

OCCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

WINTER 2005 volume 77 number 4

The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



**Blessed
New
Year**

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Back Cover Celebrations of Faith

COVER CREDIT: The cover of this *Journal* features an original line drawing by Sheena Hisiro, a student at the prestigious Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and a member of the Harrisburg "O" Club, #199, Harrisburg, PA. Sheena is a past national scholarship winner and has won the Central PA District's Matushka Prislopsky memorial scholarship the past 2 years. Many thanks! We invite other Fellowship members with artistic talent to submit original cover designs for consideration.

FOCA CALENDAR 2005

- Feb. 24-26:** "Spring" National Board of Trustees meeting, Alexandria, VA
- March 1:** Deadline for FOCA/OCMC mission grant applications
- March 14:** Great Lent begins
- March 31:** Deadline for FOCA scholarship applications
- May 1:** PASCHA
- May 13-15:** National Basketball Tournament, Minneapolis, MN
- May 20-21:** National Bowling Tournament, Allentown, PA
- May 30:** Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery, celebrating its 100th ann.
- June 19:** Holy Pentecost
- July 17-22:** 14th OCA All-American Council, Toronto, ON
- July 29-30:** National Summer Sports Tournament, Medina, OH
- Sept. 1-5:** 79th National FOCA Convention, Alexandria, VA

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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.

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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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Dr. John Schultz

38th National FOCA President

As the New Year begins, we as members of the F.O.C.A. can renew our commitment to the strength of the Fellowship through our service to the Church and the many programs that our organization provides. As members we should promote our programs by encouraging those who are eligible to participate or by participating ourselves.

Do we have High School Seniors or College students who have not applied for our many Scholarships? Have we helped them with the application process? In recent years while the quality of our applicants has been outstanding the number of applicants has been disappointing. At the Convention at Grand Island Scholarship eligibility was expanded to include Graduate Students, and at the Winter Meeting the Executive Board determined that those attending our nation's Military Academies would be eligible. Please encourage and help the eligible students in your Chapters to apply for these scholarships.

Has anyone in your Chapter or Parish participated in a Mission trip? If so, were they encouraged to apply for one of our O.C.M.C. Mission Grants? These Grants allow those dedicated individuals to participate in Mission trips without the worry of how to find the necessary funding. Please encourage and help those in your Chapters interested in Missionary work to apply for these Grants.

At the Winter Executive Board Meeting the members of the Board reported on their many District visitations and reviewed plans for the national events of 2005. During these reports it was apparent that the strength of the organization lay in these many fellowship activities. At these activities friendships are renewed and made, and the fellowship at these events provides opportunity for new ideas that will result in the strengthening of existing programs or the creation of new programs. As members let us commit to attend one new activity in 2005. Come and see the exuberance of our youth at the Basketball Tournament in Minneapolis; watch the friendly competition among long-time friends at the Bowling Tournament in Allentown, PA; support the efforts of the N.J. District to remember a lost friend at their Beefsteak Dinner; participate in the work of the Fellowship at the Convention in Alexandria, VA; or volunteer to serve as a Counselor at the Junior Olympics or the Ohio District's camping program. These are just a few of the many activities the Fellowship sponsors or supports. Make a commitment to support these activities and by doing so you will be supporting the many worthwhile programs of the Fellowship.

What more important Program can there be than the support of our Seminarians? As individuals, Chapters, and Districts let us continue to help those who have put aside all to serve the Church. As part of this commitment the Executive Board has designated the new Archbishop Arseny Institute of the Diocese of Canada as the recipient of the 2005 Gifts of Love. This fledgling Institute provides Theological Training for members of the Diocese of Canada. Because they are a new Institute, there are many needs. Much more information about the Institute and the 2005 Gifts of Love will be distributed in the near future. As with past Gifts of Love drives let us make this a very special gift.

Finally, the most basic way that we can show our commitment to the Fellowship is through our continued membership and by encouraging new members. Membership growth while needing the support of the National Organization is best achieved on an individual level. We as individuals are the best ambassadors of our Fellowship. Through personal invitations and examples, we as individuals will create the growth that we all know will lead to an even stronger Fellowship further enabling us in our support of the Church.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas Ressetar

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

On behalf of all of us at the *Journal*, I greet you with the New Year and this new issue.

The spotlight is on Fellowship members and their service to others. Three FOCA/OCMC summer missionaries — Amy Barrett, Marilyn Kreta and Stephanie Trefon — relate their moving experiences in Korea and at the Hogar orphanage in Guatemala in words and photos. We report on member Sherrie Keblish and her national-award winning service dog, “Trouble.” Thanks for all the votes and to U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security for the details and photos! And Lara Herzak gives us the story on the young adults’ service project at SS. Cosmas & Damian Adult Home — a thank you to John Mindala for the pics.

Managing Editor/IPP John Kruchok, on behalf of the executive board, makes an appeal for the Archbishop Arseny Institute in Winnipeg, Canada, the recipient of the 2005 “Gifts of Love” project. Let’s put extra effort into this year’s goal so that a substantial presentation can be made at this summer’s OCA All-American Council in Toronto. President Dr. John Schultz gives an overview of the forthcoming Fellowship year and urges us to participate in the many programs and events the FOCA sponsors. And the Upper NY State Juniors tell us all about their convention and bowling tournament — good job, Juniors!

Applications and deadlines . . . scholarships are due March 31st, OCMC grant applications are due March 1st (earlier this year)(form included on page 17), and we have sports entry forms for the basketball tourney in Minneapolis and the bowling tourney in Allentown, PA as well as promo pieces on each. On the back cover is info from Cheryl Morse on the 2005 Celebrations of Faith creative arts program with the theme “Champions of Faith” – April 1st is the deadline. The Colonial District continues to preview the upcoming national convention in Alexandria, VA over Labor Day weekend. Fellowship in action!

Other familiar *Journal* articles appear, including Matt Vansuch returning with yet another thought-provoking piece; the Kidz Corner on a Prodigal Son project; transitions; and odds and ends. Our gratitude is extended to all those members and chapters who support the *Journal* financially, and your names are listed in this issue — our thanks to Business Manager Pete and Kaye Garman for their record fundraising efforts! And a special thanks to Sheena Hisiro for the original line drawing gracing the cover — the snowy church scene is apropos for all those enjoying this icy winter season. Till next time — the Pascha/Spring issue — enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages . . .

2005 Articles Deadlines for the OCJ:

Spring due March 15th

Summer due June 15th

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F.O.C.A.

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS IN-BRIEF

GRADUATION

GIFT PACK

REQUESTS

A reminder to chapters to submit names for complimentary graduation gift packs by May 5, 2005 to the coordinator: Elizabeth Dutko, 626 Swallow, Edwardsville, PA 18704; lizziedizzie27@hotmail.com.

Provided by the Fellowship, these are available to high school and college graduates of parishes with chapters. The graduates, however, need not be FOCA members to receive them. Order them now!

Thank You's Received from Scholarship Winners

From Kristin Ferrick, Youngstown, OH: “I would like to thank you all for selecting me for the William Fekula scholarship and also for the honor of receiving the Fred Lewis award. This scholarship will help me greatly as I’m attending the University of Akron as a freshman. I am majoring in middle school education. This honor you have given me is greatly appreciated and I will continue to work hard to achieve my goals for the future. Thank you again!”

From Christopher D. Skvir, Delran, NJ: “I want to offer a sincere thank you to the F.O.C.A. for awarding me a \$1,000 Klimkosky scholarship for the 2004-2005 school year. I will be attending Rutgers University and the award will help me to meet my expenses as I further my education. I am proud to belong to an organization that does so many things to help the Orthodox Church in America and its seminaries. Thank you!”

“A Path Taken”

by Marilyn Kreta: FOCA/OCMC Missionary

Two weeks at the Hogar San Rafael Orphanage in Guatemala City, Guatemala was an experience that has forever been embedded in my heart and soul. The first time I was introduced to the Hogar was in the fall of 2002 when Mother Ivonne came to visit St. Herman’s Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska. She gave a presentation on her missionary work at the Hogar. What struck me most about her presentation was her “sense” of the reality of the children who stay at the Hogar. She, along with the other nuns, unselfishly gave their lives to the children at the Hogar. As a female monastic, she would be the first to say she has followed a path God has chosen for her.

In the course of my five decades, I found myself taking walks down several different paths. As I reflected on the talk Mother Ivonne gave about the children in Guatemala and their incredible needs, I wondered if I, too, could dare to walk on a path so foreign to me. Through the guidance of my spiritual father and prayers to SS. Herman and Innocent, I was encouraged to explore that new path.

Our first week at the Hogar was much like what I remembered FROC church camp to be. At the Hogar we would wake early for morning matins. The children would be waiting in the chapel for Father Chad Hatfield to intone the beginning. The responses were beautifully and enthusiastically sung by the children in Spanish, of course. Each child blessed and crossed him/herself at the appropriate times. Their veneration of icons was done respectfully in half prostrations. It was evident that they had been “trained and brought up well” in the Orthodox liturgical manner. (Fr. Chad’s fluency in Spanish grew each day and, by the end of the first week, the entire matins service was prayed in Spanish.)

The children went to classes (regular school) after matins. Our mission team went to work on different projects set up by the administration. Some members cleaned potential bookstore rooms while others cleaned storage rooms which would be converted to clergy guestrooms.

The first week at the Hogar included a “field trip.” A special presentation by the National Marimba Band was given to the Hogar children at a local art museum about five miles away. Everyone was bussed in the Hogar van driven by Jorge. The children were invited to participate in the preshow and I think they enjoyed the presentation. I know the cookies and juice given out as we left the museum were gone in no time. Before our evening meal we assembled for vespers in the chapel where, although tired, bright voices sang the responses once again.

As I reflected in my daily journal, the first week was much like what I remembered as a child in church summer camp. The children at the Hogar were singing church music, praying, learning, playing and having fun. They were interacting with our team. We were having fun! The path I decided to take (as an adult) was not as foreign as I feared it would be for I was witnessing children doing just what I had done as a child.



As the second week approached, however, the path ahead looked much different. We were witnesses to unrest in the county, the city, the orphanage and within our own team. Demonstrations on a national level were taking place prohibiting employees from traveling safely to and from the Hogar. Prostitution, gunfire, sirens at night were taking place in the city. Behavioral differences among some of the children were noticed by the nuns, nannies and teachers at the orphanage. Our own team faced a temporary breakdown when a member needed emergency medical treatment. This path was not like church summer camp at all!

The “realities” of the children that Mother Ivonne spoke about almost two years ago in Kodiak were the realities I was witnessing now. The second week would require that I rely on what I’ve learned through life experiences as a mother, teacher and, most importantly, an Orthodox Christian. Prayer, distraction from the “outside” noise, singing, playing soccer, more prayer, learning about the lives of the saints (including SS. Herman and Innocent) were a constant source of nourishment for the children. These were the incredible needs of which Mother Ivonne spoke — and the human touch — for the ninety plus children.

Feeding the infants, holding them, cradling them, singing to them was not difficult. Leaving them was. Playing with the toddlers after dinner in the playroom while the nannies were getting them ready for bed was not hard. Singing songs in Spanish and engaging the younger ones in finger play was not difficult. Leaving them was. As I said “good night” I did so with tears. Being run over by nine- and ten-year old boys playing soccer was not hard. Saying “good night” was. The idea of them not having a mom to tuck them in was the hardest part of walking this path.

As I child I went home after my one week of church summer camp. This past summer I went home to Kodiak after two weeks at the Hogar. The children of San Rafael Hogar are still there ... being cared for by the nuns, nannies and other missionary team members.

How can I glorify God Who has given me this experience? Do I apply to adopt a child now that my three sons are adults? Do I send money? Do I go back? Do I remember the Hogar in prayer, every day? The hardest part of taking the path down to the Hogar is putting my walk into action now that I am home.

Please pray for the children and caregivers of the Hogar orphanage. Pray for the missionaries who are there and are considering serving there. Pray for those who have returned. And I pray for all of you, the Fellowship members, who helped make my missionary service possible.



ALASKA'S FIRST MISSION TO GUATEMALA

By Stephanie Trefon

I never knew what it meant to be on a mission team until now. I’ve learned the importance of mission work: togetherness, love, hard work, prayer, almsgiving, respect, and sharing traditions and culture.

This was my first time being on a mission team and my first time out of the country, so I was really excited to go on this mission. We were a team of five; I couldn’t ask for a better team. At Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage in Guatemala there are over one hundred fifty wonderful children. Seeing the little faces of the beautiful children and knowing what they have been through was at first hard for team members to understand. After they became acquainted with us and we with them, all of us were inseparable.

The first day we spent with the children they were all looking at us very strangely, and hardly any children came near us; but already the second day leaving was like trying to take candy away from a baby. They longed for love and attention. There would be four or five children hanging on to me and five other children tugging on me because they wanted a turn too. It was a lot of fun, actually. The only downfall for me was that I couldn’t speak Spanish; the children and I used sign language to get to know one another. I thought I knew



some words in Spanish but when I spoke those words the children laughed at me or looked at me weird, probably wondering “what is she saying?”

The most exciting experience was teaching the children Yup’ik dancing. To see the look on their faces was great; their faces were glowing with wonder. Some of their mouths were wide open, and some of them had huge smiles on their faces, like “Wow!” Seeing their enthusiasm made me want to dance even harder. Then I realized they had started laughing at me, probably because I was moving my neck like a chicken and making sounds like a walrus. What a wonderful time I had with them. By the time the song was over all the kids wanted to dance like me, it was so funny. Every time I saw them the children called my name and said, “Stephanie! Look at me!” in Spanish of course, and showed me that they could move their neck’s too. Then they wanted me to show them over, over, and over again.

Over the two weeks I taught them the dance and we performed before the team left. The children really enjoyed dancing together. Mother Inez who is the Abbess of the Orphanage says the children long for cultural traditions, learning social activities are their favorite. Just teaching them the dance was an experience all on its own. It was quite a challenge for me to teach them. The only words I knew in Spanish were the numbers. The kids are so well behaved, every time we had dance practice they were always lined up, and ready to start, and they wanted to know every single step. “Again, again Stephanie!” they would say. The children would even get down the neck movements and the walrus sounds. That was their favorite part of the dance. Each and every time that part came up with the neck moving and the walrus sound they would just laugh. What a wonderful time we all had; it was so exciting for all of us. Even the adults had a good time.

My time in the orphanage actually turned out to be great. After spending time with the children for so long, it was hard for the mission team to say “good bye.” There were many sad faces, especially mine. I’ve made many friends and became so attached to some of the children, actually a lot of the children. To this day, I still keep in touch with them. I thank God for all His blessings, learning with the children of the Hogar Rafael. My experience on my first mission team was excellent. Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

FOCA MEMBER’S SERVICE DOG “TROUBLE” WINS NATIONAL AWARD

“Trouble,” the service dog of Sherrie Keblish, a member of the Fellowship’s District of the South, was named co-winner of this year’s “Paws to Recognize” national awards program. Sherrie is an agricultural specialist with U.S. Customs and Border Protection of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security based at the Miami International Airport. CBP Commissioner Robert Bonner presented the medals to Sherrie and “Trouble” at a ceremony in New York City. Acquired from a Texas animal shelter, “Trouble” and three other hero dog nominees were showcased on the “Fox and Friends” morning TV show. “Trouble” follows in the paw prints of “Crazy Joe,” last year’s winner.

“Every one of these canine heroes deserve recognition for the work they do. When the Beagle Brigade joined us, they gave us another invaluable weapon in the national effort to keep this country safe. I am pleased that “Trouble” is being honored today for the work he does so well. “Trouble” is a canine hero; all of CBP’s 4-legged friends are heroes and I am proud of every one of them.” “Trouble” and his fellow dogs help safeguard America’s agricultural resources by intercepting prohibited fruits, vegetables, meats and animal by-products that could introduce foreign pests or diseases into the United States.

“Trouble’s” illustrious career includes the seizure of 1,834 prohibited items, including 1,541 plants, 697 animal products and a total of 853 pounds of meat. Sherrie has recorded 115 notable interceptions and prevented a potential disaster for Florida’s citrus industry. Most travelers entering the United States do not realize the damage that one piece of fruit could cause. “Trouble” knows — in October 2003, he alerted to a piece of fruit — a quince — in the luggage of a passenger arriving from Lima, Peru. It was infested with 20 Mediterranean Fruit fly larvae. If the Med Fly were to become established in this country, losses could be as high as \$1.5 billion. This is the second time that “Trouble” has found the Med Fly.

“Together we are a very effective team,” Sherrie said. “On behalf of CBP, ‘Trouble’ and I would like that thank everyone who voted for him. This has been a wonderful experience that recognizes all detector dogs from CBP. He is an amazing dog and it is always nice when hard work is recognized.” Sherrie, a past FOCA/FROC scholarship winner and noted golfer, would like to specially thank all those Fellowship members and friends who voted for “Trouble.” She gave a presentation on “Trouble” and the “Paws to Recognize” program at this year’s national convention on Grand Island, New York.

“Paws to Recognize” is an international program recognizing the important contributions of over 15,000 professional service dogs. “Trouble” along with co-winner “Gentle Ben,” a pet-assisted therapy dog, had their paw prints in cement to create a Hollywood-style Canine World Heroes Walk of Fame. For more information, visit www.cbp.gov, click on the enforcement block, top right, and then on canines. Congratulations “Trouble” and Sherrie!



Not Forgetting to Walk the Walk

Matthew Vansuch

It's hard to believe how fast time flies. By the time you read this, I'll be just months away from finishing the last of my classes at law school, getting ready for the dreaded bar exam, and getting married somewhere in between. The big, bad world is drawing closer for me and my friends, and, frankly, we're all scared of it.

For some of us, this may be the first time in our lives that we don't have classes three days a week or textbooks to buy and read. What a strange feeling late August will be, when, instead of going to the bookstore, I'll be driving to my office for another 10-hour day. And, yes, I hope that as a new associate, I'll be getting to an office with my own desk, telephone, and a window...with a view! Throughout law school, I've come to realize that one of the most important values is humility. When I think of humility, images of our forefathers working in the mills, fields, and mines come to mind, and I wonder if our individualistic world has forgotten what it means to be humble. If there is anything that I desire most, it's to emulate those core values that characterized how they lived. Even if it's a bit idealized, it's still worth striving for.

When there's so much talk about "values" today, I wonder what "values" certain people are emphasizing. Here's my list. Have pride in yourself, but don't be boastful of it. Earn the respect of others, and you'll get it back tenfold. Don't make enemies, even with those you don't particularly care for. Try to be nice to everyone, regardless of who they are. Life's not fair, so make the best of it. Do the best work you can do every time you do it. You're not more important than anyone else, no matter how much you think of yourself, so get off your high horse. Serve others more than yourself, and give more than you take. I've probably missed a few, but you get the point. These are very hard to do; I struggle with them everyday. Yet, the struggle is important, even when we slip back into our not-so-good tendencies. By no fault of our own, we are losing touch with the basic values and ethics that made us into who we are. Because my great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents worked hard

to provide for their children, often sacrificing much for themselves, this generation of descendants probably has a "better" life ahead of it...which is what our ancestors wanted for us. Instead of working after school—or quitting school—to make money for the family or themselves, like everyone before me, I was told to focus on my education. Such a comment would have been unthinkable fifty or sixty years ago! Even if society has changed, this is a testament to how hard work and toil helped each succeeding generation off to a better start than they would otherwise have had.

As a result, I have been privileged, and I have to work hard to not forget who and what got me here. If I strive to follow my parents' and grandparents' lead in living a Christian life, I find the basic guide in the prayer of St. Ephraim. It's a very easy way to check myself, as well as society. Compared to that prayer, ask whether we as a society—and I as an individual—meet those tenets: humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. I think society is failing. We see individualism and hate thriving in a changing world, with people judging and condemning others to exalt themselves as better. How is that Christian? While it's been many years since I went to church school, I don't remember being taught that God judges people based on how others appear to be; if my memory serves me right, I thought God could see right through our self-important facades that we create to shield our true selves from our fellow humans.

As Deacon David Doss of St. Luke Evangelist Church in Palos Hills, IL, writes at their church's website: "Humility is capable of truth, of seeing and accepting things as they are, and thus of seeing God's goodness and love in everything. That is why God gives grace to the humble and resists the proud. Chastity and humility are followed by patience. The 'natural' or 'fallen' man is impatient. Being blind of himself, he is quick to judge and to condemn others."¹ I've always believed that the best way to influence others is by example. If I lead my life by following my core set of principles, then that is the best that I can do. If I put myself on a pedestal and condemn others for not acting like me, then I'm merely boasting.

I've also forgotten the last part of St. Ephraim's prayer, which, I believe, is the hardest to achieve. It brings the entire prayer together in one of the most beautifully flowing phrases that I know: "Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge [those of] my brother." No "translation" to "modern" English can compare with how those words roll off one's lips when recited. (But that's another article...)

Perhaps it's this last part that motivated the saints who led peaceful lives, serving others, or those saints of whom only God knows because they did their work quietly and without fanfare. Perhaps it's those saints that realized that to love God's servant, they had to love others. So what does this have to do with the real world? Everything. Going through law school, I met a menagerie of people, including some people who think they're right and everyone else who disagrees is wrong. The beauty of the experience is being forced to take sides on every issue. It's when you're put in that position that you realize that, just like you, other people have firmly held beliefs grounded in a solid foundation. Thankfully, most people agreed to disagree, and that was the end of that. There were also people who believed they were better than everyone else. In a society where half the country supposedly has found God and the other half is supposedly Godless, I find that the best response is to live my life in a Christian way. For me, being Christian starts with me. I need to respect and serve others, work hard, and be humble. If I crusade to "save" everyone else from their evils, but I have nothing good to show for my life, then what good will that do me? Let those without sin cast the first stone. I know that we are all sinners and that we need to preach the Church's teachings, but as a lay person, the first prerequisite to preaching is walking the walk and not just talking the talk. Somehow, I think that more people will "listen" to me that way.

"But grant me the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love for Thy servant."

AMY BARRETT of St. Augustine, FL and the South River “R” Club, helps with the construction of an Orthodox community center in Korea and witness in several church areas.



My time in Korea was priceless. The experiences I had, feelings I felt and lessons I learned will forever remain in my heart. We worked hard; usually painting from 8:30 am until 8:00 pm with a lunch break. We accomplished much. By the time we were through, each of 10 pillars in the church was painted and ready for its fine detail work. The altar was largely done and the professional iconographers thanked us for helping them to keep their project on schedule. The Church will be completed next summer.

As with my previous mission trips, I didn't know what to expect in Korea. I didn't know why God had chosen me to go on this particular mission or what I'd learn. I knew we'd be helping an iconographer to paint a church, but now I know He didn't want me to learn about brush strokes and paint colors, He wanted to teach me a lesson about love and its power.

I first saw the power of love through the gentle actions of the iconography team we were to help. When I first walked into the Dormition of the Mother of God Church in Jeonju, Korea, I was amazed by the beauty of the icons being painted. Now, to say I am unartistic is an understatement; I felt intimidated and overwhelmed by the task at hand. As I sat there staring open mouthed, the head iconographer, Zozos, came up to me with a brush and paint in his hand. He brought me over to this column where I was to help do some detail work. I stared aghast at the curves and circles he expected me to paint. He showed me the proper technique and watched as I tried it, quite unsuccessfully at first. Patiently, he stayed with me and taught me and before I knew it I was actually painting and painting well! Each day we spent at least 8 hours painting and never once did Zozos lose his temper or get frustrated by our team's lack of painting prowess; instead he always treated us with patience, love and respect. He was a beautiful example of Christian virtue and the power of love.

Another example of love I was blessed to witness was between His Eminence Sotirios and the little children in Pusan. The little children love His Eminence. They flocked around him pulling gently on his robe calling out “Shimboonihm” (Spiritual Father), all hoping that he would scoop them up and give them a blessing. Even the smallest bowed low to him to indicate their respect but there was no fear in their eyes only amusement and love. He smiled non-stop, thoroughly enjoying himself as the children crowded around him. His Eminence loved the children as well. Yielding to their desires, he scooped them up, patted them on the head and kissed their little cheeks. He praised them for good behavior and reached out to the shyest making sure everyone was included. He was truly a proud father of his flock. It was one of the most beautiful examples of a loving family in Christ that I have ever witnessed.

Perhaps the most powerful example of love I witnessed, however, was the love the Korean people showed us. Everywhere we went there was at least one person who volunteered to take care of us. People such as Yanni from Dormition of the Mother of God parish in Jeonju, Nektarios from the Annunciation to the Theotokos parish in Busan, and Michael from the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Seoul who not only worked side by side with us but also took us to the grocery store, translated for us, showed us around the town and basically made sure we were taken care of. People like Julia in Seoul who showed us the warmest hospitality we could imagine at her restaurant. These people and many more showed us the true meaning of Christian love by the giving of their time and energy to help us; a group of people they had never met before. I was humbled, to say the least. Koreans are notoriously busy, even more so than Americans, and I know it was no small sacrifice for these kind souls to do what they did for us.

It was truly a blessing to be selected to go on the OCMC team to Korea. The good times, hard work and genuine love I experienced will stay with me always. I would like to say thank you to all of my donors who made my mission trip to Korea possible, especially the National FOCA and Ss. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church in South River, NJ. Thank you for seeing the importance of mission work and for supporting your sister in Christ. You were with me everyday in my heart and in my prayers and I cannot express how much your love, support and prayers mean to me. I extend to you all my sincerest gratitude.

F.O.C.A. GATHERS IN WASHINGTON OVER LABOR DAY



We are planning an unforgettable “MONUMENTAL EVENT” for the 79th Convention of the “Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America”.

It will be hosted by the F.O.C.A. Colonial District on Labor Day Weekend from September 1 through 5, 2005. The Colonial District spans from the Philadelphia/Trenton, N.J. Areas to the Greater Baltimore/Washington D.C. Areas.

This is a wonderful opportunity to MEET in Faith and Fellowship at our Nation’s Capital. There are MANY activities planned for ALL ages, within a short distance of the Convention Hotel.

THURSDAY:

The festivities begin on Thursday morning, September 1st, kicked off by the “President’s Golf Open” at the beautiful East Potomac Blue Course—<http://www.golfdc.com/gc/ep/blue.htm>. Per person fees including cart is \$34. East Potomac’s Blue Course not only provides golfers with a challenging but fair golf course, but also provides some of Washington’s greatest landmarks in the background.

The F.O.C.A. Welcome Event, which allows people to renew acquaintances, will be held on Thursday evening. More details about this event will be provided as we get closer to the convention.

FRIDAY:

In addition to sessions held in the morning, there will be two tours of the Hillwood Museum and Gardens, featuring an extensive collection of Czarist memorabilia (both secular and religious); one tour is scheduled for late morning (convenient for those not in sessions) and the other in the early to mid-afternoon after sessions are over for the day.

Due to space considerations, there is a 50 person maximum for each tour, and docents have been reserved for the guided portion of the tours. The time spent at Hillwood is about 3 hours. Specific information will be provided as details become more finalized.

On Friday evening, an event “We the People” will take place, during which special entertainment is planned.

SATURDAY:

After the morning sessions are completed, free time to explore the sights is scheduled—details of tours will follow.

Vespers

will be held in the late afternoon.

7:00 pm “Monuments by Moonlight”

A guided trolley tour of the DC Monuments will be offered, with pick-up and drop off at the hotel.

SUNDAY:

Hierarchal Divine Liturgy followed by Brunch will take place in the morning.

The “State Dinner,” our evening banquet, will take place.

The “State Dinner” will be followed by “Monumental Feets,” our Grand Ball, featuring the “Polka Platters.” Continuous music will be provided during “Monumental Feets” since a DJ will provide music during the band’s intermissions.

MONDAY:

The “Pork Barrel Luncheon,” our Farewell Lunch will take place after

sessions at St. Mark Orthodox Church, a 20 minute drive from the hotel ‘on the way’ to points West, North and East of Washington, D.C.

Junior and KIDZ Activities and Tours – including a tour of the Smithsonian Museum and Water Park are likely to take place.

More activities for ALL ages will be featured in subsequent articles.

Our convention hotel is the Hilton Alexandria Mark, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311. Within sight of the nation’s capitol and just ten minutes from the central business district of Washington, guests are also near to the quaint waterfront galleries and shops in Old Town Alexandria. From the hotel’s towering glass atrium and Italian marble clad lobby, guests know from the minute they arrive that they are assured a memorable stay. Both standard rooms and suites are available. Standard Room - Hotel Rooms are \$85/night (plus taxes, etc.). Free Parking, Restaurant, Fitness Room, Pool, Tennis Court, Children’s Menu, Cribs, High chairs, Indoor/outdoor pool. Check-in: 3:00PM —Checkout: 12:00PM. King or Double/Double with 2 telephones, data port, coffee maker, iron and ironing board.

Some local attractions, 4 to 12 miles from the Hotel: Arlington Cemetery, US Capitol, Holocaust Museum, Mt. Vernon Estate & Gardens, National WWII Memorial, Smithsonian Museums, Washington Monument, The White House, Pentagon City Mall, Old Town Alexandria.

Within the next few weeks, you will be able to obtain further updated information about the convention through the F.O.C.A. website, which will be linked to the 79th F.O.C.A. convention site.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Alexandria, Va./Washington D.C. area over Labor Day Weekend, 2005.

FELLOWSHIP of ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS in AMERICA

66th ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

NET and HANDICAPPED — Open to FOCA Members and all Orthodox Christians
 May 20-22, 2005 **Banquet after Vespers**

Reservation: Days Inn
 Allentown, PA 18104 Phone: 610.395.3731
Reservation Deadline: April 30, 2005

Sponsored by: Central PA, Chairman: Gary Lelo, 215.538.5321 pglelo@enter.net

Bowling: AMF Parkway Lanes, Allentown, PA
Banquet: Sr. \$35 / Jr. \$15
 PRIZE FEE RETURNED 100%

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

ENTRY NO. _____
 DATE RC'D. _____
 Reg. Fee _____
 Make-up team _____
 Banquet Ticket _____

AMOUNT REQUIRED _____
 AMOUNT DUE _____

FEES Per Person per Event	
Bowling Cost \$ 5.25	TOTAL
Expense 25	\$ 11.00
Prize Fee 5.50	

CAPT. _____ E-mail: _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Chapter No. _____ City _____ District _____ AC/Phone _____

Moral Support
 Sanction
 High score extended to
 member

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO:
 National Sports Director
ROBERT STEFFARO
 2212 Creekside Circle S
 Irving, Texas 75063
 (972) 869.0149

4 PERSON TEAM - \$44.00

AVG.	\$ PER	AVG.	BANQUET Sr. \$35 Jrs. \$15	DOUBLES \$11.00	SINGLES \$11.00	ALL EVENTS	REG. FEE	MAKE UP TEAM	ABC/WIBC NUMBER IF MEMBER
1.						\$ 5.00 (Optional)	\$1.00	\$11.00	
2.									
3.									
4.									
5. (Sub)									
6.	-								
7.	-								
8.	-								
	\$								AMOUNT SENT
									\$

Time Preferred — Doubles and Singles

Friday: 2:00P 6:00P

MEN / WOMEN TEAM EVENTS - Saturday 10:00 AM
If more than 46 teams, Women 9:00 AM / Men 12:00 PM.

TOURNAMENT RULES — Please Read

- ABC rules will prevail throughout the operation of this tournament as will the FOCA sports rules.
- No person may bowl more than once in any event. All bowlers must be from the same chapter, unless set up by the National Sports Director.
- The winners of each event will be proclaimed National FOCA Champions and shall receive trophies and cash in net and handicap divisions.
- Failure to report for bowling at a designated time will be cause to forfeit all entry fees and be eliminated from tournament.
- Use current ABC or WIBC average as of March 15, 2005. A bowlerolling in more than one league must use his or her highest average regardless of the fact that he may participate in this tournament with the team from the league in which his or her average is lowest. (Minimum of 18 games.) If a bowler has no average for this season, he is permitted to use average and further, if he has no average for either, then he is permitted to use the previous year's concluded average '01-'02. Those bowlers not having an established average are permitted to enter at an average of 160 for Men, 125 for Women. Male bowlers to be familiar with average adjustment requirements of ABC Rule 319e.
- Handicap will be 70% between average and 200 for men and 190 for women.
- Failure to use proper average or make a correction prior to completion of first game of a series shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than actual average or base winnings on submitted average if it is higher.
- All bowlers must report to alleys at least 1/2 hour before schedules bowling time.
- Substitutes may be used if their name appears on entry blank.
- Bowlers who have qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any tournament event in the past 12 months must report score, position and amount at time of entry as per 319d.
- Violation of above rules by team or bowler will subject the same to a one year suspension from FOCA tournaments.

Prize Ratio will be at least one prize for each five entries in each event, except All Events which may be 1-10. (ABC/WIBC)

Applicant Signature

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED
 BEFORE MIDNIGHT April 30, 2005**

Make all checks payable to: FOCA Bowling Tournament

LATE ENTRIES WILL BE RETURNED



The Great FOCA Get-Together

NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

May 13 - 15, 2005

Minneapolis, Minnesota

This year the National Basketball Tournament for the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota and hosted by St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral. All Orthodox Christians are able to attend. Make your plans today to be a part of a fun-filled weekend of meeting new people, amazing basketball and renewing friendships. If you do not have enough participants in your area to make a team, you will be assigned to one.

The weekend will start on Friday at 6:00pm at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center in Minneapolis. Registration and an Open House, with food, beverages and games, will continue until 9:00pm, when the basketball players will be picked up by their host families. The remaining players and adults will be staying at the Doubletree Park Place Hotel, 1500 Park Place Blvd, St.

Louis Park, MN 55416, 1-800-245-9190 or online at www.doubletreeminneapolis.com. Room rates are \$79 per night plus tax. Be sure to mention that you are with the FOCA Basketball Tournament! The deadline for reservations is April 15, 2005. The day starts on Saturday at 8:30am with basketball games played continuously throughout the day at Eden Prairie High School. Vespers will begin at 5:30pm at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral with the banquet and dance following at the Parish Center across the street from the Cathedral. Following the 8:30am Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning a brunch will be served at the Parish Center. The Championship games will be held at Eden Prairie High School at 12:00pm. Bag lunches, which should be purchased in advance, will be passed out after the games for those teams that would like them.

There is so much to do and see in the area. Plan on coming early or staying longer to enjoy the beautiful parks, the Minnesota Zoo, Minnehaha Falls, the Science Museum, many challenging golf courses and of course the Mall of America!

An information packet will be mailed out to the chapters in the middle of January.

If you have further questions, please call General Chair, Cheryl Morse @ 952.423.5480.

Visit St. Mary's website www.stmarysoca.org or FOCA's www.focayouth.homestead.com.

A ROLLIN' AND A BOWLIN':

66TH National FOCA Bowling Tournament

May 20-22, 2005 in Allentown, Pennsylvania

Be a COOL CAT and have a BLAST at our BASH! Ladies, get out your poodle skirts, white bobby socks, saddle shoes & white collar blouses. Guys, get out your rollup jeans, wide collar shirts, white bobby socks & penny loafers. We're traveling back in time with "A Rollin' and a Bowlin'" 50's weekend at the 2005 National FOCA Bowling Tournament hosted by your friends in the Central Pennsylvania District from May 20-22, 2005 in Allentown, PA, centrally located in the Keystone State of the Fellowship.

Bowling will be at the AMF Parkway Lanes just off Interstate 78 in Allentown with 48 newly refurbished alleys, a snack bar and cocktail lounge, game room, outside patio and a volleyball court for the non-bowlers. Players and spectators will be housed at the Days Inn Conference Center at the intersection of Routes 22 and 309 in Allentown, just 10 minutes from the bowling alleys. Cost for rooms is only \$62 per night including a complimentary continental breakfast. Call 610-395-3731 by May 5, 2005 to guarantee the special rate and mention the FOCA bowling tournament. If flying into Lehigh Valley International Airport, the hotel has a free shuttle service -let them know when making reservations. Within 5 minutes of the hotel are numerous restaurants and stores, including the Lehigh Valley Mall.

Games will be bowled during the day and evening on Friday, May 20th. Afterwards the sponsors will host an open house in an indoor/outdoor party room at the hotel where bowlers and friends can get together informally. Bowling will resume Saturday morning until completed. For those young (Juniors and Young Adults) and young at heart (the rest of us) looking for more to do, nearby Dorney Amusement Park and Wild Water Kingdom will be open just in time for your visit. Located conveniently between the hotel and bowling alley, it has the world's largest wooden roller coaster. Shoppers can visit the Reading outlets about a 1/2 hour away or the new Cabela's on I-78 in Hamburg, the largest outdoor/sporting goods store east of the Mississippi.

Vespers on Saturday evening will be served by National Spiritual Advisor Fr. Eugene Vansuch at his parish, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, PA, 10 minutes from the hotel right off Route 22. The bowling awards banquet and live entertainment will follow at the new parish fellowship center. And for those staying over, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated the next morning at St. Nicholas.

There's something for everyone and it's all just minutes (okay, an hour or two or three) away. So, roll up those jeans, tie those saddle shoes tight, dig out those vintage bowling shirts and get ready to have A Rollin' and A Bowlin' Good Time! The tourney entry form can be found in this issue of the Journal. For more details or specific questions, contact Tournament Cochair/Central PA Governor Gary Lelo at pglelo@enter.net.

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO
National Sports Committee
Polly Walker
8926 Pine Bluff Ct
Eden Prairie, MN 55347
952.937.9224

FELLOWSHIP of ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS in AMERICA
2005 NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

May 13 - 15, 2005
Sponsored by: St. Mary's O Club, Chapter 94
For Information Contact:
Cheryl Morse, camorse916@aol.com 952.423.5480
All entrants must pay Registration Fee and buy Banquet Ticket

HOUSING:
Double Tree Hotel
1500 Park Place Boulevard
Mpls, MN
1.800.245.9190
For Reservation Ask For The
2005 FOCA National Basketball Tournament
Deadline is April 15, 2005

Bantam Boys Junior Boys Seniors Super Seniors (40+) Women Junior Girls Bantam Girls

Team Name _____ District/Orthodox Parish _____ Chapter No. _____ Coach/Mgr. _____

E-Mail _____ Phone (____) _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The FOCA sponsoring chapter cannot take responsibility for any accident to, from and during the Tournament.

We have read the Tournament Guidelines below as described on this form.

Players' Name	Birth Date Mo/Day/Yr	Age	TOURNAMENT RULES
1.			1) Juniors aged 14 and under are required to be housed unless staying with a parent in the hotel. No Juniors 14 and under may stay in a room without a parent.
2.			2) ALL Juniors have a 12:30 a.m. curfew.
3.			3) Alcoholic beverages, drugs, or cigarettes found on or consumed by Juniors will DISQUALIFY them from further participation in the Tournament for a one year period, and their parents will be notified.
4.			4) Any Senior member providing a Junior with alcoholic beverages, drug, or cigarettes will be DISQUALIFIED from further participation in the Tournament for a one year period.
5.			5) Attendance at Church on Sunday is expected.
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Ages as of December 31, 2004
10 thru 13 — Bantam
14 thru 17 — Juniors
18 thru 39 — Senior
40 & up — Super Srs.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES
IS April 15, 2005

BANQUET/MEAL TICKET RESERVATIONS
Send in with meal ticket order form.
Contact: Cheryl Morse

Entry Fee: \$ 95.00 Per Team \$ _____
Make-Up Team Fee: \$ 15.00 Per Person \$ _____
Late Fee: \$ 15.00 after April 23, 2005 \$ _____
Registration: Jr. \$.50 / Sr. \$ 1.00 \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **2005 National FOCA Basketball Tournament**
Include FOCA Registration Fees for Each Name Listed On This Form.

UPPER NEW YORK STATE JR. DISTRICT CONVENTION & BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The Junior Upper New York State District held its annual convention and bowling tournament on November 13 and 14, 2004. The event was sponsored by the Endicott Jr. R Club and was attended by 35 Juniors from Endicott, Auburn, Cohoes and Watervliet.

A business meeting, including election of district officers, was held on Saturday morning and the bowling tournament was held in the afternoon. Prior to vespers, Fr. Karlgut inducted the newly elected 2005 district officers. After vespers, the Juniors participated in an evening of swimming, basketball, table tennis, pool and socializing at the Endicott Boys and Girls Club. The Endicott parish provided lunch and dinner as well as housing for Juniors to spend the night and join them for Sunday's Liturgy followed by breakfast.

Congratulations are extended to the following bowlers:

Team (scratch): Aleks and Adam Szymaniak, Matt Wild, Tim Daniluk (Auburn)

Team (with handicap): Tom Young, Chris Mack, Tanya Mack, Matt Tucker (Auburn)

	BOYS	GIRLS
High Series scratch	Matt Wild (Auburn)	Lauren Berdar (Watervliet)
High Series with handicap	Adam Szymaniak (Auburn)	Erica Wild (Auburn)
High Game scratch	David Barton (Endicott)	Katie Watson (Endicott)
High Game with handicap	Aleks Szymaniak (Auburn)	Nicole Watson (Endicott)

Thanks and congratulations are extended to the outgoing 2004 District Officers:

Governor - Jessica Melnick, Lt. Governor – Christopher Mack, Executive Secretary – Alex Bendon, Recording Secretary – Alexandra Karlgut, and Treasurer – Erica Wild.

We welcome and congratulate our newly elected 2005 District Officers:

Governor – Erica Wild (Auburn), Lt. Governor – Alex Bendon (Watervliet), Executive Secretary – Valerie Wolanski (Cohoes), Recording Secretary – Nicole Watson (Endicott), and Treasurer – Christopher Mack (Auburn).

It was a wonderful event and special thanks are extended to the Endicott Parish, the Endicott Jr. R Club and Mrs. Susan Watson (Endicott Advisor).

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Melnick – 2004 UNYS District Governor



(LEFT) UPPER NEW YORK STATE JR. BOWLERS – Nov. 2004



2005 UNYS Jr. Executive Board:
(left to right)
Valerie Wolanski – Executive Secretary
Alex Bendon – Lt. Governor
Fr. Stephen Mack – Spiritual Advisor
Erica Wild – Governor
Nicole Watson – Recording Secretary
Christopher Mack - Treasurer



(LEFT)
Upper New York State Jr. District Annual Business Meeting, Nov. 2004



UNYS Jr. District – Bowling Tournament

FOCA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNOUNCES 2005 “GIFTS OF LOVE” PROJECT

—Archbishop Arseny Institute in Canada
chosen to be recipient of FOCA 2005 fundraising campaign



By John Kruchok

The National Executive Board of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America at its winter meeting in Vienna, Ohio, December 10-11, 2004 formally approved the selection of the Archbishop Arseny Institute, Winnipeg (Manitoba), Canada as the recipient of the 2005 “Gifts of Love” fundraising campaign. FOCA 78th National Convention delegates previously earmarked the funds for the Church in Canada last July and authorized the Executive Board to contact church leadership to consider various possibilities for our assistance. Chapters will be receiving formal notification from FOCA National President Dr. John Schultz regarding this annual appeal to coincide with the timing of Valentine’s Day 2005. Funds raised will be distributed in a formal presentation at this year’s All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America in Toronto, Canada this July. Margaret Hopkosky has again been chosen to chair “Gifts of Love.” The 2003 and 2004 drive earmarked for the vehicle for St. Herman’s Seminary raised more than \$25,000.

The Archbishop Arseny Institute (also known to the faithful of Canada as “St. Arseny Institute”) is a theological education center which has the Blessing of Bishop Seraphim and is under his direction as hierarch of the Archdiocese of Canada, OCA. The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America has also given its approval. Located on the grounds of historic and picturesque Holy Trinity Church in Winnipeg’s north end, the Institute opened its doors in September, 2003 to train singers, readers, sub-deacons and deacons for the Church and to educate laity in the Orthodox faith. Programs offered include diaconal, lay theology, readers, and distant education. Additionally, special lectures, panels, workshops and other opportunities are open to the general public. According to Fr. Eugene Vansuch, FOCA National Spiritual Advisor, this project presents an opportunity for the FOCA to get involved “on the ground floor” with the anticipation that this institute will develop into a full-fledged seminary for the Church in Canada, much like St. Herman’s Seminary in Alaska.

The concept for the establishment of a theological school in Canada was proposed at a parish meeting at Holy Trinity in 1927 (the same year as the FOCA’s establishment) by Bishop Arseny. Seventy-four years later in 2001, the Archdiocesan Council of Canada proposed the establishment of a theological institute at Holy Trinity Sobor. On October 3, 2002, His Grace, Bishop Seraphim sent a letter to the acting director of the Institute, Spencer Estabrooks, stating “With this letter, I give officially the Blessing for the establishment of the Saint Arseny Orthodox Christian Theological Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Its purpose would be to increase the level of education in English for the local and nearby faithful; to prepare readers and singers; to prepare subdeacons; and to prepare deacons for service in the Church. The Institute will be under the Omophor of the Bishop of Canada, and will report both to him and to the local Dean.” Archbishop Arseny is a beloved servant and hierarch of the Orthodox Church in North America, who fell asleep in the Lord in 1945. He served as bishop for Canada, established a forerunner of what is now the Canadian Orthodox Messenger, and began St. Tikhon’s monastery and theological school in Pennsylvania, among other accomplishments. He was missionary-minded, a very eloquent speaker and had a vision for theological education and the building of an indigenous Orthodox Church in Canada. He is being venerated now locally in Canada and is being considered for canonization by the Orthodox Church in America.

Presently, Archbishop Arseny Institute is under the direction of Spencer Estabrooks, the Dean of Manitoba and is run by an administration committee. There are three instructors teaching, offering their services gladly, with only token honoraria. The Director receives modest support. Some individuals take courses to qualify as readers or deacons. Others take courses out of interest and for their spiritual development and understanding of the Orthodox faith. The Institute is the only place in Canada offering specific programs for training teachers and deacons in English. The Institute is also committed to making Orthodox theological education accessible and affordable for laity in the English language. As of January, 2005, the full twenty courses can be taken by correspondence as well as locally. Most courses can be taken for less than \$200 Canadian funds. As of October, 2004, 24 students have enrolled in the Institute with 7 students studying for the Holy Diaconate with the Blessing of His Grace, Bishop Seraphim.

Financially, the Institute operates in the black per policy and the operating budget was doubled from last year, from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Funds are generated from fees and donations. The Institute has also requested a start up grant from the Orthodox Church in America for \$15,000, spread over three years at \$5,000 each. Thus, the Institute has been encouraged recently by notice that the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America had chosen the theological center as a recipient of 2005 “Gifts of Love” fundraising.

Given the FOCA’s commitment to our theological seminaries and seminarians studying for the priesthood, the 2005 “Gifts of Love” project is a wonderful extension to the people and Church of Canada and clearly addresses the theme of the 2005 All-American Council in Toronto, “The Church and Its Future”.

Contributions can be sent to our chairperson,
Margaret Hopkosky, 6474 State Road #I-16, Parma, OH 44134 (phone #440-842-2611)

Chapter News

Scholarship Winners Announced in New Jersey

At the November, 2004 New Jersey District Convention held in Singac, seven scholarship winners from the District were announced.

The winners are as follows:

New Jersey District Award: Kelly Baron, member of the Garden State R Club and SS Peter and Paul's Church in Passaic. Kelly is a junior at Rutgers University in New Brunswick majoring in physics and economics.

Richard J. Miskiv Memorial Scholarship Winners: Jeffrey Hoff, member of the South River R Club and SS Peter and Paul's Church in South River. Jeffrey is a junior at MIT University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, majoring in mechanical engineering. **Andrew Bacsik**, member of the Singac R Club and St. John the Baptist Church in Singac. Andrew is a sophomore at Fairfield University in Connecticut, majoring in economics and psychology. **Nicole Dziamba**, member of the Holy Cross R Club, and Elevation of the Holy Cross Church in Hackettstown. Nicole is a sophomore at Boston College, majoring in photo journalism. **Alyssa Ochab**, member of SS Peter and Paul's R Club and Church in Passaic. Alyssa is a senior at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania, majoring in Elementary Education. **John Witkowski**, member of the South River R Club and SS Peter and Paul's Church in South River. John is a senior at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, majoring in Accounting. **David Baron**, member of the Passaic O Club and St. John the Baptist Church in Passaic. David is a sophomore at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, leaning towards a major in the sciences.

The collective FOCA, Church, charitable, athletic, and scholarship talents of the above individuals are extremely impressive. From Eagle Scout to star high school athletes, from Habitat for Humanity to Day Care Volunteering, from altar servers to choir members, from Chapter officers to District ones, from National Merit scholarship qualifiers to Edward Bloustein Distinguished Scholars, and the list goes on and on.

The New Jersey District and the entire FOCA are indeed proud of these talented individuals. We wish them the best of success going forward, both academically and in their careers, and also pray for their continued involvement in their respective Churches and the FOCA.

The New Jersey District Scholarship was established approx. 15 years ago and the winner(s) are selected in conjunction with submission of the National FOCA Scholarship program. The Richard J. Miskiv Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2002 as a lasting tribute to the memory of Richard, who was a very active member of the FROC/FOCA organization from 1969 until his untimely passing in 2002. Annually, a committee makes recommendations for scholarships based on the number of New Jersey District applications and their respective qualifications. May Richard's Memory be Eternal.



Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



Guidelines for the F.O.C.A. Mission Scholarship Grant

- 1) Obtain an OCMC Mission Team Application Form by contacting:
Orthodox Christian Mission Center • PO Box 4319 • Saint Augustine, FL 32085-4319
Tel (904) 829-5132 • Email: Teams@ocmc.org
- 2) Applicant must have a valid PASSPORT. This is important for your trip, particularly if you will travel to another country.
- 3) In writing, please request an F.O.C.A. Scholarship Grant Application from the Mission Chairperson:
V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar • 5501 Locust Lane • Harrisburg, PA 17109-5623

PLEASE NOTE: For 2005, there will be two - \$1,500.00 Grants awarded. The Grants will be determined by decision of the National F.O.C.A. Executive Board upon recommendation of the National Spiritual Advisor and the Mission Chairperson.

- 4) Verification required that applicant has been selected for an OCMC Mission Team. A letter of verification must accompany the F.O.C.A. Mission Scholarship Grant Application.
- 5) **Deadline for application is March 1, 2005.** Return completed application and letter of verification to the Mission Chairperson:
V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar • 5501 Locust Lane • Harrisburg, PA 17109-5623
- 6) In determining recipients, F.O.C.A. members will have first preference. Repeat recipients will be considered whenever cancellations occur.
- 7) Upon return from their Mission trip, recipients are to submit a written report, along with photos of their experience, to the Chairperson for publication in the OCJ. The report should be submitted within 30 days of their return.
- 8) Scholarship Grant recipients will be notified via phone and an official letter from the National Spiritual Advisor or the Mission Chairperson.

2005 NATIONAL FOCA SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention students! The Fellowship is now accepting applications for the 2005 national scholarships: the Fred Lewis, William Fekula, John Klimkosky, Nicholas Torsky Engineering and Misha Michaelson Seminary awards. Last year \$12,000 in scholarships were distributed by the Executive Board. As a result of national convention action last summer, graduate students are now also eligible for scholarship awards provided the course load requirements are met: also, military academy students are eligible. (An applicant can win up to (2) national awards only.) Applying for a national award also renders an applicant eligible for various district scholarships.

To be eligible, one must be a member from July of the previous year (i.e., July 2004 thru 2005) and the year of application. Mrs. Sandra Kapelan, FOCA national administrative secretary, serves as scholarship program administrator. The Michigan District has been named by the National Board of Trustees as judge for a three-year term. Full details and the application form are available on the FOCA website: orthodoxfellowship.org. An application may also be obtained from the National FOCA Office by calling (570) 825-3158 or via email request to orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com. Deadline is March 31st. Apply now!

2005 WINTER TRANSITIONS

DEATH: Fr. Nicholas Fedetz, pastor emeritus of SS. Peter & Paul Church, Bayonne, NJ, fell asleep in the Lord on January 1, 2005. His wife, Matushka Geraldine, preceded him in death just five months earlier. Fr. Nick, a longtime member and supporter of the FOCA/FROC, had served as spiritual advisor to the Bayonne Alpha "R" Club and was a current member of Chapter #97. His survivors include daughters Kyra and Tais and brother Andrew. Funeral services were held at his parish and at St. Tikhon's Monastery where he was buried. Memory Eternal.

BIRTH: Andrew Michael Steffaro was born on October 1, 2004 (at just 2 lbs., 15 oz.!) to proud parents National FOCA Vice President Michael and Allison Steffaro of the South River "R" Club. Finally coming home from the NIC unit in mid-November, Andrew was baptized on December 29, 2004 and is doing very well and adjusting to his new family. His sister Alexis adores him and everyone is fine. Proud grandparents are Past National President/CPO Chair Carol and Walter Deerson of South River and Past National Spiritual Advisor/FOCA Webmaster Fr. John and Carol Steffaro of Campbell, OH. The Steffaro family thanks everyone for their prayers, thoughts and cards these past months. Many Years!

DEATH: Matushka Irene Soroka, wife of Fr. Igor Soroka, pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Donora, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on October 31, 2004. She is also survived by four children, including Mark, past *Journal* editor, and two grandchildren. Fr. Igor is a past national FOCA/FROC spiritual advisor and Matushka was a member of the Donora "R" Club, #35. Funeral services were held at her parish and at St. Tikhon's Monastery where she was buried. Memory Eternal.

RELOCATION: Mrs. Ann Dutko is now a resident at Wayne Woodlands Manor, 295 South Street, Waymart, PA 18472 (Room 100). She is a member of the Fr. John Naumovich Literary "R" Club, # 50, of Edwardsville, PA and the mother of Elizabeth "Lizzie" Dutko, the Fellowship's graduation gift pack coordinator. Send her a greeting card.

MARRIAGE: Stephen Stchur, Vladicon "O" Club, #131, Baltimore, MD, was wed to Emily Lightner, vice president of Vladicon "O" Club, on October 10, 2004 at St. Andrew Church in Baltimore. The couple will reside in Baltimore. Stephen spent a year as an OCMC volunteer for Project Mexico in 2002-2003. We pray God grant them His choicest blessings and many years!

MARRIAGE: John Speraw, president of Vladicon "O" Club, #131, Baltimore, MD, was wed to Anne Fuleras, former assistant to the OCA chancellor, on September 26, 2004 at St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Sterling Heights, MI. The couple will reside in Baltimore. We pray God grant them His choicest blessings and many years!

INVESTITURE: William Sutzko was invested into the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in ceremonies in New York City on October 9-10, 2004 conducted by Archbishop Demetrios. The archons provide financial and other support to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Bill and his wife, Carol, are members of the American "O" Club of St. Michael's Church in St. Clair, PA. He has been president of the parish council for the past 15 years and is a retired educator. Congratulations and many years!

DEATH: Archpriest John Sviridov, retired rector of SS. Peter & Paul Cathedral, Detroit, MI, fell asleep in the Lord just before Christmas 2004. He was a longtime FOCA/FROC member of Chapter #2/9 (and previously of #106), both in Detroit, and its spiritual advisor. Funeral services were at the cathedral on Dec. 27. Surviving are his wife, Matushka Melanya, a daughter and two grandchildren. Memory Eternal.

NEW GOVERNORS: John "Jack" Kriniske was elected as governor of the Atlantic District at the 71st annual conference sponsored by the Bridgeport "R" Club on Nov. 21, 2004. Jack is a former governor of the district. Frank Kaputa becomes immediate past governor. Nancy Filak was elected governor of the New Jersey District at the district convention sponsored by the Singac "R" Club on Nov. 6-7, 2004. She currently is the photo contest coordinator. Michael Steffaro becomes immediate past governor. Congratulations to the new governors and welcome to the Board of Trustees!

BIRTHDAY: Matushka Margaret Resselar, God-willing, will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 19, 2005! The wife of the late Fr. Dimitri Resselar, an original FOCA/FROC member and frequent contributor to the early *Journal*, Matushka's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are all Fellowship members. Cards may be sent to the Verrazano Nursing Home, Room 412, 100 Castleton Ave., Staten Island, NY 10303-3089. Many years Baba!

DEATH: Edward Hlipala, member of SS. Peter & Paul Church, Passaic, NJ, Chapter #30, fell asleep in the Lord on January 7, 2005, his parish's celebration of the Nativity of Christ on the old calendar. Ed was also president of the church, chairman of the cemetery committee and member of the trustees for many years. He was a long-time member of the FOCA/FROC as well as a member of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. May Edward's memory be eternal.

BIRTHDAY: Happy birthday to Nation's Capital "R" Club member Mrs. Anna Yaremko, who celebrated her 90th birthday on January 25, 2005. Anna is a long-time parishioner at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington. Greetings to her may be sent to 2032 Belmont Rd., N.W., Apt. 502, Washington, D.C. 20009.

SS. Cosmas & Damian Adult Home Service Project

Lara Herzak

October 8-10, 2004, 30 young adults from New Jersey, Minnesota, New York, Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Delaware and Canada gathered in New York City for the project. The weekend began on Friday night with a welcome reception at the hotel. Fr. Michael Anderson, Director, and Cheryl Morse, Chair of the OCA's Department of Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministries attended as well. Saturday morning was a very early start beginning with a brisk boat ride on the Staten Island Ferry headed for the home. Basil Kozak, Operations Manager for the Home, and Argyra Lapchuk, Administrator, met the ferry and transported us to the home where we had morning prayers and breakfast. Duties were then assigned and everyone got to work. We were divided into three main groups...painters, cleaners and landscapers. The painters had a lot of work ahead of them, but were able to complete their assignment by repainting three resident rooms and a smoking lounge. The cleaners thoroughly cleaned the Chapel as well as doing some light painting. The landscaping crew planted 30 cabbage plants, 30 mums, along with over 200 flower bulbs. All the outside doors were sanded and repainted as well. A bit later in the day, some of the young adults served ice cream sundaes to the residents. We finished our time at the home with evening prayers lead by Fr. Michael and were joined by a few residents as well. It was then off to New York for dinner in Times Square. Sunday morning was another early rise as we had an hour car ride to Syosset, NY for Divine Liturgy at the OCA Chancery. Following Liturgy, we were served a wonderful brunch and the young adults were given a tour of the Chancery, including the Metropolitan's office and residence and the church archives. Before leaving, we were able to sit down to discuss this completed project and future projects.

All in all, the home was very pleased with the effort and enthusiasm shown by all the young adults and the participants found the weekend to be rewarding and fun.

For the complete listing of pictures, please visit http://www.o.ca.org/pages/events/2004/10.October/1009StatenIsland_NY-YouthServiceProject/index.html

At the 2004 FOCA National Convention in Niagara Falls, the FOCA voted to give the young adults \$1,000 toward a service project at SS. Cosmas & Damian Adult Home in Staten Island, NY. Over \$700 was also collected from individuals on the convention floor. All of the funds raised were used for the painting supplies, the flowers and bulbs and for food and beverage at the welcome reception and lunch at the home. Thank you to the FOCA and to those who donated for your support in making this project a success. Special thanks to Michael & Allison Steffaro for picking up and delivering the plants and flowers, Becky Tesar for using her Sherwin Williams con-

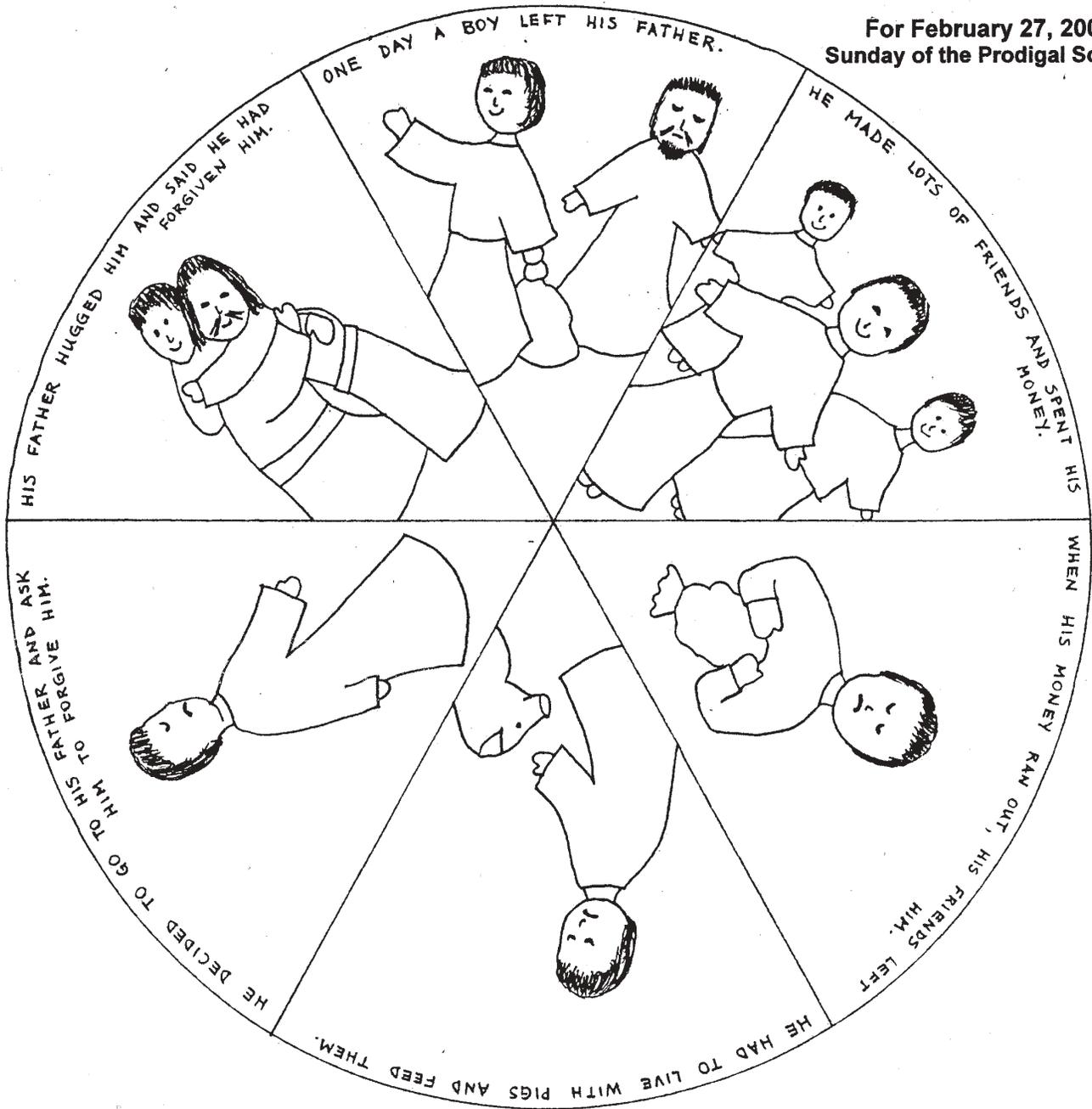
tacts for all the painting supplies and to the Chancery staff for brunch. A big thank you to all the young adults who traveled to NYC at their own expense and volunteered their time. It was a worthy cause you participated in and greatly appreciated by the residents.

"The residents and staff had such positive comments about the whole day and we are all so grateful for the work that was accomplished. We would like to extend all of God's blessings to the participants!" Argyra Lapchuk

"The time and effort all of you put into last Saturday did a lot to beautify our facility, and everyone's positive attitude and enthusiasm has had a lasting effect on the lives of our residents (and staff!). It was a pleasure to work, eat, and pray with you, and I hope we can do something like this in the future. Thank you and best wishes for your continued success in this important work."



For February 27, 2005
Sunday of the Prodigal Son



Make a circle to cover this one.

Cut out one section. ☺

Place over the story and attach with a brad.

As you turn the wheel, it will show one part of the story at a time.

OCJ Staff Thanks You...

For Supporting The *Orthodox Christian Journal* Publication,
Happy New Year!

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<i>Chapter 37</i> | Betty Ann Perschka
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| Nancy Filak
<i>Chapter 66</i> | | Pat & John Ihnat
<i>Chapter #79</i> | | Andrew, Lisa, Alex Petty
<i>Chapter 17</i> |
| Leda Dzwonczyk
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Happy New Year!

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CLUB**
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"R" CLUB**
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Chapter No. 7
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Chapter No. 27 - 27J
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- Chapter No. 47/135
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"O" CLUB**
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MICHAEL
"O" CLUB**
Burbank, Illinois
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Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
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South River, New Jersey
- Chapter No. 171 - 171J
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Madison, Illinois
- Chapter No. 175
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VALLEY "O" CLUB**
Sacramento, California
- Chapter No. 180 - 180J
ST. JOHN'S "R" CLUB
Bridgeport, Connecticut
- Chapter No. 189
**ST. MICHAEL'S "O"
CLUB**
St. Louis, Missouri
- Chapter No. 109
**CANONSBURG
"O" CLUB**
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania
- Chapter No. 199 - 199J
**HARRISBURG "O"
CLUB**
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
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**GARDEN STATE "R"
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Alpha, New Jersey
- Chapter No. 215
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CLUB**
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- Chapter. No. 219 - 219J
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CLUB**
Phoenix, Arizona
- Chapter No. 220 - 220J
**ST. ANDREW'S "R"
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- Chapter No. 222 - 222J
**HOLY TRINITY "O"
CLUB**
Randolph, New Jersey
- Chapter No. 223 - 223J
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CLUB**
Hackettstown, New Jersey
- Chapter No. 228 - 228J
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"R" CLUB**
Wallingford, Pennsylvania
- Chapter No. 229
ST. MARK FOCA
Bethesda, Maryland
- Chapter No. 246-246J
**ST. GREGORY of
PALAMAS "O" CLUB**
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- Chapter No. 247
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CHRISTIANS
in MISSISSIPPI**
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- Chapter No. 14
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Celebrations of Faith

The 2005 FOCA Creative Arts Program



The chosen theme reflects the designation chosen by the Holy Synod of Bishops for the Church-wide youth movement. All youth are encouraged to create and submit works of art in four areas:

- *Literature**
- *Musical Compositions**
- *Photography**
- *Visual Arts**

Each year the Celebrations program will challenge our youth to a greater awareness of their church. This year's theme is:

“Champions of Faith”

Dates to Remember

April 1st: Deadline for all entries to be submitted for judging.

Mail to:

F.O.C.A. Celebrations of Faith
c/o Cheryl Morse
4746 137th St. W.
Apple Valley, MN. 55124

May 13th-15th: Entries will be displayed at the National FOCA Basketball Tournament in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Awards will be announced at the banquet and will be displayed on the FOCA website.

July 17th-22nd: Winning entries will be displayed at the 14th All-American Council in Toronto, Ontario, CANADA.

A detailed list of rules for each category and entry form may be found on the F.O.C.A. website or through your Jr. Advisor or your Youth Coordinator.

Celebrations program is sponsored by:

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (F.O.C.A.)

www.orthodoxfellowship.org