



Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

SUMMER 2003 vol. 76 number 2

The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

2003 F.O.C.A. National Basketball Tournament



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by Ken Baron

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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
37th 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 year 2003 has been designated with the theme “**Supporting Our Seminaries**”. This special designation adopted by the National Board of Trustees reflects the FOCA’s increasing commitment to the support of church vocations through the Seminarian “adoption” efforts, the Seminarian children’s Christmas Gift project, direct financial support of St. Tikhon’s, St. Herman’s, St. Vladimir’s and Christ the Savior Seminaries through the long standing FOCA United Fund program. It also includes the current “Gifts of Love” drive to raise funds to purchase a pickup truck for St. Herman’s Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska. At the present time, approximately \$11,000 has been contributed. We still have a long way to go to make this dream a reality. Marge Hopkosky is national chairperson and you can send your chapter, district, parish and personal contributions to her at 6474 State Road #I-16, Parma, Ohio 44134. (She can be reached at 440-842-02611.

Final planning is continuing for the upcoming 77th National Convention to be held Labor Day weekend at the Woodlands Hotel and Conference Center, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. This will be sponsored by the South River “R” Club, chapter #167, New Jersey District. Be assured that the National Executive Board will be working hard to provide a program of business sessions which will be more stimulating, interactive, educational and fun too! Also, to address various targeted age groups, we have increased the budget for our “Golden Agers” and planned special activities for our young adults. Thanks to Lara Herzak, Tammy Bascik and Allison and Michael Steffaro for your input and interest.

I had the privilege to attend the Beefsteak Dinner held in memory of Richie Miskiv in Passaic, New Jersey on May 17, 2003. I joined nearly 300 members, friends and guests from at least five FOCA districts who remembered this special “Garden Stater” who passed away last summer. The proceeds from this financially successful tribute will be earmarked for the Richard J. Miskiv Scholarship.

Finally, my congratulations to all of the members of the Campbell “O” Club and the committee which ran the 2003 National Basketball Tournament. The nearly 500 participants, members and guests report that this event was one of the best ever! Kudos also to the members of the New Jersey District which followed with a fun-filled weekend of hospitality and fellowship with the National Bowling Tournament May 30-June 1st.



Cover Photos (Clockwise Top Left) Overview during the banquet; Minneapolis Girls team rests up; Deacon Michael Wusylko during Divine Liturgy; Suspended ball during Sr. Men’s Championship game; Elvis is in the house; Chairman Jim Lazor with committee member.

2003 Deadlines for the OCJ:

Fall Issue - July 15th • Winter - Oct. 15th

Send all material to our Editor:

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NOTE: The OCJ is now on-line at: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas Ressetar
Editor *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

As this issue of the *Journal* arrives at your mailboxes, the Paschal season (belated greetings follow) and Pentecost feast have passed and the summer is in full swing, with picnics, cookouts, vacations to enjoy. Soon to follow will be the Dormition and Transfiguration holy days and, before we know it, the warm months will conclude with our annual National Convention at Colonial Williamsburg. The *Journal* has all the details of what will be a memorable and educational experience under the able sponsorship of the South River "R" Club.

Our feature story is the rousingly successful National Basketball Tournament back in May, organized and operated by the Campbell "O" Club. Over 450 at the awards banquet! Over 350 juniors and seniors participating in the games! And even an "Elvis" sighting or two! Wow! Certainly sounded like a "Hunka, Hunka" good time. John Mindala & Fr. John Steffaro provided great coverage of all the events on the OCA and FOCA websites. Ken Baron, our sports correspondent, and Greg Cimboric, assistant sport director, provide all the details and the winners. Thanks also to *Journal* photographer, Leon Sheean, Ohio Guv, for the photos.

We also have a piece in this issue from the pages of the past. Did you know that Tsar Nicholas II's sister subscribed to the *Journal* during its first year? Read all about "Our Royal Subscriber," Grand Duchess Olga. Cheryl Morse reports on the "Celebrations of Faith" program and the winners, and we print the submissions by the literature victors. Lori Kochan writes on the "Shining Light of Orthodoxy" project. We have sheet music for a SS. Peter & Paul folk hymn (a *Journal* first?) on the Kidz page. For you golfers, VP John Schultz previews the Summer Sports tourney (entry form enclosed) to be held in Weirton, WV. The Ohio District bowling tournament, Matt Vansuch's popular column, National Prez John Kruchok's report, chapter news and more round out this edition.

As always, enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

National FOCA Calendar of Events

- July 20-26, 2003: **Junior Olympics**, St. Vladimir's Camp, Ohio
- July 25-26: **2003 National Summer Sports Tournament** sponsored by the Weirton "R" Club, Weirton, WV; Contact Dr. John Schultz at (304) 748-1223 or jpswv@attbi.com
- August 28-September 1: **77th National FOCA Convention** sponsored by the South River "R" Club, Colonial Williamsburg, VA; Contact cochair Michael Steffaro at (732) 698-1952 or michaelsteffaro@comcast.net

Mission Hotline Thanks

Dear Betty;

I have just sent the following note to Fr Theodore Bobosh:

Dear Fr Theodore;

Just to let you know that the icons arrived safely. We set them up yesterday, and they have really transformed the "feel" of the chapel. Now they match the other icons we have around the walls, and it was a real joy to serve there yesterday. Thank you once again for sending them.

I am yours in Christ,

Fr. Joseph

P.S. We are also most grateful to the FOCA mission hotline for helping us acquire these beautiful icons from Fr. Bobosh. Thanks for thinking of us.

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

Herkimer Stays On Track

Since our last article in the *Journal* (Fall 2002), the following has transpired. Congratulations to Stephen Leve & Jackie DelMedico married at our church on August 17, 2002. We wish them many years of happiness! Our Very Rev. James Jadick was called to serve as a chaplain with the Air Force Reserves at Lackland AFB in Texas from August 18, 2002 to March 1, 2002 and we are very happy to have him back home. Various visiting priests served during his absence.

Our parish, SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, was represented at the World Cuisine Festival held at Herkimer County Community College in September 2002. Three of our members served perogies as our contribution to the festival. We attended the Upper New York State district convention sponsored by the Binghamton chapter on October 5, 2002. Regrettably, we were unable to send a delegate to the 2002 National Convention at Camp Hill, PA.

Member Mary Jane Chlus chaired the cookbook committee and with many of our members helping, three years of testing, writing, rewriting and editing was brought to fruition with the publication of our cookbook, *Recipes Bless the Heart & Home*, last October. To date 3500 copies have been sold! Paul Sokol is in charge of sales.

In 1999 our parishioners were asked to pledge a monetary donation in support of students at St. Tikhon's Seminary and we have continued since. We raise a significant amount each year to support deserving and needy seminarians. By doing this we heed the words of our Lord and Savior when he commanded us to give unto God a portion of our good measure, be it TIME, TALENT or TREASURE. For 2002, \$3400 was

collected and mailed to the seminary. Each year our members assist with a very profitable Easter Bazaar and Bake Sale sponsored by our St. Anna's Sisterhood. Last year proceeds were donated to our church.

A member chairs the annual Cancer Society sale of daffodils. We donated to GIFTS OF LOVE to support the purchase of a much needed pick-up truck for St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska. Donations were also made to the TIKHONAIRE, the yearly publication of St. Tikhon's Seminary. We enjoyed the annual Super Bowl party at Bill & Helen Homyk's home. Everyone pitched in with a dish to pass and had a fun evening of game watching and game playing for those non-football fans. There was even a chance to win a few dollars by placing bets on the outcome of the action on the field.

The youngest member of our club is Christina Jadick, daughter of Father James and Matushka Natalie Jadick, who graduated 4th in her class (out of 104) from Herkimer High School in 2000. She won many scholarships at the local community college studying liberal arts and science humanities. After graduating with high honors, in August 2002 she entered Syracuse University (Utica campus) with a major in government politics on another scholarship. She was on the dean's high honor list in her first semester while working in the department's office and as an assistant to a professor. She plans on studying abroad this fall and graduating in the spring of 2004. Christina stays as active as possible in the parish community (helping with dinners, coffee hours, etc.) and also sings in the church choir.

Each year in honor of our mothers and fathers and in memory of those deceased we light candles for Divine Liturgy on Mother's and Father's Day respectively. Our parish sponsored the annual New York State deanery meeting recently. We hope all of you had a blessed and enjoyable Pascha and wish you all a pleasant spring and summer season plus good health! Our officers for 2003 are: President, Helen Homyk; Vice President,

John Kowansky; and Secretary/Treasurer, Nida Babich.

- Nida E. Babich

Youth Lock-In Held at St. John's

On the weekend of January 31-February 1, 2003, youth from the New England Deanery gathered together for the first lock-in held at St. John's Church in Bridgeport, CT. The theme of the event was: "Souper Bowl of Caring Lock-In: It is more blessed to give than receive". The event started with a pizza dinner on Friday night. This was followed by a prayer service to St. Nectarios delivered by Fr. Peter Benyo, Fr. Peter Paproski, and Fr. Luke Mihaly. The singing and readings for the service were done by the kids in attendance.

A game of Bible charades was enjoyed by all! Seventeen stories from the Bible were acted out by two different teams. Some stories were very challenging to act out, the re-enactments were great!

The clergy rap session always proves to be a great activity. Discussions were held based on questions asked by the kids. Many questions were asked regarding current social and religious/world issues.

Sleeping arrangements were held in the church auditorium. Some very brave individuals slept in sleeping bags on the floor while others (the majority) slept on air mattresses.

Morning prayers and breakfast started the events for Saturday. A fantastic cooking experience followed. The children prepared two large pots of soup which were donated to a local rescue shelter, the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. All of the children participated in peeling, cutting, chopping and dicing the vegetables, even the onions!! Along with the soup, a large batch of rice, mashed potatoes, rolls, butter and some other groceries were donated. Upon arrival at the rescue mission, Fr. Peter Benyo blessed the food. The kids were so proud to deliver these items on Saturday and are planning to return to the rescue mission to serve lunch during Lent. To

kick off our Souper Bowl of Caring activities, the parish youth collected money in soup pots the week before. This money was also donated to the Rescue Mission when we delivered the soup.

Co-Advisors Christina Adzima and Mary Semanchik planned the above activities with the help of Fr. Peter Benyo, Fr. Peter Paroski, Fr. Luke Mihaly, Mrs. Joanne Choomack and Mrs. Lynne Goetz.

St. John's "R" Club Bridgeport, CT

Relay for Life

Several members of St. John's R Club (Chapter 180, Bridgeport, CT) participated in the Relay for Life, a fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society. The overnight walk-a-thon took place from Friday, May 9 to Saturday May 10 at Bunnell High School in Stratford, CT. Team members from St. John's took turns walking around the track in one-hour shifts from 7:00 Friday night to 8:00 Saturday morning. Together, St. John's team raised over \$2,000; the total amount raised at this Relay for Life was over \$125,000. St. John's team raised money through pledges from friends and family members, at a fund-raising luncheon at church the week before the Relay, and by selling memorial and honorary luminaries that were lit around the track the night of the Relay. Members of St. John's team were Team Captains Christina Adzima and Carol Feduik, R Club President Alix Semanchik, Donald Semanchik, David Semanchik, Mary Semanchik, Chuck Hall, Peter and Holly Mesavage, Richard and Eleanor Adzima, Bob and Lubow Gernat, George and Janet Gernat, Lizzie Gernat, Laura Klimazewski, Margaret Maxwell, Rosemary Maxwell, Agnes Jankura, Lillian Jenci, Bill Soltis, Joan Pavlik, Peter and Jill Fazekas, Bill and Sandy Masikiewicz, Rob and Andrea Buchanan, Rob and Lynne Goetz, and Jenna and Timothy Goetz.

The 77th National FOCA Convention in Colonial Williamsburg...

History in the Making! August 28th-
September 1st

By now you have heard enough from our colonists to join the group in the capital of the Virginia colony. Whether you are coming on horse back or carriage, you will need a few pieces of information to get you to the right Inn for the night and to be on the social registers for the evening activities. If you have not received our current mailing, please log on to www.williamsburg2003.org to obtain further details. All other pertinent information has been gathered for our colonists from the North and West and listed below.

Accommodations

We will be putting up our guests at the Woodlands Conference Center, the newest hotel in the Historic Area, located next door to the Williamsburg Visitors Center. You can follow the Nature Trail to the Historic Area, or just hop on a shuttle. The Bridge to the Past and recreational facilities at the Woodlands make it a great vacation destination for any family. The kids can enjoy the pool, and all of you can relax among the deep shade and gentle silence of the pines, miles apart and 200 years away from the cares of daily life. **Rooms are \$99 a night** and include a continental breakfast each morning and free parking. This rate is good for three days before and after the convention giving you more time to enjoy the area. **Please call 1-800- 261-9530 and mention you are with the FOCA to get the discounted rate. Rooms are limited, so please call now!**

Social Engagements:

We will welcome you with Southern Hospitality on Thursday evening. On Friday after sessions, we invite the entire family to join the fun at our **Yankee Pub**. Come and experience 18th century entertainment. On Sunday evening our

guests will dine at the **Colonial Candlelight Banquet** and do what Virginians love to do: Dance at the **Musket Ball**. Our **Patriots Retreat** on Monday will be a time to bid farewell to friends new and old.

Special Tours

In addition to our planned convention activities we have arranged a variety of special tours for the ladies, gents and young colonists who visit our capital.

Head to Toe (For Ladies Only) is a delightful way to spend Friday afternoon with an 18th century lady of social distinction. Experience first hand what it was like to get ready for a social engagement. Our interpreter will walk you through each article of clothing needed for a proper lady to be completely dressed. As with any proper afternoon social gathering, refreshments will be served.

Colonial Garden Tour- Spend late Friday afternoon on a private tour strolling through the gardens of Colonial Williamsburg. With your 18th century horticulturist interpreter you will obtain access to colonial flower, vegetable and the renowned pristine English Gardens famous in Historic Area.

Historic Area Tour- Saturday afternoon you will have the opportunity to have a private guided tour by an 18th century interpreter. He will take you around the historic area and into exhibits without waiting in the long summer lines. Some of the sites you will see and learn about are: the Governor's Palace, Court House, Capitol building, Market Street shops and taverns.

Evening Lantern Tours- On Saturday your guide will lead you through the streets of Historic Williamsburg by lantern candlelight. You will hear colonial tales, folklore and mysteries of the colonial capital city.

Tavern Dining- Come and experience 18th century dining as it is recreated for you by costumed interpreters and wait staff in four different colonial taverns. We have reserved tables for two seatings at each of the taverns. Seating is very limited so please make your reservations early.

Young Colonists (ages 8-18)

Jamestown/Yorktown- On Friday we will spend the entire day exploring Jamestown and Yorktown. At both locations we will have private guided tours. Lunch will be provided at Jamestown.

Colonial Area Exploration- Saturday morning we will spend time with young colonials at the historic Powell house playing 18th century games and making colonial crafts. Then it is on to the other exhibits in the historic area such as the Courthouse, Capitol and Magazine. We will check out the militia drill going on and maybe get a few volunteers to participate.

As for our smaller colonists (those 8 and under) there will be arts and crafts and other activities for them all day Friday and again on Saturday morning while their parents are attending sessions.

Colonial Pass

One important piece of information you will need before your arrival to the colonial capital of Williamsburg is your pass into the historic area. For our convention guests a special pass has been prepared for your entire length of stay for \$15. (The daily rate of a General Admission ticket is \$37 for adults and \$18 for youths.) You can only enter exhibits, museums, and programs with a pass. All guests (ages 6 and older) must have a pass to enter the historic area. ***This pass can only be purchased prior to the convention. No passes at the discounted rate will be available for guests at the convention.***

Watch Your Mail!

As mentioned earlier, extensive information on room reservations and tickets has been mailed. Please make your room and ticket reservations early, deadline for ticket purchases is July 1, 2003! We can't wait to see all of you in Williamsburg. We are sure that by joining us you will truly be a part of history, (FOCA history, that is).

**Williamsburg...
the Place to Be in 2003**

Looking for Sponsor for 2005 National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC Or Old Town Alexandria, VA

Myrtle Beach, SC

Two hotels are interested in hosting our convention in 2005.

The first is the Radisson Plaza Hotel Myrtle Beach. It is a brand-new hotel which just opened in January 2003. It is located two blocks from the beach, two blocks from "Broadway at the Beach" and is attached to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. "Broadway at the Beach" is a 350-acre complex consisting of dining, shopping, nightlife, movie theaters and family amusements. The hotel offers shuttle service to both the beach and Broadway at the Beach. It is also located across the street from Myrtle Square Mall and only four miles from Myrtle Beach International Airport. The hotel has 404 first class guest rooms, four-star level of service, luxurious suites, retail shops, gift shop, indoor pool, health club and attached 400 space parking garage and much more.

The second hotel is the Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grande Dunes. This hotel is scheduled to open in January 2004. It will be a full-service, four-star conference hotel right on the ocean with 18-hole championship golf course, and tennis club. It has 400 spacious guest rooms, all offering ocean views. Other amenities include a full-service European spa and health club, beachfront lounge, indoor and beachfront pools. It is ten miles north of Myrtle Beach International Airport.

Alexandria, VA

Radisson Hotel Old Town Alexandria is located one block from the Potomac River and minutes from Washington's monuments, museums and historic sites. It has 253 guest rooms, many with river views and all are equipped with coffee maker, hair

dryer, iron and ironing board. It is two miles from National Airport with complimentary shuttle service. There is ample parking on the premises, a restaurant and lounge, fitness center and rooftop pool. Only several blocks away is the center of historic Old Town Alexandria where numerous restaurants, antique shops, boutiques and galleries are located.

Talk it over with your Chapter or District. Come prepared to this year's convention in Williamsburg to bid on either of these two locations The choice is yours!.

Hanya & Yakov's Wedding

Ohio District Bowling Tournament

Early in January, the members of the Ohio District received an invitation from Cleveland 4/6 to the 2003 Ohio District Bowling Tournament – AKA "Hanya and Yakov's Wedding" February 1-2. A fun-filled Saturday afternoon of singles and doubles bowling was followed by Vespers at St. Michael's and the Russian version of "Tony & Tina's Wedding" at St. Michael's Woodside Gym. The bride was beautiful and the groom was handsome. The wedding party was decked out in their finest wedding attire. Following the abbreviated ceremony was the reception, complete with a wedding cake and wedding gifts! The night ended with the traditional Bridal Dance and the Dollar Dance (benefiting the United Fund). Oh yeah, there were also trophies given out for the day's best bowling – the winners will follow. Toasts were made to the happy couple, and they were sent on their way for a fabulous honeymoon at St. Vladimir's Camp & Retreat Center! Bowling continued on Sunday with Team Events and then everyone was invited back to Woodside for "Proprovina". More trophies were handed out and everyone was sent on their way.

Mary Jane Lucak, Bob

Spiwak and their committees did an outstanding job on this event! Special thanks goes to the leading actors: Olga Matsko (Hanya), Steve Mikula (Yakov) and Richard Samhuel (Fr. Vasily Kapusta). The supporting cast were Bridesmaids Melissa Tesar, Anne Marie Dzmura, Becky Tesar and Kyra Visocky, Groomsmen Dan Kovalak, Steve Visocky, Greg Mindala and Phil Tesar. Adding a bit of drama to the ceremony was Paula Dzmura, who played Yakov's most recent (and very jealous!) ex-girlfriend. Margaret Hopkosky played the proud mother of the bride, and the ring bearer was David Macko. Of course, we could not forget our photographers Leon Sheean and Joe Dzmura. The behind the scenes Designer/Jack-of-All-Trades was the multi-talented Marge Dzmura, who did everything from writing the script to making the lovely headpieces for the bridesmaids (which were rumored to pick up several local and one out-of-town radio stations!)

Now, for the winners (1st Place only listed): **Women's Singles Scratch** – Phyllis



The bride and groom with their wedding party.





Children in Tula, Russia

Thanks to the F.O.C.A.!

On behalf of His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, our most grateful thanks to all the Juniors and Seniors of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America who participated in the 2002 Christmas Stocking Project. This year 21 chapters and 3 Districts offered a total of \$6,485.

With this significant help, we were able to realize our goal. This year's stockings or an equivalent gift, along with an icon bearing Metropolitan Herman's blessing on the back, went to children in Albania, Belarus, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine and Alaska.

To quote from a thank you letter, written by the Very Reverend Theodore Povny, Chairman of the Dept. of External Affairs in Belorussia and distributor of the stockings there:

"Your help enabled the children to know that in this world there are people capable of feeling and supporting their misfortunes and problems. How good it was to realize the fact that despite the thousands of kilometers separating us, your gifts found their designees, creating in the hearts of the children a feeling of genuine delight."

We wish members of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America many blessings in all your good works. We look forward to working together again.

-Arlene Kallaur, Director
Office of Humanitarian Aid
Orthodox Church in America

Miklos, **Women's Singles Handicap** – Barb Yerian, **Women's Doubles Actual** – Phyllis Miklos & Kristen Bakich, **Women's Doubles Handicap** – Sue Kennedy & Kaye Garman. **Men's Singles Scratch** – Forrest Yerian, **Men's Singles Handicap** – Rich Gogar, **Men's Doubles Actual** – Robert Spiwak & Andrew Petty, **Men's Doubles Handicap** – Greg Mindala & Joe Uhrina. **All Events Women's Actual** – Phyllis Miklos, **All Events Women's Handicap** – Kaye Garman, **All Events Men's Actual** – John Papp, **All Events Men's Handicap** – Joe Uhrina. **Women's Team Actual** – Campbell #1, **Women's Team Handicap** – Akron Bridesmaids. **Men's Team Actual** – Baba's Boys, **Men's Team Handicap** – St. Andrew's #2.

"Gifts of Love" Update

Chairperson Margaret Hopkosky reports, as of mid-May, that nearly \$11,000 has been raised so far in our effort to purchase a new or previously-owned pickup truck for St. Herman's Theological Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska. Some 32 chapters and districts have made contributions. Thank you to all chapters, districts, parishes and individuals who have generously donated to this worthwhile project. Many chapters and parishes have worked together to raise funds, holding specially designated brunches, dinners and fundraisers. Some chapters have approached their parish councils to hold special collections and stewardship tray designations in their churches. For those who have yet to contribute, please join us in this cause and forward your donation directly to Marge Hopkosky at: 6474 State Road #1-16 Parma, OH 444134.

call her at:

440-842-2611 for any questions

Let's show the students, faculty and staff at St. Herman's how much we care for them by sending this "Gift of Love!"

2003 National Summer Sports Tournament

Sponsored by

Chapter #58, Weirton, West Virginia

The Weirton Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Chapter #58, will be the host of the 2003 National Summer Sports (Golf) Tournament, held July 25 and 26, 2003 at the Mountaineer Woodview Golf Course near Weirton, WV.

Mountaineer Racetrack and Gaming Resort

The Golf Course is owned and operated by nearby Mountaineer Racetrack and Gaming Resort. It has been newly refurbished and should provide enjoyable yet challenging golf.

Events

There will be an Open House Fellowship on Friday Evening. A BBQ Dinner/Banquet at the Course will follow golf on Saturday. Vespers will be celebrated after golf on Saturday and Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning will be at St. Nicholas Church at 9:30.

Hotel

Hotel Accommodations will be at the Weirton Holiday Inn with a Room Rate of \$ 89.00/night. Rooms are reserved under "FOCA Golf." Rates effective July 24 through July 27, and reservations must be made by June 24, 2003.

We look forward to all the Fellowship golfers joining us in Weirton for a great weekend. For more information contact John Schultz at (304) 748-1223 or e-mail jpswv@attbi.com.



Mountaineer Racetrack and Gaming Resort

**2003 Summer Sports Form,
please see
www.orthodoxfellowship.org**

Celebrations of Faith

Contest winners announced

Winners for the 1st Celebrations of Faith Contest were announced at the FOCA's National Basketball Tournament in Campbell, Ohio. This Contest was held in co-operation and support of the Orthodox Church in America's Church-wide youth movement. The theme for the 2003 year, "Jesus Christ: the Way, the Truth, the Life", was chosen by the Holy Synod. All youth who are communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America are encouraged to participate in this event.

2003 Contest Winners:

Art

- 11 yrs. Nicholas Aitken – Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Madison, IL
- 15 yrs. Zachary Soiya – St. Joseph, Wheaton, IL.

Photography

- 16 yrs. Kathryn Schray – St. Nicholas, Whitestone, NY

Literature

- 11 yrs. Athena Ganetsos – Annunciation Church, GOC, Sacramento, CA
- 15 yrs. Jessica Melnick – St. Nicholas RO Church, Latham, NY
- 16 yrs. Kathryn Schray – St. Nicholas, Whitestone, NY

Entries were displayed at the National Basketball Tournament in Campbell, Ohio, where over 400 Youth and Adults were gathered in May. They will also be displayed at the National FOCA Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, Labor Day weekend. Winning entries received a \$100 Savings Bond from the FOCA. You may view the entries online at www.orthodoxfellowship.org.

Next year the Celebration of Faith contest will begin with the Church calendar year in September. The theme chosen by the Holy Synod for the 2003-04 year will be:

"Let Your Light So Shine"

Eyes

by Jessica Melnick, Age 15

My time is running out,
I hear footsteps at the door.
I start to doubt,
But it begs me to ask for more.
The light dies
But I cannot open my eyes.
I fear the darkness,
It blankets me, seemingly inviting,
Silently hurting.
It spins me around
As if in a big game
If I were to see the shame
Perhaps I would complain
But I cannot open my eyes.
I am pushed into darkness.
I feel the world spiraling around me
But then a light
Voices singing and bells ringing
The darkness shrivels
I am by myself though never alone
He has opened my eyes.

Faith

by Kathryn Schray, Age 16

As the darkness surrounds me,
I am blind.
A warm hand takes mine,
Loving, sweet and strong.
Step by step we take together.
I can not see him,
But his presence is felt.
Until one day I see a light.
He holds me in his arms.
I feel heavenly,
Yet humble,
As we walk
Into the light.

The Life of Jesus Christ

by Athena Ganetsos, Age 11

Jesus Christ did many things for us. He came down to Earth to teach God's word to us. Jesus lived his life on Earth so that we can have eternal life in heaven. Let's take a look at what Jesus did on Earth and what we, as Christians, should do.

When Jesus Christ was twelve years old He went to the temple. He blessed it and he taught God's word to the priests. The temple then became a holy place.

Jesus did this because He wanted the priests to teach God's word the correct way so that we could learn the correct things. Just imagine how it would be if the priests in all churches were teaching incorrect things!

Jesus did many more things for us. When He was in His early twenty's He was baptized in the Jordan River. He didn't really need to be baptized. In fact, when Jesus asked John the Baptist to baptize Him, John said that Jesus should be the one baptizing him! Jesus got baptized because He wanted to set an example for everyone on Earth so that everyone would receive the Holy Spirit.

Jesus did one other very important thing for us. He opened the doors to heaven. When nobody believed that Jesus was God's son they decided to crucify Him. He went through so much pain for us. He wore a crown of thorns on His head, carried His own cross, and drank vinegar when He was thirsty. When He was near death He called to God, "Father, forgive them." Jesus taught us to forgive others, no matter how they've sinned against you. He did all of this so that we would believe him and go to heaven.

Jesus did many things for us. What we can do for him is follow the Ten Commandments, watch our actions, watch our words, and watch what we think. Jesus did all of these things on Earth not because he needed to do them. He did these things because He wanted to set an example for us so that we could be with Him. If we are kind to one another, and if we follow these simple rules that Jesus has given us, we can enjoy eternal life in heaven.

Auburn, NY

Auburn Juniors On the Move!

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be enjoying warmer weather and sunshine. We have been quite busy during the last couple of months. In December, we went caroling with Fr. Steve and visited local nursing homes and several parishioner's homes. On Super Bowl

Sunday, we conducted a "Souper Bowl". We collected canned goods which were donated to a local food pantry and also collected One Hundred Fifty One dollars which is being sent overseas to buy food for the needy. To help raise funds for our Chapter, we held a candy bar sale and also an Easter Basket Raffle.

Several Juniors have become part of the rotation schedule for reading the hours before Vespers and Liturgy. On Holy Saturday, we will be standing watch over our Lord and Savior. We are also dying red eggs to be handed out after Paschal Liturgy.

We held a Youth Activity Day in which several members participated. This day was a day of fun and work as we helped clean up the church yard for Pascha and created several different crafts. One favorite of all is decorating Pysanky. We would like to thank all who helped make this day fun and successful, especially our Church School teachers.

With warmer weather approaching, we are beginning to discuss possibilities for a Youth Rally. Stay tuned.

- Erica Wild and Tanya Mack

F.O.C.A. JUNIOR OLYMPICS

FUN & FRIENDS – 2003!

ATTENTION ALL F.O.C.A. JUNIOR MEMBERS:

Would you believe it's time again to start planning to attend Junior Olympics?!!!

The 2003 F.O.C.A. Junior Olympics are slated for July 20 – 26. Start making plans and contacting friends to join you at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Camp and to be a part of this year's Fun & Friends 2003. All Orthodox Youth ages 10-17 are invited to attend and have fun with old friends while making many new friends. Junior Olympics will once again provide an exciting week of games, competitions, great food, fun and fellowship with fellow Orthodox youth from around the country.

Junior Olympics will be held from Sunday, July 20 through Saturday, July 26, 2003 at the St. Vladimir's Orthodox Camp and Retreat Center in Ohio.

PICK UP THE PHONE, CALL YOUR FRIENDS, AND MAKE PLANS TO JOIN THEM AT THIS YEAR'S JR. OLYMPICS "FUN & FRIENDS 2003" !!!

The Junior Olympics Application Packet can be requested by contacting Chairman John Schultz:

phone: (304) 748-1223,

fax: (304) 723-4007,

mail: RD # 3 Box 40 Lyons Rd,

Weirton, WV 26062,

or e-mail: jpsvw@attbi.com

It can also be found on our website orthodoxfellowship.org

All parts of the application must be returned prior to camp, and the application **deadline is JUNE 30, 2003**. No application will be accepted after the deadline!



New Jersey Youth Retreat

In March, over 20 teenagers from around New Jersey (and a few from New York) ages 13-18 gathered in Singac, NJ for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Fr. Michael Anderson headed up the retreat theme "Jesus, The Way, The Truth, and The Life".

Saturday morning participants began the activities. After a very interesting ice breaker, where we would have to find people that like the same things, we were broken into groups, assigned to tables and given notebooks and pens.

After discussions that were lead by Fr. Michael, the groups were sent to assigned places to discuss topics. Doing this many times throughout the day, we came back and discussed ideas on each topic. Every so often we would have breaks where we ate, played basketball, or ping-pong.

After a light dinner we went to church for Vespers. At 10:00 PM our after dinner "snack" arrived (pizza) and at midnight all of us went into the church for some meditation time before Divine Liturgy. During this time we were able to concentrate on what Fr. Michael had talked about and helped us prepare for Divine Liturgy and Communion.

After coming back, we got settled in our assigned places. The girls got to sleep on cots on the stage and the boys slept on the gym floor. Most of us finally drifted off around 2:30 am.

The next day, we went to church together and had brunch afterwards which included leftover cold pizza.

I think all of us benefited from the retreat and made new friendships. Thanks to Fr. Michael for his time and energy and all the volunteers who made arrangements for us and cooked all of our meals!

- Meredith Garretson

THE 2003 F.O.C.A. JUNIOR ESSAY CONTEST!

Here's the topic:

"My Favorite Bible Story"

There are four age categories:

10 – 11 (250 words*); 12 – 13 (300 words*); 14 – 15 (400 words*); 16 – 18 (500 words*)

*Suggested minimum length of the essay

Essays will be judged on originality, quality of the writing and grammar. Winners will be announced at the National Convention. A \$200 savings bond will be awarded to each category winner. All entrants will receive a gift certificate to Barnes & Noble just for entering.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JULY 1, 2003

Include your name, age, chapter number, phone number and address on your essay. All submissions should be mailed or e-mailed to BOTH:

Marissa Hedge

30 Laura Lane • Morristown, NJ 07960
973-401-1852

Mhedge@castleventures.com

or

Marge Kovach

8 Ginesi Drive • Clark, NJ 07066
732-815-9765

mjkovach@comcast.net

Sharing the Light of Orthodoxy

The National Junior Department/OCA Youth and Young Adult Ministries is sponsoring the "Sharing the Light of Orthodoxy" project as its spring service project. Our goal is to assist our Church's missions throughout the country and/or to help our fellow neighbor whether they are an Orthodox Christian or not.

We are asking each chapter, Sunday school program or individual youth to sponsor a project to earn monies to present to an OCA mission along with a candle that has been lit with prayers offered in their name.

Another project that can be done is to help families in your church's neighborhood with yard work or to help the baba in your church with maintenance projects with the season changes. With whom-ever you help, light a candle and offer prayers for them. You may want to tell the people that you are helping that you have lit a candle in thanksgiving.

In all cases, please take this as an opportunity to talk about the mission of the Church and how we all can "share the light of Orthodoxy" not only with other Orthodox Christians, but also with anyone who is looking for God in their life.

I have enclosed a complete list of all current missions (2/03) in the OCA for those groups who have not developed a relationship with a mission over the past several years. At the completion of your project, **please send me the name and address of the mission that you sponsored or the neighbor/baba that you may have helped along with any photos taken of the events held to raise funds or while helping those in need.**

If your group sends this information with a photo to me, a \$20.00 gift certificate towards a pizza party will be sent to your group.

Please, if you have **any** questions or need ideas, please e-mail Lori Kochan at:

LASKOCHAN@aol.com

or call me at (330) 877-3379.

Send all information to:

11584 Garden Lane Ave., NW
Uniontown, Ohio 44685.

May God bless your efforts in "Sharing the Light of Orthodoxy."

World of Unknowns

by Matthew Vansuch

College presents an incoming freshman with a world of the unknowns. One may become overwhelmed in a short period of time. But for all of the "advice" on how to survive or succeed at college, it's best to just go and experience it on your own, learning from mistakes and taking advantage of opportunities. There is one suggestion to consider.

Be prepared for soul-searching conversations with people that will last well into the night. You've probably heard from graduates that they stayed up all night engrossed in deep discussions with roommates on topics ranging from politics to religion. They're not kidding. They can completely change you.

One of the easiest topics that will lead to these sessions is religion. Unfortunately, this is the most difficult of any topic to end. There's just something about religion that stirs people's emotions. Here's how to survive with your beliefs intact.

Religion is a value-based debate. There will be no conclusion unless you convince the other person to change his or her values, and you shouldn't expect it. Instead, take an expository approach, explaining Orthodoxy to the person. You'll discover that Orthodoxy makes sense. If, however, you do find yourself unable to explain something or without an answer, don't be afraid to admit that fact and simply move on.

Read *The Orthodox Church* and *The Orthodox Way* by Bishop Kallistos Ware and *Facing East* by Frederica Mathewes-Green. Mathewes-Green is a religion correspondent for National Public Radio. Bishop Ware is a bishop in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Great Britain and a noted scholar on the Orthodox Church.

Bishop Ware will explain the Church's history and teachings, while Mathewes-Green will describe a liturgical year in a convert's life. Having read *Facing East*, her descriptions of the Church and how she lives it in everyday

life reaffirm what we as practicing Orthodox may take for granted.

So what will all this reading do for you? You may be looking for change or a new start in college. You will not be disappointed. There are any numerous avenues down which you may venture. It's not uncommon for someone to take an Eastern religions course (Buddhism, Hinduism, etc) and decide to follow that path. Before you become enthralled with another religion, take the time to understand your own. If you do this, I have a feeling that your questions will be answered and you will feel at peace with God and yourself.

Faith is a word that we use quite a bit, but is and should be the focus of our beliefs. For the Orthodox, putting faith in God and trusting Him is one of Orthodoxy's cornerstones. We put our faith in God and we accept that faith as our answer. For some non-Orthodox, that answer isn't good enough. There has to be a logical reason for a belief or a tradition or there isn't a reason to follow it. Even if you take a class in logic or you get into a logical discussion with someone, reverting to faith as an answer is completely acceptable. For as many times as I have argued with people because their reasoning isn't logical, I don't consider myself "falling back" on faith to rescue my explanations.

I've been surprised by the number of discussions I've had with my classmates over religion. I get the sense that the anti-establishment movements from previous generations are losing. People are turning back to the ancient, mystic ways for answers that a "logical" society can't provide. They are looking for a higher power, a greater meaning of life, and a sense of inner peace. Orthodoxy provides all of that and more.

When you are able to trace your history directly to Christ, it makes discussing Orthodoxy even easier. So take your opportunities and make the most of them. But if you take a drive down the road less traveled by, make sure you have enough gas in the tank to bring you back to the road with which you are most familiar...Orthodoxy.

Our Royal Subscriber

Surely one of the more remarkable subscribers to the *Journal* through the years must have been Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna Romanova, the sister of the last Russian tsar, Nicholas II. Born in 1882 at Peterhof outside St. Petersburg, her parents were Tsar Alexander III and Tsarina Marie. She was the youngest of six children. Raised primarily at the Gatchina Palace, consisting of over 900 rooms and an immense park, Olga's upbringing was surprisingly spartan notwithstanding the fact that her father ruled the Russian Empire. Daily life consisted of lessons by private tutors, Orthodox chapel services, plain meals with her younger siblings, and one-half hour of playtime in her father's study.

This secure life-style would be brief. In 1888, while the imperial family was returning from a vacation in the Caucasus aboard their train, it derailed while they were in the dining car, throwing them to the floor. The tsar himself, in a show of tremendous strength, held the roof up to enable his wife, children and others to crawl out to safety. Twenty-two passengers were killed and over 200 injured but the family sustained only minor injuries. Olga, then just 6, would later recall: "I was only six but I became conscious of a danger lurking



Above Left) Portrait of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, Study, 1893;
Above Right) Grand Duchess Olga later in life.

somewhere. Much later someone told me that when I began running away from the wreckage, I kept screaming, 'Now they'll come and kill us all!' This may well be true. I was far too young to know anything about revolutionaries." To celebrate their survival, a famous portrait of Olga was painted by the noted artist Valentin Serov and may be seen today at the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

When Grand Duchess Olga turned 12 in 1894, tragedy struck the family as her father, Alexander III, fell ill at Lavadia in the Crimea. Father (now Saint) John of Kronstadt, his confessor, was summoned from Petersburg and prayed with him. On November 1st, with the priest's hands on his head which rested on the empress's shoulder, he died. Olga said that "nobody sobbed. My mother still held him in her arms. We all rose as quietly as we could, crossed the room, and kissed my father's forehead and hand. Then we kissed my mother. All of us turned to Nicky and kissed his hand for the first time." Her

brother, Nicholas II, became the last Russian tsar.

Olga continued with her studies while living with her mother, the Dowager Empress, and became an accomplished artist. She was formally presented to society at a ball in her honor, which she disliked. At the age of twenty-one, Olga was forced to marry Prince Peter of Oldenberg, a compulsive gambler, in an arranged marriage that was never consummated. Just two years later, she fell in love with Colonel Nikolai Koulikovsky but was not permitted to divorce and marry him until 1916, during the First World War, in which she served as a nurse at the front. She spent most of her time with Nicholas and Alexandra in Tsarskoe Selo, outside of Petersburg, before the war.

Late in 1916, Olga was working in an army hospital in Kiev when Nicholas II visited the wounded soldiers. A young deserter, who had been sentenced to death, was being treated and she interceded with her brother on his behalf. As the tsar approached, the deserter was terrified. "Nicky put his hand on the

Amalienborg Palace,
Copenhagen, Denmark
November 7th, 1927

The Russian Orthodox Journal,
Pittsburgh, Pa., U.S.A.

Gentlemen:
Enclosed you will find one dollar for which please send me The Russian Orthodox Journal for one year, beginning with the January issue.
Trusting the magazine will meet with the popularity it deserves, I remain.

Very truly yours,
Olga
Grand Duchess of Russia

boy's shoulder and asked very quietly why he had deserted. He replied that he had run out of ammunition, got frightened and ran. We all waited, held our breath, and Nicky told him that he was free. The lad scrambled out of bed, fell to the floor, grabbed the tsar's knees and sobbed like a child. We all had tears in our eyes. I have cherished this memory. I never saw Nicky again."

After the tsar abdicated in 1917, Olga, her mother and family fled Kiev in a secret train ride to Yalta, where they spent the summer. She gave birth to her first child and christened him Tikhon, as she had promised. With the Russian Revolution and the spread of Communism, the Crimea became unsettled and eventually they were placed under house arrest. As the war came to an end, the Dowager Empress refused to leave Russia despite the entreaties of British naval officers who had taken control of the area. Olga, however, decided to leave and, with her husband and children, ended up traveling in Russia for the next two years during the civil war, eventually rejoining her mother in exile in her native Denmark in 1920.

In 1927, the new Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs began publishing this *Journal*. Peter Fekula, a prominent member and businessman, was based in Europe and became something of an unofficial foreign correspondent. He visited Grand Duchess Olga at the Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen and brought the *Journal* and the F.R.O.C. to her attention. By letter dated November 7, 1927, Olga sent one dollar to the *Journal* in Pittsburgh for a subscription. (The original letter was found among the papers of Father Vladimir Prislowsky, then the editor, after his death and remains in his family's possession).

The *Journal* duly reported on this story in an article entitled "Our Royal Subscriber" in the January 1928 edition and printed her letter, which is reproduced here. Grand Duchess Olga and her family later moved to a small farm outside Toronto in 1948, where she lived a quiet life of painting, undertaking charitable work and corresponding with

her royal relatives in Europe. Olga lunched with her cousin, Queen Elizabeth II, on the yacht *Brittania* during a visit to Canada in the 1950s, which startled her neighbors, most of whom were unaware of her background. She died on November 24, 1960 after a brief illness and the funeral was celebrated by her friend, Archbishop John (Shahovskoy) of San Francisco, himself a prince, at her church, Christ the Saviour Sobor in Toronto, a parish of the Orthodox Church in America. The Russian children's school still bears her name. Olga was buried at the York Cemetery near Toronto after Russian soil was placed over her casket. A large three-bar cross marks her grave.

The H.I.H. Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna Memorial Fund was established in her memory and carries on charitable and cultural activities in Canada, Russia and Europe, including exhibitions of her paintings (235 Dixon Road, Etobicoke, Ontario M9P 2M5). The fund sells a book of Olga's correspondence with her Danish friend, Alexandra Iskra, and 120 reprints of her watercolors for US\$50. For an engaging biography, see *The Last Grand Duchess* by Ian Vorres (Toronto: Key Porter Books), revised and expanded in 2001 with many of Olga's personal photos, available at amazon.com. The quotations attributed to Olga in this article are taken from the book.

TRANSITIONS

BIRTH: Samuel Alexander Milberg, son of **Robin** and **Stuart Milberg**, was born on Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day!). Robin is a member of the New Haven "R" Club along with grandmother Ann Bosse and great-grandparents Helen and Nicholas Cherniavsky. Congratulations and many years!

BIRTHDAY: **Matushka Margaret Ressetar** celebrated her 98th on Feb. 19, Staten Island, NY. She is the mother of Past National Spiritual Advisor Fr. Daniel D. Ressetar, Harrisburg "O" Club, #199; Vera Bortniak, #199, and Anne Boyko, Olyphant "R" Club. *Many years!*

RECOVERING: **Marie Konon**, of Chicago #146, from heart attack and surgery. Get well wishes may be sent to 732 S. Parkside, Elmhurst, IL 60126. *Speedy recovery!*

DEATH: **Mrs. Anna P. Bechik**, 85, April 16 in Minneapolis. A longtime member of St. Mary's "O" Club, Chapter 94, **DEATH:** **Mrs. Anna P. Bechik**, 85, April 16 in Minneapolis. A longtime member of St. Mary's "O" Club, Chapter 94, she was the mother of Past National President Alice Woog. Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Cathedral. Our condolences to Alice and her family. *Memory Eternal.*

DEATH: **Joseph Martin, Sr.**, 93, March 6. His survivors include his wife, Anna, Frackville "R" Club, Chapter 150; Past National Spiritual Advisor Fr. Joseph Martin; Paul Martin, #150; and David Martin, #199, Harrisburg "O" Club. Funeral services were held at Holy Ascension Church. Our condolences to Mrs. Martin and family. *Memory Eternal.*

DEATH: **George Misko**, a member of the Nation's Capital "R" Club, Chapter 79, Feb. 2003 after an extended illness. He was also a dedicated choir member and bazaar worker at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, D.C. He is survived by his wife, Pearl, and daughters Natalie and Katya. George was the Godfather of our *Journal* Layout Editor Eugenia (Konon) Wilson, and Uncle to Neena and Claudia Konon and brother-in-law to Marie Konon, members of Trinity "O" Club, Chicago, IL. Our condolences to Pearl, and family. *Memory Eternal.*

DEATH: **Dr. Nicholas Libertain**, 44, died on Bright Monday, April 28. A member of the Akron "O" Club and chairman of the 2002 National FOCA Basketball Tournament, he is survived by his wife, Colette, children, parents, siblings and many others. Funeral services were held at St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore, OH. Our condolences to Colette and family. *Memory Eternal.*

DEATH: **John Robert Koncel**, 4-year old son of Barry and Debra (Humecky) Koncel, died on Bright Tuesday, April 29. Barry and Debbie are members of SS. Peter & Paul "O" Club, Chapter 96, Burr Ridge, IL. Our condolences to his parents and family. *Memory Eternal.*

2003 F.O.C.A. PHOTO CONTEST

THE TOPIC ...

“Baby Pictures”

It can be your baby pictures OR your niece, nephew, cousin, granddaughter, grandson, godchild, etc. The baby pictures must be of a child six years and under. You may enter up to five (5) photos @\$2.00/photo, preferably 3x5 or 4x6. \$\$ prizes are based on number of entries in each age category. Don't you want to show off your baby picture or that of your niece, nephew or grandchild? OF COURSE you do! Get out the photo albums and send your pictures in early. Judging will take place at the 2003 National Convention; you do not have to be present to win. *Good luck!*

Deadline:
August 23, 2003

ENTRY FORM
(Return this form with your check)

Please Print

Name: _____

District: _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Age Category:

18 – 45 _____; 45+ _____

Number of Photos: _____

x \$2.00

= \$ _____
entry fee

Submit photos and check to:

Mary Anne Soltis
596 Saratoga Street, #2
Cohoes, NY 12047

Hunka Hunka Burnin Hoops

MAY 9 - 10 - 11, 2003

Sponsored by Campbell, Ohio



Top-Bottom) Ron Tucci at the ice cream social with the Bantam crowd; Chairman Jim Lazor serves up pizza; Elvis is in the house!

With over 450 basketball players, parents and other supportive enthusiasts, the Campbell “O” Club sponsored a highly successful National hoops tournament on the weekend of May 9-11. Chairman Jim Lazor and his committee did an outstanding job of preparing and presenting a weekend of great basketball action and Orthodox camaraderie. Campbell sponsored the National Basketball Tournament five years ago and the return to the facilities at Youngstown State University for Saturday’s action was again extremely welcome due to the convenience of four courts of simultaneous play under one roof. Championship games on Sunday were held at both Campbell High School as well as their new Middle School, a stone’s-throw away (maybe a three wood for Bob Steffaro).

Assisting Jim on the local committee were Kathy Lazor (Secretary), Mike Polewan (Treasurer) and Debbie Zelinsky (Public Relations). The food and activities on Friday evening were co-ordinated by Joanna Shepelevich and Donna Chiarelli, while JoAnn Sirilla managed the registration area. Those juniors who were housed had their assignment handled by Cindy Ferrick. Responsibility for referees and the manning of scorers and timekeepers fell onto the shoulders of Mark Livosky and Ted Liszka, who did an outstanding job. Nick and Monica Vansuch co-ordinated the food and refreshments on Saturday at the YSU field house.

Saturday’s banquet, which was attended by 455 people was chaired by Linda Livosky and Kathy Garman. Pete and Kay Garman handled the ads, which consisted of dolls, records, and guitars – all in keeping with the “Hunka, Hunka,



Top-Bottom)
Men wait for suspended ball to drop at championship game: Sr. Men All-Stars; Sr. Women All-Stars; Bantam Boys All-Stars; Bantam Girls All-Stars.



Hoops –a Burnin’ weekend theme. Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, Linda Livosky changed into her brunch hat along with Sue Kennedy in efficiently serving over 360 people prior to the finals.

B-ball action on Saturday consisted of divisions of bantam girls and boys, junior girls and boys, and senior men and women, with the latter being contested for the first time in the last six years. A total of 28 teams were represented with each team guaranteed to play a minimum of two games. The scheduling was co-coordinated by Greg Cimboric and Ken Baron, members of the National Sports Committee, under the auspices of National Sports Director Robert Steffaro.

Action on Saturday in the 26 preliminary games began at 8:15 AM with an opening prayer with Father John Steffaro, including “Christ is Risen”. Bantam Girls competition took over two of the four courts in the Field house in first round action as South River defeated Cleveland 30-18 while Canonsburg bested Campbell 36-10. Akron, last year’s bantam girls winner, got into action and eked out Canonsburg 12-11 while Cleveland had the upper hand against Campbell 22-12. The final preliminary game saw South River edge Akron 17-13 to advance to the finals with a 2-0 record. Cleveland, Akron

and Canonsburg all had 1-1 records and for the third consecutive year, the one-quarter-tie breaker system had to be utilized. That playoff system saw Akron emerge as the winner and advance to Sunday’s finals and a rematch against South River. In the Championship game, South River took the early lead and maintained control of the game primarily due to their offensive and defensive rebounding throughout the game. For her scoring, ball handling and “bounding” efforts, South River’s Rebecca Medis was selected game MVP by the officials.

The bantam boys division, also with five teams, saw Cleveland defeat Pittsburgh 32-28 in a hard fought contest, while Minneapolis cruised past Campbell 54-32. Akron, in its first game managed to defeat Pittsburgh, and then Campbell to advance to the championship game. Cleveland edged Minneapolis 41-37 to also sport a 2-0 record and move onto Sunday play. In the finals, Akron used a variety of defensive schemes to keep Cleveland off-balance and open up a double-digit second half lead. Cleveland then stormed back to narrow the lead to single digits and then eventually win the game 38-37 on foul shots with nearly no time on the clock. For his sterling efforts in the comeback, John Memorich was named MVP of the game.

Junior boys action began the first series of games with Pittsburgh defeating a stubborn Akron team 41-34 while Minneapolis bested Campbell B 58-26. Last year’s winner Cleveland then faced off against N Jersey 2, with the upstarts from the Garden State defeating Cleveland 41-35. Campbell A, returning a veteran squad, coasted by N Jersey 1 58-17. In semi-final afternoon action Campbell and Pittsburgh advanced to the finals while Akron and Campbell B won their respective consolation matches.

The junior girls competition saw Minneapolis defeat Campbell while Pittsburgh's strong defense helped them defeat Akron 25-15. Pittsburgh advanced to the finals based on their second win, a 30-18 margin over Cleveland. Minneapolis then cruised by Akron to set up the final game on Sunday, and Campbell defeated Cleveland 46-38 in the highest scoring game in their bracket for the weekend. In the final game, Coach Bernie Gulachik's talented and balanced squad took control early and controlled the flow of the game en route to the championship. Tammy Peterson was named MVP for the game for the Minnesota squad.

The senior men's division saw the two Cleveland teams win handily to advance to an inter-chapter championship game. Maple Heights and Minneapolis squared off in the consolation game where St.

Mary's defeated Maple Heights 33-27. The Championship

game was an intense match of talent of the two Cleveland teams. In the end, Cleveland A won a hard fought, high scoring 88-84 game. Mike Longa of Cleveland A was selected the game's MVP.

For the first time in a number of years, a senior women's game was contested. The National sports committee also added a number of players onto the roster from Chapters that were not able to field a full team. Kathy Schlekic, who was named MVP of the game, paced the Cleveland team to a 27-14 win.

All-Star selections:

Senior Men: Mickey Herzak- Cleveland B, Matt Smith- Minneapolis, Dan Kovalek- Cleveland A, Greg Mindala- Cleveland B, Mike Longa- Cleveland A. Bantam Boys: John Memorich- Cleveland, Pasha Tarassou- Pittsburgh, Matt Higginbotham- Akron, Robbie Korkula- Minneapolis, Bill Bezbatchesko. Bantam Girls: Juliana Libertin- Akron, Rebecca Medis- South River, Eleni Burd- South River, Barbara Kulik- Canonsburg, Rachel Libertin- Cleveland. Junior Girls: Nikki Yakich-



Top) South River rides in style; Cleveland Sr. Men's Champions; **Bottom)** Jr. Girls All-Stars; Jr. Boys All-Stars; Cleveland Sr. Women's Champions.



Pittsburgh, Cassie Boosalis-Minneapolis, Kate Mulcahy-Pittsburgh, Jennifer Lazor-Campbell, Kim Peterson-Minneapolis. Junior Boys: James Saul – Pittsburgh, Nick Higginbotham-Akron, Chase Barnes-Minneapolis, Michael Galasso-New Jersey, Andre Ferrell-Campbell. Senior Women: Matushka Larissa Hutuyan – Maple Heights, Melissa Tesar-Cleveland, Stephanie Uhrina- Maple Heights, Liz Fiktus-Cleveland, Kathy Schlekic-Cleveland.

Notes and Quotes:

Elvis was a real hit on Friday night, particularly with the younger crowd... Rumor has it he was spotted in the Hotel lounge afterward... Great to be able to watch multiple games at once with the venue at Youngstown State's facilities. Once again, the tie-breaker system to determine the finalists had to be used for the third year in a row – this time in the bantam girls division... Referees did a great job all weekend and sportsmanship was evident throughout the divisions' play... A number of coaches were seen doing double and triple duty during the weekend – ask for double pay next year... Great to see the contingent from Minneapolis make their trek by bus to the tournament – thanks to Cheryl Morse and the other Minn. Parents for coordinating their trip, which included a Friday day-visit to Cedar Point amusement park prior to traveling the last leg of their trip to Campbell... Agent Kowalchik again entertaining friends, reliving numerous tales from previous basketball and bowling tournaments... As usual, referees were charged with making selections after each game for all-star selection... The increased field in the bantam girls division necessitated moving the senior men's finals to Saturday to accommodate the young girls for Sunday... Father John Steffaro imparted some very inspiring words to the faithful during liturgy on Sunday. Past National FOCA presidents in attendance included Bill Livosky, Andy Cvercko, Maurice (Pete) Garman, Nick Vansuch and Michael Wusyko... Wet weather on Friday morning prevented the much-anticipated golf match between Bob Steffaro and brother Father John... Banquet served over 450 people and went off without a hitch Saturday night... Pictures and info on the tournament were out on the OCA web page within 48 hours of tournament's conclusion... Some nice comments also on the FOCA guest book. With a limited field to choose from, only a small number of new turtles were inducted by Jen Papp. Mary and Michael Wusyko were taking mental



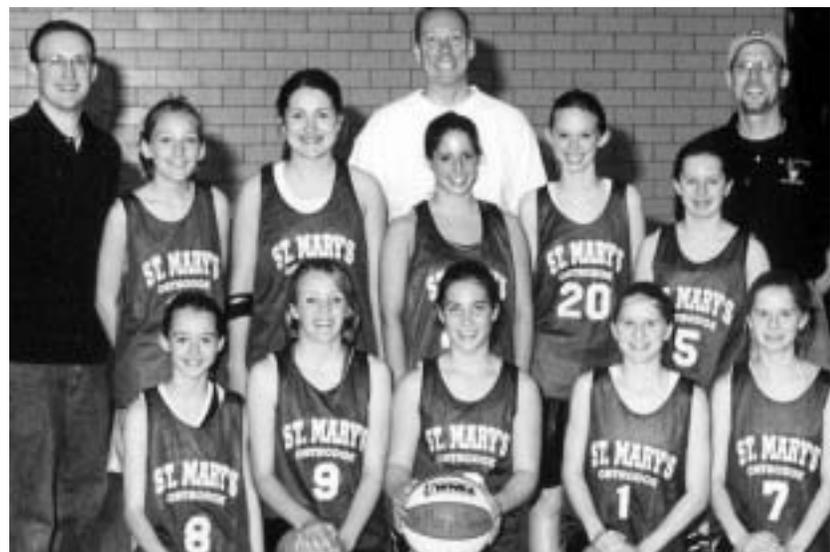
Top) Campbell Jr. Boy's Champions;
Bottom) Cleveland Jr. Boy's Champions;
Fans gather to cheer on their teams.





Top-Bottom) Overview of St. John the Baptist in Campbell during Divine Liturgy; South River Bantam Girl's Champions; Minneapolis Jr. Girl's Champions;

Right Column) Overview of tournament; Jump ball between Campbell and New Jersey



notes the entire weekend in preparation for sponsorship of next year's tournament in Pittsburgh...the following year it's onto Minneapolis (the Nat'l Sport Committee is submitting a formal request for use of the Lazor RV – steaks included)... Personal greetings of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman was delivered eloquently by John Mindala at the banquet. The entire FOCA community is deeply sorrowed and remembering in prayer the falling asleep in the Lord of Nick Libertin on Bright Monday—Nick was co-chairman of last year's tournament in Akron—Memory Eternal. Regarding departed friends, a number of FOCA members contributed during the weekend to the Richard J. Miskiv Memorial Scholarship Fund – Richard was a participant in basketball tournaments for the Garfield Junior "R" Club and the Garden State Senior since 1970.



SS. Peter and Paul Music

Many of our foreparents brought with them from Europe old folk melodies that were sung in conjunction with the Orthodox Church's liturgical year. While not officially church music, these songs were the people's way of celebrating the feasts after the services had been completed in their homes and villages. "O Who Loves, Nicholas the Saintly" ("O kto, kto") comes to mind as perhaps the most well-known example of these informal hymns.

This year, the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, the leaders of the Apostles, falls on Sunday, June 29th. These saints were and are quite popular among our people. Just think of the many churches and men and boys who bear their names. The arrangement on the next page, in simple two-part harmony, is an old folk melody celebrating this feast day and may be sung by a youth choir or even by the entire congregation. Feel free to make many copies.

SS. Peter & Paul

Adapted From An
Old European Hymn
T. Ressestar

1

MOST MIR - A - CU - LOUS CROWNS CAME DOWN FROM THE HEA - VENS WITH

GLO - RY AND HO - NOR FOR PE - TER AND PAUL, SO OUR FA - THER

IN THE HEA - VENS HO - NORS HIS SER - VANTS SAINTS PE - TER AND PAUL,

2

THE AN - GELS ARE WEL - COM - ING PE - TER AND PAUL AND ARE MAK - ING

THEM THRONES OF HO - NOR AND PRAISE, PLAC - ING THEM AS AN EX - AM - PLE

TO THE PEO - PLE GLO - RI - OUS SER - VANTS SAINTS PE - TER AND PAUL,

OCMC: Missionaries Needed for Guatemala

The Mission Center (OCMC), St. Augustine, FL - With the expansion of its existing missionary quarters underway, the Hogar Rafael Ayau Orthodox Orphanage in Guatemala City, Guatemala, has put out a call for long-term missionaries.

"We would like to accept up to four long-term missionaries at the Hogar. They could have some background in elementary education, early child development, physical therapy or speech therapy, child care and other related fields," wrote OCMC missionary Fr. Timothy Ferguson after consulting with Mother Inés, the director of the orphanage. "We need people who can interact with the children on a daily basis – especially the toddlers and infants."

The Hogar Rafael Ayau is run by Orthodox nuns and many of the staff are women. "We would like a balance between male and female volunteers since the children have had few positive male figures in their life," continued Fr. Timothy Ferguson. In the past, most OCMC long-term missionaries have been women and they are especially looking for male role models for the children.

Missionaries live on the orphanage compound - fully surrounded by a brick wall in the middle of Guatemala City - which is a haven for the battered, neglected and orphaned children that are brought there. Since the children have already experienced a great lack of stability in their short lives, long-term missionaries have the potential to promote a feeling of security by their presence.

Well-grounded, mature individuals are needed to nurture the children and to help them along in the healing process. Applicants ideally would already speak or have some knowledge of Spanish, but language training prior to service can be arranged if necessary. Terms for missionaries are typically two years or more, but shorter time periods may be considered.

Check out www.ocmc.org/missionaries to find out more about OCMC missionaries. For more

information on how to become a long-term missionary, please contact the Orthodox Christian Mission Center's Missionary Director, Maria Gallos, at missionaries@ocmc.org or at (904) 829-5132.

IOCC Supports Effort to Stem Alcohol Abuse in Alaska

Baltimore (IOCC) - The U.S. Program of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is getting behind an effort to address the "scourge" of alcohol abuse in Alaskan communities.

The program, launched by the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, calls for the training of fourth-year seminarians in substance abuse counseling. IOCC's support will build the capacity of the diocese and St. Herman's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska, to combat the problem of alcohol abuse.

"Substance abuse is a widespread problem for both the native and non-native people of Alaska which the Church confronts daily," said His Grace Bishop Nikolai of the Diocese of Alaska. "Last year, we extended our seminary program and further developed the capacity of Orthodox Christians in Alaska to undertake effective and meaningful action against this cause of suffering."

St. Herman's Seminary has contracted with Joseph Lind of the South Central Foundation in Anchorage, one of the largest native health corporations in Alaska, to provide the training. IOCC's support will help pay for the training.

Wherever it works, whether in Alaska or Africa, IOCC seeks to build the capacity of local organizations to address local problems. One of the priorities of the U.S. Program is to identify and strengthen domestic Orthodox initiatives, making them sustainable over the long term, said U.S. Program Director Robert Pianka.

"This is an example of how IOCC's U.S. Program applies in the United States the skills it honed over 10 years of working overseas," Pianka said.

"Through the Orthodox institutions and faithful in Alaska, we can respond to the call to help people in need," he added. "We are obliged to build an effective, permanent capacity against this scourge, and we urge all Orthodox to join this partnership."

With the training, and eventual certification, priests will be able to offer professional substance abuse counseling in rural communities that are otherwise outside the reach of treatment programs. The Diocese of Alaska, part of the Orthodox Church in America, has 87 churches and chapels served by 25 priests, and covers 586,000 square miles.

Orthodox priests are uniquely positioned to reach and work productively with the large, isolated population of Alaskans in need of drug and alcohol treatment, said Mary Ann Khoury, author of an IOCC needs-assessment in Alaska.

"The native clergy really need to have this training so they can work with the people in the community, Orthodox and non-Orthodox," said Ms. Khoury, director of the DUI Victims Center in Wichita, Kan. "Substance abuse is just a huge need, and (the clergy) would be very crucial player in the treatment of the problem."

According to a recent study by the Alaska Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Alaska has more alcohol-related deaths per capita than any other U.S. state. The study found that 9.7 percent of adult Alaska residents were dependent on alcohol, and another 4.1 percent were diagnosed as alcohol abusers. Among the obstacles to treatment cited by abusers was the lack of nearby treatment facilities.

Nor are Orthodox Christians, who constitute 37.5 percent of the Native Alaskan population, immune to the problem. In February 2001, for example, the Diocese of Alaska reported 37 alcohol-related deaths.

The fourth-year seminarians will receive their training in Anchorage, where they can engage in field work with hospitals, prisons and missions accessible from Anchorage. The goal of the program is for seminarians to obtain certification as substance abuse counselors, which they can use over the course of their careers as priests.

In addition to enabling the training, IOCC is seeking grant funding to build on this year's efforts, Pianka said.

IOCC has delivered more than \$140 million in relief and development programs in 21 countries. To learn more about IOCC's programs in the United States and beyond, please visit www.iocc.org.

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