

OCCJ

Orthodox Christian JOURNAL[®]

SUMMER 2006 volume 79 number 2

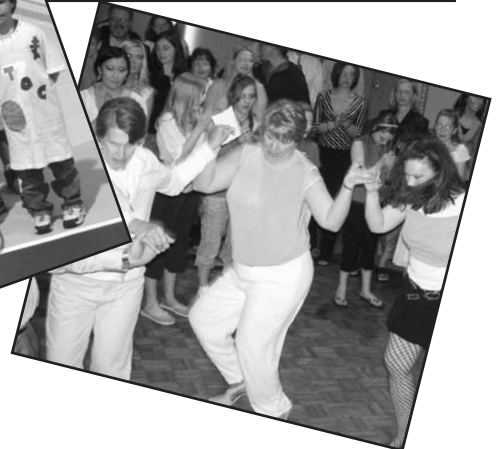
The official publication of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

Celebrations of Faith Contest Winners Announced



National FOCA Basketball Tournament

Rockin' and Rollin' with Hoops in Cleveland



C O N T E N T S



Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

SUMMER 2006
VOLUME 79 NUMBER 2

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Visit Our Website: www.orthodoxfellowship.org

2006 Articles Deadlines for the OCJ:

Fall due September 15th

Winter due December 15th

Send all material to our Editor:

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Orthodox Christian JOURNAL®

is the official publication of the

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America

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

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

Dr. John Schultz

38th National FOCA President

Over the last two years as President of the F.O.C.A., I have had the opportunity on many occasions to meet and correspond with individuals who have in many varied ways been touched by the members or by the works of the Fellowship. As members of the F.O.C.A., we do not always recognize that the programs we debate, support, and ultimately provide have a true and often profoundly positive impact on real people. We should from time to time step back and look at the results of our many efforts, for by doing so we will see that while we may not be as large in number as we would like, the Fellowship has a significant role in the life of the Church at all levels.

Those touched by the F.O.C.A. are a varied group of individuals and institutions. They are the recipients of scholarships which help students pursue their dreams of higher education. They are the recipients of mission grants that enable them to go to distant places helping those in need and introducing them to the Love of Christ. They are Seminarian Families who just when they wonder how they are going to cover yet another unexpected expense receive a check from a supporting Chapter or District. They are children who are given the opportunity to display the talents given to them by God in forums such as the Creative Arts Festival and sports tournaments.

Still others are individuals who are members of parishes receiving aid from the Fellowship to recover from varied disasters and tragedies. They are mission parishes that receive much needed liturgical items through the Mission Hotline. They are orphans in Mexico and Eastern Europe, seminarians in Alaska and Canada, and unnamed victims of natural disasters who are recipients of our Gifts of Love. They are the residents of Ss Cosmos and Damian who witnessed the repair of their home. They are children and parents who are able to smile on Christmas Day when they receive a Christmas Stocking or items from a "wish list" that they only dreamed would be filled.

We as an organization and as individual members must continue to create and support the programs that provide those countless individuals with help and hope. Supporting the efforts of the F.O.C.A. should not be considered a burden or even a duty. Instead we should consider our contribution to the efforts of the Fellowship a privilege, a privilege which allows us to do the work that God calls us to do. As we gather for the Convention in September, let us continue to find ways to commit ourselves to the F.O.C.A. and to the Church. If we understand that all that we do, we do for the building up of the Church then we ourselves will be built up and our efforts will be rewarded many-fold.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Nicholas Ressetar

Editor, *Orthodox Christian JOURNAL*

This is the annual summer issue of the *Journal*, featuring the Fellowship's athletic dimension, which is – or should be – a critical aspect of an Orthodox Christian's life for we are *body* and soul. As Apostle Paul constantly reminds us, in one of his many references to sports, we are to run the race of life. Without exaggeration the biggest, most successful event sponsored by the FOCA is the annual national basketball tournament – athletes truly in Fellowship. Hosted this year by the Cleveland "R" Club of St. Michael's Church at the end of Bright Week, a crowd of over 450 juniors, seniors and friends participated in the awards banquet with a total of 28 teams of girls and boys, younger women and men, together with adults playing competitive basketball. Sports Editor Ken Baron brings us his play- by-play coverage; thanks to our own photog Leon Sheean and others for the accompanying photos.

Speaking of sports, we also feature the 67th annual bowling tournament, hosted this year by St. Stephen's OCF of Philadelphia but held in Maple Shade, NJ in early June. This is primarily a photo collage courtesy of Leon with all the winners indicated and a brief intro piece by me. Congrats to all our athletes, young and old alike, and thanks to those many volunteers and spectators!

The winners of the 2006 Celebrations of Faith contest – "Our Church and the Future: Become What You Are" – appear in this issue with thanks to Cheryl Morse, the coordinator. Our talented young people display their literature talents and, in full color, their visual artistry. Very inspiring!

Past National Prez Alice Woog reports on the first leadership training seminar held for our young adults during the b-ball tourney. Mary Anne Soltis provides us with the 2005 photo contest winning photos and the entry form for this year's contest. We publish three thank you's from the Koncel's, Dr. Eastabrooks for the Arseny Institute gift, and Jim "Toot" Kormos. Assistant Editor Betty Slanta fills us in on the OCMC groundbreaking in Florida. And the OCA announces the three summer interns made possible by you – the faithful members of this Fellowship! We hope to hear from them in the next edition.

Wrapping up the *Journal* are (barring reelection!) the last message from Dr. John Schultz as our national prez, the Kidz Corner – a Bible quiz on the Birth of the Theotokos, New Jersey District news, transitions (with two big wedding anniversaries in the Bayonne Alpha chapter!) and more.

See y'all in Myrtle Beach at the convention – we'll return in the fall with the details and remember to enjoy the Fellowship you find on these pages!

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

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT NEWS

On Palm Sunday, the New Jersey District held its annual Vespers service celebrated by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, at SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Manville, NJ. The Randolph "O" Club hosted the event and Father James Parsells was the host pastor.

On the third Sunday of Great Lent, the Veneration of the Holy Cross, the Juniors of the New Jersey District as well as all youth of the New Jersey deanery were invited to sing the responses to the Vespers service celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in South River, NJ. All the readings were also done by the youth who joined the parish choir in the singing. The homily given by Father Parsells was very inspiring to the youth as well as the adults in attendance. It was a very busy day for the young people: not only did they attend their own parishes for Divine Liturgy in the morning, but they managed to fit in a basketball practice in the early afternoon in preparation for the national basketball tournament. Many thanks to Father David Garretson, the host pastor, and to Basil Kozak, the choir director, for his understanding, patience and encouragement.

– Mrs. Marge Cimboric

FOCA

CALENDAR 2006



- April 28 – 30 National Basketball
Tourney (Cleveland, OH)
- June 2 – 4 National Bowling Tournament (Maple Shade, NJ)
- June 11 Pentecost
- July 2 – 8 Ohio Camp Week (St.
Vladimir's Camp ~ Ohio)
- July 9 – 15 Ohio Camp Week
(St. Vladimir's Camp ~ Ohio)
- July 16 – 22 National Junior Summer Sports Tournament
(Junior OCA, St. Vladimir's Camp ~ Ohio)
CANCELLED
- Aug 30 – 31 National Summer Sports
Tournament (Myrtle Beach, SC)
- Aug 31 – 80th National Convention
- Sept 4 (Myrtle Beach, SC)

FOCA Leadership Training Seminar

The Leadership Training Summit sponsored by the FOCA was held on April 28, 2006 at St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, Ohio. This event was held during the weekend of the National FOCA Basketball Tournament. 2005 National FOCA convention action directed the Executive Board to sponsor a leadership training summit to inform, inspire, encourage, and support the development and involvement of future leaders of the FOCA. Eighteen young adults representing the Midwest, New



Jersey, and Colonial Districts attended this training sessions which was held from 6:00 p.m. -11:00 p.m. in the Parish Center of St. Michael's. The presenters were: Michael G. Herzak, Laura F. Johnson, Paul Fedoronko, Michael Steffaro, Robert Steffaro and Alice Woog. In addition to providing a brief history of the FOCA, a powerpoint presentation addressed leadership at both district and national levels, responsibilities of leaders, board of trustee member responsibilities, background or experience recommended for leadership positions, characteristics of effective leaders, how leadership in the FOCA can enhance and support leadership within a chosen profession, the church and other community activities, tips for getting involved in leadership positions, understanding and working with parliamentary procedures, and tips for effective meetings. The participants had many questions and were interested in understanding more about each of the workshop components. The presenters brought a wide variety of experience to the session with several of them serving as national presidents, department directors, governors, and national committee members. President John Schultz attended the session and greeted the participants and encouraged them to keep their interest as the future leaders of the FOCA

and our Orthodox Faith in North America. The dialogue among the participants and with the presenters was informative and engaging. This group of young adults demonstrated a sincere interest in understanding the operation of the FOCA and learning how to take their talents and interests and develop them as potential leaders of the FOCA and Orthodoxy in North America. The presenters had an opportunity to interact with the participants and were excellent role models for these young adults. Plans for sponsoring this Leadership Training Summit in the future will be discussed by the Executive Board at their Summer 2006 meeting.



Orthodox Christian Mission Center Breaks Grounds For Missionaries; Meets in St. Augustine, FL



photo caption: Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director, OCMC and Bishop Dimitrios (Couchell), SCOBA Secretary former Executive Director of the OCMC bless the future site of the OCMC Missionary Training and Administrative Support Center.

"... Orthodoxy in America will take on a structural form." - Bishop Dimitrios (Couchell), SCOBA Secretary

The meeting of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Board of Directors was held May 3-5, 2006, in St. Augustine, FL. During the meeting, groundbreaking for the Mission Training and Administrative Support Center was held. The missionary center will be located just off Interstate 95, in St. Augustine.

Bishop Dimitrios of the Greek Archdiocese, Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the Americas (SCOBA) Secretary and the first Executive Director of the OCMC blessed the land where the OCMC's Missionary Training and Administrative Support Center will be built.

During his address, Bishop Dimitrios stated of the SCOBA-sponsored OCMC Mission Training and Administrative Support Center, *"This is the first time in the history of that our Orthodoxy in America will take on a structural form."*

The 12,000 square foot Missionary Center will provide a home for Orthodox Christian mission work, provide facilities to prepare missionaries to serve Orthodox missions overseas, and train volunteers and seminarians for service on short-term mission teams.

V. Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield (Dean of St. Herman Seminary), Priest Ted Pisarchuk, Priest David Rucker, Mrs. Betty Slanta, Archpriest Matthew Tate and Archpriest Raymond Velencia represented the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) at the meeting.

The OCMC Health Care Committee members proposed applying for one of the President's Faith-Based initiatives

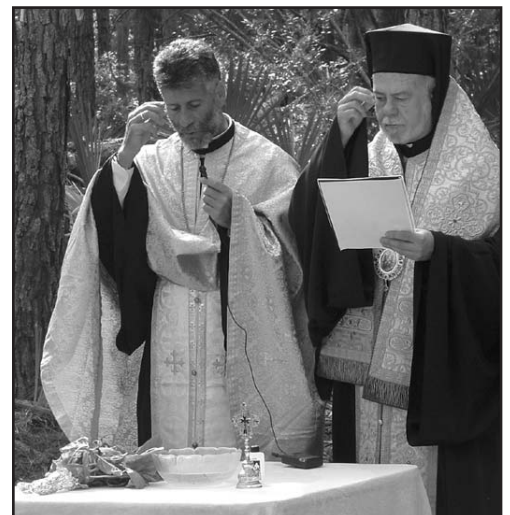
grant to fund HIV/AIDS research in Kenya, which would be a good match with OCMC work with the Orthodox Church in Kenya and the OCMC-built and funded clinic in-country.

The OCMC proclaims and practices the evangelical imperative of the Orthodox faith based on the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who commissioned us to *"...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19).

Keep long-term OCMC missionaries in your prayers, and encourage clergy, seminarians and laymen to follow Jesus command to witness to the unchurched around the world.

The OCMC recruits, trains and sends missionaries to preach, teach, baptize and to minister to the poor, hungry, sick, suffering and orphaned. We, therefore, support the development of indigenous leaders and strengthen the infrastructures of churches, especially in, though not limited to, countries where Christianity is a minority, thus creating

vibrant, eucharistic Orthodox Christian communities throughout the world. OCMC is the official international missions and evangelism agency of SCOBA.





FOCA GENEROSITY MAKES THREE OCA SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIPS POSSIBLE

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] Through a generous \$9,000.00 grant provided by the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America [FOCA], three OCA seminarians will participate in internships with the Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry during the summer of 2006.

“The summer internship provides seminarians interested in youth ministry with an incomparable opportunity to put into practice knowledge gained in their seminary studies,” said Deacon Joseph Matusiak, department member. “Through the FOCA’s generosity, the department will engage three interns — the most it’s ever had.”

Two of the three seminarians will undertake their internships at OCA camps and youth rallies across the US and Canada, sharing their experiences, helping to network the camps, and exchanging and sharing themes, methodology, and camping curricula. The third intern will develop materials for the youth theme selected by the Holy Synod of Bishops for 2006-2007 — “Defenders of the Faith” — and develop resources and articles for the department web site at yya.oca.org and for “The Orthodox Church” news magazine.

This year’s interns are Ms. Becky Machnee, Ms. Olga Beletchkova, and Mr. Stephan Sollogub, all of whom are students at Saint Vladimir’s Seminary, Crestwood, NY.

“Each intern brings to the position a wealth of youth ministry experience on the parish, national, and international levels and will be make a positive impact on the camps in which they will participate,” Deacon Joseph added. “The department is deeply grateful for the FOCA’s vision and commitment in providing the resources to make the internship program possible.”

Stephan Sollogub will participate in Saint Arseny Camp in British Columbia, Saint Vladimir Camp and the FOCA Junior Olympics in Ohio, and Saint John Camp in Indiana. Olga Beletchkova will participate in the Chicago Deanery Camp in Wisconsin, Saint Vladimir Camp and the FOCA Junior Olympics Camp in Ohio, Saint John Camp in Indiana, and Saint Paul Camp in Mt Charleston, NV.

Photo galleries and reports from the interns will be posted on the OCA web site at www.oca.org and the OCA youth site at yya.oca.org

Chapter news

Richard J. Miskiv Memorial Scholarship Fund Beefsteak Dinner

On Saturday, June 10th, over 250 people gathered at SS Peter and Paul’s RO Cultural Center in Passaic for the 4th Annual Richard J Miskiv Memorial Scholarship Beefsteak Fundraising Dinner. Richard was an active 35-year member of the Garden State R Club of the FROC/FOCA who passed away four years ago at the age of 50. The event again raised over \$10,000, which included raffle prize income and silent auction items. Continued support by the Mets, Devils, Rangers, Knicks, Red Bulls soccer, Taylor Made Golf and the PGA as well as Phil Simms, Harry Carson and Dick

Vitale, all contributed to the great success of the evening. Scholarship are annually awarded to college bound graduating seniors at Garfield High School, where Richard went to school and is a member of its athletic Hall of Fame, as well as college-age New Jersey District FOCA eligible members.

The committee is greatly appreciative to all of those FOCA members who have attended the dinner or made donations to this worthy cause which perpetuates Richard’s memory.

“Thank You” Notes Received by the Fellowship



From Barry and Deb Koncel, St. Peter and St. Paul “O” Club, Chapter #96, Burr Ridge, IL:

“Thanks to your generosity, over 650 books, videos and DVDs, and \$3,300 were donated to Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago in memory of our son, John, this year. We are excited to share with you that we had a very kind, anonymous donor who provided a dollar-to-dollar match to the amount donated this year. This brought the total amount donated to \$6,600! In addition, the donor has offered to provide the same match for donations next year. The staff at the hospital is extremely appreciative and wants you to know that your donations continue to brighten the lives of the many families they serve. We sincerely appreciate the overwhelming response we had and the wonderful tribute to John.”

Editor’s Note: The Koncel’s son, John, passed away from Pompe Disease in April 2003. An annual book and video drive was established in his memory for children who receive in-patient care at the hospital. The fall 2005 issue of the OCJ (page 18) featured the drive, and information on next year’s drive will again appear in this fall’s issue.

From Spencer Estabrooks, Director, St. Arseny Institute, Winnipeg, Canada:

“Dear Dr. Schultz and Fellowship members,

As director of the St. Arseny Orthodox Christian Theological Institute, I would like to report further on the gift of some \$5,800 (Canadian) which was presented to His Grace, Bishop Seraphim, bishop of Ottawa and Canada, at the OCA All-American Council in Toronto in July 2005 designated toward the library. The institute has been growing and developing on many fronts in conjunction with other developments in Orthodox theological education in the Archdiocese.

Because we have been experiencing these major developments and transitions, we have not been able to make use of the funds provided by the FOCA to this point, though they have been kept separate from our operating funds and not touched. We have been in extremely promising negotiations with the faculty of theology at the University of Winnipeg with a view to affiliating with that faculty and having our

courses accredited toward a master of divinity degree. We have reached a tentative agreement with the library to catalogue, house and administer our books while we would retain ownership and the books would be marked as belonging to the institute’s collection. We would pay \$800 toward the cost of \$2,000 for cataloguing the 1,000 plus books in our library with the faculty contributing the balance and the university absorbing any further costs.

This means that we can use the remaining \$5,000 of the FOCA gift to purchase new books specifically related to our course offerings and the research connected with them. We hope that by the end of the third year of our existence, this fall, agreements will have been signed with the faculty and we can relocate our institute from a church hall to space at the university. We believe that our presence at the university will facilitate the revival of an Orthodox chaplaincy there and encourage the formation of an OCF chapter eventually. There is also a large chapel available for our use.

I wanted to make sure, now that we are in a place to put this gift to good use, that those in the FOCA who contributed to the gift, know how much it is helping us. The institute has also launched this year, with the blessing of Bishop Seraphim, an online *Canadian Journal of Orthodox Christianity* at www.cjoc.ca.

We have also been a key part of longer-term plans to combine the efforts of at least two other Orthodox study programs operating at universities in Canada and the programs at our institute to provide credit toward a full three-year post-graduate seminary training program for priests in Canada, with the third year of residential studies in Ottawa, close to Bishop Seraphim’s “new” cathedral. Bishop Seraphim recently ordained the first graduate (Dr. Lasha Tchantouridze) of our diaconal program, which began less than three years ago. We have about 50 students currently enrolled, many by correspondence, from 7 of the 10 Canadian provinces, 1 of the 3 northern territories and several US states. We anticipate our first overseas enrollment shortly. Some 15 students are currently taking studies toward the diaconate and some 18 are training as readers, along with others taking courses out of interest and for their better knowledge of the faith, whether Orthodox or not.

We have been much encouraged by your gift, and want to assure you that, though it has taken considerable time to be able to use it most profitably, the gift is now going to be put to good use. We would like those who donated to this project to know that we expect their gift to be blessed and multiplied greatly in the development of our St. Arseny Institute and, through the development of theological education in Canada, in the upbuilding of the Orthodox Church in Canada.

With gratitude in Christ, Spencer Estabrooks.”

Dean – St Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary

The Board of Trustees of St Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, NY, announces a vacancy in the office of Dean, to be filled effective July 1, 2007. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest for the position of Dean are now being accepted.

St Vladimir’s is a graduate school of theology in the canonical jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in America whose programs are registered by the New York State Education Department and accredited nationally by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. The Seminary seeks to serve the Orthodox Church through theological education and scholarship. It educates future priests and church leaders and contributes directly to Orthodox theology through the scholarly activities of its faculty. St Vladimir’s grants the Master of Theology (MTh), Master of Divinity (MDiv), and Master of Arts (MA) degrees. Numerous strategic developments are underway at St. Vladimir’s, including an enhanced focus on training for pastoral ministry in the Good Pastor Curriculum, new initiatives for St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press and improved student facilities.

The Dean of the Seminary is the Chief Executive Officer of the Seminary and supervises all spiritual, educational, financial, and legal activities of the Seminary. The Dean represents the Seminary before ecclesiastical, educational, religious, and civil agencies. If the Dean is a bishop or priest, he will normally serve as rector of the Seminary chapel by appointment of the Seminary President, the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. Candidates for the position of Dean of the Seminary will normally possess the qualifications for a tenured position on the seminary faculty. Candidates should also demonstrate sufficient ability and experience to provide effective spiritual, academic, and administrative leadership. Paramount is the ability to articulate and communicate the vision of the Seminary and to interact effectively with the entire Seminary community, supporters, donors and constituencies of the Seminary.

Applications should include a letter that demonstrates the candidate’s suitability for the position, current curriculum vitae, and a list of the names and contact details of at least four individuals who have agreed to serve as references. All communications will be held in strict confidence. Applications may be submitted at any time prior to September 15, 2006 at which time the formal review of applications by the Search Committee will commence.

The Search Committee consists of V Rev John Dresko, Trustee and Chair; V Rev Paul Nadim Tarazi, Professor of Old Testament; Rev Alexander Rentel, Assistant Professor of Canon Law and Byzantine Studies; Rev Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Trustee; Ms. Anne van den Berg, Trustee. Those interested in submitting applications or contacting the Search Committee may do so via e-mail at <jdresko@cox.net>, or by writing Dean Search Committee; Alexandra Safchuk, Administrative Secretary; 7126 River Road; Bethesda, MD 20817.

Further information on St Vladimir’s Seminary can be accessed via the Seminary website <http://www.svots.edu>.

SUMMER 2006 TRANSITIONS

GRADUATION: Lydia Manchuk Godfrey, daughter of Past National FROC/FOCA President Apollo and Elizabeth Manchuk, graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law on May 13, 2006. She enrolled at the age of 50. Congratulations and many years!

DEPARTED: Nicholas P. Lezinsky fell asleep in the Lord on May 28, 2006. Funeral services were held at St. Michael’s Russian Orthodox Church in Old Forge, PA on May 31st. Survivors include Nicholas Lezinsky, Central PA District treasurer and member of the St. Nicholas “O” Club, Bethlehem, PA. Nick is also choir director of St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem. His address is 941 Place Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Memory eternal.

ANNIVERSARY: On May 7, 2006, Valentina and Theodore Benda, members of the Bayonne Alpha “R” Club, Bayonne, NJ, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, a first for their chapter. As children they attended Sunday school together at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Bayonne, but it wasn’t until her mother, the late Valentina Shlyk, persistently coaxed her daughter into realizing Ted’s good qualities that the two teenagers began their 4-year courtship. They were married at the church on May 4, 1941. A Navy veteran, Ted retired after a 35-year career as a supervisor with Lawler Manufacturing in Edison, NJ. After their children were grown, Val was a trust administrator for Bankers Trust in Manhattan, retiring in 1982. Both continue to be active members of the church and “R” Club chapter.

The Benda’s were the guests of honor at a dinner held at Li Greci’s Staaten on Staten Island, NY, where they reside. A coffee hour was hosted by the “R” Club after liturgy. Among other hobbies, the couple especially enjoys dancing. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers had nothing on them as they danced to all their favorite tunes! They are the parents of son Mark and daughter Marianne, and have 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Congratulations and many years!

– Marge Cimbolic

ANNIVERSARY: Marge and Steve Cimbolic, both of the Alpha “R” Club, Bayonne, NJ, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Meeting at the national FROC convention in Boston in 1954, they were married at Holy Ascension Church in Frackville, PA by Father Basil Gambal on August 11, 1956. Marge’s maiden name is Petronko. Both are active Fellowship members as are their children and now grandchildren. “God Grant Them Many Years! – Love, Steve, Nancy, Stephen, Samantha, Marge, Jerry, Danielle, Michael, Greg, Vikki, Melanie and Jay.”



FOCA's 2006

Celebrations of Faith Contest Winners Announced

Winners for the Celebrations of Faith Contest were announced at the FOCA's National Basketball Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio in April. This Contest was held in cooperation and support of the Orthodox Church in America's Church-wide youth movement. The theme for the 2006 year was "Our Church and the Future: Become What You Are". All youth who are communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America were encouraged to participate in this event.

2006 Contest Winners:

Visual Arts:

Under 10	Alexis Steffaro — St. Peter & Paul, South River, NJ
4th — 6th Grade	Ibtisam Matta — St Andrew Church, Michigan
7th-9th Grade	Alastriona Kroll — Holy Myrrhbearers, St. Cloud, MN
10th — 12th Grade	Jelena Paripovic — St. Andrew Church, Michigan

Literature:

4th — 6th Grade	Aleksandra Petelski, Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Transfiguration, NJ.
7th —9th Grade	Rafael Perez — Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Transfiguration, NJ

Honorable Mention

10th — 12th Grade	Alexandra Gregory — St Peter & Paul, South River, NJ
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Music

Under 10	Daniel Ames — Holy Transfiguration, Livonia, Michigan
10th-12th Grade	Anna Jensky — St Stephens Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA

Honorable Mention

Nevena Paripovic

Photography

Honorable Mention	Danielle Jurichko — St. Mary's Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN
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Entries were displayed at the National Basketball Tournament in Cleveland where over 400 Youth and Adults were gathered in April. Winning entries received a \$100 Savings Bond from the FOCA. You may view the entries online at www.orthodoxfellowship.org and yya.o.ca.org.

Look for information on next year's contest on the web-sites, the FOCA Journal and in *The Orthodox Church* paper.

Literature - Winners



Let Me.....

I always believed in the one true God,
Nothing about that is odd.

But nothing is going to change that,
Not ever
Because I love you, God.

So, let me preserve the church of the past, God,
So future generations can have a party
Praising and loving you.

Let me be a singer, Lord,
Worshipping and glorifying you
Everyday.

Let me be a saint, God,
Rebuilding your church
In people's hearts
Now and forever.

Let me be a teacher, God,
Filling people with wisdom
Of you, the Lord.

Let me be a doctor, God,
Healing people
Who are mourning
Who are suffering
With your words, Lord.

Let me be a mail carrier, God,
Delivering letters of love
From you.

Let me be something, anything
That will help you and your people
Always.

Aleksandra Petelski
4th-6th grade-Poem

Literature - Winners

Paths

There once was a man who traveled along a twisted winding path through the woods. As years went by the man had aged, and there was now a road built by the woods, so travel would be easier by use of car or a horse and buggy. Even with this new path open the now older man paid no attention and continued to go through the path in the woods just like he had before. One day a younger man stopped the older man on the road just before the older man entered the woods.

The younger man said, "I have seen you many times go and walk through there, you old fool. Why are you so keen on following that path, when this path is smoother, straighter, and much easier to follow?"

The older man politely replied with a joyful gaze, "I have always followed this path going through the woods, ever since I was a little boy. Even though the path I choose, may not be as easier as yours may seem to be, I will always take the challenge my path gives me. For if trees were to fall right now on the path, I will find a way to overcome it. To you it maybe just some twisted winding path in some woods that no one would want to take, but to me it is much more than that."

The younger man then questioned with a snicker, "What could such a treacherous path mean to anyone?"

The older man just smiled at the younger man and said, "Anyone can choose to follow any path they want, they can even choose to follow every path there is to take. However, I grow older and change just like my path does with time. Even as everything around me has changed throughout the years, I have always followed this certain path of mine. This path has truly become part of who I am." As the older man turned around to go he said this one last thing to the younger man, "I hope one day you will also choose one path to follow. No matter how unusual it may seem to others who see you, but most importantly, remember this...." The old man turned once more to the younger man to say, "No matter how much

things change throughout the year around you, or your path...Remember to always stick by your path, be loyal to it, and continue to follow it through the change. In the end you will find that relying on one good path, even if it may not be as easy as others, is more reliable." With that said the old man vanished into the woods.

Alexandra Gregory
10th-12th grade-Essay

The Church and the Future-Become What You Are-An Orthodox Christian

The Church is a powerful force—a force, a blessing. It is a blessing from God Himself.

The Church is a blessing because of what it gives to people. It gives people hope when they have none. It gives people guidance when they are troubled and confused. It gives us joy. It unites people. It teaches us that we are the Church. I am an important part of this Church—the Orthodox Church.

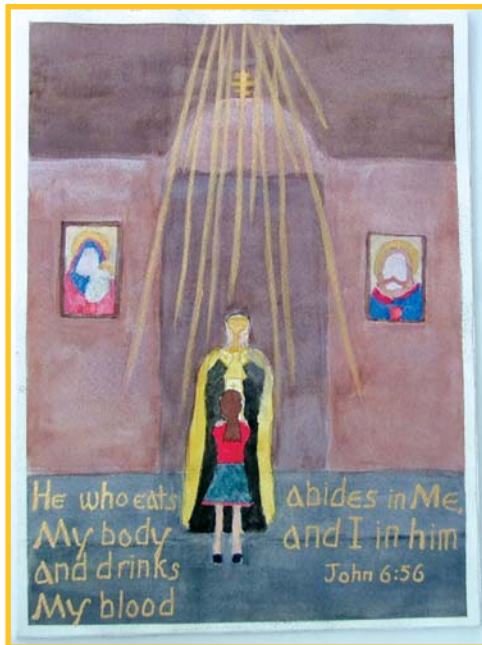
The Church breaks cultural barriers. During Great Lent, our Brooklyn Diocese has Lenten Vespers. Priests and parishioners, who represent many nationalities, come to pray at each other's churches. We are reminded we are all one-Orthodox Christians and an Orthodox Christian family.

I am a child of the Orthodox Church. I am the Church's future. To be the Church, I must work in the Church, keeping it alive by donating and helping others—the homeless and the hungry. I must show I have not forgotten others. Without us children, there will be no Church. We are the Church. We are the Church's future. **My generation and I, the children of the Orthodox church, must become what we are—the Church.**

Rafael Perez
7th-9th grade-Essay

Champions of Faith

Winning Entries in Visual Arts



Alastriona Kroll

7th-9th Grade

Holy Myrrhbearers, St. Cloud, MN



Jelena Paripovic

10th – 12th Grade

St. Andrew Church, Michigan



Alexis Steffaro

Under 10

SS. Peter & Paul,
South River, NJ



Ibtisam Matta

4th – 6th Grade

St Andrew Church, Michigan

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS



- 1. Junior Girls: *Pittsburgh*
- 2. Senior Women: *Minneapolis*
- 3. Senior Men: *Cleveland A*
- 4. Bantam Girls: *Pittsburgh*
- 5. Bantam Boys: *Cleveland*
- 6. Junior Boys: *Cleveland*

Notes and Quotes – Facilities for the games at the Independence Field house were some of the best ever for the organization... Bright Friday allowed a great selection of meats, including the ribs at the “Shanty”.. Nice presentation to “Toot” Kormos at the dinner for his many years of devoted support for Cleveland’s ongoing participation at National Basketball Tournaments... Anyone catch a hair out of place on National Sports Director Bob Steffaro?... Tammy Bacsik questioning if Greg Cimboric and Ken Baron brought room refrigerator on the plane with the frig stored in overhead compartment... outstanding sportsmanship displayed all weekend with referees commenting many times to National Sports Committee regarding the juniors and seniors... Sports committee seen mulling over establishing a “Hall of Fame” for male and female B-Ball participants, during serious committee discussions at the Winking Lizard... Great job by the host Cleveland committee group – it’s your turn again next year Pittsburgh... Organization and players continue to be extremely grateful to the Lefty Sutyak endowment for ongoing funding of many of the tournament expenses, including providing complimentary banquet tickets this year to all of the junior participants – May Lefty’s memory be eternal.

National FOCA Basketball Tournament



Rockin' and Rollin' with Hoops in Cleveland

With a great turnout of over 450 kids and adults, the Cleveland R Club, Chapter 4/6, held a tremendously successful National Basketball Tournament over the weekend of April, 28-30. The local committee, along with the planning assistance of the National Sports Committee, led to a great weekend of spirited basketball play and social camaraderie.

The weekend began with registration at St Michael's hall and a welcome dinner that boasted some outstanding ribs. A total of 26 teams arrived for competition in the four junior and two senior divisions. The weekend's games were played at the new Independence field house, which featured four parallel full size courts, enabling parents having children playing at the same time being able to watch them from the same venue. Food and refreshments were also available on the gymnasium premises all weekend.

Following the conclusion of the preliminary games on Saturday, vespers were conducted at St. Michael's by Father John Memorich, the host pastor, followed by the banquet and awards ceremony at their Woodside complex. An outstanding buffet dinner was followed by the awarding of all-star trophies in each of the brackets. Afterward, a DJ played tunes to the dancing delight of the kids.

Sunday morning found a crowded church for Divine Liturgy, with a brunch following the service. The championship games then took place back at the Field house.

A summary of the competition which followed an opening Saturday morning prayer included:

Bantam Boys: Three of the four earliest games were in the bantam boys division. Akron bested New Jersey with a balanced scoring attack 61-24, while Minneapolis defeated Canonsburg 49-12. The tightest of the initial games saw Cleveland, paced by John Voytilla's 14 points, defeat Pittsburgh 43-36. Cleveland then went on to defeat Minneapolis 34-29 with Cleveland's Voytilla outscoring the Twin Cities Jason Klein 20-18. Pittsburgh used a balanced scoring attack with four players in double figures as they defeated Akron. Canonsburg then won a spirited game against New Jersey paced by David Schenken and Joseph Langell. By virtue of even records, a tiebreak round was required during which Minneapolis emerged as winner to

set up a rematch in the finals on Sunday.

Minneapolis erupted for 17 points in the second quarter with eventual MVP Klein scoring seven in the period as St Mary's managed a 25-19 lead at the break. Key half time adjustment allowed Cleveland to outpoint Minneapolis 28-21 in the second half, as Jonathan Voytilla was on fire with 17 of his team's points after the break. Cleveland held on for a 47-46 win in the weekend's closest game.

Bantam Girls: in an early 8 AM game, Akron defeated New Jersey, followed by Pittsburgh eking out Cleveland 14-13. Akron then defeated Minneapolis, while Cleveland outpointed New Jersey 17-10. The final bantam girl's game on Saturday saw Pittsburgh defeat Minneapolis to advance to the finals where they would face Akron.

The championship game of the division saw Kristin Smith score in every quarter as she knotted 12 points en route to the Steel City's 22-18 win over Akron. Marissa Papp managed 14 points, including eight in the final quarter, in a strong runner-up effort.

Junior Boys: - New Jersey, defending National junior champions, started off with a 52-29 win over Minneapolis as the inside game of New Jersey, paced by Seamus Schofield, Mike Galasso and John Fedoronko negated the strong guard play of John Bitsko. In a very exciting early day match up, Akron defeated Pittsburgh 60-45. Nick Higginbotham scored 38 points on a variety of dazzling drives, including 16 in the last quarter to pace his team's final stanza comeback from an 8 point deficit to win the game. John Memorich then nailed 19 points en route to Cleveland's 43-29 win over Harrisburg who was led by Greg Jannokos' 15 markers. Second round action in the bracket saw Minneapolis defeat Harrisburg 34-20, while Memorich lit up the scoreboard with 34 as Cleveland defeated Pittsburgh 61-56. The final junior's boys game of the day saw New Jersey employ a box and one on Akron's Nick Higginbotham and "hold" him to 13 points as New Jersey's Jason Nehrebecki paced a balanced attack with 13 points.

The final game was the third consecutive year that New Jersey and Cleveland faced off in the bracket championship. This time, Cleveland regained the mantle as John Memorich paced the host squad to a 52-46 win over the New Jersey crew. Nick Harpley added eight key points in the final stanza as New Jersey came back and knotted the score in the fourth quarter, but Cleveland would not be denied.

Junior Girls: - The junior girls division saw Pittsburgh led by Kristen Beatty, defeat Cleveland 38-23 while Minneapolis' Cassie Boosalis scored 10 and ran the floor in their win over Akron. In one of the best games of the day, Minneapolis defeated Cleveland 46-44. Balanced Minneapolis scoring led by Kimmie and Annie Pederson, Janey Neuman and Cassie Boosalis offset the tandem scoring of Rachel Libertin and Tine Dimitriyevs. Akron defeated New Jersey 36-23 with a balanced scoring effort, offset by Rebecca Medis' 18 points for the Garden State squad. Pittsburgh then marched onto the finals with a convincing win over New Jersey.

The finals saw Pittsburgh move out to an early 9-3 first quarter lead and never look back as they extended their lead at half time to 17-8. Kristen Beatty's 11 points plus some stifling defensive pressure led to an eventual 31-24 win over Minneapolis

Senior Men: - The senior men's division had the host Cleveland group sport two teams with Minneapolis and a Campbell+ team rounding out the field. The first round games saw Cleveland A, paced by Mike Longa and Phil Tesar defeat Minneapolis who was led by James Yacoub. Cleveland B coasted over Campbell 62-36 with Mike Herzak scoring 18 in the win. Cleveland A then advanced to the finals with a win over Campbell, again paced by Longa. Cleveland B set up a rematch of last year's finals after besting Minneapolis 60-42 with Kormos and Herzak combining for 31 points.

The battle for bragging rights in Cleveland again went to Cleveland A as they raced to an 82-77 win over their chapter rivals. Nick Longa (30), Mike Longa (20) and Phil Tesar (17) led their team in scoring vs. Cleveland "B". paced by Mike Herzak (28), Nick Kormos (19) and Richard Kowalchik (15).

Senior Women; - The preliminary game was played on late Saturday and defeated Cleveland 35-20. The repeat game on Sunday, for the Championship, had the same results with the team from up North winning by a 41-25 margin. Rita Czapko scored 15 points to pace the winners while Ashley Longa has nine points in the losing cause.

The Most valuable players for the tournament, as selected by the referees, were as follows: **Bantam Boys** – Jonathan Klein – Minneapolis; **Bantam Girls** – Marissa Papa – Akron; **Junior Girls** – Kristin Beatty – Pittsburgh; **Junior Boys** – Nick Harpley – Cleveland; **Senior Men** – Nick Longa – Cleveland A; and **Senior Women** – Rita Czapko – Minneapolis

All Stars:

Bantam Boys - Jonathan Klein, Minneapolis; Jonathan Voytilla, Cleveland; Tom Berexa, Pittsburgh; Andrew Medis, New Jersey; Brian Dubos, Akron

Bantam Girls - Abby Snyder, Akron; Danielle Jurichko, Minneapolis; Marina Memorich, Cleveland;

Kristin Smith, Pittsburgh; Marisa Papp, Akron

Junior Boys - John Bitsko, Minneapolis; Nick Higginbotham, Akron; Greg Jannakos, Harrisburg; Seamus Schofield, New Jersey; John Memorich, Cleveland

Junior Girls - Tina Dimitriyevs, Cleveland; Kimmie Peterson, Minneapolis; Nina Glisan, Pittsburgh; Rebecca Medis, New Jersey; Kristen Beatty, Pittsburgh

Senior Men - Mike Longa, Cleveland A; James Yacoub, Minneapolis; Danny Herzak, Cleveland B; Andrew Zelinsky, Campbell; Nick Longa, Cleveland A

Senior Women - Rita Czapko – Minneapolis; Melissa Huber, Minneapolis; Ashley Longa, Cleveland; Sara Anne Schwebach, Minneapolis, Kathy Schleckie, Cleveland

JIM "TOOT" KORMOS THANK-YOU LETTER

"Thank you from a simple basketball player.

"I started playing organized basketball when I was 13 years old and, somehow, 33 years later I'm still playing. I recently played in my 31st FROC/FOCA basketball tournament which was held in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio.

"I have more basketball trophies in my house than anyone deserves. Of these trophies I now have 8 national championships, 2 national all-stars and even 1 national MVP award. All of these now take a back seat to the award I received at the banquet of this year's tournament. I was given a lifetime achievement award for my "exceptional dedication to FROC/FOCA basketball"! This is an award I don't think anyone would even plan on receiving and I know I never thought I would receive it. It is a great honor. This award (as I later found out) came from my teammates and the Cleveland "R" Club, #4/6. I thank all that were involved in the decision to give me this award.

"I never knew that me showing up every Wednesday at the gym for practice, trying to make sure the gym was available for us, and playing in tournaments year after year so that we would have a team meant so much to anyone other than myself. Well, now I know it did. I'm thankful that I've made a difference.

"A jersey was also retired in my name and apparently I am now in the Cleveland 4/6 basketball hall of fame (which I didn't know existed). When they retired the jersey I was told they didn't want me to retire. I've been truly blessed to be able to play this long. I think what's kept me playing – beside my love for the game – is all the life-long friends I've made on and off the court because of basketball and the tournaments. I don't know how many more Wednesdays at the gym or tournaments I have left in me. But, as my favorite musical artist once said: "THESE ARE ALL NOTHING BUT GLORY DAYS. Thanks again!"

Toot
a/k/a Jim Kormos

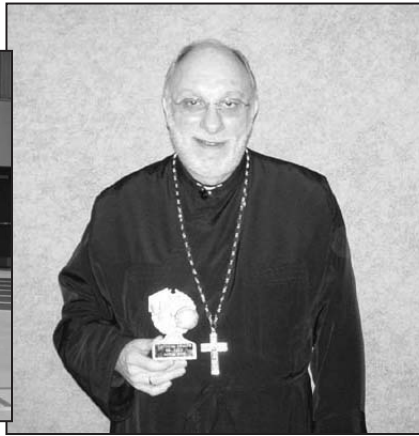
Scenes from the weekend b-ball action and All Stars.



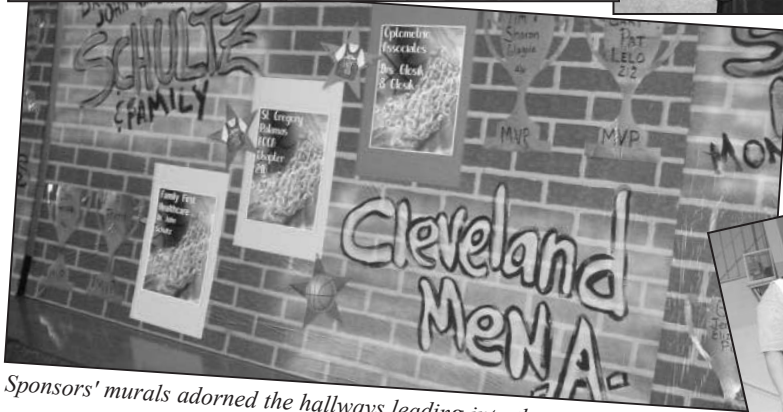
St Mary's Minneapolis Junior Girls Runners up



Fr. Stephen Karaffa - winner of this year's Clergy b-ball competition



Action in Cleveland - Pittsburgh game



Sponsors' murals adorned the hallways leading into the gyms



Cleveland Senior Women runners up



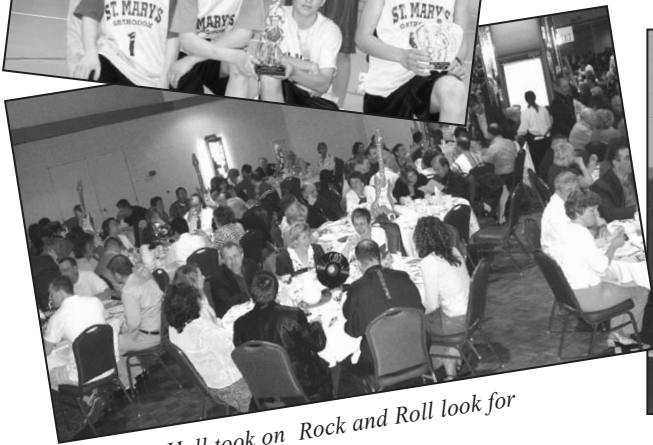
"Toot Kormos (left)" accepts framed uniform in recognition of his years of basketball dedication to the Cleveland R Club



Fans applaud a great game



St Mary's Bantam Boys Runners up



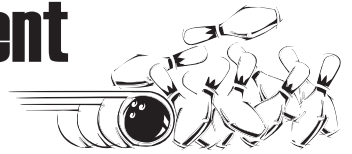
Woodside Hall took on Rock and Roll look for Saturday evening



St. John's team after their win

67th National FOCA Bowling Tournament

Sponsored by the St. Stephen's OCF, Philadelphia, PA

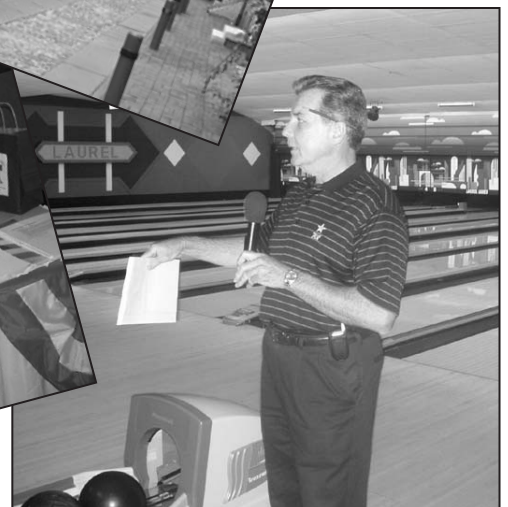


St. Stephen's Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Philadelphia, PA (your hosts of the annual Novogodny Ball), sponsored this year's national bowling tournament – the "Liberty Bowl" just across the Delaware River in Maple Shade, NJ. Some 80 bowlers took part in the festivities over the weekend of June 2-4, 2006. National Sports Director Bob Steffaro and his committee coordinated the event together with Mark Skuby, Larry Skvir, Paul Fedoronko and others from the local host chapter.

Bowlers were greeted by the sponsoring committee's hospitality room at spacious Laurel Lanes, all decked out in patriotic red-white-and-blue with matching party hats. Philadelphia-style delicacies included Italian water ice and Tastycakes. A good-sized program book was published and distributed making the weekend a profitable one. Singles and doubles bowling started Friday afternoon and continued well into the evening. Among those bowling was St. Stephen's spiritual advisor, Father Victor Gorodenchuk, who was repeatedly asked for the Russian word for "bowling." Accommodations were at the nearby Quality Inn where the power went out during a severe, flooding thunderstorm, forcing many to retreat from their rooms to the relative safety of the hotel lounge (with scattered roof leaks).

Team bowling resumed on Saturday morning after past National President Andrew Cvercko led prayer in song. National President Dr. John Schultz committed what is believed to be a Fellowship first – rolling a perfect strike for the ceremonial first ball! For the first time per national convention action, mixed teams joined the traditional men's and women's teams. Vespers was celebrated at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Medford, NJ, a striking edifice newly consecrated in September 2004, by Father John Shimchick, the host pastor who also managed to bowl a few games. Evening activities included a minor league baseball game at Campbell Field, home of the Camden Riversharks, "Lights on Liberty," an audio/visual extravaganza in the historic area of Colonial Philadelphia, and gaming in Atlantic City.

Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, the awards banquet was held at the Quality Inn. Many thanks to all the bowlers and guests who participated in a fine weekend of fellowship!



NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT SCORE BOARD

MEN WINNERS SINGLES

Net			
1. John Lord	Garden St. NJ	634	
2. Mike Snyder	Akron OH	605	
3. Mike Gozick	Singac NJ	572	
4. Bob Steffaro	Elizabeth NJ	570	
5. Mark Marton	Garden St. NJ	548	
Gross			
1. Anthony Schultz	Weirton WV	659	
2. A.J. Sivees	South River NJ	621	
3. Lee Sheean	Cleveland OH	619	
4. John Slanta	St. Marks	603	
5. Tim Skuby	St. Marks	601	

MEN WINNERS DOUBLES

Net			
1. Mark Skuby/Tim Skuby	St. Steph./St. Marks	1186	
2. Sam Noah/Mike Snyder	St. Andrews/Akron OH	1119	
2. John Lord/Mark Marton	Garden St. NJ	1107	
4. Bob Steffaro/Mike Gozick	Elizabeth NJ/Singac NJ	1078	
Gross			
1. Anthony Schultz John Schultz	Weirton	1249	
2. Rick Nezson /Mark Janiszewski	Garden St NJ	1200	
3. Joe Simmons/Lee Sheean	Garden St NJ/Clev. OH	1193	
4. Mike Steffaro/Bob Barge	South River NJ	1168	

MEN TEAM WINNERS

Net			
1. St. Andrews		2171	
2. Garden St.		2072	
3. Make Up #2			
Joe Simmons/Rick Nezson/Mark Janiszewski/Leon Sheean		1766	
Gross			
1. South River		2281	
2. St. Stephen #1		2186	
3. Make Up #3			
Nick Ressetar/Walter Alesevich/John Slanta/Tim Skuby		2132	

MIX TEAM WINNERS

Net		
1. Dominoes		1751
Gross		
1. Holy Cross		2067

MEN ALL EVENTS WINNERS

Net			
1. Mike Snyder	Akron OH	1767	
2. Mark Marton	Garden St. NJ	1673	
Gross			
1. Mark Skuby	St. Stephen	1905	
2. Tim Skuby	St. Mark	1846	

High Game for Weekend John Lord 250

WOMAN WINNERS SINGLES

Net			
1. Michelle Wielder	Alpha NJ	501	
2. Margaret Drenchko	Alpha NJ	485	
3. Helene Tisch	South River NJ	459	
4. Eleanor Marton	Garden St. NJ	448	
Gross			
1. Sandy Uhrina	St. Andrew	619	
2. Barbara Freimann	St. Mark	553	
3. Barbara Sheean	Cleveland OH	543	
4. Barbara Kaminsky	South River NJ	537	

DOUBLES WOMAN WINNERS

Net			
1. Michelle Wieder/Margaret Drenchko	Alpha NJ	938	
2. Daria Miskiv Eleanor Marton	Garden St. NJ	897	
3. Pat Inhat/Barbara Friemann	St. Mark	791	
Gross			
1. Helen Tisch/Allison Steffaro	South River NJ	1142	
2. Sandy Uhrina/Anne Cvercko	St Andrew's	1089	
3. Pat Simmons/Michelle Janiszewski	Garden St. NJ	1045	

WOMAN TEAM WINNERS

Net		
1. Alpha NJ		1719
2. Garden St. NJ		1568
Gross		
1. Legally Blind (St. Andrew)		2181
2. St. Stephen #1		1976

WOMEN ALL EVENTS WINNERS

Net			
1. Helene Tisch	South River	1464	
2. Margaret Drenchko	Alpha NJ	1440	
Gross			
1. Michelle Wieder	Alpha NJ	1818	
2. Sandy Uhrina	St. Andrew	1728	

High Game Weekend Woman Sandy Uhrina 208







2005 NATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

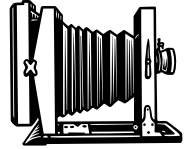


First Place
45 and Under

2006 NATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

“BUILDINGS and FLOWERS”

(Buildings can consist of churches, museums, estates,
office buildings, etc.;
flowers can be domestic or wild)



FOCA members can send up to five (5) photos, preferably 3x5 or 4x6. Participants do not have to be at the National Convention to win. Awards are based on number of entries in each age category.

Entry Form

Entries must be received by 8/26/06

Entry fee is \$2.00/photo. Make check payable to F.O.C.A.

Please print

Name: _____

District: _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

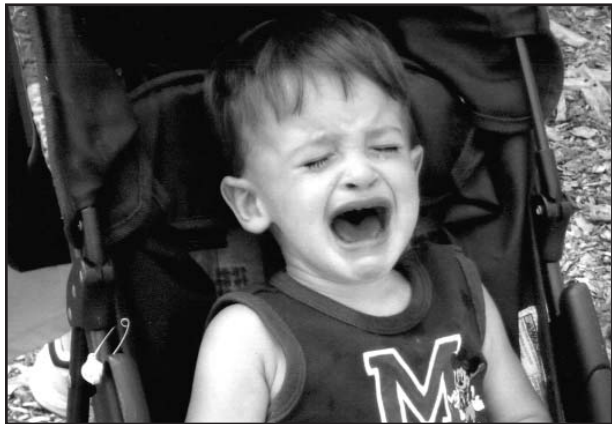
Phone: () _____

Age category: 45 & under or 46+

Number of photos _____ x \$2.00 each = \$ _____ entry fee.

Mail photo(s) with entry fee check to:

Mary Anne Soltis • 596 Saratoga Street • Cohoes, NY 12047



Left
Second Place
45 and Under



Right
Thrid Place
46 and Over



Left
Second Place
46 and Over



Right
Fourth Place
46 and Over



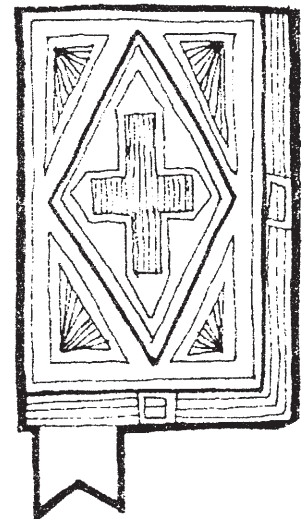
On September 8, we celebrate the Birth of the Theotokos. Although the story of her birth is not recorded in the Gospels we know that she was born to a couple named Joachim and Anna. When she was 3 she was presented to the Temple. We celebrate this Feast on November 21. From the Annunciation to Pentecost she was present at 9 of the major events in the Life of Christ.

Match the Feast Days or events to the Bible Passages below.

1. March 25 - The Annunciation
2. December 25- The Nativity of Jesus
3. January 6 - Theophany
4. February 2 - The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple
5. The Wedding in Cana
6. The Crucifixion
7. The Resurrection
8. The Ascension
9. Pentecost

Bible Passages - Place the number of the feast day or event next to the correct passage.

- a. Luke 1:26-38 _____
- b. Mark 1:9-11 _____
- c. Mark 16:1-8 _____
- d. Luke 2:1-7 _____
- e. Acts 1:1-11 _____
- f. John 2:1-12 _____
- g. Luke 23:44-49 _____
- h. Acts 2:1-13 _____
- i. Luke 2:22-35 _____





RECYCLE!

**Use This Issue To
Encourage New
Membership**

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