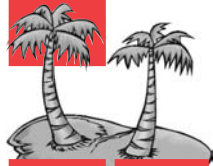


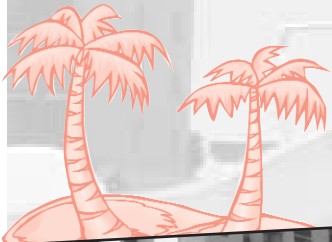
OCCJ



Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

FALL 2006 volume 79 number 3

The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



**NEW JERSEY DISTRICT SPONSORS
THE 80TH NATIONAL F.O.C.A. CONVENTION
IN MYRTLE BEACH, SC**



CONTENTS

OCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

FALL 2006

VOLUME 79 NUMBER 3

COVER STORIES

- 3 New President - Michael Steffaro
- 5 Fall 2006 Transitions
- 6 F.O.C.A. President Dr. John Schultz 2006 Banquet Address
- 7 80th National FOCA Convention:
Sponsored by the New Jersey District
- 11 This & That, Odds & Ends
- 12 Convention Photos

FEATURE STORIES

- 15 Presenting the 2006 FOCA National Scholarship Winners

SPORTS CORNER

- 17 2006 National Summer Sports Tournament
- 18 FOCA CALENDAR 2006 - 2007
John Robert Koncel Memorial
- 19 70th Annual Novogodny Ball
FOCA News...thank you notes.
FOCA Shirts for Sale
- 20 St. Herman Seminary Growth Plans
- 21 Kidz Corner: Nativity Fast Candle Wreath
- 22 FOCA Takes on St. Nicholas Christmas and
Adopt a Seminarian Projects
- 23 OCA Office of Humanitarian Aid to
Sponsor Annual Christmas Stocking Project

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 FOCA 39th President Commentary
- 4 Editor's Notes
- 4 F.O.C.A. Highlights and News-In-Brief
 - Neena Malinich Putting Florida on the Map

Back Cover 13th Annual OCA Christmas Stocking Project

United States Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Orthodox Christian Journal 2. Publication No. 1524-7562 3. Filing date: 10/18/06 4. Issue frequency: 4 times per year 5. Number of issues published annually: 4 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$12 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 10 Downs Drive, Plains Twp., Luzerne Co, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3899 Contact person: Sandra Kapelan Phone: 570.825.3158 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters of General Business Office of Publisher: same as No. 7 above. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor & Managing Editor. Publisher: Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, Inc., address at No. 7. Editor: Nicholas D. Ressetar, 1510 Green Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-2511. Managing Editor: John Kruchok, 180 Watch Hill Road, Branford, CT 06405. 10. Owner. Full Name: Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, Inc. Complete Mailing Address: same as No. 7 above. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders etc.: None. 12. Tax Status: The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the tax exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months. 13. Publication Title: Orthodox Christian Journal. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Below: Summer 2006 (August). 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 months. a. Total Number of Copies: 2100. b. (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions: 2025. (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: 0. (3) Sales thru Dealers, & Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales & Other non-USPS Paid Distribution: 0. (4) Other Classes Mailed thru the USPS: 0. c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 2025. d. Free distribution by mail: (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541: 0. (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 0. (3) Other Classes Mailed thru USPS: 0. e. Free distribution outside the mail: 45. f. Total free distribution: 45. g. Total Distribution: 2070. h. Copies not distributed: 30. i. Total: 2100. j. Percent paid and/or requested Circulation: 97.8%. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: same as above. 16. Publication of Statement of Ownership. Publication required. Will be printed in the Fall 2006 issue of this publication. 17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner: /s/ Nicholas D. Ressetar, Editor. Date: 10/18/06.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

SPiritual ADVISOR

V. Rev. William Evansky

158 Pilgrim Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143
HM: (412) 741-5008, fribill158@verizon.net

PRESIDENT

Michael Steffaro

38 Beryl Street, South River, NJ 08882
(732) 698-1952, email: michael.steffaro@sci-us.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Polly Walker

8926 Pine Bluff Court, Eden Prairie, MN 55347
(612) 384-6440, email: paw1776@aol.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Kathy Lazor

506 Centennial Drive, Vienna, OH 44473
(330) 394-1038, email: ksljal@aol.com

TREASURER

Michael Bowan

2100 Lincoln Park West, #9ES, Chicago, IL 60614-4713
(773) 525-5921, e-mail: mickeybowan@mindspring.com

IMM. PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. John P. Schultz

11 Ralston Lane, Weirton, WV 26062
(304) 748-1223, email: jpsvw@comcast.net

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Sandy Kapelan

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

10 Downs Drive (Plains), Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

Phone: (570) 825-3158 Fax: (570) 825-0136

Office E-Mail: orthodoxfellowship@yahoo.com

website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

To receive membership information contact
the administrative office of the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America.
CALL: (570) 825-3158

OCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

is the official publication of the
Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America
Send all articles, photos and information to:

Nicholas Ressetar, Editor

1510 Green Street Harrisburg, PA 17102-2511

E-Mail: tsarnick3@aol.com

EDITOR	Nicholas Ressetar
MANAGING EDITOR	John Kruchok
LAYOUT EDITOR	Michael Schultz
SPORTS EDITOR	Kenneth Baron
COMMUNITY LIFE	Betty Slanta
PHOTOGRAPHER	Leon Sheean

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Business/Advertising Manager

Maurice Garman

528 Sycamore Drive
Campbell, Ohio 44405

Please do not send one-of-a-kind photos to the OCJ,
send a copy. Returned photos are not guaranteed!

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

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.

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL (ISSN 15247562), is published four times a year [Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter] by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, 10 Downs Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3899.

District & Chapter News: All copy must be typed and sent to the Editorial Office.

Subscription Prices: Single Copy, \$3.00 in North and South America; \$12.00 per year, \$20.00 for two years, in US and Possessions, \$14.00 per year in all other countries & Canada. **Orthodox Christian JOURNAL** © copyrighted 2006 by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America. Reproduction in whole or part prohibited except by permission. All rights reserved. Title and ® trademark registered US Patent Office.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE paid at Wilkes-Barre, PA and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable please send form 3579 to the Orthodox Christian JOURNAL at 10 Downs Drive, Plains Twp., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3899.

Printed in the United States by
Sir Speedy Printing

226 RIDC Park West Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

Michael Steffaro

39th National FOCA President

I would like to extend my sincerest wishes that you and your families have a good Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year. Since being elected as the new national president I have attended two district conventions at this time and I look forward to those conventions I will attend. I am very pleased at the attendance I have seen and the amount of activities and enthusiasm that is within our organization.

The message that I have tried to convey at each convention is one of optimism and encouragement. At our national convention in Myrtle Beach, our organization re-emphasized our commitment to our seminaries with two clearly defined major service projects. Our St. Nicholas project is well under way and I want to thank all of you who have participated. This program was adopted by our national organization at this year's convention following the good work of the New Jersey district. This was done to eliminate the overlapping of many projects during Christmas and to make sure that we can help married students at all our Orthodox seminaries. Our other project "Adopt a married seminarian" is ongoing, but we still need your help to support our future priests and deacons. This program can be started at any time of the year. If you wish to participate please contact the Seminarian Project Coordinator Allison Steffaro (732)698-1952. In addition to the aforementioned service projects, we also made a commitment to our military clergy with the "Gifts of Love" campaign. This year, we will be creating a gift pack to be distributed to Orthodox servicemen. This project will be under the direction of Fr. Ted Boback and volunteers from the Harrisburg "O" Club. Finally in keeping with our commitment to our seminaries; the convention body voted to research the feasibility of building married seminarian housing at St. Tikhon's Seminary. I am very pleased to announce that we have had two meetings so far this year. One of those meetings I made a presentation to the Board of Trustees of the Seminary which are committed to putting a committee together to work in conjunction with us to research the probability of the proposed housing at the seminary. The Board of Trustees was very happy to see that our organization would even consider such a gift. The positive comments that I have received in discussing this project throughout the organization have been overwhelming. We should be very proud and excited that we can make a difference in our fellow Orthodox Christians lives.

I have also tried to convey the necessity of our membership to focus on what we do well as an organization. We are all extremely involved in the life of our Church and many of us are leaders within our respective parishes. We do not need to focus solely on the number of members in each of our districts and chapters. Membership is important, but we need not focus on why people are not joining, but rather how we can create an environment that people are comfortable in and want to belong. I feel that we are better suited to have ten active

Continued on page 5

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas Ressetar
Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

Hello everyone and welcome to the Fall 2006 edition of your *Orthodox Christian Journal*, now in its 80th year of continuous publication – thanks be to God!

This is the annual national convention issue, covering the Fellowship's biggest and best event of the year. The 80th, sponsored by our sisters and brothers in the New Jersey District, was held in one of America's premier resort locations – Myrtle Beach, South Carolina – at the impressive Kingston Plantation Resort right on the beach. We have an account of convention business, the liturgical services, the social activities (including the off-site excursions), the summer sports tourney and plenty of photos with two pages in full color. Outgoing National Prez Dr. John Schultz's inspiring banquet address is reproduced as well. More photos appear at www.orthodoxfellowship.org.

Our thanks to Martin Paluch, aide to Metropolitan Herman, and *Journal* photog Leon Sheean for their fine photography. Great job, New Jersey and kudos to the cochairs, Ken Baron, Michael Steffaro & Greg Cimboric, and to CP&O Director Carol Deerson and the entire convention committee!

Speaking of Michael Steffaro, he was unanimously elected our new 39th national president and we introduce him and his family to you. Michael also gets the opportunity to address each and every member in this issue. Congratulations to him, Allison & their young family! Also new to the executive board this year is Polly Walker, past Midwest District Governor – you'll get to meet her next time. Returning to the board are Fr. William Evansky, spiritual advisor, and Recording Secretary Kathy Lazor and Treasurer (for Life!) Michael "Mickey" Bowan.

The FOCA national scholarships are announced at the convention's grand banquet, and we bring you the bios and photos of this year's winners. Yes, folks, if the Fellowship's future lies in its youth, it looks like we'll be in good shape given their excellent credentials. Congrats to all!

Betty Slanta, community life editor, updates us on growth plans at St. Herman's Seminary in Alaska and invites us to support its scholarship fund. Deb & Barry Koncel ask us to donate new children's books, DVDs and videos in memory of their son, John Robert – last year's drive was a tremendous success because of caring people like you. On the back cover, inside and out, Arlene Kallaur requests that Fellowship members help the 13th Christmas Stocking project of the Orthodox Church in America – last year some 15,000 stockings or similar gifts were distributed to needy families abroad and another 1,000 gifts to families hit hard by the hurricanes in the U.S. Yes, these gifts were really given – don't deprive the poor kids of a little joy by withholding your donation.

We round out this edition with the Kidz Corner, featuring a Nativity Fast Christmas wreath project submitted by Matushka Theodora; the newly coordinated St. Nicholas Christmas & Adopt-a-Seminarian projects by Allison Steffaro; a nice piece on Southern District Guv Neena Malinich by the Breyan's; and more. On a sad note, we profile the passing of Past National VP Nicholas S. Zedlovich in transitions.

Best wishes for all the holidays – Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Theophany – and remember to enjoy the warm Fellowship you find on these pages! See you next year . . .

2006 Articles Deadlines for the OCJ:

Winter due **December 15th**

Send all material to our Editor:

Nicholas Ressetar

1510 Green Street Harrisburg, PA 17102-2511 Phone: 717-761-2121

WORD attachment articles work best within an E-mail:

tsarnick3@aol.com

Please do not send one-of-a-kind photos to the OCJ, send a copy. Returned photos are not guaranteed!

F.O.C.A. HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS-IN-BRIEF

NEENA MALINICH
Putting Florida on The Map

Longwood, Florida (Orlando) has an active FOCA club due to the efforts of Neena Malinich and others who assisted to establish the club.

Daughter of Faith and George Malinich, she is carrying on in her parent's footsteps and is very much involved in the OCA and FOCA.

OCA activities include working on the All-American Council Task Committee to organize and implement the arrival of 2,500 participants. Handling the responsibility of secretarial and logistical tasks for the Bishops welcoming and accommodations. She also serves on the Humanitarian Aid to assist responses during hurricane disaster relief and on the Youth Camp Ministry.

Currently she is a member of the National Summer Sports Tournament and Governor of the South District.

She works for the Benchmark Title Agency, Inc. in Longwood, Florida and as a graduate of the Florida State School of Cosmetology and licensed, she works part-time as a hair stylist.

Believe it or not she also has time for charity work and helps in children's miracle network and was part of a team that facilitated a Fashion Show at the Andrew Gomez Dream Foundation for the Leeza Gibbons Alzheimer's Committee that raised nearly \$10,000.

A very busy girl, may Neena continue her good works for church, FOCA and charity and we, in Florida appreciate her efforts. Presently Longwood club has 20 members and an active schedule.

Warm regards,
Father George and Matushka Natalie Breyan

members in a chapter instead of fifty members with five active people.

Many of you may not be aware that I have been involved in this organization for a very long time as well as most of my family. I was born in Steubenville, OH on October 20, 1972. My parents are the Very Rev. John R and Matushka Carol Steffaro, my father served as our National Spiritual Advisor for many years. I have one sister Elizabeth Willison and her husband Robert. At the age of ten I joined the FROC having served on every level of the Weirton Jr. R Club and I was the Pittsburgh District Jr. Governor. I graduated from Brooke High School in 1990 and then attended Marietta College; I graduated from Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science in 1994 and also received two Associate Degrees from the WVNCC. I met my wife Allison Deerson at our Junior Olympics camp and later at a National Convention. We were engaged on November 1, 1996 and married on July 7, 1997. We have two children Alexis Carolyn (7) and Andrew Michael (2). We live in South River, NJ where we are very close to my wonderful in-laws our Past National President Carol Deerson and her husband Walter. I served as the New Jersey District Lt. Governor from 1998-2000 and then was elected Governor from 2000-2004 when I became the Vice-President of the Fellowship. The FOCA is deeply rooted in our families and is especially close to my heart because without this organization I may never have met my wife and have such a wonderful family. I am also very active in our parish of SS Peter and Paul in South River, NJ where I have taught Sunday school for five years and sing in our choir. I am a tonsured Reader and have served on our church council for the past nine years.

In my professional career I am a licensed funeral director working for Service Corporation International which owns and operates over 1700 funeral homes and cemeteries across the world. For the past four years I have been the manager of Bernheim-Apter-Kreitzman funeral home in Livingston, NJ. This past August I was promoted to General Manager of New Jersey and Rockland County where I have ten funeral homes under my direction.

As President of this organization, I am looking forward to a very productive year and hope and pray that we will continue to work hard to accomplish our goals.

TRANSITIONS

Nicholas S. Zedlovich: In Memoriam

The Fellowship has lost one of its most prominent members, Nicholas S. Zedlovich, who reposed in the Lord on September 1, 2006. Born and raised in Whitestone, NY, Nick served as choir director of its St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church for 50 years. With his parents and 4 brothers, he started singing in the church choir at age 8 as a soprano and took over the choir at age 18 in 1948.

Nick was educated in New York City public schools and was concertmaster of his high school orchestra. Earning a master's degree in education from NYU, he taught physical education for 34 years in the NYC school system: Bayside High (his alma mater), Taft High in the Bronx and Bleeker Junior High in Flushing where he spent 26 years. For 30 years he taught adult education in the evenings and eventually became principal of the program.

In 1957 Nick was introduced to Christine Permaloff by Father Daniel and Matushka Dunia Hubiak and it was a good match – singers, teachers, FROC members. They married and had 7 children: Nicholas (a past Metropolitan District governor), Alexander, Andrea, Michael, Elizabeth (+ 1991), Anastasia and Peter. A member of the Whitestone “R” Club,

Nick served as governor of the Metropolitan District and in 1957 he was elected National FROC Vice-President at the national convention in Minneapolis. Christine served as a Michigan District secretary and was circulation director of “The Orthodox Church” newspaper.

A tonsured reader, Nick and his choir appeared on CBS-TV in the early 1960s singing Russian Christmas carols in a program taped and shown for many years on Christmas eve. With Christine as his choir assistant and occasional substitute, the entire family, including grandchildren, sang (and continue to sing) in different sections of the choir. In 1964 the choir sang in concert at the Fort Ross chapel of the New York World's Fair and in 1970 it appeared at Orthodox Education Day at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Nick was part of the founding group of St. Vladimir's Theological Foundation (1968) and served on its board for many years; Christine was its treasurer from 1975 to 1988. He could be faithfully be found at the foundation's Ed day coffee booth for 25 years.

Not content only to direct his choir, Nick also sang with the Capella Russian Male Chorus and on records under the direction of Nicholas Afonsky and Boris Ledkovsky. He also sang and recorded with St. Vladimir's Liturgical Chorale and with brothers Tom and Dan as the “Singing Winds.” A U.S.

Continued on page 18

F.O.C.A President Dr. John Schultz 2006 Banquet Speech

Your Beatitude, Reverend Fathers, honored guests, delegates, fellow members and friends of the FOCA.

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

As we gather here in Myrtle Beach our Fellowship enters the eightieth year of existence. None here can truly understand the obstacles faced by those gathered in 1927 at St. Alexander Nevsky Church on the North side of Pittsburgh. There under the leadership of Fr. Vladimir Prislopsky the commitment was made to create an organization that would serve the diverse needs of the many Orthodox Christians in America.

As the Organization took shape the course of the then Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs and now the Fellowship of Orthodox Christian in America was set in place in our Constitution. There we read that the FOCA shall exist “to promote and advance the religious, educational, moral, social and athletic activities of the people of the Orthodox Christian Faith; To promote through its chapters practical means for its members to become acquainted and form enduring friendships; To inculcate primarily a sense of obligation to the Orthodox Christian Church, to promote and work toward the unification of the Faith, to learn the principles of the Faith and to exemplify the Christian ideals as expressed by our Motto. PRAY, STUDY, TOIL, AND BE TEMPERATE.” This charge made clear that the organization they founded while giving fellowship a prominent role recognized that Christ as embodied in the Church is the center of all that we do and all that we are.

We know that throughout the subsequent history of the Fellowship countless members and leaders continued to live this ideal without question. They humbly dedicated their efforts both minor and major to the building up of Christ’s Church. They recognized the great vision of our founders and further mold-

ed not just this Orthodox Christian Organization but indeed were integral in the very growth of Orthodoxy in North America. In doing so they left behind a powerful legacy of service through fellowship.

Now we the recipients of that legacy must ask if we continue to embody that legacy. Do we continue to promote and advance varied activities for Orthodox Christians? Do we continue to provide means for Orthodox Christians to form enduring friendships? Do we instill an obligation to the Orthodox Church and promote the unity of the Faith? Do we learn and teach the principles of the Faith? Do we set ourselves as examples of the Christian ideals set forth in our motto?

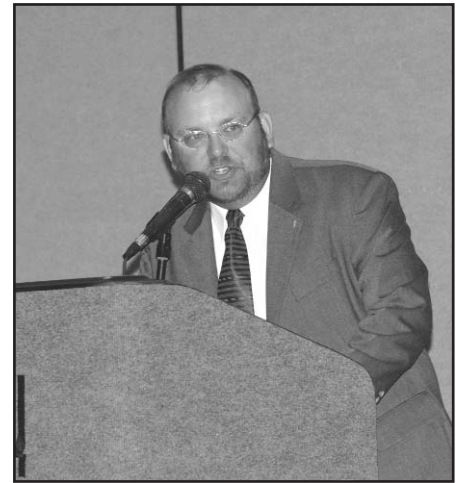
When our efforts are closely examined the answer to all of these questions is an unequivocal YES!

As members of the Fellowship we continue to provide local, regional, and national events of various types. From the districts’ St. Andrew’s Celebrations to choir conferences; from summer camps to Youth Retreats; from the Novogodny Ball to Sports Tournaments, the FOCA provides countless and diverse activities for Orthodox Christians with varied interests.

Our activities have allowed for the formation of untold numbers of lifelong friendships and indeed countless “FOCA marriages.” As a member of the FOCA one can travel to over sixty cities or parishes with the certainty that a friend will be near.

Contributing to the work of the FOCA inherently instills within us a love of the Church through which we learn and understand our obligations to the Church. Fellowship members can be found serving on parish, diocesan, and national councils and committees. We are grateful for our opportunity to serve the Church and continuously seek new ways to build up the Church.

Our efforts can be seen as an example



for the unity of the Faith. What better way to promote and work toward the unification of the Faith than an Organization that welcomes Orthodox Christians of any background and has member chapters in parishes of three Orthodox jurisdictions. And we actually get along!

While we do not provide our works for our own glorification, those very works are the means by which we exemplify Christian ideals. When asked we do not hesitate to come to the aid of others no matter what their need may be. We help college students fund their education, we help missionaries spread Faith and Hope, we help rebuild damaged Churches, we put smiles on the faces of children and tears of joy in their parent’s eyes, we help Seminarians meet expenses that we all take for granted, we show residents of a retirement community that someone really does care – We have never and will never hesitate to answer the call when we are needed.

Just as Fr. Prislopsky and those with him and just as those members and leaders over the last eighty years, we will humbly continue to answer the call knowing that the awesome privilege and duty that has been given to us by God will be rewarded with the joy that comes with serving Christ’s Church. We will continue to touch the lives of those in need and we will not fail. For as John tells us in his first General Epistle: “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

Thank you and God Bless!

80th National FOCA Convention



Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC
August 31-September 4, 2006
Sponsored by the New Jersey District



The convention that almost wasn't. As the near-hurricane winds of Tropical Storm Ernesto (71 m.p.h.) blew just offshore in the Atlantic and over 7 inches of rain fell, Fellowship officers, delegates, alternates and friends gathered for the 80th national convention at the plush oceanside resort of Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina over the Labor Day weekend. They deliberated, they prayed, they played, they golfed, they partied and they swam. Led in prayer by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, the FOCA spiritual leader, and in sessions by National President Dr. John Schultz, together they showed why the Fellowship remains a jewel of the Orthodox Church. And once the storm left, conventioners enjoyed bright sunshine and seasonable temperatures – it was a very special convention sponsored by the vibrant New Jersey District. "I Seconded the Motion – Now We Are at the Ocean!" Were we ever.

Convention Sessions:

Friday, September 1 – Church New Year

With the ocean's waters beginning to settle down, the traditional procession marked the opening of the convention's business. Harold Krivell carried the American flag, Harold Homyak the icon of the Saints of North America and Ed Korolenko the St. Andrew icon followed by the national board of trustees who entered the ballroom to the singing of "O Lord Save Thy People." Archbishop William Evansky, at his first convention as national spiritual advisor, celebrated the opening prayer service with the convention body signing the responses under the direction of William Kraftician, the choir director for the weekend.

President Schultz called the convention to order just before 9 a.m. National Recording Secretary Kathy Lazor took the roll. On behalf of the convention committee, National Vice President Michael Steffaro, its cochair, welcomed everyone to Myrtle Beach and expressed the hope that they would enjoy the Southern hospitality. (Ken Baron and Gregory Cimboric also were cochairs). Appointments were Michael Herzak as parliamentarian, Walter Alesevich as credentials chair, and Nicholas Ressetar on resolutions. Dr. Alice Woog, a past national president, invited the young adults to a leadership training seminar that afternoon. A



genealogy workshop was announced by Maryann Bacsik and Polly Walker. Past national officers in attendance were then recognized, including past national presidents William Livosky, Herzak, Woog, Dr. Robert Weger, John Kruchok, Carol Deerson and John Petronko.

A variety of convention motions appearing in the 99-page report book were assigned to 3-breakout sessions by President Schultz: Junior Department with Father Emil Hutnyan, Membership/Outreach with Vice President Steffaro, and Finance with National Treasurer Michael Bowan. Delegates were offered the opportunity to comment on the reports of national officers and department directors and ask questions. An updated, detailed financial report was distributed and highlighted by Treasurer Bowan, who noted a net loss of \$8,067 for the fiscal year, the distribution of \$11,200 to International Orthodox Christian Charities for Hurricane Katrina relief (this year's Gift of Love project) and \$1,000 to SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Miami, FL for damage caused by Hurricane Wilma, and the award of \$8,000 made directly to 3 summer youth interns of the Orthodox Church in America. After several questions were posed on this report, the convention adjourned to the 3-breakout sessions for an hour-and-a-half.

Upon reconvening about noon, the recommendations of the sports breakout session were addressed first. There was a surprisingly lively debate over whether to increase the national bowling tourney prize money from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and how to pay for it. Linda Livosky of Campbell strongly argued in favor and suggested that the funds come from the Sutyak Sports Fund: "Let's spend the money now!" New Jersey District Gov. Nancy Filak said that initially she was opposed but, after

hearing the discussion, she favored the motion. Mike Gozick and Zachary Walker also spoke in favor. It ended up passing overwhelmingly.

Sports Department Director Robert Steffaro moved that the Junior national basketball tournament be divided into 2 divisions for boys and girls based on school grade level: a) bantams – grades 4 thru 8; b) juniors – grades 9 thru 12; and c) if there aren't enough to make up bantams and junior teams, they may combine to form a junior team. Midwest District Gov. Todd Walker seconded the motion and, after brief discussion, it was approved.

Attention then turned to several proposed amendments to the national constitution and by-laws. In a change submitted by the Minneapolis "O" Club, #94, delegates agreed to



relieve districts of the requirement to hold an annual convention, leaving the frequency of the annual convention up to indi-

briefly of his joy at being able to be with the Fellowship members at their annual gathering. His Beatitude expressed the hope that our deliberations would be fruitful.

Fr. Vansuch, OCA FOS director and past national spiritual advisor, thanked the FOCA for its support of the OCA summer internship program. Three seminarians received nearly \$9,000 directly and spent the summer visiting different OCA camps across the country. It was suggested that they report on their internships in the *Journal*.

Membership plaques were then awarded to several chapters. The St. Mark "O" Club of Bethesda, MD had the largest senior numerical increase; its president, Barbara Freimann, accepted the award. The junior chapter with the greatest numerical increase was the St. Nicholas Junior "O" Club of Bethlehem, PA; Central PA Gov. Gary Lelo accepted the award on its behalf. And a new charter was presented to the Christ the Savior Junior "O" Club of Milton, NY; UNYS Gov. Faith Malinich received it. All the chapters received a round of well-deserved applause.

Delegates then turned their attention to the proposals from the membership/outreach breakout session with Vice President Steffaro presenting them. An extensive discussion ensued on how best to coordinate the Fellowship's several seminarian projects in order to prevent duplication and overlap. The New Jersey District, for example, under the leadership of Allison Steffaro has its own seminarian assistance program (e.g., Christmas wish list). It was moved that

individual districts. A proposal to permanently increase senior dues from \$25 to \$30 yearly, submitted by the Weirton OCF, narrowly passed but only after two ballots. Last year, dues were increased to \$30 as a one-time, financial "emergency" measure. Alice Mallick, president of the Harrisburg "O" Club, spoke in favor of retaining family memberships on behalf of the chapter. George Malinich of the Upper NY State District registered his opposition, noting that membership in their Binghamton chapter had decreased from 27 to 9 from last year's dues increase. Speaking vociferously in favor was Linda Livosky: "Get with it – the year is 2006!" An amendment by Walter Alesevich, Colonial District Gov., to change the term membership "donation" to "dues" passed.

After the debate was finally over, a standing vote defeated the dues increase. Vice President Steffaro, however, called for a secret paper ballot. 92 ballots were cast, 65 in favor and 27 opposed. Because the proposal received the necessary 2/3 for approval, it passed. Corresponding changes to the by-laws reflecting the elimination of the family membership category were then approved. The first plenary session adjourned for the day and folks participated in the young adult leadership training seminar, the genealogy workshop or took time to stroll along the beach or get wet in the ocean or the pools.



Saturday, September 2

The annual general panakhida was celebrated in the convention chapel by Fr. Evansky, who announced the names of those members who had fallen asleep in the Lord since last year's convention. Clergy in attendance included Metropolitan Herman and Fathers Eugene Vansuch, John Steffaro, Stephen Karaffa and Emil Hutnyan. Bill Kraftician directed the choir; about 60 members were present.

President Schultz reconvened sessions at 9:20 a.m. and first welcomed Metropolitan Herman to the convention. He was greeted with the singing of "Eis polla" and spoke

"outreach to seminary families at St. Tikhon's, St. Herman's, St. Vladimir's and Christ the Savior Orthodox Seminaries be under the direction of the National FOCA and annually coordinated by a St. Nicholas/Christmas project chairperson who will contact each FOCA chapter and district governor to develop and implement the project." Seconded by Leon Sheean, the motion carried.

In a motion seconded by Eleanor Skuby, the convention next empowered the national executive board "to create an education initiative designed to make a positive connection" with the seminaries "as a means to inform and encourage seminarian participation in the FOCA." The board was also directed to study the by-laws with view to changing the requirements for applications for seminarian scholarships. Next, a major project was proposed by Vice President Steffaro: that "a study committee be established to research the possibility for a five-year capital campaign to systemat-

ically raise funds for married seminarian housing at St. Tikhon's Seminary" – the report would be received next year. Sonia Kraftician, #222, seconded.

A letter on the project from Father Michael Dahulich, its dean, was distributed. He wrote: "I cannot tell you how truly touched I was to learn of this possible project for your organization. . . . Should [the] FOCA undertake this 'labor of love,' it will be a visionary investment of faith in the future of the Orthodox Church in this country – by supporting our current seminarians who, God willing, will be the deacons and priests of our parishes for decades to come." This led to excited debate on the floor, and the ambitious idea passed.

Members considered a suggestion to merge the Anthracite District into the Central PA District. Once more there was no representation from any of its remaining chapters at this year's convention. Metropolitan Herman, who served as its spiritual advisor for many years, urged the executive board to do everything in its power to keep the Anthracite District going: "I strongly recommend that we keep it active." Gov. Gary Lelo said that members of its district could be invited to the Central PA District's convention as a way to help keep it active. A former member of the Anthracite District, Fr. Theodore Boback, noted that it was once very active and hoped that we could grow the Fellowship and keep our history and tradition as recorded in the *Journal* over the years.

Treasurer Bowan went over the finance breakout session recommendations. In a move suggested by Mary Woog, members approved replacing the graduation gift packs with an FOCA welcome kit to be coordinated, prepared and distributed by the young adult group; it could include a laminated bookmark and a congratulatory letter and invitation to join. An OCMC missionary grant of \$1,100 was approved. A motion to award 8 \$1,000 William Fekula scholarships next year carried; an amendment to award 10 at \$800 was defeated. Unearmarked United Fund monies for next year will be distributed in the following percentages: 45% to Juniors/youth, 30% for scholarships and 25% for outreach/seminarian programs; the seminaries and St. Vladimir's camp will continue to receive earmarked funds. And delegates agreed to continue supporting the OCA summer youth intern program in an amount equal to the funds raised this year (\$4,800).

The Junior department proposals were presented by its director, Fr. Hutnyan. The "Celebration of Faith" creative

arts contest received \$1,000 for prizes and expenses. Issues related to the national junior summer sports tournament were referred to the executive board's winter meeting and/or the board of trustees' 2007 spring meeting. In a motion seconded by Liz Spiwak, #4/6, \$3,500 was allocated for expenses toward the tournament to be taken from the Sutyak sports fund. And \$2,000 was allocated for a national junior advisor training workshop.

Fr. Boback, #79, moved that the 2007 Gifts of Love project be kits for deployed Orthodox military service personnel to include an icon, prayer book, etc. and that the project be under the auspices of Fr. Evansky as national spiritual advisor; Matushka Theodora Ressetar, #199, seconded. Many delegates commented favorably on this proposal and the Harrisburg "O" Club volunteered to assemble the kits. Motion carried. Sessions adjourned around 12 noon.

Informal afternoon activities included beach olympics for kids of all ages (water balloon toss, relay races, etc.). Bill Kraftician held a choir rehearsal. Vespers was celebrated by Fr. Evansky in the chapel with a standing-room only congregation which included the priest and some parishioners from the local Greek Orthodox Archdiocese parish. Two bus loads attended the Myrtle Beach Pelicans minor league game and picnic followed by fireworks. And holding gatherings were the young adult group, the "Golden Agers" and the Cleveland "R" Club, promoting its 2007 Nashville convention.

Sunday, September 3

Conventioneers rose early to attend the annual Divine Liturgy, the spiritual highlight of every national convention. Dr. Schultz and the board of trustees greeted Metropolitan Herman as he entered the expanded chapel. Concelebrating clergy included Fathers Evansky, Vansuch, Steffaro, Karaffa, Hutnyan and Boback, and Archdeacon Alexei Klimitchev. Subdeacons were Peter Ilchuk, Nick Woog and Dimitri Ressetar, a junior. The choir was ably directed by Bill Kraftician and, during the clergy's communion, a group of "Junior kidz" sang hymns. At the end of liturgy, Fr. Vansuch (who drove the liturgical items all the way to South Carolina) received a hand-written icon from the Fellowship as a gift for his many years of service as its spiritual advisor. The "Friends of St. Andrew's" brunch followed.

The afternoon was free for several receptions or another quick trip to the beach. The young adults held their annual volleyball game, playing real beach volleyball this year.

In the evening, the "Shore Elegance" banquet and dance were held. Convention cochair Ken Baron introduced the New Jersey's district's own Allison Steffaro, who served as a gracious toastmaster for the program most notable for its brevity. Tables were decorated with centerpieces of little wooden life guard stands with candles set in a pile of sand,



all in keeping with the nautical theme.

Metropolitan Herman delivered an upbeat, encouraging address. "This is my first time in Myrtle Beach," he said, "and it has been most relaxing and enjoyable – just what the doctor ordered. From my room I can watch the children playing along the ocean. It is very peaceful." The OCA primate congratulated the Fellowship members on their 80th anniversary, and for being of the Church and for the Church. "I commend all of you for your good works. Yes, the crowds are not what they used to be. You must recognize new interests and desires in order to grow the organization. We are going through terrible times, and your help is needed now more than ever." The bishops and priests cannot do all the work themselves, he added.

"I challenge each and every one of you to serve the Church. You have the opportunity to make yourselves known to others, inviting them to the Orthodox Faith, the True Faith people are looking for. With all the world's troubles, with acts of terrorism, violence and wars, the Lord will come sooner than later and we must all be prepared." Metropolitan Herman said that "after 80 years, the Fellowship's work is not always recognized but be assured that the Lord Himself knows your good works and that is all you need. I especially thank you for the strong support of the seminaries, and I am pleased to learn of the initiative for married student housing. The Lord will hear of your intentions and if it is His will, this will be done."

"Once more, the Church appreciates all of your talents in the parishes and all church departments. You continue to be good laborers in the vineyard of Christ, and I pray that you will be given the strength to continue your good works. Thank you again and may the Lord bless you," he concluded.

President Dr. John Schultz inspired the banquet attendees with his words: "As we gather here in Myrtle Beach, our Fellowship enters the eightieth year of its existence. None here can truly understand the obstacles faced by those gathered in 1927 at St. Alexander Nevsky Church on the North side of Pittsburgh. There, under the leadership Fr. Vladimir Prislowsky, the commitment was made to create an organization that would serve the diverse needs of the many Orthodox Christians in America." His address appears in its entirety in this issue on page 6. Dr. Schultz, after receiving a well-deserved standing ovation, then announced the winners of this year's scholarship awards, who are profiled in this issue on pages 15 and 16.

After the banquet, several hundred of all ages took to the dance floor, ranging from "disco" to the traditional Slavic folk dances to "the toga" to polkas. Cleveland's Bob Spiwak got things going with his accordion helping out the local band. Families of all generations danced, with the young adults, as in past years, leading the way until just after midnight.

Labor Day Monday, September 4

The convention's final day dawned early, too early for most. President Schultz called to order his final session as FOCA national president at 8:45 a.m. Sports Director Bob Steffaro, noting the strong interest in sponsoring national sporting events, entertained the following bids which were awarded: 2008 basketball – South River, 2008 bowling – Michigan, 2009 basketball – Minneapolis, 2009 bowling –



Alpha, NJ and 2009 summer sports – Randolph, NJ.

Mary Anne Soltis announced the photo contest winners from over 60 entrants. United Fund director Mary Jane Lucak made the stock awards, with the Canonsburg "O" Club winning the first prize of \$300. And

Treasurer Bowan presented the 2006-7 budget; after some minor changes, it was approved.

Recognizing the dynamism of the Fellowship's young adults and their critical importance to its future, there was animated discussion on "formalizing" their role within the FOCA. Zach Walker and Mary Woog, both of Minneapolis, proposed that 2 or 3 young adults (18 to 35) be appointed by the executive board to coordinate their activities. After some input, Greg Cimboric moved that the executive board consider creating a separate young adults department, which was enthusiastically approved.

The Cleveland "R" Club, with cochairs Mary Jane Lucak and Becky Tesar leading, promoted next year's 2007 Nashville national convention with an amusing interactive rendition of the "12 days of Nashville" set to the familiar tune. Plastic mics, frisbees, cups and brochures were handed out.

The convention's final order of business was the election of the 2007 national officers. With Dr. Woog as temporary chair and Faith Malinich as temporary secretary, Michael Herzak presented the following nominations: President – Michael Steffaro of South River, NJ, Vice President – Polly Walker of Minneapolis, Secretary – Kathy Lazor of Campbell, OH and Treasurer – Michael Bowan of Chicago. Although the floor was open for further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast and they all received a round of applause. Each new officer addressed the convention in turn. Because Immediate Past President John Kruchok had to return to NBC earlier in the morning, the traditional carrying out the past president in a chair was replaced by his photo being carried away by the other past presidents. Dr. Schultz becomes the immediate past president.

The New Jersey District convention committee was thanked and applauded as was outgoing President Schultz. Father Evansky administered the oath of office in the installation ceremony, asking for God's blessings on the new officers. New National FOCA President Steffaro formally adjourned the proceedings and everyone formed a big circle, recited the motto "Pray, Study, Toil, Be Temperate," squeezed hands and sang the Fellowship anthem. Then it was off to nearby Finn McCool's for the farewell luncheon. Yet another great national convention of Faith, Family and Fellowship was in the history books with members already looking forward to Nashville!

THIS & THAT, ODDS & ENDS

Myrtle Beach has become one of the nation's premier vacation destinations . . . much more than over 100 golf courses. . . . Live theaters, upscale shopping complexes, many restaurants and buffets, museums . . . not to mention miles of sandy beaches and a warm water Atlantic (for those of us used to the Jersey Shore!) . . . "Beach Blanket Bingo Bash," Thursday nite's welcome event (which, for those not staying in the Embassy Suites, meant braving tropical force winds to get there) was moved from an outdoors pavilion to a ballroom safely inside (for the record, the lights did flicker on and off a few times) . . . Put on by members of the Holy Trinity Chapter #222 of Randolph, NJ, there were trivia matches, dance contests for the kids, beach movies and the highlight was the turtle race, featuring individually sponsored and costumed "turtles" on poles. . . . in a near photo-finish, Walter Alesevich's Colonial District turtle narrowly defeated those of Michael Herzak of the Ohio District and Linda Livosky of Campbell . . . Terese Wisniewski won best dressed for the NJ District's turtle as decided by the clergy judges . . . As reported by "Myrtle's Message": "While Ernesto was shaking things up outside, Myrtle's friends were mixing it up inside, catching up with old friends and making new ones. After Friday's sessions, the 'Dixie Dinner Theatre' was a night all [5 bus loads] enjoyed. Attendees filled up on a delicious seafood buffet at the beautiful Pine Lakes Country Club before heading over to the Alabama Theatre for top-notch entertainment. Members couldn't help but enjoy an evening of comedy, singing, and dancing. 'One The Show' continued its reputation as the best show in Myrtle Beach." . . .

For sports history buffs, *Sports Illustrated* magazine was created at Pine Lakes by *Time* magazine execs on a golf outing . . . It definitely had a Southern plantation-feel . . . The seafood buffet was so enjoyable that we were late getting to the Alabama Theatre (or Thee-A-ter, as the locals say). . . but management thoughtfully delayed the opening as the extremely funny comedian poked fun at the tardy group coming in the

door, somewhat to the consternation of some in the impatient audience ("What kind of Orthodoxy is this," he asked). . . . One of the last in line, Prez Schultz, was brought up on stage and interrogated humorously by the comedian, who forced



him to admit he was from West Virginia! . . . The show had it all: Broadway tunes, patriotic songs, country & western. . . . Conventioneers stayed in either the main convention hotel or in one of several ocean-front 2 and 3-bedroom condos, all well-appointed with balconies and ocean views – perfect for families, as many squeezed in all 3 generations! . . . With convention rates in effect the entire week,

lots of families spent the week . . . Many types of pools were everywhere, including a water-park type replete with a huge wooden bucket that filled up with water and spilled onto screaming kids . . . others found the "lazy river" pool the most relaxing. Congrats to Carol Deerson, CP&O director, and the NJ convention committee for daring to do differently.

As seniors were in session, Juniors and Myrtle's "tiny turtle" friends were busy exploring places such as MagicQuest, Ripley's Aquarium and the Alligator Adventure. . . . At the baseball outing the Myrtle Beach Pelicans, the A Carolina League ball team, was handily defeated by the Kinston (NC) Indians who, unlike their major league counterpart, went on to win the league championship later in the month. . . . The Embassy Suites free "happy hour" was crashed by quite a few outsiders. . . . Ernesto delayed the arrival of some by air as many flights were canceled (including Pacific/SW Gov. David Homyak's) and there were a few harrowing landings reported just before the airport shut down. . . . For the umpteenth year, Laurissa Rusnak ran the sales room and also handled the Chinese auction. . . . The tireless Sandy Kapelan, national administrative secretary, was kept busy typing up motions, photocopying, passing out reports. Nice job, Sandy (Sorry about the Yankees, tho!). . . And missing from the convention for the first time in memory were Past National Prez and current *Journal* business manager Pete Garman (recovering from surgery) and Kaye . . . granddaughter Jessica Lazor, Ohio District governor, made them proud by taking over the *Journal* fundraiser role on the convention floor. Thanks, Jessica! . . . Other regulars who were missed included Life Members Metropolitan Theodosius and John Daniluck, who was hospitalized as was Past National Prez Peter Melnik (prayers were offered for them at liturgy), and Father Daniel Resselar, past national spiritual advisor, participating in the annual St. Maksym of Carpatho-Rus pilgrimage in Poland.

80th National Convention







Presenting the 2006 FOCA National Scholarship Winners

The Fellowship is pleased to present this year's national scholarship award winners as announced by National President Dr. John Schultz at the 80th national convention banquet. Congratulations, best wishes and our prayers for all!

FRED LEWIS AWARDS (\$800 EACH)



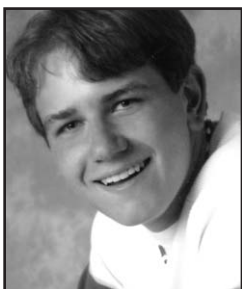
NATALIE DUBINSKY

A member of the Akron "O" Club, #20/32, of St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore, OH, Natalie is currently a senior at Mount Union College in Alliance, OH majoring in music education. She remains active in her parish choir and is a reader. Her college activities include president of the Ohio Collegiate Music Educator's Ass'n., marching band, pep band, symphonic band and concert and swing choirs. Natalie is also a member of the band fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi, and an officer of Alpha Lambda Delta, the music fraternity. And she helps out at church festivals and fish fries.



LAURA C. HOOVER

Laura, who has just entered college, has been a member of the St. Andrew's Jr. "O" Club, #220-J, St. Andrew's Church in Maple Heights, OH since 2001 and the junior chapter president the past two years. Her chapter engages in community service projects as well as assisting in parish brunches, Good Friday grave watches, and fish fries. At Berkshire High School, Laura was the banner carrier of the marching band and a member of student council, prom committee, Relay 4 Life, track and field and the National Honor Society. She also assisted with her parish pre-school class and its first communion class while attending church school.



JUSTIN D. NESCOTT

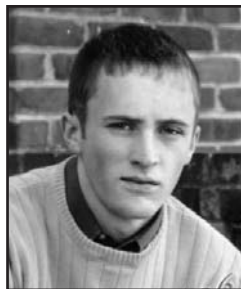
Since 2002, Justin has been president of the North Suburban Junior "O" Club, #1, St. Alexander Nevsky Church in Allison Park, PA. His many parish activities include altar boy, reader, church school student, junior and senior choirs, the Western PA Diocese Cathedral Choir, parish camp counselor, 1999 OCA/AAC publicity/PR committee and St. Tikhon's summer camp counselor and attendee. Justin has played in six national basketball tournaments, was a member of the 2004 Pittsburgh b-ball committee and has been to many national & district conventions; he worked on the committee for the 75th national convention. At North Allegheny High School, he was active in the honors chamber choir, the concert choir and the Key Club, where he visited and sang at nursing homes, helped out at food banks and cleaned up nature trails; he also had 4 high school music roles. Justin is attending college this fall and plans to major in business.



ASHLEY YOUNT

Ashley has been a member of the Detroit, Michigan chapter #2/9 since 2000 and resides in Troy, MI. She is now a sophomore at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo majoring as a pre-physician's assistant. In her parish, Ashley has gone Christmas caroling at nursing homes, baked cookies for the annual cookie walk and helped in a program feeding the homeless. Ashley participated in Junior Olympics from 2000-2003 and has attended several national conventions. At college she is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta honors society and the health professional society; she also participates in the campus health fair.

WILLIAM FEKULA AWARDS (\$800 EACH)



JOHN BITSKO

A freshman at Penn State majoring in civil engineering, John has been a member of St. Mary's "O" Club, #94-J, Minneapolis, while living in Granger, IN. He is a member of St. Elizabeth Church in Chesterton, IN and has been an altar server, choir member and church school participant. John lettered in basketball (varsity 2 years) and three times was a national FOCA b-ball all-star; he also was a Babe Ruth baseball all-star. Receiving a 1st place perfect score in the Indian State Music Ass'n. competition, John also won 1st place for a music competition in the FOCA's "Celebration of Faith" contest. At Penn High he was in the national honor society, Knowledge Masters and the Interact Club, a community volunteer program as well as involved in mentoring and tutoring underclassmen.



JOSHUA M. SCOCHIN

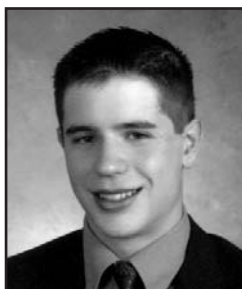
A member of the Olyphant Junior "R" Club, #105, of All Saints Church, Olyphant, PA, Joshua recently graduated from Bishop O'Hara and has entered the University of Scranton majoring in accounting. He was an altar boy and church school student and assisted other teachers; Joshua also worked at parish picnics and other fundraisers for the church and local community, including one for a neighbor with a life-threatening illness. As president and vice-president of the Junior chapter, he organized the AVON sale and various outings. His high school activities included the National Honor Society, baseball, football, basketball, Spanish Club, Latin Club and Spirit Club; he was an honors student for 4 years and participated in the high school scholars program at the University of Scranton where he earned college credits.



TIMOTHY M. GAYDOS

Tim is a member of the Cleveland "R" Club, #4/6, of St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, OH. He's been involved in many church activities: graduate of the Sunday School, altar boy for 10 years, member of the pre-teens for 8 years and president for 2. As a Junior Tim was vice president for 1 year and treasurer for 2 years; he plays basketball

for the Senior team and was a member of the Junior team for 4 years. Now a sophomore at Ohio University and majoring in video production, Tim worked in the video booth for the Athens Video Works show and created a new show which was approved for a pilot episode on the university's TV station. He's also a writer/actor/standup comedy regular for the Comedy for the Masses troupe.



JAMES M. GUBA

Now a sophomore at Dartmouth College majoring in English, James is a member of the Cohoes "R" Club of the Upper New York State District where he also attends St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. In college he is a member of the heavyweight crew, the Cords a capella choir and the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. James volunteers as a mentor for middle school boys and at the Our Lady of Hope nursing home and Colonie Youth Bureau. He was an intern at the US Dept. of Homeland Security this past summer. Before going to college, James was active in the Junior "R" Club and served as sports chair and treasurer.



MICHAEL P. LIBERTIN

Michael has been a member of the Cleveland Junior "R" Club, #4/6, St. Michael's Church since 1998 and has served as a camp counselor and lifeguard at St. Vladimir's Camp. He was an altar boy and choir singer. At St. Ignatius High, Michael was captain of the swim team, on

varsity crew, a National Honor Society member and a senator in the Latin Club, receiving 3 gold medals in national Latin exams. He was a National Merit finalist and received a National Council of Teachers of English award for writing as well as the Williams College book award. Entering college this fall, Michael is considering a major in linguistics.



JOHN KLIMKOSKY AWARD (\$800)

JESSICA A. MELNICK

Jessica A. Melnick is a sophomore at SUNY Geneseo majoring in history and education. A member of the Cohoes "R" Club and St. Nicholas Church, she is a Circle K International member and Friends of Horse Rescue volunteer as well

as a cellist in the orchestra and an admissions office host. Jessica was president of her Junior chapter and governor of the UNYS Junior District while engaged in a number of activities such as youth retreats, bowling tourneys and fundraisers. She has participated in many national and district conventions, and won the literature entry in the "Celebrations of Faith" contest in 2003 and the national essay contest three times. Jessica has also volunteered for many parish activities: hours and epistle reader, church choir, Sunday School teacher and yolka participant.

MISHA MICHELSON SEMINARIAN AWARD (\$400 EACH)

DEACON VASILY (WILLIAM) FISHER

A member of the Pacific Southwest District chapter-at-large, Deacon Vasily is a seminarian at St. Herman's Seminary in Kodiak, AK. At Kwethluk High School, he was involved in basketball, wrestling, cross-country, coaching and student government. On the parish level Deacon Vasily was an altar server, choir director and member, reader and church committee member; he was also the youth group leader. Before entering seminary, Deacon Vasily attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and Haskell University in Lawrence, KS.

SEMINARIAN RYAN SMITH



Ryan Smith is a second year student at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA. His home parish is St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Maple Heights, OH where he is a member of the "O" Club, #220. As a Junior he was chapter president, vice president, secretary and treasurer and a past Ohio District junior governor. Ryan has played in many bowling and basketball tournaments on the national and district levels; he also golfs. In high school he led spiritual and wilderness retreats and was on the bowling team and in the Latin Club. Ryan is now a tonsured reader and blessed sub-deacon.

NICHOLAS TORSKY ENGINEERING AWARD (\$800)

STEFAN MELNICK



A senior at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, Stefan's joint major is engineering physics and nuclear engineering. He is a member of the Cohoes "R" Club and St. Nicholas Church. In college Stefan is librarian of the science fiction association, member of the RPI percussion ensemble and organizer of the Genericon science fiction tournament. He has worked for the New York State Dept.

of Transportation as a construction inspector in the summers. Ryan has also been Junior chapter treasurer for 5 years and UNYS District lt. gov. And he is an altar server and an hours and epistle reader when home from school.



2006 National Summer Sports Tournament

This year's national summer sports tourney was held in conjunction with the 80th National FOCA Convention in Myrtle Beach. It was sponsored by the St. Gregory's "O" Club, #246, of Glen Gardner, NJ; Russell Petronko served as general chair. With so many golf courses to choose from, two were played. On Wednesday August 30th golfers took to the Myrtlewood Golf Club's Pine Course, featuring bent grass greens. The next morning they played the Kingston Plantation's own Arcadian Shores Golf Club, designed by Rees Jones and recognized by both *Golf Digest* and *Golf Magazine*. Or, more accurately, *tried* to play it as the monsoon rains came down about midway through most rounds, leaving the course unplayable and the golfers drenched!

A hearty bunch, the Fellowship participants dried off and adjourned to the nearby Finn McCool's to watch the Weather Channel and to receive their awards (and 9-hole refunds) presented by National Sports Director Bob Steffaro and his able team of Greg Cimboric and Anthony Schultz. Many thanks to the St. Gregory of Palamas "O" Club and all the Petronko's. The following are the winners:

Senior Division Gross

- 1st Bob Steffaro
- 2nd Father John Steffaro
- 3rd John Mindala
- 4th Ken Ochab

Net

- 1st Leon Sheean
- 2nd John Ihnat
- 3rd Bob Lucak
- 4th Larry Skvir

Under 50 Division Gross

- 1st Joe Junda
- 2nd Chris Skvir
- 3rd Russ Petronko
- 4th Greg Mindala

Net

- 1st Nick Petronko
- 2nd Mike Herzak
- 3rd Anthony Schultz
- 4th Mike Snyder

Woman Division Cheryl Morse



Additional Convention Photos



John Robert Koncel



In 2003, our son, John Robert Koncel - a brilliant, beautiful, four-year old boy - passed away due to Pompe Disease. As many of you know, we established an annual book and DVD drive, in his memory, to help families whose children receive in-patient care at Children's Memorial Hospital, the hospital where John spent so much time. Last year, many FOCA members contributed to this drive and in the past three years, over 2,000 books, videos and DVD's and over \$4,500 has been donated in John's memory.

Pompe Disease is a genetic disease that causes muscle weakening which, in infants, typically progresses rapidly to cardiac and respiratory failure, and ultimately death. John was a hero and a medical pioneer. He was the first person in the world to receive an experimental treatment for this fatal disease, first at Duke University in North Carolina and then at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. We are delighted to share that on April 28, 2006, one day shy of the three year anniversary of John's passing, the FDA approved this treatment and it is now available to all patients diagnosed with this terrible disease!

The idea to donate books, videos and DVDs to Children's Memorial Hospital developed as a way to remember John's birthday, January 27th. During John's life, we spent many days and nights at the hospital where we passed the time with some of his favorite activities there—watching videos and reading books. Unfortunately, the supply and variety of these items at the hospital is limited and subject to a lot of wear and tear. The items that are donated become resources available for families to use when their child has to stay overnight in the hospital. We established this as an annual event so the hospital receives new books and videos each year and the staff continues to emphasize how these donations really brighten the lives of the many families they serve.

We are collecting items for this year's drive now until January 19th, 2007 and hope the members of the FOCA will again contribute to this very special cause. If you would like to make a donation, simply purchase a NEW book or DVD and send it to us. Children's Memorial Hospital treats patients ranging in age from newborns to teenagers so you can pick a classic, a favorite of yours or your children, or something that was just released! (Duplicates are welcome). **NOTE: DUE TO HOSPITAL POLICY, ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW, NOT USED.**

If you would like to contribute but are not sure what to buy, you can also make a tax deductible donation by writing a check made payable to "Children's Memorial Hospital". The funds are earmarked for entertainment and comfort for the patients. In addition, we have a very generous anonymous donor who matched last year's donations and has offered to provide the same match for donations for this year. (Note: Some employers will match charitable donations and the hospital will coordinate this as well.)

Books, DVDs or checks can be sent to our home:
Barry and Deb Koncel • 3756 W. 56th Street • Chicago, IL 60629

We appreciate the continued support in making this tribute to our son so successful.
Barry and Deb (Humecky) Koncel, members of St. Peter and St. Paul O Club in Burr Ridge, Illinois, as is John's grandmother, Dorothy Koncel.

FOCA CALENDAR 2006 - 2007



- December 8-9: Winter Executive Board Meeting, South River, NJ
- Dec 25/Jan 7: Christmas Day
- January 14: Novogodny Ball, Trevese, PA, sponsored by the St. Stephen's OCF of Philadelphia
- February 16-17: "Spring" Board of Trustees Meeting, Nashville, TN
- February 19: Great Lent begins
- March 31: Deadline for Scholarship and OCMC applications
- April 8: PASCHA
- April 20-22: National Basketball Tournament, Pittsburgh, PA sponsored by North Suburban #1
- May 18-20: National Bowling Tournament, Akron, OH sponsored by the Akron "O" Club
- May 27: Holy Pentecost
- May 28: Memorial Day Pilgrimage, St. Tikhon's Monastery
- Summer TBA: National Summer Sports Tournament, Weirton, WV sponsored by the Weirton OCF
- Aug 29-Sept 3: 81st National FOCA Convention, Nashville, TN sponsored by the Cleveland "R" Club, #4/6

Transitions (continued)

Army veteran with service in Germany and France after the Second World War, Nick was chaplain of his American Legion post and participated in the Memorial Day parades driving his 1926 Dodge and decorated graves with American flags.

Nick's wife, Christine, predeceased him. In addition to his children and brothers Thomas and Steve, he is survived by grandchildren Kara, Alexander, Kathryn, Robert, Christopher, Andrew, Michael Nicholas, Sara, Jon and Daria. Funeral services were celebrated at his parish church. May Nick's memory be eternal! *Vechnaya Pamyat!*

DEPARTED: Michael Fryntzko, 45, passed away on Nov. 1. He was a member of the Madison "O" Club, #171, Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Madison, IL, a chapter/district sports director, reader, choir member and participated in the Russian dance group and balalaika orchestra as well as conventions and sports tourneys. Preceded in death by his parents, he is survived by his sister, Maggie Fryntzko, 1022 Alpine Ridge, Ballwin, MO 63021. Memory eternal!

NEW ADDRESS: Life Member and Past National President John Daniluck is now living at Hooverwood Jewish Home, #103, 7001 Hoover Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46260. I'm sure that "Dany" would appreciate a Christmas card.

St. Stephen's OCF
Chapter 82 - Philadelphia, PA of the
Fellowship of Orthodox
Christians in America (FOCA)
 cordially invites you to attend their gala
70th Annual
Novogodny Ball

Sunday, January 14, 2007

Radisson Hotel

Philadelphia Northeast, Trevoze, PA

Doors Open – 7:00 PM

Music & Dancing – 7:30

Dinner Option – 5:30

A Semi-formal for the Benefit
of Deserving Charities

For additional information &
required reservations contact

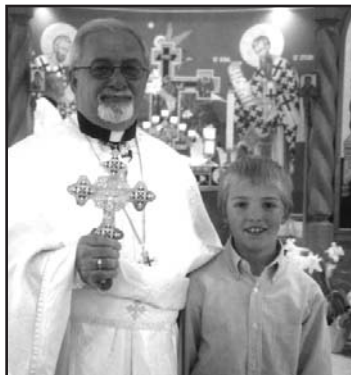
Paul Fedoronko at (610) 328 -6911 or
email: pfatsgd@aol.com

FOCA news...thank you notes.

Dear Fellowship Members,

Thank you very much for selecting my musical piece as a winner in the 2006 "Celebration of Faith" creative arts contest. I appreciate the \$100 bond and I plan to use it for college.

This is a photo of me and my priest, Father Michael Matsko of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia, Michigan. Thanks again!



Very truly yours,
Daniel Ames II

Cookbook Artist Remembered at Art Show

The family of Anne Antony has donated 100 of her original paintings to Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in East Herkimer, NY. The exhibit of oil and water color paintings of landscapes, still life, floral, fauna and pastoral settings was held at the church on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006 in conjunction with the "Bless the Heart and Home" art sale and Russian tea.

Anne is remembered as the "Grandma Moses" of the East Herkimer parish. Well into her 80s, Anne worked for three years completing the lovely graphics and script in the best-selling cookbook, "Recipes Bless the Heart and Home." She was extremely humble about her achievements and was



Shown in picture from left - Very Rev. James M. Jadick, Rector of Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, East Herkimer, NY. Helen Ciko and Mary Jane Chlus, co-chairmen of Russian Art Sale & Tea.

greatly surprised by the success of this parish project. Her artistic gift helped promote the sale of almost 10,000 books throughout North America and several continents.

Anne was mostly a self-taught folk artist who took several classes at the Mohawk Valley Center of the Arts. Her work was an outward expression of her inner sense of beauty and her love of God. She had a wide variety of interests and created and painted right up to just weeks before her passing. Anne continues to give back to her parish community even after her death. Her son was pleased to share Anne's lovely paintings with the public who so generously supported the cookbook project.

Dear Fellowship Members,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000 toward our hurricane recovery fund. We are currently having new roofs installed on our church and house. We are then going to proceed to have a new pavilion constructed. All this is possible through the generosity of people like you. May God bless you and grant you many years!

Love in Christ,
 Father Alexander Padlo
 SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
 1411 SW 11th Street, Miami, Florida

FOCA Shirts for Sale

Now available are Fellowship golf shirts and t-shirts with an embroidered FOCA emblem on them. The cost is \$25 for the golf shirt and \$15 for the t-shirt plus shipping at \$3.50 per shirt. Shirts come in several colors and sizes – S, M, L and XL; XXL and XXXL are available at \$2 additional cost. If a chapter or district would like to have its name included under the emblem, there's an additional \$2 cost per shirt plus a one-time, set-up charge of \$20.



Anyone interested in purchasing a shirt should send their choice of shirt type (golf or t-shirt), color and size with a check payable to the "FOCA" to the attention of Carol Deerson, 28 Jeffrie Avenue, South River, NJ 08882. Depicted in the photo is a blue, medium golf shirt.

St. Herman Seminary Growth Plans

“The First Missionaries Scholarship Fund”

Makes Debut

By Betty Slanta

“Our native clergy are the lifeblood of our seminary.” - Bishop NIKOLAI

The 2006-2007 seminary academic year for St. Herman Seminary in Kodiak, AK, began in early September 2006 with fourteen seminarians on campus and three seminarians taking courses off-campus with seminary faculty in the diaconal program; the three plan on attending on-site next year.

The fall meeting of the St. Herman Seminary Board of Trustees was held on September 23, 2006 on the grounds of the seminary in Kodiak to coincide with the celebration of the feast day of the seminary chapel, “Synaxis of All Saints of Alaska” (September 24).

Since scholarship funds are needed at the start of the school year, the Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Chad Hatfield, Seminary Dean, is continuing the “*The First Missionaries Scholarship Fund*” to honor the 212th year (c. 1794) since the first missionaries landed in Alaska. The scholarship fund has a goal of 212 individuals, families, churches, church organizations, F.O.C.A. Chapters, or businesses to donate towards a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship fund will help ensure that our seminarians will always come to learn at St. Herman’s without the burden of a student loan after graduation. It costs \$30,000 to educate one seminarian each year. (See *Ed. Note on The First Missionaries Scholarship Fund.*)

The Seminary board voted to begin a capital campaign for the “Married Student Housing Project”. Plans are already drawn-up for the eight-plex housing unit to be built on the seminary campus. A recent land acquisition will be used for additional seminary parking.

The seminarians are diligent about a preserving a “green” campus; the “St. Cuthbert Recycling Project” was established to save the environment and allow for the seminarians to participate in Kodiak’s efforts to curb landfill waste.

Fr. Dr. Chad welcomed Mr. Mike Rostad, a reporter with *The Kodiak Mirror*,

to the faculty. Mr. Rostad is teaching the English Comprehension courses. Studies and practical experience with the Substance Abuse Program continue with KANA in Kodiak. The fourth year seminarians train with KANA once a week. In addition to other course work, the seminarians will have the opportunity to receive a substance abuse certification once all practical assignments are fulfilled.

“Our native clergy are the lifeblood of our seminary,” His Grace Bishop NIKOLAI stated, referring to the seminarians who are being trained at the Seminary, who will serve the altars in Alaska. “St. Herman Seminary keeps the Diocese going...we are living the vision of St. Herman every day. Every priest is a seminary graduate within the Diocese.”

A bell tower, located near the seminary chapel, erected in memory of Mrs. Marie Chandler, a life-long Kodiak Island resident, was dedicated and blessed on September 22, 2006. Seminarians are called to prayer each morning and evening with the sound of the bells.

St. Herman Orthodox Theological Seminary is a theological seminary established in 1973, within the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska, under the direction of Bishop NIKOLAI, Seminary Rector and Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, Seminary Dean.

Ed. Note: “*The First Missionaries Scholarship Fund*” will fund the annual budget which provides a debt-free theological education for seminarians at St. Herman Orthodox Seminary. It costs \$30,000 to educate one seminarian each year. The seminary goal is to find 212 donors who will each offer a \$1,000 scholarship to honor the 212 years of Orthodoxy in America. With an overflow enrollment and a full compliment of faculty for the first time in many years, the scholarship will ensure that St. Herman Seminary has a bright future. The scholarship fund honors the labors of St. Herman and

the first Orthodox Missionaries who landed at Kodiak Island in 1794. Full funding for the new scholarship fund will ensure that the first missionaries will find worthy successors in our time. St. Herman’s is the only American seminary which offers full scholarships to all seminarians.

Following graduation, many of the seminarians will serve in areas of high unemployment, economically-challenged areas of Alaska, and a subsistence living lifestyle (living off the land and the sea). The policy of full seminary scholarships, established by Bishop NIKOLAI, Bishop of Sitka, Kodiak and Anchorage, five years ago, helps to ensure our seminarians achieve a seminary education which is debt-free, thus enabling the seminarians to serve the church in Alaska without an economic burden when they graduate from seminary. The scholarship fund is the key to promoting the presence of Orthodoxy in Alaska. These “new missionaries” are willing to make the sacrifices required to plant new missions in Alaska.

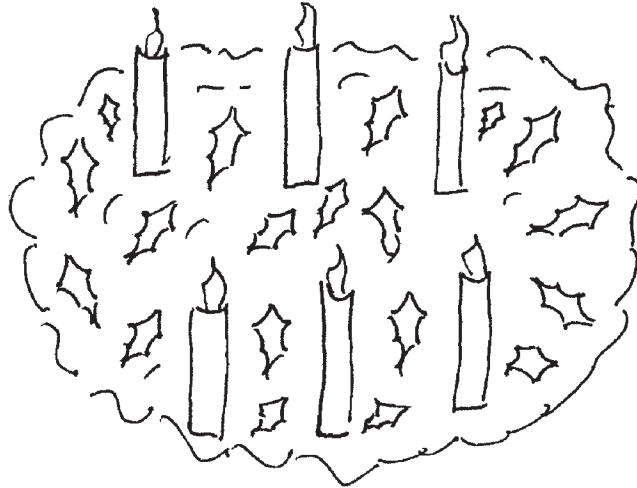
St. Herman Seminary does not have a large endowment; this scholarship is one way to ensure seminarians are provided a quality education, preparing seminarians for 21st century challenges, and allowing the seminary to maintain continued high academic standards.

F.O.C.A. Chapters, F.O.C.A. Districts, individuals and businesses are invited to be part of ensuring Orthodoxy will continue to root in Alaska by becoming one of the 212 donors to offer a \$1,000 towards “*The First Missionaries Scholarship Fund*”. Scholarship fund donations may be sent to: “*The First Missionaries Scholarship Fund*”, St. Herman Orthodox Seminary, 414 Mission Road, Kodiak, AK 99615.



NATIVITY FAST CANDLE WREATH

A good way to keep the Nativity Fast is to make a wreath with a candle for every Sunday during the Fast. Use a large Styrofoam wreath and cover it with artificial evergreen branches. Then on every Sunday during the Fast, which begins on Nov. 15th, light a different colored candle, each one having a theme.



- 1st Sunday ~ a green candle to express our faith in Christ
- 2nd Sunday ~ a blue candle expressing our knowledge that Christ will bring joy to our lives
- 3rd Sunday ~ a gold candle to express love ~ for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son
- 4th Sunday ~ a purple candle to signify repentance. We need to ask for forgiveness before we can meet Christ
- 5th Sunday ~ a red candle to signify Holy Communion which purifies us to meet the coming Christ.
- 6th Sunday ~ a white candle to signify Christ coming into the world to purify it

Every Sunday as you and your family light a candle discuss the theme for that week.

Blessed Nativity Fast

Adapted from Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home by Anthony Coniaris

FOCA Projects: St. Nicholas Christmas and Adopt a Seminarian

By Allison Steffaro

At the 80th Annual FOCA convention this past Labor Day weekend, the delegates voted to take on the St. Nicholas Christmas project as a national organization as well as to continue with its Adopt a Seminarian Project. Both projects serve as a commitment of the organization to assist our Orthodox Seminarians in America.

St. Nicholas Project

Five years ago the New Jersey District of the FOCA started a project to fill the "Christmas Wish Lists" of married seminarian students at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's seminaries. At that time 10 parishes from the New Jersey District and New Jersey Deanery of the OCA filled the wishes of 24 families with approximately 40 children at St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminaries. Since that time the project has grown and participation now comes from across the country and will include all Orthodox seminaries in America.

How does this project work? Seminarian families compile wish lists of needed items for their families. Parishes or individuals contact the coordinator no later than October 15 to express interest in participating. At that time they are given a family's list and are asked to fill the list as best as they can. Items are to be delivered to a central location in early December to be distributed at the seminaries before the Nativity recess.

How can your parish (or you) participate? This can easily be a parish project led by the parish council, Sunday School or other group. An example of how the project has already been implemented in a parish is listed below. Please be aware that this is only one parish's way of implementing the project; you may do differently to accommodate your parish needs.

- Parish decides on how many families they wish to take on.

- They are given the sex, ages, and sizes of the children in each family as well as a wish list.

- A "giving tree" (tree made of green poster paper) is placed in the entrance to the Church. The ornaments on the tree are shaped pieces of paper with a child's age, sex, size and item (i.e. girl, age 6, size 7, pajamas). In addition to the items asked by the family, additional items are added to the tree, i.e., sneakers, socks, pajamas, sweat pants, shirts, household items, etc.

- Parishioners choose ornaments and fill the requests. They bring their purchases back to the church by an assigned date un-wrapped and tagged.

- The youth in the church wrap and tag the gifts appropriately.

- Gifts are collected at a specific date (wrapped and tagged for the appropriate person).

This is only one example of how you can get your entire parish to participate in this very worthy cause. If your parish is not interested in this activity, or does not have the ability to purchase items but can raise money for the projects, monetary donations will gladly be accepted. If you are interested in participating please contact Allison Steffaro FOCA Seminarian Assistance Coordinator at 732-698-1952 or michaelsteffaro@comcast.net

Adopt a Seminarian Project

Four years ago, the New Jersey District started a Christmas Wish List project to help married seminarian students during the holiday season. What we found was that although our assistance was truly welcomed there existed a further need to help these families during their short time in seminary. Many of these students give up careers, leave (many times sell) their homes and parishes thousand of miles away, up root their children, all to follow a calling to serve the Orthodox Church. In many situations, it is impossible for the student to work to help to defray daily living expenses and work for the spouses is minimal at best. Many of these families

get little outside support.

How can we as Orthodox Christians help those who are called to serve? The best thing we can do today is help to ease their financial burden. As you may be aware, the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America adopted a "Seminarian Adoption" project. Since its inception, the project has been able to raise over \$80,000 distributed directly on a monthly basis to those students in need.

How does it work? After meeting with the deans of Orthodox seminaries, a list of the most needy families is compiled. Parishes are assigned a family from these lists and are asked to pledge a monthly amount that they will send directly to these families. Once a family receives the total needed monthly short fall they are taken off the list. There are over 20 families currently on this list.

The most wonderful thing about this project is that parishes of all sizes can help these families. Parishes involved today raise the money through many different means. Some use coffee hour proceeds, others hold a fund-raiser then use the money to fund the monthly pledge, others parishes get pledges directly from parishioners (no fund raising involved just collecting the pledge to send). For as little as \$50 a month a parish can pay for a family's grocery bill or help defray the cost of monthly living expenses.

Words cannot express the gratitude of the families we assist. Many parishes invite these families during school breaks to come and visit. This gives parishioners a face and name to those they are helping while the families get to express their love and appreciation.

We know all too well that this may seem yet one more project to take on, but we pray that this will be as much a blessing to your parish as it will be to the seminarians. In the true spirit of giving, let's give to those Orthodox Christians who are dedicating their lives to our Church. If your parish or local chapter wishes to adopt a family, please call Allison Steffaro at 732-698-1952 or michaelsteffaro@comcast.net for the name and address of a seminarian family. We look forward to your participation and support.

OCA Office of Humanitarian Aid to Sponsor Annual Christmas Stocking Project

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] — For the 13th consecutive year, the Orthodox Church in America's Office of Humanitarian Aid is conducting the Christmas Stocking Project to bring special joy at Christmas to thousands of needy children in eastern Europe and Mexico.

“In 2005, we distributed 15,000 filled stockings or equivalent gifts in these areas and an additional 1,000 gifts to families victimized by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the US,” said Mrs. Arlene Kallaur, project coordinator. “Thank you letters, some from the children themselves, and distribution reports were received, telling and showing the delight that the gifts brought the recipients.”

Mrs. Kallaur added that a well-executed report from Diakonia Agapes, the social services agency of the Orthodox Church of Albania, describes the situation of the families to whom they bought and distributed the gifts with Christmas Stocking Project funds.

“The families of these children do not have the minimum standard of living,” the report reads. “Their families cannot buy toys or sweets for Christmas and New Year. Many state institutions, orphanages, nursery schools, and development centers have the same limitations. The presents provided by the Orthodox Church in America helped us to give many the joy of the holiday season.”

Church schools, FOCA chapters, and youth groups are again invited to raise funds for this year's project.

The Cerebral Palsy workers of Roosevelt, NY also stand ready to assemble and stuff the stockings, as in past years, according to Mrs. Kallaur.

Each stocking or equivalent gift costs \$5.00.



Your contribution to the OCA Office of Humanitarian Aid's Christmas Stocking Project will bring special joy to needy children.



“Donations, large and small, will be gratefully received through the end of the year,” Mrs. Kallaur said.

Please send checks made payable to The Orthodox Church in America to the OCA Christmas Stocking Project, c/o Arlene Kallaur, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791.





RECYCLE!

**Use This Issue To
Encourage New
Membership**

POSTMASTER - If Undeliverable

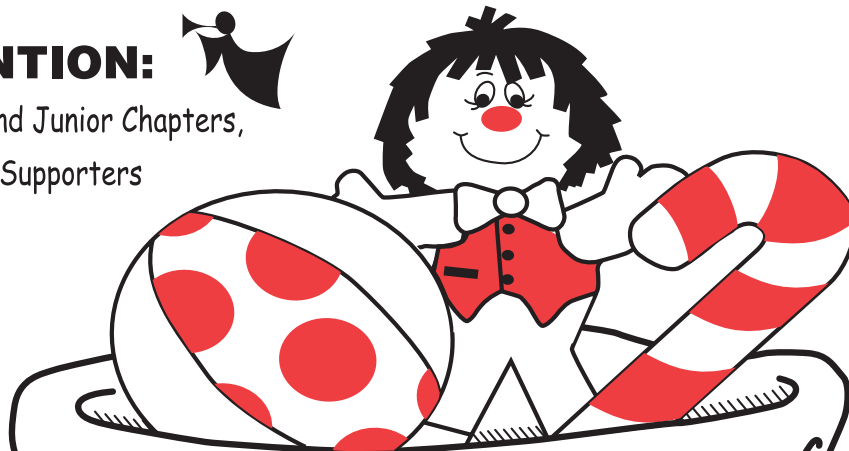
Please Send Form 3579 To: *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL* • 10 Downs Drive, Plains Twp. • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-3899



ATTENTION:



All FOCA Senior and Junior Chapters,
and FOCA Supporters



*13th Annual Christmas
Stocking Project*

We successfully funded
15,000 stockings/gifts
last year!

Each stocking/gift is
\$5.00

Please send in your
donations as close
to **OCTOBER 31st** as
possible, though they
will be welcome through
the end of the year.

Make checks payable to the:
Orthodox Church in America
MAIL TO:
Christmas Stocking Project
C/o Arlene Kallaur
P.O. Box 675
Syosset, NY 11791-0675

The OCA's Office of Humanitarian Aid
again asks your help to raise funds for
Christmas stockings/or an equivalent gift
for children in need around the world.

Who gets the stockings/gifts?
Children in Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Poland,
Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine and Mexico.

What's in them?
The stockings are filled with toys, candy, a
toothbrush, and an icon.

Who assembles the stockings?
Young people with cerebral palsy in Roosevelt, NY.

FUND-RAISING IDEAS:

- Brunch • Pizza Party • Ice Cream "Sunday" • Flea Market/Tag Sale
- Kid-For-Hire • Walk-a-Pet • Bike-a-thon, Bowl-a-thon, Sing-a-thon (karaoke)
- Bake Sale • Variety Show • Car Wash • Hoagie Sale
- Parish Sponsored Baby Sitting Night (or Saturday)

Send us your fund-raiser photos!
Log onto the OCA Website: www.oca.org and visit the Photo Gallery
Section to view the past projects and photos from recipients.