to FOCA were submitted by the Nation's Capital "R" Club and unanimously approved by the board. Journal Editor John Kruchok announced that the Journal would now be printed by Journal Publishing Company in Campbell, Ohio to alleviate distribution and printing problems with the current printer, Kelly Line. It is hoped that there will be cost savings as well.

This year's sports tournaments were discussed. Bowling interest continues to dwindle with the number of teams participating. It seems that bowlers are not traveling from east to west and west to east. Some study should be done to determine reasons and perhaps one east and one west tournament should be held each year. The Basketball Tournament was extremely successful with twenty-nine teams and over 400 in attendance at the banquet. There was some concern discussed regarding chaperone guidelines at the hotel which will be reviewed by the Sports and Junior Committees.

Live Internet broadcast of all services are now available on-line (audio and video) from St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, Connecticut. The live broadcasts are being made possible by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Internet Ministries and are available

from both the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America website at <http://www.goarch.org/live.html> and from St. Barbara's site at <http://www.saintbarbara.org>. These live broadcasts are an attempt to minister to those, who for honorable reasons, are unable to attend church services.

Herkimer "R" Club Catches Up

Greetings to all from the members of Herkimer "R" Club and we hope you enjoyed a decent winter and spring season. Since the first of the year, our chapter members have been very busy with various activities of both the Club and the Church. "Super Bowl Sunday" was again held at the home of Bill and Helen Homyk. A great time was had by all who attended with plenty of good food, card games, socializing and of course, watching the exciting ending of the football game.

Our members contributed to "Heartbeat Sunday" and we collected from club and church members for ads in the St. Tikhon's Seminary *Tikonaire*. Members have been assisting in the making of pierogis and holupki for the church plus bread (bobka) baking which have proven to be a very successful fund raiser with Paul and Kay Sokol handling the sales each week. A very profitable Easter Bazaar and Bake Sale was held in the Church undercroft sponsored by our St. Ann's Sisterhood with assistance by many of our members. Proceeds from this event were donated to the Church.

Springs brings the annual Cancer Society sale of daffodils and Nida Babich chaired the event for our Church – the profits go to such a worthy cause. A three-year pet project has been going on here in Herkimer – a cookbook. We have been testing, rewriting and editing various recipes to find the finest and best submissions. Our parish has the reputation of having excellent cooks, and it is our hope to preserve their treasured recipes. Each section with be highlighted with original art work done by two of our church artists. Hopefully, the book will be available this Fall. It's truly a project filled with our love for

God and His Church.

The Paschal Services were inspiring. Our combined Paschal and Mother's Day Dinner was enjoyed by all.

We are all very saddened by the passing of our dear friend, Helen Hrynda, on June 4, 2002 at the age of 75. She was Secretary and Treasurer of the Herkimer "R" Club for many years. She was a diligent worker on the National Convention, sponsored by the UNYS District in 1999. She was also a devoted and active member of the Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Herkimer and a member of its sisterhood, "R" Club and the parish council. Our sympathies are extended to her two sisters and extended families, Mary and Walter Sterzin of Herkimer, NY and Mildred Sviatyla of Vestal, NY. Memory Eternal!

Congratulations to our graduates, Nicole Buttino (SUNY, Brockport, NY), Aaron Buttino (Canastota High School) and Michael Shaftic (Oppenheimer High School). Our heartfelt prayers for your continued success in all that you undertake. May the blessings of Almighty God be with you always.

We are anticipating to hold a Smorgasbord in September. Our best wishes for a successful completion of the summer and the start of the fall season.

- Nida E. Babich

New Haven Youth Stay Active

The New Haven "R" club has been quite busy with various youth programs and activities. We started off with our youth attending the Atlantic District Ice Skating Outing at the Milford Ice Skating Pavilion. They look forward to these outings and enjoy the great fellowship, meeting people their age from other parishes.

Sonya Hitt and Barbara Pope were in charge of our annual Lenten Read-a-thon, which concluded on Bright Monday. Twenty-two out of twenty-six church school students (ages 3 to 19 years) and nineteen out of twenty-four adult "book buddies" handed their reading logs to Sonya Hitt. A total of 450 hours of religious reading hours have been logged. This wonderful annual program encourages the children

not only to read, but also to utilize the parish library's excellent, extensive book collection. Each child was challenged to complete a pre-determined amount of religious reading in its free time. As motivation, their adult book buddy was allowed to give them additional matching minutes from their own reading, up to a maximum of twenty hours. All readers are commended for their fine effort, as are the adult buddies who guided the choice of reading material, provided encouragement to keep on reading, and demonstrated enthusiasm in this enriching team effort.

We sponsored the annual Easter egg hunt on Bright Monday, following part II of our Paschal Breakfast, which was co-coordinated by Barbara Pope. Many baskets were overflowing with goodies. Father Michael wrote the "absent from school" excuses for the youth.

Under the guidance of Alexis Swan, our youth participated in the "Kids Can" stewardship program collecting and returning their families empty refundable bottles and cans. All monies collected were donated to the church for ROOF (Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund). Final tally took place on St. Thomas Sunday and was supplemented by May's stewardship tray collections. We are extremely proud of our youth (ages 3 – 19) for their understanding of and commitment to stewardship. May God bless all of you and grant you Many Years!

Patrick Ross was the recipient of the Victor Panko Memorial Scholarship presented by the Church and the New Haven "R" Club Scholarship. Patrick graduated from Xavier High School and will be attending Ohio State in the fall. Patrick also received a scholarship from the Elks. As a senior at Xavier High School he won a best speaker award at Harvard during his school's model congress. As captain of his model court, their team made it to the finals.

Gregory Swan won first prize at the State of Connecticut Boy Scout Camping Trip (May 10-12) at Hammonasset State Park. Gregory answered the most questions correctly in a Bible quiz and was presented with a Book of Psalms.

Natalie Kruchok was one of four recipients of the Volunteer of the Year award from the Woodbridge Human Services. Natalie was honored for her work with the seniors and the town of Woodbridge's tax relief review board.

Natalie coordinated a bus trip, to St. Tikhon's Seminary on Saturday, May 25, to attend the Consecration of Father Nikon Liolin to the Holy Episcopate and to view and venerate the Holy Wonderworking Icon of Our Lady of Pochaev (the holy icon of the Mother of God from the Pochaev Monastery). The bus was filled to capacity, and everyone had an enjoyable day.

Shirley Farm and Alexis Swan co-coordinated a very successful cake sale on Father's Day, June 16.

SVS Lecture Series will begin at Holy Transfiguration on Monday, September 23, for five (5) consecutive Monday evenings, culminating on Monday, October 21. Flyers and details will be mailed to local parishes at a later date.

— *Barbara Ann Dixon*

St. Tikhon's Pilgrimage

For many years we have attended the pilgrimage at St. Tikhon's Monastery. However, this year it was special and thousands of people came from distances to venerate the icon of Pochayev brought by two Deacons from Russia. The Icon is said to have caused miraculous healing to many who are sick or suffer from some disability.

Ceremonies at St. Tikhon's this year, were also most impressive and inspiring with the consecration of Bishop Nikon and the ordinations of a priest and deacon.

All Bishops were present to witness the consecration and participate and a dinner following the Liturgy and ceremonies was held in Bishop Nikon's honor.

During the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, another ordination took place of a Deacon and the St. Innocent Award was granted to Michael and Mary Wusylko and Michael and Paula Herzak for their work as Trustees on St. Tikhon's Board. Both couples are active FOCA members

and Dr. Michael Wusylko and Michael Herzak Past Presidents. God Grant them many years for their work in the church and FOCA,

— *Matushka Natalie Breyan*

Donna Torhan IN MEMORIAM

Donna Torhan fell sleep in the lord April 28th. It was coincidence that she was also born on the Aprils 28th.

A Communicant of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit, Michigan, she was active in the church as Treasurer on the church Council. She was always ready and willing to help and contribute despite her many ailments. She persevered and we will always remember her delicious salads at the monthly senior meetings and social gatherings.

On the Michigan District level, she served as Lt. Governor from 1987-92 and as Governor from 1992-96. She was conscientious and always tried to do her best on any job she undertook.

Donna will be missed by her husband Harry, her family, her FOCA friends and her many friends at Holy Trinity. May her memory be eternal.

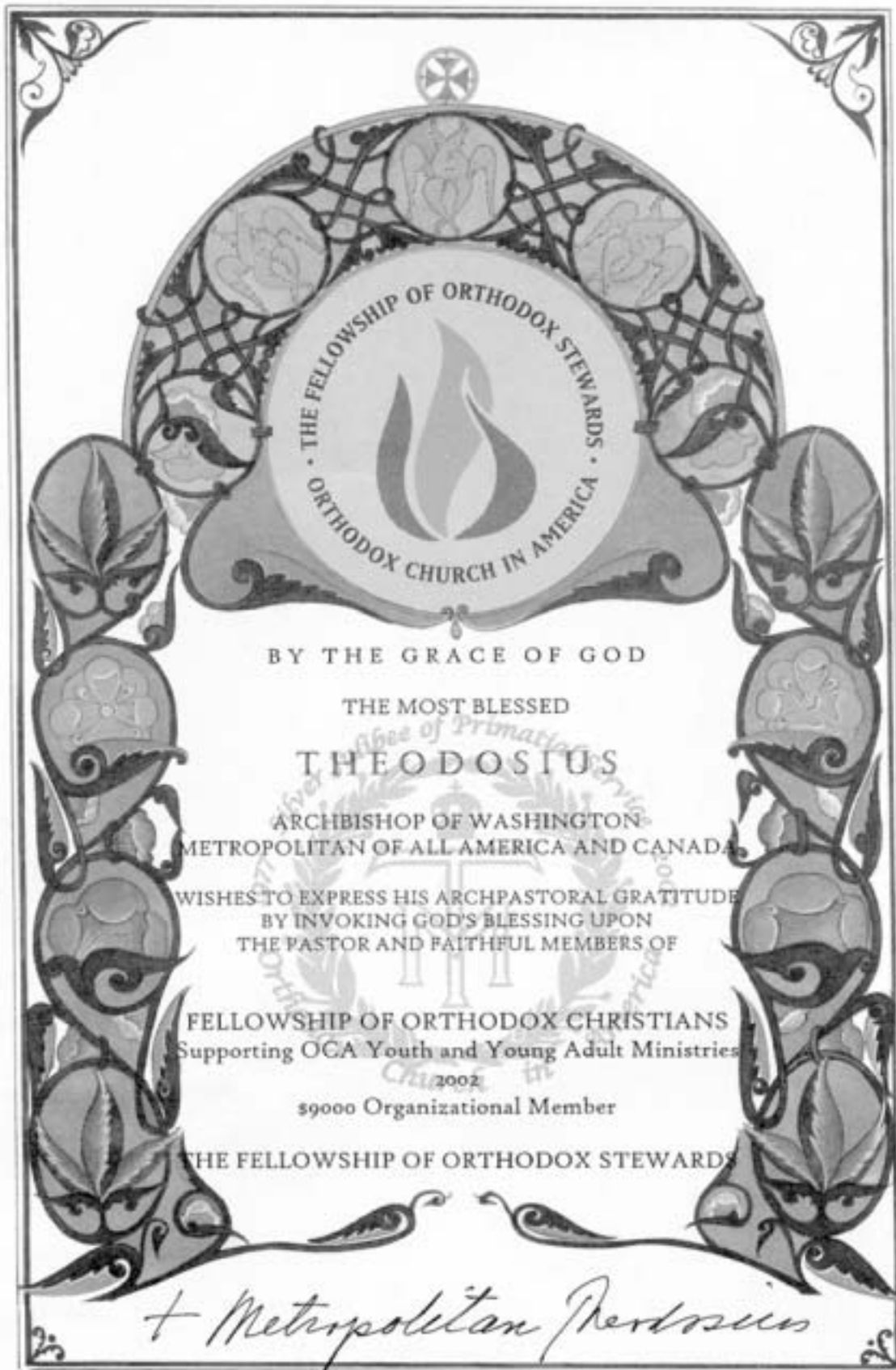
— *Matushka Natalie Breyan*

Ohio District Celebrates 75th Anniversary!

Ohio District invites you to jump back in time to the Roaring Twenties for a Roaring Good Time at the 75th Ohio District Convention! Sponsoring chapter Cleveland 4/6 has been hard at work to make this two day convention (the first two day convention in several years) an event to remember!

Join us Saturday and Sunday, October 12-13 at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Broadview Heights, OH. A busy day of sessions will be followed by a Clambake "20's Style" at our very own Speakeasy! The weekend will culminate with our banquet on Sunday, following Divine Liturgy.

For additional information, contact Convention Chairperson Becky Tesar at 216-739-9054, or e-mail at rjtesar@sherwin.com



TRANSITIONS

CONGRATULATIONS, Joseph and Jennifer Junda, Randolph chapter #212 are the proud parents of twins Brielle Lynn and Kyle Joseph. The twins were born on April 12, 2002. Grandparents are Ed and Rose Junda of Passaic chapter 66.

CONGRATULATIONS, Tamara Marie Bacsik graduated Cum Laude from Lafayette College, Easton, PA on May 25, 2002 with a degree in Economics/Business and a minor in Art. Tamara is the daughter of Walter and Mary Ann Bacsik, all members of Signac chapter 44.

MANY YEARS, Maurice (Pete) and Katherine (Kay) Garman awarded the Order of St. Innocent, 2nd Class in June, 2002 at St. John the Baptist Church in Campbell, Ohio. Fr. Robert Kondratick represented His Beatitude for the presentation.



Maurice (Pete) and Katherine (Kay) Garman

MANY YEARS, Mary Yurkowsky Dubowchik celebrated her 90th birthday on July 7, 2002 at St. John the Baptist Church, Signac, NJ with services and a polka party at the parish center. Mary is a member of Signac chapter 44.

MANY YEARS, V. Rev. Fr. Eugene Vansuch, Pastor of St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem and National Spiritual Advisor, celebrated his 35th Anniversary of ordination on Sunday, 30, 2002. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, His Eminence, Archbishop Herman and His Grace, Bishop Nikon were present with more than 200 family members, friends and guests.

AWARDED, Dr. Michael and Mary Wusylo, Northside chapter #1,

awarded the Order of St. Innocent, 2nd Class by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, May 26, 2002 at St. Tikhon's Seminary and Monastery.

AWARDED, Michael and Paula Herzak, Cleveland 4/6, awarded the Order of St. Innocent, 2nd Class by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, May 26, 2002 at St. Tikhon's Seminary and Monastery.

BIRTH, National President **Sandra Fedorko** became a grandparent of Rya Marie, on May 28, 2002.

BIRTH, Michael and Airry Schultz, Weirton chapter 58 are the proud parents of their first child, Joshua Michael, born June 12, 2002, at 8 lbs., 3 ounces.

DECEASED, John Wasenko Sr., Cohoes chapter 57 passed away on May 28, 2002 at the age of 85. He

had been a member for over 65 years and was the chapter's oldest member.



FOCA Past Nat'l. Pres. Dr. Michael and Mary Wusylo receiving the Order of St. Innocent, 2nd Class



FOCA Past Nat'l. Pres. Michael and Paula Herzak receiving the Order of St. Innocent, 2nd Class from Archbishop Herman

DECEASED, Julia Geleta, Cohoes chapter 57 passed away on June 18, 2002. Wife of Ted (Duz) Geleta. She was a long time member of Cohoes and very active in attending National Conventions and Bowling Tournaments with her husband.

DECEASED, Helen Hrynda, Herkimer chapter 63, passed away on June 4, 2002 at the age of 75. Helen was Secretary and Treasurer of the chapter.

DECEASED, Elizabeth (Betty) Booth, wife of Kurt Booth, passed away on June 24, 2002 in Florida. The Booths were long-time members of the Elizabeth "R" Club.

TRANSITIONS is for current FOCA members only.

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With 500 People In Attendance! Akron Runs Highly Successful National FOCA Basketball Tournament

With the addition of a bantam girls division for the first time and over 500 people in attendance, Akron Chapter 20/32 ran the highly successful National Basketball tournament on the weekend of May 17-19. Co-Chairpersons Nick Libertin and Stephanie Higginbotham did an outstanding job of planning and execution along with their able committee assistants. There was also close proximity of all weekend activities, including Church, registration, basketball games, motel accommodations and the banquet.

Twenty-nine teams participated in the tournament, hailing from the Ohio, Pittsburgh, New Jersey and Midwest Districts, making this one of the larger tournaments in recent memory. Competition was outstanding on all levels, and each bracket is recapped later in this article. Games chairman Mick Papp did an excellent job of coordinating facilities, referees and scorekeepers/timers.

The weekend started with registration on the campus of Kent State University handled by Theresa Stotler and Sophia Blanar. Other Friday night activities, including food, refreshments and karioki were co-ordinated by Linda Bezbetchenko. Upon returning to the Hampton Inn, which was completed booked by the basketball tournament plus spill over into the adjoining Days Inn, seniors had a chance to catch up on old friendships and make some new ones while the juniors had a room for snacks and movies. A number of juniors from Minneapolis were housed and these assignments were entrusted to Lori Kochan.

The basketball games were held on four courts on the Kent State grounds, beginning at 8 AM, commencing with a prayer. After a full day of competition at six divisions, vespers were conducted by V. Rev. T. Stephen Kopenstonsky at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. The banquet, exhibiting a Mardi Gras theme, followed vespers and was handled by Cathy Hawranick. Short speeches allowed the program to move quickly to the presentation of the all-star awards which were handled by National Sports Department members Ken Baron and Greg Cimboic.

Sunday morning saw a full Church for Divine Liturgy, followed by a brunch put together by Andrea Lembo. Then it was back to Kent State for the four five championship games and awarding of Most Valuable Players for each contest. Other committee chairpersons were Teresa Petroski (box Lunches), Matushka Sandy (flyers), Melody Dubinsky (Souvenirs) and an outstanding job on the Web site by Kevin Forrest and Jen Papp.

This will long be remembered as an outstanding tournament based on the comments of many of the players and spectators.

Continued



Above) Akron Bantam Girls Champs; **Below)** New Jersey Juniors traveled via bus; **Bottom)** See cover - Juniors stop for a photo after Divine Liturgy



To Junior Chapters and Advisors JUNIOR ISSUE DEADLINE

OCTOBER 1, 2002

Our annual convention issue will also be our annual Junior issue!

Please send all photos and articles (typewritten) to:

John Kruchok

180 Watch Hill Road • Branford, CT. 06405

(203) 488-0269

The preferable format for articles is

MS Word, for photos is .JPEG, .TIF or .PDF as an attachment!



New Jersey Bantam Boy Champs



New Jersey Super Sr. Champs



Cleveland Jr. Girl Champs

Bantam Girls – This was the first year for this girls division which covers kids up to the age of 13. In first round action, host Akron, led by Emily Fagan (12 points) and Kyra Lambo (10 points) defeated Campbell 30-10 while Cleveland out scored Canonsburg 10-6 in a defensive struggle. Akron won its second game over Cleveland to advance to the finals while Campbell defeated Canonsburg to gain a 1-1 record and move onto a tie-breaker quarter with Cleveland to determine the other finalist. The extra stanza saw Cleveland play excellent defense in shutting out Campbell while Tina Dimitrijeus scored four of her team’s five points in the single period.

In the finals, Jen Papp’s Akron squad played tenacious defense while Emily Fagan scored 10 of her game high 18 points in the second quarter. Juliana Libertin chipped in with 10 markers for the game as Akron won the championship 36-11. Emily Fagan was named MVP for her outstanding efforts at both ends of the floor.

Bantam Boys – In the opening round of play, Cleveland, led by Nick Harpley’s 22 points, defeated Pittsburgh 37-20. Pittsburgh was led by Pasha Tarassov’s 14 points. South River had a balanced scoring attack with each player finding the iron, paced by Michael Galasso (12) and Scott Cahayla (10) as they defeated Minneapolis 44-27. St. Mary’s, MN, leading scorer was Robbie Korluka with 15 markers.

In the next round, New Jersey’s Jason Nedrebecka (17), Scott Cahayla (11) and Michael Galasso (10) managed double figures and offset the hot shooting of Cleveland’s Nick Harpley (19) to advance to the finals. Meanwhile, Akron, won their two games over Pittsburgh (45-25) and Minneapolis (39-22), as Bill Dubinski scored a total of 34 points in the two games and controlled the boards while Matt Higginbotham ran the point, while chalking up 21. Andrew Jaye led Minneapolis with 12 points in the final preliminary game of the day.

The final game was a re-match of the bantam finals for the last two years. In 2000, New Jersey defeated Akron at Rutgers University, while Akron got revenge last year in Minneapolis. This year, New Jersey raced out to an early lead, led by the inside presence of Michael Galasso. In the second half, with Galasso on the bench with foul trouble, Dubinsky and Higgenbotham came alive and posted a furious comeback. Dubinski had all of his 19 points in the second half, primarily attacking the offensive glass.

Clinging to a one point lead with a minute left in the contest, New Jersey spread the court with the three-guard rotation of Kenny Baron, Jason Nehrebecki and Nick Worrell. New Jersey was fouled with 17 seconds left and missed both shots of the double bonus. Akron then scored on the first of two foul shots to tie the game with 4.7 seconds left. After a New Jersey time out, Galasso inbounded the ball from under their basket to Baron at mid-court. After two dribbles, he found Jason Nehrebecki streaking to the basket and hit him on the run for a lay-up at the buzzer and a thrilling two point win for New Jersey. The referees selected co-MVP’s for the game as Galasso controlled the boards for New Jersey, but spent a lot of time on the bench in foul trouble as was co-selected along with



Bantam Boy All-Stars



Sr. Men All-Stars



Jr. Boy All-Stars



Jr. Girl All-Stars

teammate Kenny Baron who set the tempo at point guard and was the “one” on their box-and-one on defense

Junior Girls – One of the most exciting games of the weekend was one of the first round junior girls games as Pittsburgh eked out Akron 20-18. Pittsburgh outscored Akron 6-2 in the final quarter to win this barn burner. Campbell, looking to defend its title from last year, won their first round game with a victory over South River 38-14. Jen Lazor (18) and Melanie Roscoe (14) paced the Ohio team. Campbell’s road to the finals was then derailed by Cleveland as Kathie Schlekic (14) led a balanced attack and outscored Campbell 10-5 in the final quarter to extend a narrow two point lead at the end of the third quarter to a final score of 35-29. In a defensive tussle, Minneapolis defeated a stubborn Pittsburgh team 23-18, and then won their game against Akron 28-20, again with balanced scoring. In the final girls game of the day, Cleveland raced out to a comfortable halftime lead and coasted to a 32-22 victory.

The final game was a tight contest throughout, as Cleveland had a 5-4 first quarter lead, and Minnesota knotted the score 13-13 at halftime. In the third quarter, despite Kathie Schlekic continuing her torrid scoring pace, Minneapolis moved out to a 26-22 lead. The final stanza saw Cleveland turn up the defensive pressure and rebounding edge as they fought back to tie the game at 31. In the overtime, Lauren Timko had four points and Kathie Schlekic (game MVP) made one foul shot to offset the four points of Minneapolis’ Cassie Boosalis’ two field goals en route to an exciting 36-35 Cleveland win.

Junior Boys – Tipping off the day, Campbell/Warren had three players in double figures as they defeated Pittsburgh 59-21 while Cleveland out-pointed New Jersey 45-35. Nick Longo scored 18 while teammate Bryan Glosik had 13. Jonathan Worrell scored 15 for New Jersey with Andrew Chup managing 13. In the next round Minneapolis had eight players score to offset the 14 points of Justin Weis of Pittsburgh in a 33-25 win. Akron had 12 points each from Nick Libertin and Dave Bezbatchesenko as Akron trimmed New Jersey 45-22.

Campbell/Warren advanced to the finals with a 31-23 win over Minneapolis as Andre Ferrell paced the Ohio squad with 14 points. At the same time Akron won their second game of the day to also advance as Nick Longa scored 27 points as they defeated a pesky Akron team 51-47. The finals saw Longa (game MVP) explode for 38 points as Cleveland defeated in-state rival Campbell/Warren 55-43. Teammate Bryan Glosik contributed 13 points for the winners.

Senior Men – The day began with Cleveland “A” defeating Akron 68-52 led by Steve Mehalik’s 26 points, while Cleveland fell to Minneapolis 56-53, who was led by Matt Boulis (24) and James Yacoub (20). Mike Herzak had 24 points for Cleveland “B”, including three 3’s in the second half. Akron then defeated Pittsburgh 41-25 with a balanced scoring effort, while at the same time South River fell to Minneapolis 50-33.

In final round action of the day, Cleveland “A” out-pointed Ambridge as Steve Mehalik scored nine of his ten field goals

Continued

from downtown to pace the winners and advance to the finals. Cleveland "B" saw everyone on the squad hit the ledger as they defeated South River 68-23. Sunday's championship game pitted Cleveland and Minneapolis and the Cleveland squad raced out to a 45-30 halftime lead. The combination of Mehalik's slick ball handling and scoring (game MVP) and teammate Dave Wisner's 17 before-break points, overshadowed Yacoub's scoring efforts. In the second half, Minneapolis made a run to cut the deficit to single digits, but Cleveland managed to widen the lead and eventually win by a 69-56 margin.

Super Seniors – This game of over-40 year old's was the New Jersey squad, defending National champions, playing a combination team from Ohio, Pittsburgh and Minneapolis. Slow break rules allowed both teams to avoid any type of medical treatment. New Jersey took the early lead based on the shooting of John Bobko and the inside play of AJ Sivess and John Witkowski. Bob Markvan (game MVP, and still waiting for his golf ball award) hit three threes to close the gap in the second half. However, New Jersey was able to control the boards late in the game and managed a close 34-32 victory.

Notes and Quotes from Akron...

A number of coaches including Bernie Gulachek (Minn), AJ Sivess (South River/N Jersey), Melissa Tesar, Mike Snyder (Akron) and Jen Papp (Akron) seen doing double duty coaching multiple teams... Nice to have entire motel booked for tournament... Missing in action due to a family commitment– National Sports Director Bob Steffaro (but in touch constantly all weekend by cell phone)... Again nice to have all games held in one building... Outstanding job by referees all weekend... Past Prez Mike Wusylko, and wife Mary, on hand and very enthusiastic about potential of having 2004 tournament in Pittsburgh area... Ambridge senior mens team almost unrecognizable without golf clubs in tow... Speaking of Ambridge, sorry to hear that the ever-popular Serbian Club had to fold... Would be great if New Jersey and Minneapolis were able to add teams to the bantam girls division... Many attendees were able to find some time to visit either the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame or the National Football Hall of Fame... Good to see Agent Kowalchik make an appearance... As usual, all-stars selected by referees based on a combination of ability, team play and sportsmanship... Championship again eludes Bernie Gulachek, this time in overtime contest in junior girls' finale... Thanks as usual to Lee Sheean for taking pictures for Journal.... Speaking of pictures, lots of them posted on the tournament web site... This was the third year in a row that the tie-breaker mechanism had to be used to determine a finalist and, as in prior usage, the process worked well... New supply of Turtle cards to be ordered due to Jen Papp's relentless recruitment... Kudos to Mike Snyder for his waiter service during Thursday night banquet walk-through... NJ Gov. Michael Steffaro once again proved you don't have to be in tip-top athletic shape to run the court... Tammy Bacsik made seven hour trek to Ohio after Friday night Final exam at college... State of Ohio arranged to ship excess hair spray not needed in Bob Steffaro's absence to State of Florida for upcoming FOCA golf tournament.



Above) Cleveland Sr. Champs;
Left) Bantam Girl All-Stars



Left) Chairpeople Stephanie Higginbotham and Nick Libertin;
Top) Super Sr. MVP, Bob Markvan;

All Star Selections

- **Bantam Boys:** Nicholas Harpley, Celveland; Matt Higgenbothem, Akron; Pasha Tarassov, Pittsburgh; Andrew Jaye, Minneapolis; Michael Gallasso, New Jersey
- **Bantam Girls:** Allie Oleynik-Canansburg; Julianna Libertin, Akron; Elise Roscoe, Campbell/Warren; Emily Fagan, Akron; Tine Demitrius, Cleveland
- **Junior Boys:** Nick Longa, Celveland; Jonathan Worrell, New Jersey; John Bitscko, St. Mary's Minn; Andre Ferrell, Campbell/warren; Nick Libertin, Akron
- **Junior Girls:** Kathy Schlekic, Cleveland; Jennifer Lazor, Campbell/Warren; Suzanne Witkowski, South River; Sara Tomczak, St. Mary's Minn; Kate Mulcahy, Pittsburgh
- **Senior Men:** Mike Herzek, Cleveland "B"; Steve Mehalik, Cleveland "A", Steve Kovalik, Cleveland "A", Chris Malackany, Akron; James Yacoub, St. Mary's MN

Bridgeport "R" Club Hosts

63RD NATIONAL FOCA BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Saddened by the loss of their original Chairman Walter S Alesevich, a good friend to many FOCA members, the Bridgeport "R" Club, Chapter 73, persevered and hosted the 63rd National Bowling Tournament on May 31-June 2. Al Kaimer took over as Event Chairman after his passing in late 2001. Though the tournament was smaller in numbers than recent years, the camaraderie and friendships were at their usual strong levels. Additionally, a 300 game in team events by Gary Olim from Ansonia, Conn. marked the first time a FOCA keglar recorded a perfect game.

Handling responsibilities for the local sponsoring committee were: George Kasper, treasurer, Elaine Kosh, banquet; Richard Jankura and Ted Lepesko, program book; Frank Kaputa and Ted Lepesko, hotel and alleys; Helen Kaimer, open house; Vera Alesevich, secretary; Joe Curran Jr., ad book graphics and Darlene Kesnick, reservations.

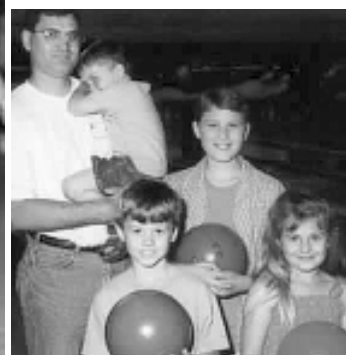
Housing was arranged at Doubletree Hotel in Norwalk with bowling action at the near-by Rip Van Winkle Lanes. Friday's singles and doubles action was held at 4 PM with time afterward to socialize with fellow members.

Saturday morning saw both the men's and women's teams square off at 10 AM. After three games of spirited competition, bowlers had the opportunity to relax or take in some nearby shopping. Vespers was held at the hotel at 5 PM conducted by Father John Pawelchak, followed by a buffet banquet. National Sports Director Robert Steffaro and Ken Baron handled the distribution of prize monies and trophies for the respective winners in handicap and actual for both men and women.

Sunday morning, Divine Liturgy was held at Holy Ghost Church in Bridgeport, celebrated by Father Vadim Pismenny followed by a brunch. In attendance for the weekend bowling were National President Sandi Fedorko, National Vice President John Kruchok, past National Presidents Dr. Robert Weger and IPP John Petronko along with District Governors Leon Sheean from Ohio (who also took pictures), Michael Steffaro from New Jersey, Walter C. Alesevich from the Colonial District, and Frank Kaputa from the host Atlantic District.

Notes and Quotes from Connecticut:.... Don't know if you observed Gary Olim's ball grip en route to 300, but he doesn't use a thumbhole for his big bender.... Missed the Ambridge boys - they probably heard there were no golf courses in area... Bob Steffaro did outstanding job announcing names for award winners... Good to see non bowlers Allie and Chris Ratushnik, Rosemary Zemlansky and Mary Ann Soltis... Karen Steffaro reported that she is now only bowling in one league in Houston, down from three, due to business travel constraints... Ken and Marie Baron checked in for two nites, then cancelled one nite, then got extended check out for the first nite, then re-checked in for the second nite, and finally left early on Saturday nite after banquet... Governor Michael

Steffaro made a presentation on bowling in New Jersey next year which included some preliminary plans to travel to Meadowlands racetrack for the Saturday night event... Furthest traveler - "Mich" who made trek from Florida to join fellow Garden Staters... Missing in action—Dan Herbert (possibly on scouting mission for Flyers)... Saturday night again created the need for additional Turtle card orders... Who was the eventual winner of the





Saturday afternoon pool tournament- Greg Cimboric, Jerry Kovach, Michael Steffaro or Joe "Kowalsky" Shaluha?

NATIONAL BOWLING SCORES

Men's Singles-Actual

- 1st Place – (640) Dan Stafursky, Olyphant
- 2nd Place – (600) Steve Pronechen Sr. Bridgeport
- 3rd Place – (556) Peter Hristov, Bridgeport
- 4th Place – (553) Mark Marton, Garden State

Men's Singles – Handicap

- 1st Place – (637) Robert Steffaro, Elizabeth
- 2nd Place – (632) George Kasper, Bridgeport
- 3rd Place – (585) Larry Kosh, Bridgeport
- 4th Place – (575) Myron Ratushuk, Bridgeport

Men's Doubles - Actual

- 1st Place – (1175) John Lord & Mark Marton, Garden State
- 2nd Place – (1128) Steven Pronechen Sr. & Jr., Bridgeport
- 3rd Place – (1047) Ken & Dan Stafursky, Olyphant

Men's Doubles – Handicap

- 1st Place – (1237) Joe Curran Sr. & Peter Hristov, Bridgeport
- 2nd Place – (1209) Robert Steffaro & Dan McHugh, Elizabeth
- 3rd Place – (1170) Greg Curran & Joe Curran, Jr., Bridgeport

Men's Team – Actual

- 1st Place – (2274) Bridgeport #1, Peter Hristov, Capt..
- 2nd Place – (2184) Make-up Team #1, Mike Gozick, Capt.
- 3rd Place – (2168) Garden State, Mark Marton, Capt.

Men's Team – Handicap

- 1st Place – (2365) Bridgeport #6, Al Kaimer, Capt.
- 2nd Place – (2241) Bridgeport #2, Tom Stabler, Capt.
- 3rd Place – (2161) Bridgeport #3, Greg Curran, Capt.

Men's All Events – Actual

- 1st Place - (1827) Dan Stafursky, Olyphant
- 2nd Place – (1774) Steve Pronechen, Sr., Bridgeport
- 3rd Place – (1749) Steve Pronechen, Jr., Bridgeport

Men's Events – Handicap

- 1st Place – (1812) Dan McHugh, Elizabeth
- 2nd Place – (1792) George Kasper Jr., Bridgeport
- 3rd Place tie – (1757) Robert Steffaro, Elizabeth;
- Joe Curran Sr., Bridgeport

Women's Singles – Actual

- 1st Place – (528) Elaine Kosh, Bridgeport
- 2nd Place – (516) Elena Marton, Garden State

Continued



3rd Place – (492) Margaret Drenchko, Alpha
4th Place – (483) Daria Miskiv, Garden State
5th Place – (476) Michelle Wielder, Alpha

Women's Singles – Handicap

1st Place – (612) Marie Baron, Garden State
2nd Place – (583) Karen Steffaro, Elizabeth
3rd Place – (581) Ann McHugh, Elizabeth
4th Place – (534) Joan Kost, Berwick
5th Place – (534) Helen Galayda, Elizabeth

Women's Doubles – Actual

1st Place – (945) Michelle Wielder & Margaret Drenchko, Alpha
2nd Place – (915) Elaine Kosh & Natalie Pronechen, Bridgeport
3rd Place – (793) Daria Miskiv & Elena Marton, Garden State
4th Place – (785) Virginia Chitttem & Audrey Stabler, Bridgeport

Women's Doubles – Handicap

1st Place – (1159) Ann McHugh & Karen Steffaro, Elizabeth
2nd Place – (1096) Ann Lelo & Lisa Lelo, Alpha
3rd Place – (1007) Anna Romanofsky & (blind), Randolph
4th Place – (1005) Lillian Jenci & Terry Popovich, Bridgeport-St. Johns

Women's Team – Actual

1st Place – (1798) Garden State, Elena Marton, Capt.
2nd Place – (1668) Alpha, Pat Lelo, Capt.
3rd Place – (1468) Bridgeport #5, Virginia Chitttem, Capt.

Women's Team – Handicap

1st Place – (2097) Alpha/Berwick, Ellen Script, Capt.
2nd Place – (2033) Elizabeth, Joan Frantz, Capt.
3rd Place – (1967) Bridgeport-St. Johns, Lillian Jenci, Capt.

Women's All Events – Actual

1st Place – (1469) Margaret Drenchko, Alpha
2nd Place – (1425) Elena Marton, Garden State
3rd Place – (1331) Elaine Kosh, Bridgeport

Women's All Events – Handicap

1st Place – (1790) Marie Baron, Garden State
2nd Place – (1720) Karen Steffaro, Elizabeth
3rd Place – (1644) Anne McHugh, Elizabeth

Men's High Game, 300 Gary Olin, Three Saints, Ansonia

Women's High Game, 212 Marie Baron, Garden State; Natalie Pronechen, Bridgeport

Attention Junior Chapters and Advisors!

The JUNIOR ISSUE Is Coming.....

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2002

Please send all photos and typewritten articles to:

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(203) 488-0269

The preferable format for articles is MS Word,
for photos is .JPEG, .TIF or .PDF
as an attachment!

COMMUNITY*ife*

**New Video Explores
OCMC's Missionary Effort**

Mission work "is not an appendix of our own faith, of our own Church. It belongs in the essence of our own identity," Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania states in "Go and Make Disciples of All Nations," the new video from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center

The video, which was distributed to every Orthodox parish in the U.S., explores OCMC's holistic approach to missions. It is divided into segments focusing on the Mission Center's five programs: Missionaries, Mission Teams, the Support A Mission Priest program, the Agape Canister program and Mission Student Scholarships.

Although OCMC has been the official missions and evangelism agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) for the past 17 years, many Orthodox are still unaware of the vital ministry that OCMC provides for the Church in America. Orthodox Christians who know little about OCMC will be amazed at the scope of the missionary efforts of the Mission Center. For those who are already acquainted with the Mission Center, the video provides first-hand accounts about the effects of OCMC's work from missionaries, missionary team members and hierarchs from Africa, Asia and America.

This 24-minute video is an excellent educational tool for any church group. It can also be viewed online at our website at www.ocmc.org/video, courtesy of Orthodox TV.

To find out more about how your parish can be more involved in the mission and philanthropic work of OCMC, visit our website at www.ocmc.org. You can also call or write us at www.ocmc.org.

Fellowship Information

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Youth Commentary

by Matthew Vansuch, Youth Editor

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! I write with an urgent plea for a miracle to solve a problem that plagues our Church. I'm sure that I will not be the first person to present this issue to you, and I understand that you are aware of this problem. Please indulge me with the following anecdotes, which, I hope, will clearly illustrate my concerns:

#1) With western Easter and Orthodox Pascha separated by more than a month this year, I expected the questioning looks from non-Orthodox when I mentioned that the upcoming weekend was my Pascha and that I couldn't do this or that. "Oh, you must be Greek," would always be their response. When I said, "no," they would ask what type I was. "American." Again, questioning looks. "In short, we have a Russian/Slavic background." That made much more sense to them.

#2) My girlfriend, who is Roman Catholic, wrote a report on Bishop Ware's *The Orthodox Church* for her Christianity class this past spring semester. The first part of his book discusses the history and organization of the Church, before the teachings or doctrine. During that part, I received numerous questions about jurisdiction. "So what is ROCOR and why is different than your church?" I read that section before she did and I still have a hard time answering that question. As much as she loves the beauty of the Orthodox Church, these divisions only damper that appeal.

Local customs and idiosyncrasies are understandable, but what makes my church so different from the church a mile or two away on the other side of the city that we cannot have the same hierarch? So, I ask you, our spiritual fathers, why hasn't this happened?

I hear much talk about a "unified, Orthodox" church, but what does that mean? Does it mean that the heads of the various churches will sit down and discuss the details? Or, should I say, those churches that recognize the Orthodox Church in America? Reading Bishop Ware, I was shocked to realize that only a few churches recognize our autocephaly. Maybe that is why, during a TV program on the worldwide Orthodox Church, numerous small countries were recognized as autocephalous yet North America was not.

If you go to the Ecumenical Patriarch's website and look at the vast number of bishops and archbishops, you would need to be a Middle East geography scholar to even guess where half of those sees are located. Yet the only mention is the Archdiocese of America. Please, someone explain to me why we are not furthering the single goal of unification. Is it theology, I don't believe so. Unfortunately, my political science degree probably comes into play here. And isn't that sad. Church politics is always the worst kind of politics.

I understand the complexities that resulted from Patriarch

Tikhon's attempts to preserve the Church during the Bolshevik Revolution. The legal situation, especially within the United States, isn't pretty. But over three-quarters of a century later, what holds these churches from uniting together in a single Orthodox Church in the United States? Don't even mention the Greeks yet. I hope that it is not because our hierarchy refuses to work together to establish logical and practical jurisdictions, fearing the loss of a flock to whom they can guide. Does it make sense to have three, four, or five bishops of New York? Hardly.

We may joke about this group or that and how they may do things differently than we do, and to us, it's just good-natured fun. But to outsiders, we appear disjointed and power-hungry. One doesn't need a college degree to realize that the various Orthodox churches overlap. Silly jurisdictional issues overshadow the beauty of Orthodoxy that draws non-Orthodox to our faith.

I'm not a scholar of religious history, so if I tread on thin ice, please forgive me, but why can't the Ecumenical Patriarch recognize that the American churches deserve to be recognized as an autocephalous church? Is it because the mess that is overlapping jurisdictions complicates such an announcement? If yes, then we're in a no-win situation because until the Ecumenical Patriarch makes a concerted effort to help fix the situation, he will continue to stifle any unification efforts.

I pray that politics and power isn't preventing a unified American Orthodox Church. As we have all seen in the past years, obstinacy and stubbornness have failed to stop constant war and violence in the Middle East. I acknowledge that there is a difference in reneging on one's fundamental principles and compromising. But even here, I do not believe that compromise is the appropriate word. Nor is negotiate. Realize.

I hope that I'm wrong. I hope that the hierarchs will respond to me and to the other Orthodox Christians in America that they and their Orthodox counterparts worldwide are actively working to remedy this situation. I hope that they will be more open with the faithful as to their progress. I hope that one day, people will not say, "oh, Greek Easter," rather, "Orthodox Easter," and eventually, "Orthodox Pascha," but let's be realistic! I hope that, in my lifetime, I will see an Orthodox Church in America where Greeks, Russians, Antiochians, Serbians, whatever, come together in communion under a single Metropolitan of All-America and Canada. I hope that, at worst, I will see a serious dialogue and actual work being done to accomplish this goal. How can we see a universal church if we can't organize our own house? I'm getting frustrated trying to explain non-existent differences between churches that are right across the street from one another!



RECYCLE!

**Use This Issue To
Encourage New
Membership**

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***51st Annual
New Jersey District F.O.C.A. Convention
November 1-2, 2002***

- Banquet will be on Friday, November 1st. This year's format will be a dinner cruise on board the Horizon, a brand new 8 million dollar mega yacht leaving from Lincoln Harbor in Weehawken, NJ.
 - Boarding begins at 7:00 with a Roman Holiday cocktail buffet and cash bar.
 - We sail from 8:00 to 11:00 while enjoying dinner, dancing and the spectacular Manhattan skyline as our backdrop.
 - Free parking available at the Lincoln Harbor Marina in Weehawken, NJ.
- Sessions will be on Saturday, November 2nd at Sts. Peter & Paul Church Hall in Bayonne.
 - Registration at 1:30



**For those interested in staying the weekend,
special rates are available at the all-suites
Sheraton in Lincoln Harbor.**

You can be in New York City by ferry in just 5 mins.

***Advance reservations are required—
For more information,
contact any member of the Bayonne Club***