



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 58 NO. 4

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2012

All Saints Camp -- Off Season Submitted By Michael Nakonachny

Even with the snow falling in the Allegheny Valley, the volunteers at All Saints Camp are hard at work preparing for the 2012 camping season.

Less than two weeks after our last encampment, there were already major changes underway. In a short period of time, volunteers have removed and started replacing flooring in cabin 9 along with refinishing floors in cabins 4 and 6. Also, they have started relocating the power lines underground on the girls' side of the camp.



While our volunteers were making improvements and preparing the camp for winter, a structural issue was discovered under cabin 4. This cabin, along with the majority of the structures, have been serving us faithfully with little or no maintenance. It is because of the S.O.S. fundraising campaign

that our volunteers were able to immediately begin repairs and, in one weekend, were able to replace a large amount of the rotted structure under the cabin. This is just one example of the work that has been accomplished because of the generosity of our donors.

We are still in need of people to sponsor a few structures and additional items.

Millennium Building Dorm Rooms 1 – 5	\$1250 each
Millennium Building Classrooms 1 and 2	\$1750 each
Pavilion	\$5000
Jointer	\$900
Soccer Goal	\$2000
150 Folding Chairs	\$20 each

A full list of items that still need sponsors can be found at www.allsaintscamp.org/sos. Another major addition to the camp facilities is currently under construction. Thanks to a generous donation, we have been able to start construction on a clergy cabin located near the chapel.

The dedication of our volunteers is not solely geared toward the maintenance of All Saints Camp. Rather, the purpose is to provide a safe and healthy camping environment so that the youth of our Church will have a wonderful place to spend their summers learning their Faith and culture and making friends from around the country, preparing them to become future leaders of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church.



Christ is Born!

Glorify Him!



The Senior and Junior National Executive Boards extend greetings to all UOL Members this Nativity Season. May you and your family have a very blessed Nativity and a New Year full of happiness!

Nativity Tropar

Our Nativity, O Christ our God,
Has shone to the world the Light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars,
Were taught by a Star to adore You,
The Sun of Righteousness,
And to know You, the Orient from on High.
O Lord, glory to You!

Pre-Junior Program at the UOL Convention
2012

If you are interested in your children participating in the Pre-Junior Program at the UOL Convention - please contact Beth Harendza. The Pre-Junior program is designed for children aged 7 to 10.



“Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity” (Psalm: 133:1)

65th UOL CONVENTION
ALLENTOWN, PA
July 26-29, 2012



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UOL Bulletin - Published seven times annually - September, October, November, January/February, March, April and June.

The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 1st of the prior month. Photos will not be returned.

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 12 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. (Submit to: nsufler@aol.com). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consent for photos to be included in the UOL Bulletin.

The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Martha X Misko



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

I am sure that by now most of you have received several 2012 calendars from local businesses, fancy gift calendars, and maybe even a church calendar! Consider choosing one of them and marking on it some of the upcoming UOL events and activities that are planned for 2012!

January: The Young Adults Committee of the UOL is sponsoring its Winter Weekend Getaway on January 13-16. Winter sports and non-winter sports enthusiasts are invited to gather in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania for this annual event.

On January 21, the Junior and Senior National Executive Boards of the UOL will be meeting in Carnegie, PA for their Winter Meetings. The Sts. Peter and Paul UOL Chapters are graciously hosting the Board members. Should you be in the area, please come join us. We would welcome your thoughts and opinions that would help to strengthen the work of the UOL.

February: The NFL's Super Bowl event is the kickoff date of the UOL Christian Care-giving and Missions Commission's "Souper Bowl Sunday." Donations to this project benefit St. Andrew's Society that assists soup kitchens and humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Please begin to collect funds on this date and throughout February to contribute to this worthy cause.

March: Don't forget to mark the dates of the UOL Lenten Retreats. Saturday, March 17 is the date of the Retreat in Villa Maria in Western Pennsylvania, and Saturday, March 24 is the date of the Retreat in Bethlehem, PA. Both Retreats will focus on aspects of Great Lent.

July: It's not too early to begin planning your attendance at the 65th Annual UOL Convention. The Convention is being hosted by the UOL Chapters of the Protection of the Virgin Mary Parish in Allentown, PA. On July 26-29 the Convention, with a Winter Wonderland theme, will be held at the Best Western Plus Hotel in Bethlehem, PA— Christmas in July, perhaps?

And, though, the Thanksgiving season has long since passed, please do not forget to continue to contribute to the Thanksgiving Tithing project. This year, 2011-2012, the beneficiary of the project is our Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ. Our Church, as most of our society, is undergoing financial difficulties in today's economy, and to worsen the situation, the effects of this past season's weather have damaged the property with flooding. The primary focus of the UOL is always to support and strengthen our Church. Thus, we ask our UOL members and ALL members of the UOC of the USA to donate 10% of the costs of your Thanksgiving celebration or any manageable amount for this most worthy and necessary reason. Donations can be forwarded to Financial Secretary Pam Scannell, 2000 Clover Drive, Vestal NY 13850.

I trust that you and your families had a joyous and spiritual Holiday season. I pray that 2012 brings you much happiness and good health!

I remain yours in Christ,

Martha X. Misko

President



ASK FR. HARVEY
Questions answered by Fr. John W. Harvey

There has been a lot of media focus on the big problem of bullies both in the school setting as well as in the workplace. If this seemingly growing menace is rife in schools and businesses, are there instances manifest in church life as well?

Bullies and bullying show quite a widespread problem and there are instances of bullying that have caused emotional scars in my own childhood. The church has always been a hospital for sick souls in need of healing and refreshment and is intended as a therapeutic place. Both those ministering as priests and those serving in a supporting role, such as parish officers, should be loving and sensitive at all times, radiating the love of Christ. This is the ideal, but over the centuries many have abused their positions causing dismay and spiritual trauma to those under their authority. The strictures of canon law had to be set to remediate overt situations when priests or bishops overstepped their bounds and oppressed individuals.

A local priest may act as a spiritual guide, but parishioners cannot be ordered to do anything. Advice may be given, but theirs is the choice and if need be the consequences of their actions may be delineated. Pastoral restraint and infinite patience should be shown by clergy. In the story of the prodigal son, the inheritance was freely given by the father even though it was self-evident that it would be frittered away on wild living. The father was utterly patient as he yearned that the son would finally come to his senses and return. Here is an excellent pastoral example of dealing with a thorny situation. Our church also does not countenance the practice of "shepherding" by which ministers rule almost every domestic activity of their parishioners' lives. Another sort of bullying is the unequal treatment of one parishioner over another. This is often a factor when we consider why this parishioner has left the parish. People feel especially scarred when their own pastor has railed against them, humiliated them or otherwise caused spiritual or emotional pain.

Parish officers, as helpers in the parochial administration and ministry to members, must also radiate the love and patience of Christ. This is really a diaconal function and dealing with parishioners always should show Christlike mercy and patience. How many instances over the years has one heard of parish officers who have run roughshod over priests. Subtle threats have cowed many a priest who fear that their continuing pastorate in a place or support of their family could be in jeopardy if they do not submit to demands. Parishioners too have had instances of bullying by their officers. Every parish has stories from the past which can easily be identified as instances of bullying. It is sad but many bullies do not recognize their activity as such. Abusing or misusing authority or public trust may to them seem just like part of what the job entails. Yes, priests and officers alike can easily overstep their authority on a spurt of heady power.

God expects those in the church to lead with humility. Pride is a noxious thing to Him, so those proud bullies who are terrors to poor suffering souls and scar individuals through their actions will reap due punishment in the end.

Let us pray that our pastors become discerning, but humble and learn how to therapeutically give to each what is needed in that instance. When we choose our parish officers let us select kind, understanding and thoroughly Christian individuals, who by their daily life have never exhibited bullying traits.



JUNIOR UOL HOODIES
Jr. UOL Hoodies are still available for \$25.00!
For purchase contact Nick Holowko at spiltmilk1222@aol.com
Make checks payable to "JR. UOL"

“Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity.”

(Psalm 133:1)

65th Annual UOL Convention

Hosted by

**The Protection of the Virgin Mary (Pokrova) Parish
UOL Chapters**

Allentown, PA

July 26-29, 2012

In previous issues of the *Bulletin* we have provided a laundry-style list of reasons why the Lehigh Valley is perfectly suited to host the UOL Convention. It's a scientific fact that attendees will be spending most of their time engaged in our planned activities during the week, so let's inspect them, shall we?

Wednesday, July 25th

Though Business Sessions won't start until Thursday, the Convention begins with Vespers and the traditional Hospitality Night – though there is nothing traditional about this evening's “'Twas the Night Before Christmas...” theme. Rekindle those feelings of merriment and anticipation usually reserved for cold winter nights and perhaps we'll let you see what's in your stocking a night early!

Thursday, July 26th

The Convention officially gets down to business commencing with Divine Liturgy served in the hotel chapel. After a delicious brunch, Business Sessions for Juniors and Seniors will be called to order. With the completion of business obligations we will unwind with dinner and dancing at the nearby Meadows Inn.

Do you have a particularly festive holiday sweater, vest or sweatshirt? If so, bring it along to Allentown and enter to win awards for the Gaudiest, Cheesiest and Funniest holiday garments. The Meadows Inn is air conditioned, we swear!



Images to Consider Wearing Upon Your Shirt

- Christmas trees
- candy canes
- snow flakes
- Frosty the Snow Man
- wrapped presents
- ornaments
- reindeer



In hopes of spreading our holiday cheer beyond the confines of the Convention, all attendees are encouraged to bring along gifts which will be collected on behalf of the UOC of USA-sponsored orphanages in Ukraine. We will also be making greeting cards during the week that will be included in the care packages sent to these deserving children.

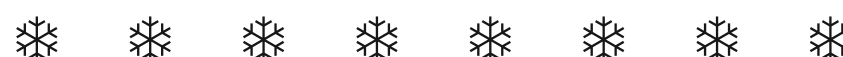
To book a room at the rate of \$99. per night,

please visit <http://www.lehighvalleyhotel.com/>

or call (610) 866-5800.

Also, please visit our webpage for more updates and news:

<http://uol.orthodoxws.com/2012convention.html>



NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Gregory Markiw

Christ Is Born!

I pray that everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. The holiday season serves as a reminder to all of us that we are blessed to be citizens of this great country where we can live and worship freely. We must remember how fortunate we truly are and to share the blessings God has bestowed upon us with others less fortunate.

It is with that mindset that we are asking all Junior UOL members to embark upon the upcoming projects with a renewed effort.

On February 5, 2012 we are asking that all chapters host a **‘Souper’ Bowl Sunday** with all proceeds going to St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Society which supports soup kitchens for needy elderly and orphans in Ukraine.

On Sunday, February 19, 2012 everyone should make a real effort to **‘Bring a Friend to Church Day.’** Why not ask a friend to spend the morning with your church family as you all worship and thank God for His many blessings? You might want to consider scheduling a fun activity afterwards such as a bowling or pizza and a movie outing. Don’t be shy! You just might be the light in that someone’s life that Christ calls us to be!

The **2012 Great Lent Giveaway** is a perfect way to start our Lenten journey. Each year we ask our Junior League members to concentrate their efforts to support a worthy cause during Lent. This year the focus will be on educating and supporting members who may want to participate in the 2012 High School Mission Trip. This year’s trip will be to the headquarters of the OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) which is located in St. Augustine, Florida. If you have any questions regarding the GLG or how you can help, you can either contact Justina Mills at jamills94@comcast.net or Mrs. Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon at uocyouth@aol.com

Information regarding these projects will be mailed out soon to all Jr. UOL Presidents, Sr. Advisors and Spiritual Advisors. Remember, all this information will also be uploaded to the Junior UOL Webpage (http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com/junior_uol.html).

In future articles we will be talking about the upcoming **Lenten Retreats** which have become a staple in many of our Lenten journeys. These gatherings help us regain our focus on Christ and His message during the Lenten season. Then there is the **2012 Essay Contest**, which always provides the opportunity to share your thoughts on our faith and Church.

Last but not least, the annual **Jr. UOL Raffle** which has always proven to be one of the most successful fundraisers for the Junior League. We ask that everyone please consider supporting the Jr. UOL when asked to sell or purchase tickets.

The next National UOL Executive Board meeting will be held in Carnegie, PA the weekend of January 20-22, 2012. I can assure everyone that all the Carnegie members are looking forward to hosting this weekend – and they would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to all our neighboring parishes and UOL chapter members.

Keep working on getting new members involved in your chapter projects and if you don’t have a chapter, consider starting one! We will be sending out UOL surveys to all the parish priests in the UOC concerning whether or not that parish would like to start one. As an added bonus, upon receiving the completed survey, we will also send a UOL care package full of UOL goodies and information. We are here to answer any questions you might have and are willing to help your new chapter get up and running!

Please don’t forget about your chapter dues and membership forms. The deadline was September 30th, so if you have not sent them in to our Financial Secretary - Liz Hershey, please do so as soon as possible. We really need contact information on all our members to ensure that everyone is getting the most up to date information.

Peace and Love,

Gregory Markiw

Jr. UOL President

Carnegie Chapter Presents College Scholarships

Submitted by Alice Sivulich

The Sts. Peter & Paul Senior Chapter, Carnegie, PA, presented nine scholarships to parish college students at the annual Anniversary Dinner of the Parish on November 6. Three of them were able to be at Liturgy during Thanksgiving break and are pictured below: Zachary Kapeluck, Anastasia Markiw, Christine Wachnowsky. Funds for the scholarship were raised by chapter members during the preceding year through various projects. Those students who received UOL Chapter Scholarships were:

Zachary Kapeluck, majoring in Dance at Point Park University

Anastasia Markiw, majoring in Architecture at Kent State University

Corinna Rozum, majoring in presurgical technology at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Irene Onufrey, majoring in International Relations at American University

Olesia Stasko, majoring in Physics at Westminster College

Christine Wachnowsky, majoring in Biochemistry at Allegheny College

Nick Wachnowsky, majoring in Engineering at Penn State University

John Walewski, majoring in Marketing at Ohio State University

Natasha Walewski, majoring in Business at Arcadia University



The Carnegie UOL Chapter Scholarship was established in 1991 and scholarships have been presented annually to parish college students since then. The Senior Chapter raises the money to provide these scholarships through various fundraisers throughout the year. There is an application procedure and a committee of Chapter members with no vested interest in any applicant determines the scholarship awards. Committee members for 2011 were Chair Alice Sivulich, Pat Dorning and Cynthia Haluszczak.

UOL LENTEN RETREAT

Retreat will focus on Great Lent Services
"Follow Me"

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012
Mother Raphaela will be speaking

BETHLEHEM, PA New location!!!!
St. Francis Center for Renewal
395 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA

For more information contact
Natalie Bilynsky 610-892-7315
nsufler@aol.com

JR. NATIONAL PRESIDENT

COORDINATES PARISH PAINTING PROJECT

Submitted by Dr. Stephen Sivulich



Brandi Rohal and Greg Markiw

Gregory Markiw of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Carnegie, PA is a candidate for Boy Scout of America's highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program—EAGLE SCOUT. Requirements for this great honor require the earning of twenty-one merit badges and demonstrating *Scouting Spirit through the Boy Scout Oath and Law, service and leadership*. This includes an extensive service project that the Eagle Scout candidate must plan, develop, and lead—the Eagle Project—demonstrating both leadership and commitment to duty.

The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project is the opportunity for the Scout to demonstrate leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of his community. The project must benefit an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America, but it cannot be performed for an individual or a business, be solely a fundraising project, or be commercial in nature.

Gregory Selects a Project to Serve His Church

To satisfy one of the requirements for Eagle Scout recognition, Gregory selected the painting of the church hall. The prohibitive cost of having the hall painted by professional painters resulted in the Church Board delaying a much needed project. Gregory submitted a written proposal to the Sts. Peter and Paul Church Board and it was approved with enthusiasm due to Gregory's reputation as a very responsible teenager. Gregory solicited local businesses for paint and supplies, and received a variety of donations from members of his parish. He then obtained Members and Scout Leaders of his local troop and parishioners, including fellow Jr. UOL'ers Brandi Rohal (pictured above with Greg) and Juliana Leis, to assist with the project, which required more than thirty hours of labor, ten gallons of paint, and painting supplies.

The painting commenced on a Monday and it was completed by early Friday of that same week. A marvelous aspect of the completed project was that all spills and drops of paint were cleaned by Gregory's Crew. It was very obvious that Gregory accepted the responsibility of completing the project in a quality fashion and there was no doubt that he was "in-charge" as he gave instructions to all helpers/painters and managed the project in a very business-like fashion. The original projected cost of painting the hall was prohibitive, but Gregory and his helpers completed the project for a total of \$500, all covered by donations solicited by Gregory.

The painting project is but one example of Gregory's dedication and devotion in serving his church and the local community. He participates in every aspect of church life. He serves as an Altar Server, is President of the local Jr. U.O.L. Chapter, and participates in every program/event of his church. On the national level, Gregory serves on the Executive Board of the Junior U.O.L. as President. A good example of his dedication to serving others is that he readily volunteers to wash/scrub pots and pans in the church kitchen for major events.

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish is grateful for the newly painted hall and hopeful that it will attract future renters.

Start making your plans to help with the St. Thomas Pilgrimage!
You can assist with parking and help raise funds for the
MJSF Scholarship Fund.
This year we will need help on
Saturday April 21, 2012 and Sunday April 22, 2012.

**An Explanation of the Heresy of Islam
for Orthodox Believers**

Submitted by Fr. Anthony Perkins

Islam has been around for a long time (the 7th century) and currently has over 1 billion adherents throughout the world. This leads to the first thing to recognize about Islam: it is marked by tremendous theological and cultural diversity. For example, you can no more assume to understand the faith and motivations of the Muslims in Pakistan based on your knowledge of your Muslim neighbor in Pittsburgh than you could the faith and motivations of a priest in Kyiv based on your knowledge of your Methodist coworker. There are, however, certain things that all Muslims profess. What I would like to do is explain these things both as they are understood by Muslims and how they relate to the Truth and Fullness of Orthodoxy.

One God. The Muslims are “radical monotheists.” They believe that there are other spiritual beings (e.g. the angels and *djinn*), but explicitly deny the Trinity; “They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah.” (Koran 5:73a). So while they recognize that there is only one God and that He is the creator and sovereign over all things, they are missing the salvific truth about Christ and the Holy Spirit. Muslims often reach out to Christians by sharing their respect for Jesus, but they only recognize his role as a great miracle-working prophet; Islam refers to Jesus as the Messiah and confirms his virgin birth, but it denies His divinity, His death on the cross, and His resurrection (e.g. Koran 5:72b). Presaging anti-Christian scholars like Prof. Bart Ehrman, Muslims claim that the leaders of the Christian Church made up these things about Jesus and modified scripture to support their claims.

While we can certainly affirm the Muslims’ worship of the unity and uniqueness of God, out of love for them we must affirm that their rejection of the divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit will – should they be left to accept the consequences of their own beliefs – leave them outside of salvation. For the God-man Christ Himself said; “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (St. John 3:36)

The Perfect Word of God. The prophet of Islam was Mohamed. It is tempting to compare his role in Islam to that of Christ in Orthodoxy, but this is mistaken. A more useful theological comparison is between Mohamed and the Virgin Mary. Why? Because while Orthodoxy confirms that the perfect and pre-eternal Word of God was incarnate in this world through the Virgin Mary, Muslims believe that the perfect and pre-eternal Word of God was brought into this world through Mohamed. The true Word of God is Christ Himself; Islam offers in His place a book, the Koran.

When we see this connection (i.e. that Muslims believe the Koran is the *Logos*, the Perfect Word of God), we gain a new appreciation for some of the things that Muslim do. For example, something that perplexes many non-Muslims is why such an emphasis is made on reciting the Koran in its original language, something that is unintelligible to so many of the faithful. Why would someone recite something they do not understand? Why would sainthood be bestowed on those who manage to memorize and recite it from beginning to end, regardless of comprehension? If the Koran is seen as simple scripture, something to be studied and understood, then these things make no sense; but if one believes it to be the Incarnation of Perfection, then having it on ones lips and bringing it into ones mind becomes a genuine mystery, a way to commune with the divine. Sound familiar? None of us understand the Body and Blood of Christ in communion, but we are transformed by taking it onto our lips and into our bodies.

Even the iconoclasm of Muslims can be understood in this way: they ban the use of images because they have no Christ that could make the human form worthy of veneration. We venerate icons of saints because the image of the Word (Christ) is revealed in them. Muslims decorate their temples not with images of The Word as found in the saints, but with verses from the Koran. This is also why Muslims treat their Korans with such respect and become upset when others do not. The defilement of a Koran is theologically less like the defilement of a Bible and more like the torture of Christ Himself.

Muslims revere and venerate the Koran because of their faith in its divine perfection. Unfortunately for the Muslims, the Koran is not perfect. It is a mixture of beautiful psalmody, fractured parodies of Hebrew scripture, proclamations of pseudo-Christian heresy, and situational verses designed to support the politics and desires of a 7th century warlord. God reveals Himself most perfectly through Jesus Christ, not the Koran (or any scripture); and we commune with Him most perfectly through His body and blood. As Christ said; “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” (St. John 6:51)

(continued on page 6)

**65th Annual UOL Convention
Allentown, PA
July 26-29, 2012**

**PACKET PRICES:
(before June 15, 2012)**

**Senior Delegate/Guest/Clergy \$195
Junior Delegate/Guest \$185
Pre-Junior \$100**

(after June 15, 2012)

**Senior Delegate/Guest/Clergy \$215
Junior Delegate/Guest \$205**

Hotel Room Rate \$99



**ATTENTION: SENIOR UOL CONVENTION
GUESTS ONLY**

SATURDAY JULY 28, 2012

BUS TRIP TO YUENGLING BREWERY

8:00 am air-conditioned bus leaves

10:00 Tour begins at the Brewery

Return trip stop at Cabela's

\$27.00 round trip (with box lunch)

Seats are limited

**Please send your reservation and (nonrefundable)
check payable to:
65th UOL Convention
Sandy Ritter
3041 Ridon Ct.
Bethlehem, PA 18020-1252
any questions? contact:
jzimmerman6597@gmail.**

Prayer Bead Bracelets Still Available



**The bracelet, a variation of the
Orthodox Prayer Rope,
is beautifully packaged in an
organza purse with a brief
description of how to use a
prayer bracelet.**

To order, make check payable to
St. Vladimir's Senior UOL.

Please include your name, e-mail and mailing address for all orders. Indicate type of bracelet you are ordering. Bracelets are \$10 (including shipping and handling) and are available in 5 bead styles, Hematite, Blue, Garnet Red, Clear Crystal and Amethyst Purple Crystal.

To place your order please send check and order information to:
Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063

**As we are called to pray without ceasing,
the prayer bracelet can guide us,
as a reminder to recite prayers throughout the day.**

2012 UOL Essay Contest

Pre-K and Kindergarten:

Draw a picture of what you think the Lord's house looks like.

Grades 1 and 2:

Draw a picture of a dwelling (house) Christ may have lived in and write 2-5 sentences about how he lived.

Grades 3 and 4:

Write 5 to 8 sentences explaining who your brothers and sisters in Christ are and how you know.

Grades 5 and 6:

Write 50 to 75 words explaining how children lived during Christ's life time, how is it different from how you live?

Grades 7 and 8:

Write 80 to 125 words explaining how your belief in Christ's teaching helps you to not give in to peer pressure.

Grades 9 and 10:

Write 125 to 200 words explaining the feeling you get when you are with your brothers and sisters in Christ and why you feel that way.

Grades 11 and 12:

Explain how your brothers and sisters in Christ have helped you through a particularly difficult time in your life.

18 years and over:

This year's convention theme is "Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity." What do you do to help the younger generation wrap this feeling around themselves?

CONTEST GUIDELINES AND RULES

1. Entries must be postmarked by May 30th, 2012. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 30TH 2012.**
2. **NO NAMES ON THE FRONT OF ANY ENTRY.**
3. All entries must include the following information: **Participant's first and last name, age, grade, and the name and address of participant's parish, including city and state.**
4. Drawings no larger than 12" x 18" and NO name on the front of drawing. Please attach a **COVER PAGE** or use the **BACK** of the drawing for the information listed above.
5. Written entries must be on 8 1/2" x 11" papers. Include a cover page with the identifying information listed above. Entries for 9th grade and above must be typed or printed.

ALL ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED FOR CONTENT, CREATIVITY AND NEATNESS.

Mail entries to:

UOL Essay Contest
c/o Theresa Linck
8 Carina Dr.
Milltown, NJ 08850

Please direct any questions to Theresa Linck at:
tiz0430@optimem.net

(Heresy of Islam - continued from page 5)

Islamopraxis. You may have heard of the "Five Pillars of Islam." These describe the main practices of Islam. The first is the profession of faith in Allah and Mohamed as his prophet. This implies a belief in the perfection of the Koran (the thing that was revealed through Mohamed) and the righteousness of Mohamed as a role model for all believers. Unfortunately, Mohamed spent the last half of his prophetic ministry as a warlord. While his behavior may have been enlightened by 7th century Arabian standards, it – especially as elaborated in the official Haddith (the sayings of Mohamed and his followers) and Sunnah (the biography of Mohamed) – is hardly civilized by modern (much less Christian) standards. Tyrants and terrorists are not making things up when they claim to be acting in accordance with Islam. Thank God that most Muslims are more selective in deciding which of Mohamed's behaviors to follow.

Three of the other pillars – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (tithing) - are very similar to our own, although Muslims often seem to take them more seriously than we do. For example, every Muslim sets aside several parts of each day for prayer. This prayer is marked by prostrations and is often done in common, especially on Friday, the holy day of the week in Islam. Daily prayer rules and prostrations are proscribed for the Orthodox, but seem most often honored in the breach. This practice develops a sense of community, humility before God, and piety among the Muslims that we would do well to recover for ourselves. Similarly, almsgiving is a set percentage (2.5%) of total assets that sets the minimum yearly standard for Muslims. The resulting charity is greater than the "dues" expected in many of our parishes. Real sacrifice satisfies the goal of charity of assisting the poor and developing compassion for the oppressed and thanks to God among the giver.

The fifth pillar, the holy pilgrimage or *hajj* is similar to our own concept, but on a much grander scale. All Muslim men who are able are required to go to Mecca at least once in their lifetime. The closest many of us get to the solidarity of the yearly *hajj* is homecoming in a major football town. Now imagine that, but with over a million people all renewing their dedication to God and building solidarity with other Muslims of every race and culture. If we had a sense of the true universality of the Church and the transcendence of the Divine Liturgy, every Sunday would be a greater *Hajj* than theirs and would have an even greater impact – for our pilgrimage is not to a holy place but to heaven itself and all are called to make it every week. We would recognize the unity of the Church and the divisions between us would simply melt away.

Jihad – the Sixth Pillar of Islam. *Jihad* means "struggle" and there are generally thought to be two expressions of it within Islam. The first is the "inner" struggle. It is the Islamic equivalent of Orthodox asceticism: all Muslims are called to continually submit to God and live righteous lives. The second can range from a political struggle for righteousness to violent conflict or holy war (there really is a lot of the latter in the scriptures of Islam). When it comes to violent *jihad*, all Muslims are called to support it when they live in an Islamic state and that state is invaded by non-Muslims. This is why al-Qaeda and the Taliban insist that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were Western invasions of Muslim lands: to the extent Muslims accept this frame, they must support their efforts. The legitimacy of other violent *jihad* varies: a minority of Muslims find support in their scripture for a continual violent war against unbelievers; and while all believing Muslims desire that all men submit to Allah and Islam (like Christianity, it is an evangelical faith), few support violence in getting there.

More on Jihad. Those who are familiar with our Old Testament, and especially books like Joshua, will note that it can be quite violent: God calls for a holy war against many nations just as Allah does in the Koran. So what is the difference? Why is the modern world threatened more by Islamic jihad than Christian jihad? There are two main reasons, one sociological and the other theological. Sociologically, majority Muslim nations feel themselves to be disadvantaged (not without reason) by the world system and express their rage using the idioms and expectations of Islam, to include *jihad*. Theologically, Christians do not base their actions and faith on scripture, but on Christ and His Church. The violent parts of the Old Testament are interpreted through the love, mercy, and salvation of Christ and the Church teaches this correct understanding. The Muslims have no such filter for their scripture: the Koran is perfect. The only filters between the violence in the Koran and violent action by believers are the humanity of each Muslim and that of their teachers. Glory to God that His image and breath are in them and His Spirit tries to bring them to the Truth!

In Conclusion, Islam contains enough of the truth for it to be considered a Christian heresy. It is not the Truth, but has enough echoes of it to point the earnest seeker in the right direction. It is our responsibility as Orthodox Christians to use the things we share with the Muslims as bridges so that we can lead them to the hope, joy, and truth that are most perfectly found in Christ and His Church. We cannot demonize Islam or Muslims, nor can we pretend that their heresies are trivial. It is Christ's desire that all be saved, and it is only through Him that this is possible. Mohamed set a severe

(continued on page 7)

**St. Vladimir's Junior UOL Chapter
Philadelphia, PA
Submitted by Lynn Nemeth**

The holiday season is a time when family and friends get together and Saint Vladimir's had many holiday events to bring family and friends together. Right after Halloween, the junior chapter prepared a fall festival for the Sunday School students. We decorated pumpkins with stickers and markers and decorated cupcakes with icing and lots of sprinkles. The big hit was eating hot dogs topped with festive condiments of ketchup and mustard. Each child brought their



Halloween costume and we had a parade of the creative characters. They also left with goody bags filled with holiday treats.

Our other holiday event was December 18th, when St. Vladimir's parish was visited by St. Nicholas. He brought presents for the junior chapter children as well as the Sunday school students. While he visited the junior chapter held our annual cookie walk. Members of the chapter donated five dozen cookies and



then were able to swap with other members. This is a great idea to receive an abundance and variety of multiple types of cookies. The junior chapter made \$237.50 and it was a great success!

**The Ukrainian Orthodox League
Christian Caregiving and Missions Commission**

"Souper Bowl" Sunday ~ February 5, 2012

It's NOT about football!

It IS about feeding the hungry!

Help Make a Difference.

Make a donation to help St. Andrew's Society

Soup Kitchens in Ukraine



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Vestal, NY
13850**

Questions?

Please contact
Christian
Caregiving and
Missions
Chairmen:

P.M. Mary Anne
Nakonachny,
nackos3201@gmail.com

or Justina Mills,
jamills94@comcast.net



UOL LENTEN RETREAT

Retreat will focus on *Services of Great Lent*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2012
VILLA MARIA, PA
(approximately 1 hour from
Pittsburgh and Parma)**

For more information contact
Diane Senedak 330-792-6699
dkssenny@aol.com

(Heresy of Islam- continued from page 6)

stumbling block before Muslims when he made the rejection of Christ a fundamental part of Islam. We must help them over this obstacle. As Christ Himself said (St. Matthew 28:18-20); "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Fr. Anthony is the priest at St. Michael's in Woonsocket and teaches about spirituality at St. Sophia Seminary. He wanted to write more. He encourages you to write him if you want to know more about Orthodoxy and Islam or want to point out the problems in this presentation.

**All Saints Camp 2012 Winter / Spring
Work Weekend Schedule
January 20th to 22nd
March 9th to 11th
April 27th to 29th**

If you are interested in participating in any of these work weekends or would like to schedule another time to come and volunteer at the camp, please contact:

Michael Nakonachny Hans Harasimchuk
(440) 503-3151 (440) 212-4976
michael@allsaintscamp.org hmharasimchuk@gmail.com



**All Saints Camp
Upcoming Events**

Family Fest 2011
Sept 2—Sept 5
Contact: Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny
nackos3201@gmail.com

ASC Meeting
Sept 10, 2011
10:00 AM at St. Vladimir's in Parma, OH
Contact: Emil Skocypec/Eric Senedak
seskonj@aol.com/emenedak@gmail.com

Work Weekend
Sept 16-18, 2011
Contact: Michael Nakonachny/Hans Harasimchuk/Eric Senedak
mjnako@bryantstratton.edu/hmharasimchuk@gmail.com/emenedak@gmail.com

Work Weekend
Oct 14-16, 2011
Contact: Michael Nakonachny/Hans Harasimchuk/Eric Senedak
mjnako@bryantstratton.edu/hmharasimchuk@gmail.com/emenedak@gmail.com

ASC Essay Contest
Dec 1, 2011
Contact: Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny
nackos3201@gmail.com

Open House
May 5, 2012
Contact: Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny/Christine Mills
nackos3201@gmail.com/cmills63@comcast.net

DCSC
June 24—July 7, 2012

TC
July 8—July 21, 2012

Mommy/Me & Daddy/Me
July 30—Aug 3, 2012
Contact: Natalie Kapeluck Nixon/uocyouth@aol.com

www.allsaintscamp.org

**MALANKA
Youngstown, Ohio
Saturday January 28, 2012**

Dinner Buffet 5:30 pm—7:30 pm
Doors open at 5:00 pm
Dance 7:00 pm—11:00 pm

Featuring the musical styling's of
The Del Sinchak Band and DJ Weird AL
Cash Bar 5:00 pm—10:30 pm
No outside beverages permitted
Champagne Toast 10:00 pm
Hats & Noisemakers For All

Dinner & Dance Tickets
Call 330-799-7911 or 330-538-3447
Or purchase yours at The Orthodox Center
Mondays & Wednesdays 6pm—8pm
Advance Tickets:
\$20 per Adult — \$5 Young Adults
At Door:
\$25 per Adult — \$10 Young Adults
Children 5 and under Free
The Orthodox Center
1025 N. Belle Vista Ave
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O Recognition of an individual or group. Your much-appreciated
L contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

T **Donor** **Occasion/Tribute**
R Catherine Shaefer In loving memory of our brother,
I John Lesky (1925-2004)
B from Catherine, Helen, Julie and Joe.

U **To submit your Tribute:** Submit a card that includes your Name
B and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the
U occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory of or To Honor),
T and the Name and Address of the person to whom an
E acknowledgement card should be sent. For a contribution of \$20
S or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:
Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.
Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

Public Relations – Web Page

Don't forget to submit information to the UOL Webpage.

Any chapter member can submit information for inclusion on the webpage.

Submission of events should be submitted to the Public Relations Chairperson via the new email address uolofusa@gmail.com.

You also can submit content using the link:

<http://uol.orthodoxws.com/submission.html>

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**We haven't moved but our post office has -
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please note the change in address:**

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